

March 2023

Dear Resident of Colston Bassett Parish,

Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Meeting 13 March 2023

During 2022/23 Colston Bassett Parish Council held 5 meetings, however as always roughly 70% of the Council's work was carried out behind the scenes:

- day to day reporting issues to other responsible bodies (County Council, Borough Council, Severn Trent etc) , and following up on items raised by residents.
- project works such as the Flood Plan, Conservation Area review etc.
- lobbying others to act on behalf of residents to keep our village safe and clean (e.g. speed limit reduction)

This year has been no exception. There have been some significant successes

- A new 40 mph limit will be introduced along Hall Lane
- Following the Parish Council's lobbying and submission to Rushcliffe Scrutiny Committee, Conservation Areas in the Borough will be reviewed, Colston Bassett's review is underway (thank you volunteers)
- A flood resilience plan is in place. a team of voluntary resident flood wardens have been trained, and signage (23 signs 60 cones required!) deployed ready for action when needed
- Funding granted for a Lengthsman, to carry out routine tasks in the village
- Support for the Village Hall Committee to obtain a grant to repair the roof
- Supporting the Celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee – a great party and commemorative mugs for children
- Christmas gifts for the elderly
- Work to tidy and enhance the village centre should be completed soon.

One partial success was our engagement with Loughborough University to investigate flooding in the village and seek possible long term solutions. A Loughborough student carried out a final-year undergraduate project to set up a computer model of the flooding. The model developed showed promise, and with more time (and money!) a 'nature-based solution' (ponds, weirs, trees, etc) could emerge from this work. Unfortunately, although the university are keen to follow up, a new student did not take up our project this year. Hopefully next year?

Of course there are also things which are still work-in-progress:

- Although Rushcliffe agreed to review Conservation Areas, they have not adopted our suggestions to improve the process, and strengthen involvement of our local Borough Councillors.
- There has been as yet no success in reducing the speed limit on Harby Lane, nor introducing improved signage along the narrow part of Church Gate.
- The 'Lengthsman' funding has to date not attracted any interest in recruitment

- More dog bins and signage are needed but Rushcliffe remain to be convinced
- Completion of Environmental Tasks in the Neighbourhood Plan

The list above is perhaps a great starting point for the new Council.

The Coronation of King Charles III takes place on Saturday 7 May and provides a wonderful opportunity to celebrate with neighbours and friends. Volunteers are working hard to make sure that all residents can enjoy the Coronation celebrations, and to create a lasting environmental legacy. Watch out for news and suggestions as to how you can take part.

Our County and Borough Council representatives - Cllr Neil Clarke and Cllr Tina Combella - have once again both been a great support to the village. Additionally Madame Mayor Cllr Combella has been a brilliant ambassador for the whole Borough. I thank them on behalf of the Council for their continued support.

My thanks go out to each and everyone who contributes time and effort to village life - the litter pickers, gritters, flood wardens, tree planters, those reviewing the Conservation Area, and the Village Hall Committee. It is important to maintain a ready supply of 'new-blood' for this work, so please do think about how you can contribute a little of your time to help our community.

Parish Councillors also work voluntarily, doing their utmost to represent all of the village. The Council has 7 seats, and in May a new Council will be elected. I encourage residents to come forward to serve the village, and represent your community. The more Councillors the easier the job – many hands make light work.

Our Clerk Nige Mayglothing has again had a very difficult year due to illness. His determination, resilience, and dedication to the village shines out in the face of adversity. Thank you, Nige!

I am standing down from Council in May, and I feel very proud, honoured and privileged to have been able to serve you. My own proud achievement, working alongside a team of excellent residents, is The Neighbourhood Plan. It is a significant set of policies for our village, protecting it from spread of development (Limit to Development Policy) and providing space for small scale and limited new housing. The Plan is valid until 2028, and the new Council will no doubt start to engage with residents to find out their vision for Colston Bassett beyond 2028.

I wish the new Council every success in delivering the wishes of residents, protecting our environment, and ensuring that Colston Bassett retains its unique rural atmosphere and character for many years to come.

With kind regards to all,

Cllr Josie McGuirk
Chairman Colston Bassett Parish Council
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