

Bayston Hill Parish Council Chairman's Report 2021/22

The last two years have been a challenge to us all including the Parish Council however I am glad to say that during this current year circumstances have gradually improved.

In May we had an uncontested election of 13 new Councillors a significant uplift to the five serving Councillors prior to the election. We still have vacancies so if you live in the Parish and what to help make a difference, please contact our Clerk Julie Hodgkiss for more details.

To assist the Clerk in the day to day running of the Parish and to provide time for the Clerk to develop ideas and improvements for the Parish as agreed by Full Council we have taken on a Deputy Clerk, Peter Orrell who has settled in well.

In June the inaugural Bayston Hill 10k was held and was well supported with nearly 400 runners.

The Sensory Garden has continued to develop and thrive and a big thank you to the volunteers that make this possible, we are blessed with fantastic outdoor facilities within the Parish, and this was brought home to me during the Big Green Week held in September in partnership with Oakmeadow School and Bayston Hill Parish Council. One of the activities during the week was a Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWL) guided walk through the community woodland and Cath Price from SWL was very impressed with what we have.

The Big Green week was a success with a great turn out at the Eco Fete at Oakmeadow School and several activities run through the week including the sowing of a wildflower verge opposite the junction on to the A49.

We were pleased for the second year to have the Christmas Tree up in the Parade.

The precept for 2022/23 has been set and will mean an increase of 5.6p per week for a band "D" property.

Due to the development of the Glebelands the Scouts and Guides were given notice to give up the lease, I am pleased to say that the Council has worked with the Scouts and Guides to help them relocate to the Youth and Community Building until they are in a position to build themselves a new HQ.

The Council has continued to support the Bayston Hill Community Group by paying the cost of the dedicated phone line for them. Thank you to Jo and her team for all that they have done.

Meetings have taken place during the year with Shropshire Highways to see what can be done to reduce speed limits within the Parish, specifically around the school, to 20mph and to improve the awareness of the speed limit on Lyth Hill. The Parish Council is also considering installing improved speed signs that will enable us to

capture real time data and to be able to move the signs around the village as and when required.

Through a back to work fund made available by Shropshire Council we have been able to put in place several improvements around the Parade Shopping area as follows:

- 2 new benches made from recycled material
- A new Parish Notice Board
- A new Cycle Rack
- Removal of the Willow tree that was creating problems with the surface around it and was showing signs of disease.
- Improvements to the walkways
- Publicity Banners

In February 2022 the Council arranged for the planting a Crab Apple Tree near the Sensory Garden to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of our Queen Elizabeth II, we are also planning to plant an avenue of trees in the NW corner of the Top Pitches adjacent the Parris Pool Woods, this will be completed in Sept/Oct 2022 all being well.

As a Council we have declared a climate Emergency and have set the target to be Carbon Neutral by 2030. A Carbon Neutral Working Party has been established involving Councillors and Residents from the village with the Aim of establishing key actions that will need to be taken to achieve this target.

During the coming year the Council will be looking at several projects:

- Improvements to the ground conditions around the Longmeadow play area.
- The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations
- Astro Turf renovation/improvements
- Developing the potential for a Sports Hall for the village
- Speed Sign Improvements
- Carbon Neutral Actions

We do have vacancies on the parish Council so, if you would like to serve your community and bring your specific skills to help the Council fulfil its potential then please speak to us after the meeting or contact our Clerk, Julie Hodgkiss for more details.