



BURTON JOYCE PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

Chair's Report

Over the past year, the composition of the Council has changed somewhat; Pat and Colin Blandamer stepped down after many years of work, much appreciated by us all and we have a new Councillor, Nick Orders who we welcomed to the Parish Council in March.

The Neighbourhood Plan was approved in November, with a 94% "yes" vote, thanks to the enormous efforts of Terry Hazard and his team. We are continuing with our consultations regarding the land at the side of the Old School Building and we hope to see some tangible results in the near future.

Our annual village events – The Fireworks Display, Christmas Lights and Village Ventures have all been well attended and greeted with enthusiasm. An additional activity this year is the Burton Joyce Community Brass band playing in the Grove, which will be repeated on July 21st 2019. Our thanks go to our Parish Clerk Jessica Sherrin and her deputy Jayne Savage, together with David List and the ground staff team for their efforts during the past year. Particular thanks are extended to David who has now worked for the Parish Council for 25 years.



David List celebrates 25 years at the Parish Council

*Cllr Paul Hyde
Chair of the Parish Council*

Finance & General Purpose Committee

Chair – Cllr Paul Hyde

We completed the purchase from the Old School Trust of the long lease on the Old School Building in May 2018 and are now researching funding streams for the land at the side of the building. Our finances show a healthy position, with reserves being increased this year to fund future expenditure on key capital items requiring replacement.

Old School Building Phase II Committee

Chair – Cllr Laurence King

This sub-committee was formed last year, following the purchase of the 125 year lease for the Old School Building. It was tasked with exploring opportunities for developing the land around the building for the benefit of the community. The committee is made up of Parish Councillors as well as other residents with key local knowledge and skills.

In the process of making an informed assessment of the needs of the village, the Committee has explored many possibilities. Visits have taken place to community centres and local contact points which house libraries, clubs, medical facilities and other amenities to villages. The initial conclusion so far from these visits and other research within and outside the village has identified that a *new building* is possibly not what the

village needs as it is already provided with halls, a library, meeting rooms, club houses and cafes. Similarly, whilst parking can be an issue at times, a new car park would not be an appropriate use of a key site at the heart of the village.

The current thinking is that the land could be designed as an open space, possibly partially canopied, which would provide a unique resource in the centre of the village. The open space could include a garden area with seating for meeting, relaxation and socialising, an open area in which exercise classes and health and well being activities could take place and a canopied area for musical events, specialised market days and other cultural activities. These ideas are in their infancy and the Committee is very open to ideas and suggestions. Once initial design ideas have been scoped out, wider consultation will be taking place within the community.



The Old School Building



Land beside The Old School Building

In the context of developing the Old School Building Site and within the remit of this committee is the redevelopment of the village centre as a whole, a priority identified by residents within the Neighbourhood Plan. There has been little discussion so far but, as a more ambitious and long-term project, the concept of 'shared space' is being considered. Information is available via this link <https://www.pps.org/article/what-is-shared-space> or a YouTube video "Poynton Regenerated".

Planning Committee

Chair – Cllr Sarah Cook

The Planning Committee was consulted on 61 planning applications during this council year. Amongst the applications were three larger developments that had already received planning permission from Gedling Borough Council (GBC) but consultation was required on the proposed number, design and type of housing. These developments included Mill Field Close, Orchard Close and in part, Glebe Farm. In line with the newly agreed Neighbourhood Plan (NP), these developments were scrutinised by the Committee and Parishioners' views were listened to. As a result the Committee submitted objections to all three developments under the following broad categories:

- Housing proposed not in line with the NP policies regarding size and type
- Potential for increased flood risk due to proposed designs of developments.
- Destruction of fauna and flora, natural habitats and the impact this has on the village aspect.
- Increased traffic and general highways issues.

The Planning Committee will continue to monitor these developments closely throughout 2019/20 to ensure that they fulfil all planning conditions. The Committee has already actioned work to be undertaken to monitor and record the impact of the current developments on traffic and services in Burton Joyce.

Moving forward, the Neighbourhood Plan provides the Parish with a framework for making decisions about Burton Joyce's development over the next decade. Success can only come if Parishioners and the Parish

Council continue to work together. The Planning Committee welcomes your attendance at any of its public meetings and would encourage residents to contact the Committee with views and concerns about any planning issues which impact on Burton Joyce.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Chair – Cllr Terry Hazard

The Burton Joyce Neighbourhood Plan was officially made (adopted) by Gedling Borough Council on 10th January 2019 and now forms part of the Development Plan for Gedling Borough.



Neighbourhood Plan receives a “YES” vote

The Plan provides an evidence-based resource to enable the Parish Council to draw up an initial action plan from which the following action points have been delegated to the appropriate sub committees:

- Project 1 – **Village Centre** - Old School Building Phase II Committee
- Project 2 – **Poplars Sports Ground Access** – Poplars Committee
- Project 3 – **Pedestrian Safety** – Community Engagement Committee
- Project 4 – **Old School Building Development** – Old School Building Phase II Committee
- Project 5 – **Footpath improvement** – Community Engagement
- Project 6 – **Designation of Buildings as locally important** – Planning Committee

The Parish Council sees this document as an essential tool to help guide it through the next decade and beyond and our thanks go out to all those residents who took part in the extensive consultation process.

Poplars Sports Ground Committee

Chair – Cllr Robin Ringham

Since taking over as Chair in October 2017 I have overseen great improvements at the site and 2018/19 has enjoyed continued growth in usage at the Poplars. Thanks again go to David List, the Grounds and Amenities Manager, and his staff Jed, Danny and Digby, who between them make the Ground look absolutely superb and the envy of many a visiting team.

We now have a brand new Bowls Pavilion at the Poplars, funded by a generous donation from a Bowls Club Member. This is a great asset to the site and one which I feel sure will be much enjoyed by the them this season.



The New Bowls Pavilion at the Poplars Sports Ground

We are continually monitored by the FA on the maintenance and running of the new 3G pitch and it is fair to say they are more than happy with the way things are going. We are still looking to fill the capacity on the 3G pitch during the summer so if there are any sports groups looking for a summer season venue please do get in touch!

BJFC is continuing to grow at all age groups and genders, particularly at “Mini Greens” level. Of course, the new 3G pitch gives them greater choice and training facilities in the winter months. Summer of 2018 saw the World Cup take place and the Poplars team along with BJFC organised screening of all the England games. It was very popular and a great success.

The Down’s Syndrome Squad have been part of BJFC for nearly 4 years now and have become a well-established and well received part of the local football community here at Burton Joyce.

Their reputation as a capable, diverse & caring squad is growing and on the back of this, the East Midlands Special Olympics organisation are organising a high-profile event later this year on July 7th utilising the fantastic facilities at The Poplars.

Progress has been made in improving the quality of the grass pitches to allow greater use with the purchase of Verti Drain equipment. This has been funded with a grant from the FA and contributions from BJFC and the Notts Schools FA. This will come on line soon and we should see a great improvement in pitch durability in the future

Petanque is ever popular and has growing membership. Archery has had another successful year and the Cricket Club has increased its number of fixtures, especially at junior team level. Also regularly used by Slimming World, Ladies Netball and the Bridge Club, the Poplars is a great multi use site.

November saw another successful Fireworks Night. It was very well attended and the display was fantastic. The weather was kind and everybody thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Crowds Gathered for the Fireworks Display

In November 2018 a working party was set up to look at how we could create an open access area at the Poplars that would accommodate casual play, particularly during school holidays. We have identified an area and, subject to funding, we are currently trying to bring this project to fruition as soon as possible.

The continued increase in use of the Poplars shows that it is a facility that the residents of Burton Joyce should be proud of.

Amenities Committee

Chair - Cllr Pat Blandamer

The Amenities Committee continues to oversee facilities within Burton Joyce that are managed and maintained directly by the Parish Council and its Grounds Staff. These include Roberts Recreation Ground, The Cemetery, Allotments and The Grove as well as the floral displays enjoyed in summer months.



The Grove, Off Willow Wong

The play equipment at the Roberts Recreation Ground is well used by local children and their families. Regular daily inspections and routine maintenance takes place. Major repair work is currently underway for some of the heavily used items of equipment – a testament to the popularity of the park! These repairs are being carried out as quickly as possible to minimise disruption in the park.

New tenancy agreements have been issued this year to all allotment holders and work has been undertaken in partnership with Severn Trent Water to improve the site. This has included the replacement of the main gates and the re-establishment of the main headlands. We have had a significant number of new tenants this year and it is wonderful to see the re-invigoration of some of the plots.

The Cemetery is a tranquil and beautiful space which has seen much work during the past year. The 2 yew trees at the entrance have received a major pruning as they were encroaching on the pathway and some of the graves. All information about cemetery regulations and purchasing plots can be found on our Website.

Grateful thanks go to the Parish Council's Grounds and Amenities staff who contribute greatly to the pleasant environment we all enjoy.

Community Engagement Committee

Chair – Cllr Jeanette Johnson

The Communities Engagement Committee oversees arrangements of special events, including the annual Christmas light switch-on, transport, parking and highways issues and all items relating to the community as a whole.

Two of the most contentious issues for the village continue to be the parking situation and speeding. Councillors are continually liaising with the NCC Highways Office to try and find solutions to the problems.

Unfortunately, the re-surfacing of Main Street schedule for this financial year had to be postponed due to necessary replacements of gas pipes – once the work is done and road surface settled, the re-tarmacking is promised to go ahead. Nottinghamshire County Councillor, Nicki Brooks is determined that this promise is kept by the County Council.

The Village 'Clean Up' Campaign continues to grow from strength to strength. The Parish Council is extremely grateful both to the volunteers who have adopted specific roads to keep litter free, or who have helped with the big village clean-up. We are always seeking further volunteers who should contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance. This is a particularly useful initiative as the Borough Council has continued to reduce the amount of street cleaning they do.

We are delighted to have our own Burton Joyce Community Brass Band. A Picnic in the Park Concert was held in the Grove this summer and it is intended that this should be an annual event. The Band also played at the annual Christmas Fair and Festive Light Switch on. This is always a highlight of the community calendar and this year was no exception, with Santa arriving again in the village on the back of a Harley Davidson.



Santa and his outriders arriving to switch on the Christmas lights



Burton Joyce Brass at Picnic In The Park



Vernon Coaker MP and Cllr Nicki Brooks joined staff and councillors at the event

Last but not least is the long list of issues and enquiries from Parish Councillors or members of the public, which include things like speeding traffic, pavements and grass verges, obstruction to footpaths, gully clearing, over-hanging trees, litter and fly-tipping, graffiti, illegal signs, bus shelters, bus and train services. All these issues are referred to the Borough or County Council or other agencies as appropriate.

Grateful thanks go to my fellow Parish Councillors, staff and volunteers who work so hard throughout the year to make Burton Joyce such a wonderful place to live and work.



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