Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council

Annual Report for the Year to April 2023

OUR TEAM

All our Parish Councillors are active and committed to our community and are an excellent team, bringing together expertise and interests that span the needs and interests of the Parish.
William Hudson and Matt and Karen Le Grys were co-opted as Councillors during the year and have been reappointed for the four years to come, along with Sue Barton and Amanda McMurray.

We accepted resignations from Barry McAleese and Richard Hewitt, both of whom had contributed significantly to our work and our community.
We have two vacancies for Parish Councillors.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Our campaign to change local speed limits was launched in Autumn 2022. "Advisory" speed limit signs were put up around the Parish and stickers distributed for displaying on vehicles. Thank you to those of you that have responded.
The new financial year, 2023/24 is "our turn" to propose changes to speed limits to Norfolk County Council. We have already held a preliminary meeting with Highways representatives which was a promising first step.

In the meantime, our application to the Parish Partnership scheme for part funding of 20mph warning signs for Bressingham School and Fersfield Playing Field was approved.

South Norfolk Council's refusal of planning consent for Deal Farm's Anaerobic Digestion Plant was a huge success for the community, reflecting its and our efforts to oppose it, which were considerable. We expect that the decision will be appealed, and we are ready to fight on.

We will not turn a blind eye to abuses of our community; our policy is to intervene actively where we can and to signpost and support individuals where it is more effective that you make your own complaints.
As a result of a few of our interventions:

- A retrospective planning application was submitted for a business park which had been operating without consent.
- The annual bonfire night event on Fersfield Airfield was licensed and the bonfire itself was dismantled and rebuilt, to remove noxious materials.
- Unlicensed waste processing is under investigation.

OUR COMMUNITY

We awarded a total of £2000 in small grants to eligible households to help them to cope with the increase in the cost of living that we all faced. Many who had benefited from the scheme took the time to thank us, which was appreciated.

South Norfolk Council awarded us a grant of £200 which we contributed to Bressingham Village Hall Committee's Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee celebrations. They have awarded us a further £200 to be used for community celebrations of the forthcoming Coronation of Charles III; it is being put to good use by Bressingham village Hall Committee and the Friends of St Andrew's Church, Fersfield as they plan their village celebrations.

Bryan Claybrook was the winner of our competition to design a Parish Council Logo. The winning logo is being used on our communications and is starting to be displayed on notice boards and other assets.

PLANS FOR 2023/34

- Following consultation, a proposal will be submitted to Norfolk County Council for changes to speed limits around the Parish.
- We will continue our efforts to reduce the risk of following in the Parish, where we can.
- Arrangements for footpaths maintenance will be investigated and attempts to improve them have started.
- We continue to engage in the Village Clusters and **East Anglia Green** Energy Enablement proposals.

On behalf of my fellow Parish Councillors, thank you for your confidence in us. We look forward to working with you, our community, in the year to come, both individually and through the community's local associations and groups. We welcome your support and we accept your criticisms where they are justified.
We would like to expand our network of volunteers; we have opportunities for you to support us and your neighbours and will continue to advertise them locally and on the community website from time to time.

Finally, thank you to my Parish Councillor colleagues and to our Clerk, for your contributions to the Parish Council's work over the past year. Many of your contributions go way beyond what could ever be expected. They are appreciated.

Dr Amanda A McMurray
Chair of Bressingham and Fersfield Parish Council
April 2023