

# Bradwell Parish Council's Report

## Cllr Harry Hamilton, Vice Chairman writes

The most important aspect of the role of a Parish Councillor is to maximise the benefit of the council to the residents of our village. As Parish Councillors we are all volunteers, that is we choose to give up our time in order to serve and help our community in the best way we can. One of the most important aspects and indeed challenges for us is to try to spend the relatively small amount of money we get from the rates (called the precept) in order to maximise the benefit to the village as a whole.

The last three years have been challenging for us all, first of all we had the Covid pandemic which was sadly followed all too quickly by the cost of living crisis sparked by the extremely sad turn of events in Ukraine. Over the last three years as a Parish Council, we have been engaged in a developmental programme, that is trying to engage more effectively with the community to offer a more up to date service. This has resulted in a raft of new policies and procedures to make us fully legally compliant.

This has also involved in us working more effectively with other organisations in the community, such as the Old School Village Centre, the Bradwell Library Reading Room, the allotment association, the Methodist Hall and St. Nicholas Church to name only a few. For me personally this has been a wonderful experience: that is, I have been able to engage with and to meet so many wonderful and inspiring individuals in our village.

One of the most important characteristics of a Parish Councillor or indeed any individual is the ability to listen. Therefore, we strive to respect the right of anyone to put forward their opinion and while we may not always agree, the public is always welcome to attend our meetings. To accommodate this, we always have a place at the beginning of our meetings when residents can talk to us and make representation to us about any issue that concerns them.

Over the last twelve months under our Cllr Candon's leadership we have made a number of changes and improvements to what we offer to the residents. We now have a GOV website, GOV email addresses, a Facebook presence and are engaging much more with the community.

### **So what has the Parish Council been doing over the last twelve months and what is it trying to do going forward.**

As already mentioned, one of the most important aspects is the networking with local organisations and Borough Councillors and in doing so, identifying where we can make a difference.

One of the biggest achievements that came out of this was the series of events that took place in June for the late Queens Jubilee. The Parish Clerk and one of our councillors successfully applied for a £4,100 grant from the lottery, this together with an events grant from the Parish Council was used to pay for much of the activities that took place.

In May a new flag pole was installed on Green Lane, this proved to be a very timely and important innovation as the flag pole was used to show respect and mark the start of the late Queens Jubilee celebration and sadly her subsequent passing and the proclamation of the new King.

Also, in May we had the installation of four new litter bins, two in North and two in South Bradwell. Given the usage and the number of times I have had to report them for overflowing I think they were well placed and very much needed.

In July it was resolved that the Parish Council is wholly against seeing the area of natural beauty known as Bluebell Woods which includes the Hoblands plantation being ruined for the extension of a

business park. It was further resolved to request the following land be protected against any future development: Green Lane playing field; Gipsies Green; Mill Lane playing field; The War Memorial site (Church Walk); all allotments sites; The green space between Falklands and Primrose Avenue; the field at the back of Royal Sovereign Close; and the land close to Blake Drive.

Also in July additional CCTV cameras were installed on the Green Lane car park to cover areas currently not covered by the system this should help reduce the amount of vandalism.

In August the Bradwell Village Fruit and Vegetable Fayre took place this again was a community event and the Parish Council is very grateful for the support it continues to get from other organisations such as the Allotment Association and the Old School Village Centre in the village.

In September it was resolved that the Parish Council should renovate all the bus shelters currently in use and this has now taken place.

In October the Parish Council resolved to purchase 50 \* Pyracanthus/ Hawthorn/ Blackthorn to strengthen the boundary and alleviate trespassing at Cley Road allotments.

In November the Parish Council successfully launched in conjunction with the YMCA and the Old School Village Centre the long-awaited youth club. The Parish Clerk successfully applied and continues to apply for grants to help with the costs of this initiative as a result to date this has resulted in no cost to the residents.

In December the consultation results which reported on the Future of the Green Lane Park was discussed. The outcome was that the majority of the public voted for a) nature area at Gipsies Green, b) a formal park at Green Lane and c) a café at the pavilion. It was encouraging that the majority of people are willing to see an increase in their precept for projects a) and b).

In February this year the Parish Council resolved to try and purchase the area of land known as Hoblands Plantation with the ambitious intention, if grants can be secured, of creating a kidney shaped park to be known as the King Charles III Coronation Park. It was felt that there should be a park in South Bradwell for all residents to enjoy and that this would permanently stop the possibility of this being destroyed to create a business park or housing estate.

In April following an approach by one of the councillors and the clerk to the owner of the land, we voted to accept a gift of a parcel of land to be known as Kings Garden on the corner of Beccles Road and Kings Drive.

## **Plans going forward.**

We plan to buy more much needed litter bins and position in the village. However, we also have three major and substantial projects under consideration to improve the village of Bradwell and to try and offset the effect, which we have little power to control, of the major building projects currently taking place. These include:

- To create the Kings Garden on the corner of Beccles Road and Kings Drive
- To create King Charles III Coronation Park in South Bradwell
- To create a park on Green Lane with a Café in the Leo Coles Pavilion for the residents to enjoy.

Given that currently we only have eight of a possible 15 councillors in place, we really do have our work cut out and we sincerely hope that our friends in the community will continue to work with us to enable us to fulfil these aspirations.