

“Parish Council ~ Chairman’s Note December 2021”

Hello everyone.

I must start by saying how delighted I and the Parish Council are to see the neighbourhood plan being passed by the majority of those who voted, and I just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who has worked on the plan from day one until the vote, your contributions were all tremendous and have helped to secure a plan which we believe will support the village and residents over the coming years.

The past month has been quite busy and as we lead up to Christmas, we look forward to the new year bringing new projects, challenges and hopefully a more settled and safer environment.

Some of the key topics being discussed by the PC include:

(the) Brook: Several people have commented recently about the brook looking untidy and overgrown and suggesting it needs dredging or completely weeding. The PC have had several discussions with the Environmental agency (EA) and our own flood warden over recent months and have had ongoing dialogue over several years with the various authorities to try and resolve what is best for the brook, flood prevention, nature etc. The EA have assured us on numerous occasions that the weed growth has no impact on flooding but, by the time this is published we hope that EA have visited the village again to survey the brook and determine what can and should be done. We will then discuss with the flood warden and ensure any information is passed on to residents via the village website and the Flood-watch FB page. In the meantime, we would suggest that residents resist the temptation to start pulling weeds out etc, until we know what is permitted under Environmental regulations. Someone also asked about the flood siren, this has not been maintained by EA for many years and is no longer officially operational. Sirens appear to be old technology and new websites and apps seem to be the way in which people are informed of flood risks etc. The Clerk will investigate the various contact sources and we will ensure details are posted for residents to be aware of who to contact for information.

Christmas: As mentioned in my last note, the 11th of December 2021 will be “The Rearsby Christmas lights Festival” which promises to be a great evening with a light trail, refreshments in the church and hopefully many houses lighted up for this lovely event. Further details will be on the village website, Rearsby Flood-watch FB page & notice boards, including details of the New year Tug-of-War!

Conker Field: The PC continues to discuss support of the spinney with Brooksby College, the Tree warden is reviewing the planting of new conker trees in the field and the PC is continuing to consult on the ongoing boundary issue. The PC has agreed for Two more benches for the top area of the Conker field which will hopefully be installed early next year.

Coffee Mornings: It was lovely to see the return of the weekly coffee mornings in the village hall (Tuesday 10:30 am to 12:00pm) and to see people enjoying a catchup and a chat of tea / coffee & biscuits. To encourage more people to join in the PC plan to sponsor one of the coffee mornings in December and again in January, please come along, it's lots of fun.

Covid19: Unfortunately, this past month has seen quite a few of our village residents suffering from Covid, I do hope those affected are starting to feel better and I think it is a reminder to us all to remain vigilant, observant, and safe until we have all received our various jabs and boosters.

Defibrillator: We are looking for a local resident who is willing to monitor the Defibrillator on a regular basis for us please. The equipment is sited at the village hall and training is available for anyone interested. Please contact the Clerk if you can help.

Dog Poo: Dog walkers, please watch your dog, pick up its poo, bag it, bin it, it is your responsibility! Remember, report dog fouling direct to Charnwood BC at www.charnwood.gov.uk or 01509 634564.

Planning: At the time of writing the planning issue over land to the rear of William Everard Close adjacent to the track from Mill Lane is still to be resolved and the Gaddesby lane development has still not been formally submitted and until plans are formally submitted to Charnwood there are no routes open to lodge comments or objections.

Ron Lilley: The PC were very sad to hear the news that Ron Lilley had recently passed away. Ron was a very active member of the community and served as our flood warden for many years. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this sad time.

Speeding in the Village: More random Police speed checks have been carried out in the village, the most recent being on Melton Road and the findings are quite alarming. Over a specific period of time in one day 67 vehicles were logged and only 27 of them were travelling under 30mph. 32 were going 30

to 35mph, 9 were 36 to 40 mph & 3 were over 41mph. We are told that all those over 30mph will be contacted by the local Police.

Vandalism: I am very disappointed and alarmed at what seems to be a spate of vandalism in the village over the past few weeks. Several events come to mind including the smearing of mud all over the playpark slides, the vandalising of the bench on the playpark and more recently the smashing of the pumpkins on the packhorse bridge. It is a great shame that some one or some people seem to have pleasure in attacking our community and I would appeal to anyone who see's these people that they report them immediately to the Police

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

Website: 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

Things for 2022:

Benches Project: Regarding the additional benches around the village in 2022, the Clerk is in the process of writing to neighbouring properties and will then apply for the appropriate licences once details have been finalised. Anyone interested in sponsoring a bench should contact the Clerk.

Community Garden: To be discussed at the January 2022 meeting as we await feedback from Charnwood BC on the idea to develop a three-part community garden (Remembrance, Reflection, and the Queens Platinum anniversary). Further details will be issued as they become available.

Playing Field: The PC will continue to investigate the possibly of installing a permanent grind rail for skaters next to the halfpipe and the possible installation of an outdoor table tennis table on the field.

Queens Platinum Anniversary: The PC would be interested in ideas for village celebrations for the Queens Platinum Anniversary in June 2022.

Tree Project: The PC are continuing with the proposed tree program for the village agreed in earlier in the year and we now await a meeting with LCC regarding suggested sites for trees not on Parish Council owned land, these include Mill Lane Brook bank (3 Willows), 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).

Parish Council meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall 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)