

“Parish Council ~ Chairman’s May 2021”

Hello everyone.

I hope you all enjoyed Easter and the wonderful Easter gardens displayed in the Churchyard as well as enjoying the odd egg or two. We were personally blessed with a new granddaughter on Easter weekend which made it even more special for us and the family.

As we look forward to what is known as the merry month of May and see further optimism with lockdown easing and more social interaction with friends and family, please remain mindful of the guidelines and respect others who may find it more difficult to get used to the changes after many months of isolating.

I wanted to start my note with a small tribute to Peter French who sadly passed away in April. I first met Peter just over 10 years ago when I started to get involved with the Parish Council. Peter’s passion about the village was immediately obvious to me and his desire to keep the village a wonderful place to live was always paramount in his mind. Peter was involved with the Parish Council for 10 years from 2008 during which time he served as Heritage Warden, Maintenance officer, defibrillator organiser, Bin Collector and of course the Chairman. He continued after standing down from the PC with the village planters and defibrillator for several years. Peter had a calming influence on the Council meetings, was meticulous with his detailed reports and always pushed for the best outcome for the village and villagers. During my early years on the PC Peter was an excellent source of information, wonderful mentor and always available to talk things through or help. I believe Peter was an excellent contributor to our village and community, exceptionally proud to be part of the village history and I feel his legacy can be seen and felt around the village everyday by those who have lived here for many years and those who have joined the Rearsby community in recent times.

There is a particular quote that comes to mind when I think of Peter:

“There is no greater reward than working from your heart and making a difference in the world.”

Carlos Santana

Peter did everything from his heart and without doubt has made a tremendous difference to our village which will be enjoyed by generations for many years to come.

Parish Council business continues as usual, with meetings being held via Zoom the main areas of business are currently:

Benches: The new “Bench Project” launched in January is going well, the first four benches have been ordered (2 conker field & 2 playing field) and will be installed during late April / early May. The next round of the project will be discussed at the May PC meeting and will include possible sites including 2 further benches in the conker field and 1 each on Melton road opposite the allotments, next to the Preaching Stone, Station Road next to the letterbox, Bleakmoor Close Green & the corner of Grange Ave / Melton Road.

Church Services: A big thank you to vicar Mary for her zoom Church Services over the Easter period and each Sunday, see the village website for more details.

Conker Field: The new entrance sign has been installed and looks great and has received some excellent comments from parishioners and in particularly the Sisters from the Convent. The tree work project should be finalised shortly once the planning has been finalised. The larger dog poo bag dispensers have been delayed but should be installed soon. New stepping stones are to be installed from the pathway to the new bins.

Covid & Post Covid: As mentioned last month, some of our residents are still waiting for their first & second jabs despite the excellent roll out program so, please continue to follow the government guidelines to protect everyone and please be conscious that we are very close to the end but, we still need to remain cautious and vigilant over the final months.

I also mentioned last month about possible post covid community events such as a coffee mornings etc. to try and encourage residents to meet up and interact with one another. Unfortunately, the response from residents has been very disappointing so I would appeal once again for some

feedback and comment from you on this and any ideas you may have. DM me councillor2.rearsbypc@btconnect.com

Dog Thefts: This was not discussed at the last PC meeting but with recent events in the village and the increasing risks around dog thefts I will be raising it at the May meeting and looking at how we can potentially combat this and make our environment as safe as possible from these criminals.

Dog Poo: Still a very emotive subject and one regularly raised by residents, we continue to have good weeks and better weeks but unfortunately the problem still persists with a small number of dogwalkers not caring about what their dog does or their fellow residents.

Please watch your dog, pick up its poo, bag it, bin it, it's your responsibility!

Remember, report dog fouling direct to Charnwood BC online at www.charnwood.gov.uk or on 01509 634564.

Litter Picking: The great work continues, thank you to everyone helping keep our village tidy.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP): The Consultation continues, and a formal examiner should be appointed over the next few weeks to review the plan. We will continue to update details on the village website.

Planning: The PC have recently met with representatives of the trustees who own the land at the top of Gaddesby lane and were advised that a planning application is to be submitted over the next few weeks for up to 60 new houses to be built on the field to the right of the footpath which goes through to the bypass. Residents are encouraged to view the application when it appears on the Charnwood BC website and make comments where applicable.

Due to housing supply within the Charnwood area being under the targets set by the government we can expect to receive more applications over the coming months, be assured the PC will scrutinise each application and determine its suitability for the parish and keep residents aware of new applications, ongoing issues, and concerns.

Residents have also approached me and the PC regarding an area of land that has been fenced off, to the rear of William Everard Close adjacent to the track from Mill Lane.

At the time of writing, there are ongoing discussions about the ownership of the land and the legality of the land being fenced and claimed as an extension to the curtilage of an existing dwelling. The PC have continued to be clear that they absolutely do not support this action and are working with the Borough Council enforcement and legal departments to try and reach some form of resolution.

Speeding in the Village: Random Police speed checks are expected soon, please drive carefully at all times through our village.

Tree Project: As mentioned last month the "Tree Project" continues to move forward and with no further comments received from the public the PC will review the proposed project at the May PC meeting. As a reminder, this will potentially include Mill Lane Brook bank (3 Willows), Conker Field (5 Horse Chestnuts), Playing Field (1 Elm plus 5 others on southern and eastern boundary), Station Road / Wreake Drive (3 trees pocket orchard), Verge on Wreake Drive (Small pocket orchard) & Gaddesby Lane hedgerow down to the bypass (Oak, Conker and Elm).

Wardens: We currently have vacancies for a Tree Warden, Heritage Warden, Snow Warden, and a second Flood Warden to support Paul Matts. If you are interested in learning more about one of these important roles and possibly becoming a Village Warden please contact the Clerk.

Website: Please take a look www.rearsbyvillagenews.co.uk and if you have any information you would like us to add please let us know via email councillor5.rearsbypc@btconnect.com or councillor2.rearsbypc@btconnect.com

Don't forget the next PC meetings (via ZOOM) will be held on the 6th May at 7.30pm with the Parish Council Annual meeting being held beforehand at 7.00pm, for more information see the village website or the PC notice board next to the Packhorse bridge.

Thank you & please KEEP SAFE ~ Martin Cooke (Parish Council Chair)