

GREAT YELDHAM PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



Chairman's Report

Since my last message in April 2021 the whole world and all aspects of life have been affected by the Covid 19 virus. I would like to thank everyone in Great Yeldham who has contributed to supporting our community over the last months, both in organised groups and as individuals. The members of the Parish Council are very grateful for your efforts.

Key Actions 2021/22:

- **Sports Ground.** The Parish Council have been working in partnership with the Sports Ground Management Committee to refurbish the site. In August, 6 pieces of outdoor exercise equipment and a clamber stack climbing frame were installed.
- **Burial Ground.** Work continues to improve the burial grounds. The much-needed car park was installed in October, creating 10 parking bays.
- **Notice Board.** A replacement double sided notice board was installed outside the village local shop in November.
- **Handyman.** Through efficiency savings the Parish Council were able to continue funding the much-valued Handyman service which continues to undertake general jobs throughout the village including: hedge/tree cutting/pruning, sweeping leaf fall, checking play equipment, general grounds maintenance work.
- **A Village Tidy Up day** was organised in October 2021, the Amenity Refuse Vehicle provided by Braintree District Council collected 2.720 tonnes of unwanted household items.
- **A dog bag dispenser** has now been installed near the side entrance of St Andrews School.
- **The adopted BT kiosk** located outside the Reading Room has now been refurbished and special thanks to our volunteer Christine, decorates the kiosk around the seasons.
- The annual **Christmas Tree and Carol Service** was organised, the children of St Andrews decorated Christmas Tree Decorations, a Christmas Light Switch on followed by the school choir. Residents were treated to hot drinks and waffles.

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Highways. The Parish Council continues to work and liaise with ECC on Vehicle Activated Signs, road/bridge defects, potholes, damaged signs and public footpaths.

Planning. Discussed and commented on 15 planning applications affecting the village and attended Braintree District Council Planning Committee meetings to represent the village, as necessary.

Other Projects and Working Groups continue to work on their activities around the village, helping to solve any issues that may occur and working on the environment for all to enjoy working within a set budget.

Web Site and Facebook. The website www.greatyeldhampc.co.uk continues to keep residents up to date with current information, forthcoming events and legal requirements.

Village Magazine. The magazine continues to produce an interesting and valued magazine, with 10 editions produced per annum which is posted to every household in the village with thanks to our editor and volunteers. Editions are available to view on the Parish Council website.

Village Maintenance. The Parish Council continues to maintain the grass cutting contract, ensuring the village green, open spaces, burial grounds, St Andrews church yard and verges look tidy. Upkeep works continue on repairing the wet pour surface in the Play Park. Undertook pest control at the burial grounds and the sports ground. Worked with key partners in keeping waterways clear, reducing flooding in the village, maintaining road surfaces and highways.

Key Actions for 2022/23

- Continue to work with the Sports Ground Management Committee on regenerating the Recreation Ground for the provision of new sporting facilities including outdoor exercise equipment, tennis courts, football pitches, Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), improving and expanding the Skate Park and BMK track. The next phase will be to source funding opportunities for the MUGA.
- To organise Platinum Jubilee celebrations including a Beacon Lighting ceremony and a Big Jubilee Lunch to pay tribute to HRH Queen Elizabeth in recognition of her long and selfless service.
- The Parish Council will be planning a Village Tidy Up day in October, the Amenity Refuse Vehicle provided by Braintree District Council will be hired for this event.
- To work with Post Office Ltd to facilitate a replacement Post Office Service.
- To identify land and facilitate the setting up of a Men's Shed in the village. A Men's Shed is not unlike a traditional Shed in its nature, a place full of tools and machines, but on a larger scale. It is essentially a safe space for men to come together and talk whilst engaging in practical projects (most commonly wood craft). This gives the men an opportunity to either learn, pass on or simply exercise skills that they may have left behind through retirement or ill health. Although the activities themselves provide a boost to physical and mental health, it is the social interaction at Sheds which have the greatest positive impact.
- Reviewing the play area/equipment for young children. Providing facilities for Youth activities/Youth Club.
- Investigating provision of Allotments. Improve planting area around the lay-by opposite the post office.
- To recruit 2 Community Special Constables. To progress work with the installation of the Railway Station Display Board. To review appropriate signage around the village: speed awareness, road crossing signs, continue to review and maintain street furniture, street scene and open spaces/footpaths.
- Continue working with Braintree, ECC and other key partners in development opportunities for the village including new housing, employment, health services and recreation facilities.
- Continue to work with the developers for Hunnable Industrial Estate and Nuns Walk.
- To meet the administrative costs of the running of the Parish Council in the discharge of its statutory duties including the cost of employing the Clerk.

