

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report



For those parishioners who were unable to attend our Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th April, this is our annual report:

It has been a time of change and upheaval for Heighington Parish Council – we have lost councillors, gained new ones, had a new Chair and a new Clerk. However, all our councillors are now very focussed on our responsibilities to parishioners, and we would like to report on our work and achievements over the past year and what we are looking to do in the future.

Play equipment, Station Road - Our main focus has been to get new play equipment installed on the Station Road playing field, along with fitness equipment for adults. Making our play area accessible to all, we have installed a boat swing seat and laid a path to enable wheelchairs and pushchairs to access this area. We have also listened to parishioners' concerns about dogs in the children's play area and have now installed fencing around it.

Flagpole - We now have a new flagpole in the village. Unfortunately, the old flagpole was deemed unsafe and had to be replaced. Records show that the original flagpole was installed on the High Street after the First World War. We have retained the top part of the old flagpole and hope to be able to display this at the Jubilee Hall, with a suitable plaque.

Litter Pick - In conjunction with the Spar and willing volunteers our community litter pick in October successfully collected lots of bags of litter from around the village. We are hoping to repeat this again this year.

Festive Tea and Cake - This event has proved extremely successful, and it is so lovely to see our older residents getting together for a cuppa, cakes and a chat. It's a really great atmosphere and it's thanks once again to AF Blakemore & Son Ltd/

Spar for their generous donations and support of councillors and volunteers. We are hoping that this year we can bring in a choir, hopefully from Millfield Primary Academy.

Beckfield House Care Home - Three of our councillors, Sue, Alison and Jacki have become involved in Beckfield's monthly coffee mornings, where they go along to chat, read and have a giggle with the residents.

School Holiday Events - Several very successful events have been put on during the school holidays, including Halloween and Circus Workshops. These events have been very popular with our younger residents, and we hope to be able to continue with these fun activities.

Zero Carbon - We were awarded a £5,000 grant from Lincolnshire County Council and with that we have been able to install energy saving LED lights in the Jubilee Hall. We also plan to install water butts and install cycle racks at Station Road, Potterhanworth Road and at the Jubilee Hall. Last September we had an open public meeting where various ideas were mentioned including seed bombing, which we are going to do, and putting up bat and bird boxes, which we will be considering subject to available funds.

Station Road Trees - Our application to the Woodland Trust to get trees for Station Road has been successful and in November we plan a community planting day to plant 200 trees and at the same time we plan to plant various bulbs.

Other achievements over the last year:

- A massive clean and tidy of the Potterhanworth Road pavilion
- Platinum Jubilee planters installed at Jubilee Hall and Station Road
- A very successful Scarecrow Festival along with our neighbouring villages of Branston and Washingborough
- Decoration of the phone box with flowers and hanging baskets in the summer, along with installation of a solar light and shelving
- Working with the WI and volunteers to get the knitted poppies up for Remembrance Sunday
- The clothing bank continues to be a

good source of revenue and we will be using these funds for the Station Road development

- The speed deterrent is proving very useful in reminding residents of our battle to keep speeding through the village to a minimum
- The successful book swap, currently in the foyer of the Jubilee Hall, which is being enjoyed by many of our parishioners

Projects in progress:

- Station Road playing field
- Ongoing treatment of the Chafer Bugs
- Continuing to try and cut our village carbon footprint
- The possible creation of a Repair Hub run by volunteers
- Possible usage of the Station Road pavilion for smaller village groups, who don't necessarily need all the space of the Jubilee Hall
- Possible extension of the Parish Office at the Jubilee Hall, allowing space for privacy when discussing sensitive or confidential matters with parishioners
- We would really like to see more usage of our tennis courts which are free for residents to use at any time. You just need to register with the Parish Office first. We are currently exploring the option of tennis coaching for the youngsters, and putting on tennis events in the school holidays
- We would also like to move some of the books, setting up a book and seed swap in the telephone box during the drier weather

Staffing - We would like to congratulate Barbara and Nikki in attaining their ILCA and FILCA qualifications respectively. Our new CILCA-qualified clerk, Elaine has joined us from Saxilby and has made a massive difference in uniting the council and keeping us all on track. Our caretaker Denis is doing a fantastic job keeping our village buildings, recreation areas and gardens tidy. He is also responsible for inspections of the play equipment in the village.

Feedback

If any parishioners have any burning issues, concerns or ideas, please contact the Parish Office or come along to one of our council meetings.

Heighington Parish Council