

ASHELDHAM RESIDENTS GROUP ("ARG")

REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISHES OF ASHELDHAM & DENGIE

Monday 9th MAY 2022

The objects of ARG is to improve and maintain the physical appearance of Asheldham and to promote the interests of its residents generally.

It currently has 71 members.

Since May 2021, ARG has organised successful Winter 2021 and Spring 2022 Litter Picks, in conjunction with MDC Councillor, Ward Member for Southminster and Dengie resident Adrian Fluker.

Periodic repair and maintenance of the Asheldham Parish Notice Board has been undertaken. We have replaced the previously rotten and fallen posts next to the Notice Board which are there to deter parking. Special thanks to Tony Locke of 9 Endway Cottages for supplying and cutting the posts to size.

We have also cleaned the sign on the gates to the ECC Yard although this really needs renewing by ECC. We have cut back some of the overgrown vegetation in the area.

Some of the fencing bordering the ECC Yard in Rushes Lane has fallen foul of some of the winter storms and this has been reported by the Parish Council to ECC.

The yellow Salt Bin in the Notice Board area was kindly topped up by Lisa and Louie Brown of Silver Lake but the sacks of salt were not really need thanks to the relatively mild winter.

Ann and Shaun Barnard of Brook Lane maintained and kept planted in an attractive way the planter on the ground opposite Sandlings. Recently a kind but so far unknown person has planted pansies in this planter. My wife Bernie continues to look after the planter at the base of the Village Sign.

ARG's Dave Morris of Broomfield and myself recently met with Lee Finch of G&B Finch and Lee agreed to clear away the fallen fencing in the wooded area between the Quarry entrance and the first corner going towards Tillingham as well as clearing out fallen tree trunks and branches. We expect this to be done soon. Further, ARG will be organising a work party along with a G&B Finch driver and grab lorry to clear more fallen tree trunks and branches in the wooded area between the corner previously mentioned and Broomfield.

ARG has successfully applied for a pack of 420 Large Wildlife Saplings from the Woodland Trust under the Queen's Green Canopy Scheme. These are due to be delivered in November 2022 for planting in the areas previously mentioned as due for clearance, as well as on the other side of the road bordering Silver Lake.

Special thanks to Dave Morris for supply and putting up notices saying "Please take your litter home" in the aforementioned areas due for clearance.

ARG has placed some Ukraine national flags at various points in the village, as a show of solidarity with the suffering of its population due to the Russian invasion. The views of ARG members were elicited beforehand and there were no objections to the idea, only positive reaction.

ARG's non-physical activities have, as ever, been taken up with its battles with Essex Highways through the good offices of the Parish Council. There have been various matter such as the erosion of verges, blocked drains, missing or damage road signs.

A solution to the Asheldham Bends issue is still awaited from Essex Highways with impatience and frustration. There is a limit to how the Covid excuse for the delays is credible.

Essex Highways have decided to ultimately replace rather than repair the bridge over Asheldham Brook. However, Essex Highways have recently stated that they have to locate the whereabouts of an unknown foul sewer in the vicinity before the ground investigation can start and before the feasibility study can be completed. It is anyone's guess as to why the existence of this foul sewer has not been mentioned before.

Thanks to pressure by ARG and the Parish Council, Essex Highways eventually got around to installing some reflector posts on both sides of the road over the brook denoting the narrowing of the road over the bridge.

Unfortunately, ARG has been unable to persuade the MDC Community Protection Team to operate a Trucam Project in the 30mph zone through the village as a deterrent to the many speeding motorists. Essex Police, which has to approve the project, say that there is nowhere safe for such monitoring to take place, a view with which ARG strongly disagree.

ARG was asked to make representations to Dengie Crops about a severe noise coming from their premises during the night, disturbing the sleep of some residents. Email correspondence ensued with the Managing Director and some modifications to the premises were planned. Eventually the main complainant was able to resolve the matter direct with Dengie Crops to his satisfaction.

With regard to the Commercial Clay Pigeon Shooting events at Albert Field, Hall Road, Asheldham in 2021, ARG did not receive any formal complaints about this. Had it done so, it would have suggested that any complaint would be best directed to MDC which it was aware some residents of Asheldham and Dengie were already doing.

The ARG Committee thanks all members for their continued support.

Colin Cooper

Chairman

ARG