

Chairman's Report

This year has been another busy year for the Parish Council and we have seen a few changes within the team. I would like to thank those again who gave up their time freely to assist with decision making to ensure Great Notley and White Court remains a super place to live and work.

Some of the main points that we have delivered on in the 2018/2019 civic year are summarised below

- The Parish Council continued to provide 70 hours a week litter picking to keep Parish clean and tidy and engaged a new member to the team (Vince). In addition, the PC has purchased new litter bins.
- We continue to progress the project to upgrade the play area at the RAFT amassing total grant funding of £40,500.00 towards project and concluding lease of land from BDC.
- Continued to maintain Levens Way play area including painting the swings and repairing the bouncy bike
- Successfully applied to the North Essex Parking Partnership in obtaining yellow lines by square (by GP Surgery) and a 2 hour restriction on use of parking bays opposite the village pub. Liaison with Country Park regarding overspill parking onto village, and continued liaison with schools to assist them in the challenge of parking at school run times.
- Continued representation on planning matters and liaison with Stansted airport
- The dedication of 2 trees to former Councillors including the late Betty Barltrop.
- Approved and gave Grants to the Scouts, financial support for the fete and the Christmas Tree festival
- Acquisition of the Memorial bench to commemorate centenary of end of WWI
- Organising the Remembrance Service
- Organising the Torchlight Procession
- With the aid of grant funding from the Braintree District Council Councillor Community Grant scheme, we acquired a defibrillator for the Parish located at the church and held a training event
- Making representations within the Community Governance Review resulting in an extra area being added to the Parish with new residents to be welcomed as from 1st April 2019
- Continued communication with residents including via the Great Notley Times magazine, website and Facebook page and getting information out quickly e.g. in relation to news of the traveller incursion in the summer. Also communicating with third parties such as the

Police and BDC resulting in the mound being installed at Highclere Rd as a deterrent for future incursions.

- And recently, with the assistance of District Councillor members of the Parish Council, we have delayed the proposed felling of trees along Great Notley Avenue and will be seeking full consultation before any future arboricultural works are carried out.

Civic year 2019/2020

We will continue to represent the Parish with sound approaches to Essex County Council, Braintree District Council and other statutory bodies when we have concerns or issues that require a collaborative approach to overcome.

Parish Council Tax increases of a small amount will be applied from April. In the instance of a band D property this equates to an increase of £2.61 per year or 5 pence per week.

Some of the reasons for the increase is that the previous localism funding passed down by BDC is no longer available as they themselves see zero funding from central government. To cover increased staff costs in view of the increase in the minimum wage and to insure that the village remains clean and tidy in accordance with expectations of residents. To cover the costs of litter picking for the new areas to be added into the Parish, to ensure there is sufficient funding for the RAFT upgrade project and to set aside money for future projects most notably the expected allotment project.

I would like to thank my Vice Chairman Phillip Heady for his support over the past few months, along with my fellow Parish councillors, the litter picking team and the Parish Clerk.

Finally, with Parish Elections due in early May, if anyone wishes to join the parish council or stand for election, please contact the Parish Clerk for further details.