

Collingham with Linton Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2020/21

Introduction

My role as your Chair began in deep lockdown during May last year and as I start my second-year lockdown rules are finally being relaxed! With many ups and downs (to say the least) for many across the community, this summary provides you all with a snapshot of the real highlights from our community during those difficult 12 months.

Covid Support

With a precept of £95,000 and within that a budget of £43,000 allocated to projects, all went on hold. The Council took a decision early on that supporting local community groups by offering Covid grants to help them overcome short term financial situations was a priority, and many stepped forward and asked for help.

These included:

May 2020 Covid grants for community groups Orchard Garden; CaLSA; Collingham Memorial Hall; Collingham Bowling Club.	£4,800
October 2020 Grant to Orchard Garden	£1,800
November 2021 Grant to Snooker Club	£320

Many groups would have found it difficult to approach the Parish Council directly for help, so we agreed to publicise that we were in a position to offer support and were delighted that so many groups came forward.

Additionally, we gave £20,000 to Linton Memorial Hall for their storeroom project. Collingham Memorial Hall received a similarly large sum in earlier years.

Leeds City Council and Planning

Usual Parish Council business via Zoom continued each month. We were hoping that this year we would be able to hold our Annual Parish meeting in one of our Memorial Halls, however this again has not been possible. Locating an available venue also proved problematic.

Whilst our business with Leeds City Council has at times been challenging, we have recognised that many colleagues have been furloughed or moved onto completely different roles, some of whom have still not returned to their old day jobs! Planning applications have been slow as you would expect and whilst some information is now forthcoming and will be published very shortly regarding the Kebell development 'Ridge Meadows' in Linton, Miller Homes Leeds Road application has been deferred pending further flood risk analysis.

Our road networks which we have enjoyed as an extension of our footpaths with no traffic for many days last year, have returned to their levels before the pandemic.

Community Survey

Your views on our busy roads have been well documented in our recent 'Have your Say' community survey and the outcomes are soon to be published. The survey had an amazing response, with 25% of our communities taking time out to tell us their views. Safety and everything speeding related, speed

cameras, traffic flow, HGV ban remains a worry for many. The importance of that community feel, inclusion, clubs and facilities across all age groups was another theme of the survey.

Our precious green spaces and the 'natural/wild' not suburban theme, was also very dominant in the feedback, with requests for more places to sit and chat and ensuring we do all we can to keep our villages litter free.

Connecting our communities better, whether it be on foot or bike on safe paths and improving signage on the current walking routes we use were questions too that had lengthy feedback on.

During the next 4 weeks we will be sharing the plans and timescales for projects coming out of the survey both quick wins and projects that may take years to deliver.

Many of you volunteered to help with our projects. With so many committed residents who we can now call on, delivering some of the projects will be a much quicker process than previously anticipated.

Finally

And finally, a personal thanks to each of our Councillors and our clerk who are very passionate individuals working tirelessly to preserve and enhance our beautiful communities, and despite some being affected personally by Covid, it has pretty much been 'business as usual'.

All the work of the Parish Council can be found on our website: www.clpc.info

Thank you

Angela Martin – Chairman