



Serving the Burton Joyce Community

# BURTON JOYCE PARISH COUNCIL



## ANNUAL REPORT 2019-21

## Chair's Report

This last year has been one of constant change and adaptation as the Covid-19 pandemic has affected all our daily lives. For the Parish Council it meant the cancellation of the Annual Meeting in 2020 and the move to on-line meetings to keep things functioning, so this report covers a two-year period. Keeping a close eye on changes in government policies and guidelines has been a major concern of all staff during this time, with the aim always of keeping our facilities open as much as possible and as safely as possible. We are extremely grateful to all our staff for their diligence and commitment in this time and for maintaining a professional and responsive approach at all times.

*Cllr Paul Hyde*  
*Chair of the Parish Council*

### Finance & General Purpose Committee

#### **Chair – Cllr Paul Hyde**

The last year has been an exceptional one, with the effects of the Covid pandemic having a big impact on the income usually received by the Parish Council, especially from the Poplars Sports Ground. Successful grant applications coupled with sound financial management by our Parish Clerk, Jessica Sherrin has ensured that we have ended our financial year with a surplus. We have recently submitted a funding bid for £100,000 in collaboration with the Friends of Roberts Recreation Ground for improvements to our much loved and used playground and await the outcome in June. We have also begun the process of tapping into the 'in-kind' support on offer from local contractors, such as Balfour Beattie who are working on the Gedling Access Road, to seek support for village projects under their 'Social Value' obligations.

### Old School Building Phase II Committee

#### **Chair – Cllr Laurence King**

As two years of work assessing the needs of Old School Building site and the village began to come to a conclusion in 2019, there was positive anticipation within the Old School Sub-Committee, and the whole Parish Council, of taking the steps towards delivery of a very significant project that would enhance village life for all residents of Burton Joyce.

The OSB Committee, which included local design, planning and heritage experts had over the two years consulted with managers of existing facilities, entered into discussions with Nottinghamshire County Council and 'Inspire' regarding library provision, visited multiple village library hubs and service centres, held discussions with County Youth Services about facilities for young people and met with cycle network charity 'Sustrans'. It became clear during deliberations that a new building was not required in the village but that an open, flexible, partially covered space and garden was. A site development brief was produced and used in discussions with, and assessment of, prospective design and project management contractors.

The first step to delivery of the project was to present our findings to trustees of the Old School Trust, which took place in the Old School Building in *October 2019*. The trustees consisted of the two Church Parish Wardens, from whom we received a very positive response to proposals and an agreement on changing the 'objects' of the Trust to enable re-investment of the publicly sourced funds into the site. The funding from the Trust is key because demonstrating an investment contribution from the community considerably enhances the ability to raise further development funds. We anticipated being able to provide the same presentation in due course to the third designated trustee, the Vicar of St Helens Church, following her installation in November 2019.

Subsequent meetings between the Parish Council and the trustees have not taken place. A formal grant application for £300,000 was submitted to the Old School Trust in August 2020 at their request. The Parish Council continue to invite the Old School Trust to engage and participate with us now to initiate the



investment required in the Old School Building site. As we write, there is expectation of a meeting with trustees before the end of May, facilitated through Southwell Diocese.

The project remains vitally important for the future of the village.

More detailed information on the Presentation to Trustees, Grant Application to the Trust, The Neighbourhood Plan, plus the article 'A Regeneration Project to Breathe New Life into the Village Centre' in the March 2021 edition of 'The Magazine' can be obtained through the Parish Council Website:

<https://www.burtonjoyceparishcouncil.org.uk/old-school-building/>

Finally, can I add a personal thanks to all councillors and volunteers during the time of this report for their time and work, and to the staff of the Parish Council under the professional leadership of the Parish Clerk who are all a credit to the village.

## **Planning Committee**

### ***Chair – Cllr Terry Hazard***

In this last year the Planning Committee has considered planning applications for 44 new properties, 45 extensions and 23 miscellaneous items -along with plans to rebuild Lendrum Court. We were asked for our opinion on a proposed 66 bed care home in Teal Close, and 27 residential units at Bulcote Farm. Consultation also took place regarding the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan, the Nottinghamshire Minerals Plan and Gedling Borough Council's Planning Policy. It has been a difficult period, with restrictions placed on meetings due to COVID, especially getting to grips with "Zoom". The planning team have shown great patience and fortitude (especially the Parish Clerk and Deputy Clerk) and hopefully, things will return to normal in the near future.

## **Poplars Sports Ground Committee**

### ***Chair – Cllr Robin Ringham***

It's now 2 years since I last reported on the Poplars and of course Covid 19 has overshadowed a lot of it. Just after my last report we had purchased an Aerator for the ground which is having a positive impact on the quality and durability of the grass.

In November 2019 we had another successful Fireworks night and my thanks go to all the staff and volunteers who helped on the night. Regrettably we had to cancel the fireworks night in 2020, but hopefully it will be back on this year.



**Staff and Councillors on Fireworks Night 2019**



### **2019 Fireworks Night – We hope to see it return in 2021!**

In March 2020 we sadly had to close the Poplars as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> National Lockdown. This had a serious impact on all the Clubs and our revenue stream. We managed to get some sports up and running again in June 2020 and my thanks go to David List and his team, Danny, Jed and Digby for all their help in making sure the Ground was Covid safe. My thanks also go to the Clubs and Jessica Sherrin, our Parish Clerk, for the endless risk assessments and protocols that we had to put in place, but we managed to safely restart sports and my thanks go to all users for sticking to the rules.

Unfortunately we had another total lockdown just after Christmas which stopped us in our tracks again. Since March 29th this year we have been able to restart outdoor sports again and hopefully we can continue without another lockdown, fingers crossed.

We have managed to make two significant investments at the Poplars despite Covid in the form of a new Bowls mower and a new Fairway mower. This investment sees a continued support for the facility and acknowledges the growth in its use.

Clubs who enjoy the use of the Poplars Sports Ground include Football [29 teams] Cricket [Junior and Senior], Archery, Bowls, Petanque, Ladies Walking Netball, Slimming World, Yoga and hopefully the return of Bridge in the near future. The Poplars is a multi-ability, multi-use facility that is the envy of many visitors and is something that the residents of Burton Joyce should be proud of.

### **Amenities Committee**

#### **Chair - Cllr Paul Hyde**

This Committee oversees the running of the Cemetery, the Allotments, the Grove, Roberts Recreation Ground, the War Memorial and the Millennium Sundial. We are grateful to David List and his team who have been busy making improvements and carrying out running repairs to all these facilities throughout the year, despite all the difficulties faced by the Pandemic. We have been keeping a close eye on all government advice and changes in lockdown rules throughout to keep facilities open and available as much as possible.

The Cemetery had the main pathway re-tarmacked last year using 'Community Infrastructure Levy' funds and this year has had 4 new planting pockets created in the front borders. These have been seeded with wild flowers and will be made available for any community groups wishing to adopt them from the autumn.

The Allotments have been hugely popular during the long periods of lock-down we have faced as a community and we have a waiting list in excess of 20. We have been ensuring that all existing tenants are working their plots and giving notice to those who are not to ensure that the best opportunity is available to those on the waiting list. We have recently adopted a policy of splitting any full plots that become available into two halves to help reduce the waiting list as quickly as possible.



**Allotments, off Trent Lane**

The Grove is a beautiful green space tucked away at the top of Willow Wong for peace and tranquillity and has proved extremely popular this year. The gates are opened and locked by a group of volunteers and we appreciate park users' cooperation in exiting when the gates are being locked at night. The primary school has just been given permission by the Parish Council to have sole use of the Grove for outdoor activities on Wednesdays from 1-2pm so please be aware that the gates will be locked at these times during term time for the protection of the children. For safety reasons it is with great regret that we are having to have the wonderful beech tree in the Grove felled as it is diseased and unstable. To try and make something positive out of this we will be commissioning a local artist to turn the stump into an appropriate wood carving (providing the remaining wood is suitable). We will be asking him to provide 3 designs and then putting them to the vote in the village for the most liked proposal. Please keep an eye out for this and let us know your favourite!



**Diseased beech tree must be felled.**



**Example wood carving**

Last but by no means least, the playground has benefitted from the re-formation of The Friends of Roberts Recreation Ground, an active and committed group of parents who have carried out a consultation process and fundraising activities to help seed-fund the submission for the £100,000 grant by the Parish Council referred to above. If the bid is successful the funds raised will be supplemented by the Parish Council to meet the £10,000 target necessary for the application. Before the pandemic the Group organised a disco and other fund-raising activities and more recently collaborated with the Burton Joyce Wool Fairies for the 'Big Woolly Easter Egg Hunt' and raffle which raised over £3,000 in total. The Parish Council is grateful to members of the Group for their energy and enthusiasm and to all the businesses and residents who have supported them.



You will also have seen that during the course of the year the tunnel and mound in the park have been restructured, with the removal of the wooden posts which were rotting and subject to vandalism. The grass mound is currently settling before a new, accessible double slide can be installed on top of it. As well as by the Parish Council, this is being part funded by a National Lottery grant received by the Friends of Roberts Recreation Ground and a donation from the Three Villages Gala.



Prize draw with Friends of Roberts Recreation Ground



Receiving a donation from Lesley Greeves Estate Agents

## Community Engagement Committee

### Chair – Cllr Yvonne Greenfield

The Community Engagement Committee oversees arrangements of special events, including the annual Christmas light switch-on and The Picnic in the Park as well as activities of Community Groups, Highways Issues, Litter Picking the Emergency Plan. We had a hugely successful Christmas Fair and Light Switch-on event in 2019, but sadly were unable to hold it in 2020 due to Covid Restrictions. We did however have a fantastic display of Christmas Lights, switched on by a small group of councillors which helped bring some cheer to the village last Christmas. This was attended by our County Councillor, Nicki Brooks and Borough Councillors, Sam Smith and Mike Adams who had contributed towards new lights and trees from their community funds.



Similarly the Picnic In the Park took place in 2019 which saw a great turnout to enjoy music from Burton Joyce Brass in the sunshine. Whilst we were unable to have the event in 2020, we are planning for it to be back, all trumpets blowing, on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (TBC)!





### **Picnic in the Park 2019 – Government ‘Roadmap’ permitting we will see its return in July 2021**

The Village ‘Clean Up’ Campaign continues to grow from strength to strength, with groups within the village doing a fantastic job of keeping the village clear of litter. Our sincere thanks are extended to ‘The Wombles’ and all other groups who regularly litter pick. The Parish Council will be holding an organised litter pick, starting from the Old School Building, Main Street on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May at 10am. If you would like to come along and help, please just turn up and we will provide all the necessary equipment.

We have recently been working with the Burton Joyce Climate Change Group in adopting an Environmental Policy, which ensures the Parish Council pays full consideration to the environment, particularly in its planting schemes. This has included proposals to re-design the area surrounding the Millennium Sundial to contain bee-friendly, pollinator plants as part of our commitment to become more environmentally conscious. We are currently in discussion with Cadent Gas’ ‘Customer Experience’ team to seek funding and support for this project and will be looking for volunteers to look after this area once it is completed.



### **Cadent Gas Project / Climate Change Group Project - Area by the Millennium Sun-dial**

We are also in the process of finalising an Emergency Plan and Flooding Plan in collaboration with Borough and County Councillors and have a meeting later this month with MP Tom Randall to explore this important issue. More updates will be available in the Community Engagement minutes, published on our Website with all our committee minutes.

On a final note I would like to extend my 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.



**Contact us:**

Burton Joyce Parish Council  
The Old School Building  
Main Street  
Burton Joyce  
Nottingham  
NG14 5DB

Tel: 0115 931 40 84

Email: [admin@burtonjoyceparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:admin@burtonjoyceparishcouncil.org.uk)

Website: [www.burtonjoyceparishcouncil.org.uk/](http://www.burtonjoyceparishcouncil.org.uk/)