

Chair's Report 2020/21

The previous year has been a very unusual and difficult year for everyone within the Parish and as a Council we have strived to continue our role as a Parish Council with a minimum of disruption. Through this time of COVID 19 it has necessitated the need to look for alternative ways to carry out the essential business and stay in touch with our communities. Councillors embraced and adapted to the new method of virtual meetings. A number of technical hiccups were overcome along the way to provide a platform for communication that has resulted in regular monthly meetings via Zoom and Teams. This has given the opportunity for Residents to join the meeting to ensure issues and concerns are raised and dealt with.

During this year the Parish Council considered 20 local planning applications from the small to the large and, where appropriate, commented on relevant considerations to ensure the villages are maintained in sympathetic and sustainable ways. Many Councillors attended consultation meetings held by Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) when they unveiled the next Draft Plan. This version had changed considerably from the previous one including the scrapping of the proposed Garden Village at Gamston Airport. With the information gained we could also raise concerns of both Residents and Councillors on the new Draft Bassetlaw Plan and submitted a strong response earlier this year.

The Lockdown brought further issues to the villages as people headed for the countryside creating problems of anti-social behaviour, traffic and parking issues and of course, more litter. Councillors have liaised with relevant Notts County Council Departments such as Highways/Via, BDC, the Police and local land owners to understand and address these issues. They are continuing to work with them to find suitable and affordable long term solutions to the issues experienced .

Highways' and drains' problems have been noted and reported and where necessary these have been followed up to ensure the safekeeping of the Residents.

An issue of great concern within the Parish especially Gamston is the breeding and thus increasing numbers of Aedes Vexans mosquitoes. Councillors have contacted relevant agencies to ensure this remains high profile and a solution for the control of the mosquitoes is established.

Councillors have had to consider advice from NALC concerning the payment of grants to churches in the Parish. A very difficult conclusion was reached that it was not legally acceptable to continue with these payments. However, the Parish Council agreed they would continue to work to offer assistance to the churches as there was unanimous support for the importance of the buildings and the grounds within each Village.

The Council has maintained the Parish Precept at its former rate and strives to spend this money with care and consideration to the Parish.

Personally, I would like to thank all the Councillors and those involved with the Parish Council for their time and their contribution to the Parish in all the ways they do. This combined effort helps to make it the place we all call home. I would like to thank the Village Warden for his continual battle against those who discard their rubbish on our streets and both Cllr Ramsden and the Clerk who together helped navigate the Council in the early months of the Covid-19 storm. I was sorry to see Cllr Gozney step down but grateful for his contribution during his time on the Council. However this made way for our newest member, Councillor Maria Moakes, representing Gamston who we welcomed in October and we all look forward to her contribution to the Parish Council.