

Chairman's Report – June 2021

Another year of COVID-19 with ups and downs and hopefully for everyone, some sort of normality will be with us soon!

Since the last Annual Report, all PC Meetings – have been held by Zoom – and if like me your'e NOT a fan of Zoom meetings, it will be wonderful to have an in-person meeting on June 15th at Bicknacre Memorial Village Hall. All the necessary restrictions etc will remain in place for the protection of all the Councillors and those residents who may wish to join us.

The Clerk has been responsible for setting up and continuing to engage with the COVID-19 Community Support Volunteers who have steadfastly carried out a wide-range of assistance and support to those residents who were unable to get out and about. They have delivered prescriptions, Fish & Chip suppers, Shopping needs, etc. throughout the year.

The Grow Your Own event at Easter was very successful and we are seeing the evidence of that from the Schools / Play groups involved.

The Giant Easter Egg activity proved very successful – well done Jester's for their egg-cellent contributions!!

There were a few Scarecrows around in April – so thanks to those who took the time and effort to cheer us up with your 'Scary-crows'!!

Looking Forward

Climate Change

The Parish Council wishes to engage with residents on this long term and very significant initiative which will affect us ALL. We would like to encourage some of our younger residents to come up with their ideas which will affect their generation and beyond. We are already in discussions with local Primary and Secondary Schools.

Under this same umbrella the Parish Council is trying to establish an area / some land to be designated for Allotments so that residents can 'Grow Their Own'. This has proved more difficult than envisaged. So, if you can suggest any suitable areas / pieces of land it would be very much appreciated.

With the help and support of Emma Hunnabell there is now a Community Fridge located in **the Car Park of the Congregational Church at Woodham Ferrers**

(More info required)

Other major changes / developments:

Long term but very important to our Parish is the planned Bradwell B Project which is several years in the making BUT WILL have an impact on levels of traffic through the Parish for a significant period in the coming few years.

The Parish Council is taking part in all the Conferences and documents – please feel free to have a look for yourself:

Bradwell B contact for more information: communityforum@bradwellb.co.uk

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Forthcoming changes / developments:

New Housing at Brewers Arms. The Planning Application was approved in April 2021. There will be 42 mixed dwellings on the site with 9 of them specifically identified as Affordable Housing **for local residents only**. Further information available on request.

Housing provision on the ground where Priory Corner garage land is still on the cards. Discussions are on-going between the Landowners and Chelmsford City Council Planning department.

As you will see from Cllr Grundy's Report – Highways issues continue to be a 'hot topic' and the Parish Council continues to follow-up regularly with current issues Essex Highways on behalf of residents.

The Parish Council Events Committee has put together a very substantial number of events – the first being in **Early July** at Lodge Road. The Events Team will keep all residents up to date.

The Hooe Bike Jumps' Official Opening is planned for July – this is a wonderful example of residents and Parish Council working together !!

Just to put residents' minds at rest, the Village Sign is being renovated and we're hoping to get it back in place as quickly as possible now that the COVID-19 restrictions are easing.

Not so good news:

Unfortunately, we have 'lost' our Special Constable and will be discussing to gain a replacement person with Essex Police as quickly as possible.

After the year we have all experienced it's time to look forward in the hope that we have experienced that our Parish / Community is a good place to live / work / play and enjoy – long may it continue.

We have a lot of people / groups to thank – our Community Groups (First Responders / Speed Watch / Scouts etc) who are supporting and providing activities for a wide range of people (inc COVID Volunteers).

Specifically, I'd like to commend our Clerk – Karen Kuderovitch for her dedication / inspiration / fund raising efforts over the past year. Thanks also to the Parish Councillors – who have managed to survive the Zoom meetings – it hasn't always been easy!!!