

## **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022**

### **Town & Parish Conferences:**

During the pandemic councillors had 'attended' these conference via Zoom, however, the latest conference held in March was a face-to-face conference at the Arena in West Bridgford. Cllr Lacey, I, and our Clerk Jan Towndrow attended this Town and Parish Forum.

The Leader of the Borough Council Cllr Simon Robinson opened the meeting with the announcement that the Borough had decided along with all local authorities in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire to become part of the Derby and Notts Combined Authority.

This will be a single Institution that will combine all District, Borough and City Councils in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire under the direction of an elected Mayor, like those in London, Greater Manchester, and the West Midlands.

The election for this new Mayor to be held next year 2023.

This is all part of the Devolution of Power, a government plan on 'Levelling Up.'

It involves 2.8 million people and is hoped it will provide a more efficient and effective Local Government structure though it will not abolish local District and Borough Councils or Town & Parish Councils.

The Leader advised that the Tour of Britain Bike Race will return to Nottinghamshire in 2022, with the start in West Bridgford on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. It will once again come through Cropwell Bishop on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> of September- timings to be confirmed.

He also reported that grants were available to Town and Parish Councils towards costs of events for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Grants would be £500 to larger Town Councils and £250 to smaller Parish Councils in the borough. The Clerk has applied for this grant for Cropwell Bishop.

### **Parish Council:**

In July 2021 Cropwell Bishop Parish Council welcomed a new Co-opted council member, Iain McEachran who has lived in Cropwell Bishop with his family since 2006. Iain works in the automotive industry and can often be found walking his two dogs in the village and surrounding areas. Iain's hopes when he joined the council are to help keep our village the special place it is. Iain would love for all Cropwell Bishop residents to look after our village and cherish it

### **Parish Council Meetings:**

Face-to-face meetings have now resumed as normal. New planning applications are still giving us concerns, as several planning applications are for building in the Greenbelt. I have written about these concerns in Cropwell Bishop's Brief Reports, as our objections are not being taken into consideration by the planning Officers.

## **The Environment**

During the pandemic we saw the start of a new Litter Picking Group which focuses on areas that our Village Ranger/Lengthsman is unable to target. Over the past year it has made an enormous difference to the land from the entrance to the village down as far as the garage and roundabout, as well as our surrounding countryside pathways.

## **The Great British Spring Clean:**

A small group of village volunteers and councillors made a small green makeover at the bottom of Hoe View Road. Over the years it had become neglected, recently a new electricity substation was installed by Western Power in this location, and a tree much loved by our local children had blown over in the storms. Therefore, at the March Parish Council Meeting, it was decided to improve the area as part of the Great British Spring Clean initiative. The project would include the planting of new trees to put in areas for the planting of bulbs and plants and the installation of a bug house. On a warm sunny weekend in April, work commenced by a group of volunteers and the results can be viewed on Tony Jarrow's Village Plan website. I would like to thank all those who took part and made this project a success.

## **Community / Socialising:**

During the pandemic none of our usual activities were allowed to continue under the lockdown rules, but as soon as some of the restrictions had been lifted our annual Fireworks night went ahead.

Youth Club reopened and had a splendid time at their Christmas party supported with funding from Cllrs N. Clark and G. Moore.

The Saturday Café and the Luncheon Club have resumed, along with the 'Live and Local' and Cinema organised by the Entertainment Group.

During this time, we have had a new slide installed at a cost of over £6000 in the small children's play area. The original one had become battered over the years and the last Rospa inspection report highlighted it as unsafe. The same report also highlighted the older youngsters' swings had become unfit for purpose and needed replacing. A new inclusive swing set was installed by Streetscape the week before Easter, paid for by a Lottery Grant applied for and secured by our Parish Clerk Jan Towndrow.

I am also pleased that the Parish Council have been able to give grants towards training costs for two shining examples of village sporting youth, Elliot Sibley, and Eve Young, and a third grant to Venture Scout Archie Hayes who has won through stiff competition to go to the 25<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree to be held in Korea 2023.

During the lock down the Gardening Club reorganised and have become the Cropwell Bishop Growers & Gardeners Club who started to meet again every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in the month at the Old School. The Annual Horticultural Show is looking to resume in September.

## **The Old School Jubilee Gardens:**

The Jubilee gardens have been tended over the last year by a group of volunteers, some of whom are members of the Growers & Gardeners club. They have done an excellent job planting, weeding, and watering to keep the gardens looking spectacular for our residents to take pleasure in. Feel free to come and sit any time in the Old School gardens and enjoy the flowers and surroundings.

## **Acknowledgments:**

In the past I have tried to give names to the people who volunteer and give their time and skills to village organisations and clubs for no reward. Recently, I have been asked by volunteers not to name these wonderful people individually but just mention their clubs and groups. So here goes: The **Heritage Group, WI, Cropwell Café, Luncheon Club, Cropwell Singers, Entertainment Group, Gardeners & Growers, The Litter Picking Group, The Memorial Hall Committee, Village Scouts and CKOB Youth Club**

I find it hard not to mention certain individuals such as our Village Ranger **Ray Kimpton** who works tirelessly to keep our village in excellent condition, **Cllr. John Greenwood** for his commitment and work on transport, **Tony Jarrow** for the Village Plan, **Maria Carter** for the Facebook page "Cropwell Bishop Bulletin Board," **Gary Jowett** for his commitment to this village throughout the pandemic and beyond.

Notts County **Cllr. Neil Clarke** and Rushcliffe Borough **Cllr. Gordon Moore** whose financial help and continued advice and support make so many things achievable.

**Darrel Towndrow** who set up the Parish Council website and continues to help keep it running and who continues to be an invaluable help to me and the Clerk when we need his expertise.

## **Parish Clerk:**

My special thanks to our **Parish Clerk Janice Towndrow** who continues to contribute so many unpaid hours of work to make such a difference to our village.

Alan Wilson, Chairman.