



## **New Year Edition 2021 – News Update**



This edition of our newsletter reflects on Parish Council (PC) work undertaken during 2020. Despite all the challenges that the pandemic has brought to our communities, the work of the PC has continued. All the projects we work on are in response to requests from residents from Collingham and Linton. If you have any suggestions for future projects, please contact us at: [clpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:clpcclerk@gmail.com) or [www.clpc.info](http://www.clpc.info) We also welcome communication on any concerns you may have and whilst these may not translate into a formal project, we will ensure they are discussed and action taken wherever possible.

The work of the Parish Council is funded through the Precept, which is a statutory sum of money provided to Parish Councils to enable them to deliver services within their areas. Precepts can be raised in order to create funds for improvements and general maintenance. This year the Parish Council agreed not to raise the Precept. The Precept is collected through your Council Tax.

### **Reflecting on 2020**

#### **Councillors**

This year three new Councillors were co-opted to the PC: Alan Scorfield and Chris Corkhill from Collingham and James Marr from Linton. Four Councillors moved on, previous Chairman, Philip Skelton, Sally Hodges Alison Henson, and Derek Henderson. There is currently one vacancy for a Councillor.

All Councillors, supported by a clerk, work hard throughout the year to address issues raised by residents, and to improve the villages for all the community. In an average month, the council deals with approximately twenty enquiries from residents. All are logged, and residents notified of outcomes.

## Spring

March was the month that things for our communities began to change. The Covid-19 pandemic took the world by surprise and changed everything for all of us. Here in Collingham and Linton, our communities came together to care for those in need. Local organisations like the *Linton Collingham Helpers* sprang into action providing support for those who needed it.

The Parish Council established a Covid Support Grant fund, to help local organisations get through the lockdown. To date, we have financially supported Collingham Memorial Hall; the Orchard Garden; Collingham Bowling Club and CALSA. The fund continues to be available for organisations in need.

The business of the Parish Council continued to operate with meetings held remotely. In the early part of the year most of the Parish Councillors attended Dementia Awareness training. This has enabled the Council to advise and signpost those in need of information about the disease. February saw a commitment to funding running costs of the Collingham 'pop up' cinema. Post Covid, the hope is that the cinema will return to provide weekly screenings of recently released films.

May 2020 saw the arrival of the Linton Speed Indication Device. After a few teething problems, it is now fully functional and helping to slow traffic down on Linton Lane.



May also saw the flourishing of spring flowers in both villages. The Parish Council donated to Collingham scout group, who created a beautiful wildflower garden around the scout hut adjacent to the playground.



Summer baskets and planters, paid for by the Parish Council, also provided a reminder of the beauty of plants and flowers during difficult times.



## Summer

With July and August came the long-awaited summer weather. This year Beck Wood saw an unprecedented number of visitors, which prompted the Parish Council to address some safety issues. A number of warning and advice signs were purchased and located in and around the woods to help residents stay safe during their visit.

The Parish Council continued to look after the woods throughout the year. Increased use led to increased litter, which we arranged to have removed regularly. We are indebted to our volunteer litter pickers, who had a mammoth task this year. Tree maintenance has been an important part of upkeep of the woods, with a number of trees removed for safety reasons.



Since the summer, an area to the side of the car park has been sown with wildflowers and should provide a beautiful meadow in the Spring/Summer. Repairs have been undertaken to the car park area eliminating large potholes on the entrance. A natural hedge, funded from a successful grant application to the Woodland Trust, will be planted on the boundary between Linton Road and Beck Wood, along the fence. It will provide environment friendly screening and attract wildlife.



## **Autumn/Winter**

During the autumn, the Parish Council was contacted by a number of local horse and bike riders complaining that they could no longer access the path at Compton. Evidence of previous use was collected by one of the Parish Councillors and a Public Right of Way modification order submitted to Leeds City Council. Notice will now be served on the landowner, but this will be a long legal process. Updates will be provided in the newsletter and website.

In November following an annual risk analysis, the Parish Council added railings to the low height wall running alongside the beck in Millbeck ginnel. The railings follow the natural curve of the wall and beck and have received many positive comments from residents.



The Parish Council are delighted that after years of seeking maintenance of Bishopdale Copse, work has finally commenced. Self-seeded trees and weeds around sections of the perimeter have been removed. This is the start of a long-term project with plans to eventually create access through the Copse possibly with a glade and benches in the centre.



As the close of 2020 approached, the Parish Council decided to switch on their Christmas lights early to provide a beacon of hope for 2021. Many residents told us how delighted they were to see them sparkling on dark evenings.



## Looking to the Future 2021

### Survey

During 2021 the Parish Council will undertake a community survey, asking residents what projects they would like to see developed and where they feel improvements are needed. The questionnaire has been drafted and will be finalised over the coming weeks. The results will inform how to spend any future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds the Parish Council may receive, following housing development in the area.

### Teen Space

Following consultation over the last two years with local children and young people, the Parish Council are considering the addition of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on land next to the playground in Collingham. The MUGA will incorporate pitch markings needed to accommodate a number of sports ie football, basketball, netball etc. This proposal will be incorporated into the survey for further feedback from residents.

### General Maintenance and Upkeep of the Villages

The Parish Council are committed to enhancing upkeep of the villages. A range of planting, tidying, and repairing, where needed, will take place across both villages. Funding has been set aside to ensure that the villages not only look good but are functional and serve the needs of our community.

## **Housing Development**

Little progress has been made on either of the two major housing developments planned, 139 dwellings at Leeds Road Collingham and 26 dwellings at Ridge Meadows Linton. The Parish Council continues to seek good quality designs that are complimentary to the setting and reduce the impact on neighbouring properties.

We have taken professional advice on whether the information provided by Miller Homes for the Leeds Road Development is sufficient to comply with Conditions in the Outline Permission. The response was positive and therefore it seems likely that development will take place at some point in the future. The next step will be a revised planning application for the access bridge.

It is important to recognise this is not all negative for Collingham. Going forward flood defences will be improved, and junction improvements delivered. There will be further circular walks and additional customers for the local businesses.

We will aim to work with the developers to ensure disruption during building work is kept to a minimum be it in 2021 or sometime in the future!

## **Contact us**

We would appreciate any suggestions about the current proposals and other ideas for improving the area. Resident ideas and suggestions are crucial to the work of the Parish Council. Please contact us with feedback or proposals on the website [www.clpc.info](http://www.clpc.info) or directly: [clpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:clpcclerk@gmail.com)