

CHAIRMANS 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

PARISH COUNCIL FOCUS

The Parish Council have been in office for three years now and entering our final year which ends in May 2020 when Parish Council elections will be held. We have worked extremely hard to get the Council back on track since taking office in May 2016 when we found the Council in a bad state of affairs. It has been an upward struggle. Our focus is now aimed at working together with the community to deliver value for money projects, the Neighbourhood Plan and to run the Council efficiently and effectively. We have reached out to the community and managed to build relationships and help financially support a number of projects for the community. It has been our pleasure to work with individuals who have taken on project management and worked hard to deliver them on time and in budget.

VOLUNTEER'S - SERVICES - LOCAL BUSINESSES

We have found the community to be equally generous with their time and money. Each year a Christmas tree has been donated by local businessman John Probert. Friends of the School have held Macmillan coffee mornings in the village hall raising over £1,000. The Nature Reserve is regularly maintained by local volunteers as is the Village Hall. The Noak Bridge School and Pre-school have fundraising groups adding value to local education. Volunteers have been recruited to help develop the Neighbourhood Plan and we look to recruit more. The village residents association headed by Paul Downes organise events to raise funds for local charities and projects to keep the community engaged and isolation at bay. It also ensures social media is kept up to date with local news and events. We are fortunate to have local facilities on our doorstep, like the Hall, Chemist, Shop, Post Office and Noak Bridge Pub who provide us with vital local services making Noak Bridge a great place to live.



PROJECTS AND PROCESSES

We are extremely proud of the projects we have delivered to the community and the processes we have adopted to ensure we are and continue to be a value for money Council. We do regret that not all projects can be successful.

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| ★ NEW CCTV EQUIPMENT | ★ BT BILL REDUCTION |
| ★ FENCING AROUND DOG AGILITY COURSE | ★ LOCAL PARISH MEETINGS |
| ★ FINGER POST SIGNS | ★ SPRING CONSULTATION EVENT |
| ★ PRE-SCHOOL OUTDOOR CANOPY | ★ SUMMER FUN DAY |
| ★ ECO CLAD STORAGE CONTAINER | ★ REGULAR NEWSLETTERS |
| ★ BOULDERS AND BOLLARDS | ★ LEAF SWEEPING |
| ★ IMPROVEMENTS TO VILLAGE HALL CLOAKROOMS | ★ DEFIBRILLATORS |

NOAK BRIDGE VILLAGE - A CONSERVATION AREA???



In 1996 Noak Bridge Village was granted Conservation Status to protect the unique character of the village in both design and atmosphere. Planning measures were introduced on properties in the form of Article 4 Direction to limit permitted development rights. The type of development restricted by this includes alterations to chimneys, roofs, windows, doors, satellite dishes, hard standing drives, erection of porches, sheds, gates, fences, walls, enclosures or extensions and exterior painting. Residents living in the Conservation Area require planning permission before making these alterations to their properties. Noak Bridge conservation area with its distinctive architectural style gives it individual identity and impression of historical development which must be preserved. In 2011 Basildon Council carried out a Conservation Area Appraisal, the findings were published in a Management Plan in 2012. The Parish Council as statutory consultee comment on planning applications in the Parish. Unfortunately there are alterations made to properties within the conservation area without appropriate planning permission. This could be considered a breach of planning policy and enforcement action can and is taken by Basildon Council. Always seek advice from Basildon Council planning services if you are unsure of any planning permissions required.



BUDGET & PRECEPT

The Precept for 2019/20 was set at £44,420.00 an increase of 2.43%. This coming year we have earmarked a budget to fund the Neighbourhood Plan for professional fees, surveys and consultation to gather evidence to support the Plan.

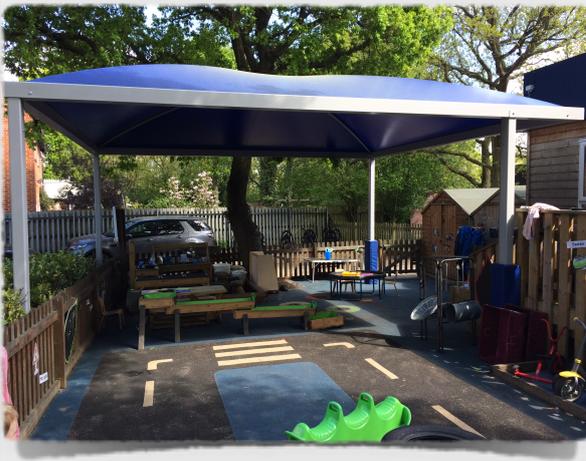


REMINDER

***WE HAVE INSTALLED DEFIBRILLATORS AT
NOAK BRIDGE MEDICAL CENTRE
& THE NOAK BRIDGE PUB***

DEFIBRILLATORS SAVE LIVES 

PRE-SCHOOL CANOPY



GRANT FUNDING - COMMUNITY GROUPS

Congratulations to the Noak Bridge Pre-school on their newly installed outdoor canopy. The Parish Council were happy to contribute to their fundraising with a small grant enabling the children to enjoy many hours of fun packed outdoor play. Community groups can apply for a small grant towards a community project please contact us or download an application form on our website.