



NOAK BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIRMANS REPORT 2021 - 2023

Since the last report in March 2020 the Covid Pandemic struck and affected us all which made us work in different ways. Meetings took place digitally, communication via social media meant we kept in contact with the community and offered help when and where it was needed. Community projects continued

The parish elections in 2020 were cancelled until 2021. We said goodbye to Vicki, Jane, and James who moved away. The May elections drew only two members, co-options brought 4 new members. Last year residents called for a by election to fill 1 vacancy costing nearly £2k. With parish elections in 2024, we hope a full complement of residents will put forward for the 7 seats up for election onto the Parish Council

In 2018 when Noak Bridge was designated as a Neighbourhood Area, the Parish Council set out our aims and objectives for the future of the Parish. With the prospect of homes being built on Land East of Noak Bridge becoming a reality, we sought oversight and influence on design and developed our own policies and design. We have since developed a website with a designated Neighbourhood Plan page to inform the parish of activities undertaken, including links to specific documents. We commissioned consultants and granted funding from Locality, Groundwork UK to pay for specialist work. The bulk of funding has come from the earmarked reserves that have accumulated because we do not pay a clerk. In the next few weeks the draft Neighbourhood Plan and Design Code will be ready for the steering committee to consider before sending out for resident consultation. It is essential that residents make comment on the proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan as it affects us all. Residents are very welcome to join the steering committee

Regular newsletters have been delivered by the Parish Council to every household to keep residents informed of the budget, precept, community projects, neighbourhood plan, litter picks and meetings. The website is regularly updated with minutes, agenda's, newsletters, news stories and current information

The parish council have continued to deliver projects in the parish, some jointly with Basildon Council. We have invested in *Village Signs *Durban Lane Steps and Pond * Seesaw *Coppice Lane Pond *Goal Post *Little Libraries *Jubilee Beacon *Nature Reserve Pathway. All have been requested by residents who are invited to apply for funding for community group projects such as the recently installed Defibrillator

The Queens Elizabeth Platinum Jubilee in June 2022 provided an opportunity for us to join with our community to celebrate the occasion. We were amazed at the high volume of residents who attended, Pipe Sargeant Chris Jennions piped De Rigour to the lighting of the Beacon and the school choir sung the song for the Commonwealth. Volunteers joined the Parish Council in organising this notable event

A litter pick group was set up in response to complaints of litter around the parish. W also took part in the 'Big Help Out' litter pick volunteering for the King Charles Coronation with over 30 residents and children

We have since made residents aware of the prospect of a planning application on Land East of Wash Road by Croudace and their intentions to engage with residents before they submit. Residents must ensure they respond to any forthcoming plans to make their voices heard and have their opinions taken into account

The parish council will continue to consult, engage, and listen to residents. We are open to community project suggestions and grant applications so long as they fit the criteria. We welcome volunteer support to our activities and plan to hold a Christmas event of some kind and would appreciate resident input. In keeping with our vision, the parish council intend to serve the community with openness, honesty and integrity and ensure value for money as a top priority... *Terri Sargent, Chairman/Clerk August 2023*