



## **NOAK BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL - CHAIRMANS REPORT 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024**

We are nearing the end of a four-year term of office in readiness for the Annual General Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024. The Notice of Parish Elections in April were uncontested with 5 Councillors returning to the Council. Our thanks to borough Cllr Stuart Allen who stepped in to help and Cllr Lynn Gilliam, welcome back, Cllrs, Sargent; Cottrell; Downton; Daft and Bateman

A Clerk will be sought as soon as possible to take over the role from Terri who has been the unpaid acting clerk since 2019. Not having to pay a clerk created an increase in the Councils reserves, which appropriately met the cost of the Neighbourhood Plan and contingencies

It has been a busy year; in May the Parish Council organised a volunteer 'Big Help Out' Litter Pick on 8<sup>th</sup> May to celebrate King Charles Coronation with the Basildon Mayor in attendance. Residents requested the parish council refurbish a street sign at Saling Green and to replace a small goal post on Wash Road open space. In July a request was made for maintenance on the Coppice Lane Pond and a Defibrillator to be installed on the rear of the local shop. In August a Duck Board with landing platforms was installed on the Durban Lane Pond and two Metal Street signs were refurbished in Bridge Street and Lower Street. In November an operational review of the CCTV took place to improve the current system and the parish council supported Fore Street residents and engaged a planning consultant to object to a planning application on the Fore Street sheltered housing review

The chairman applied to Locality for a grant to assist with funding for the pre-submission draft Neighbourhood Plan, a grant of £8k was awarded. In September last year the Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan, Design Code, Character Appraisal, Local Green Space Assessment took place. A newsletter was distributed to all homes in the parish seeking resident views. Over 100 consultees were sent the documents seeking their views. A drop in event was held at the village hall where local school children gave their views along with residents. The returned responses were good, and results of the consultation has been collated by consultants Bluestone Planning. The Plan has been amended taking into consideration the comments received and a final draft is being prepared ready for the steering group to agree before submission to Basildon Council who will arrange another public consultation and an independent examiner to review the plan and make recommended changes as necessary. The final stage is a Referendum and Adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan when the community are asked to vote on whether to adopt the Plan. If a majority vote yes, the Plan can be adopted, hopefully by the end of the year. The steering committee have worked hard to get the Neighbourhood Plan to this stage

In January the parish council were consulted on; 23/01551/OUT Location: Land to the South of Wash Road, Wash Road Hybrid planning application for up to 400 residential dwellings comprising detailed planning permission for Phase 1 for the erection of 65 residential dwellings. The parish council response to the application is attached to the January 2024 minutes

The parish council are proposing to light the Beacon on the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> June to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the D-DAY Landings on 6<sup>th</sup> June. The community events team were granted funds to put on a D Day celebration event complete with supper and entertainment on 7<sup>th</sup> June

Spring and Summer newsletters have been distributed by the parish council and another will follow soon after the AGM to outline forthcoming plans

Chairman Cllr Terri Sargent - Annual Parish 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024