

APPENDIX 1

Little Bealings Parish Council: Chairman's Report 2023-2024

This is the first annual report since the District, Town and Parish elections in May 2023.

That election saw two 'new' councillors elected to Little Bealings Parish Council, Kathy Price and Peter Carr. They are both contributing to the running of the Parish Council and my thanks go to all Councillors for their continued support in trying to ensure this Parish Council reflects the wishes of its residents.

In addition to the six scheduled parish council meetings, there have been an additional three meetings to discuss planning applications and consider an FOI request.

Many Parish Councils within ESC have become concerned with the Planning process within ESC and we have joined the East Suffolk Planning Alliance in order for our voice to be heard and to ensure any dialogue with ESC captures our concerns. We await the outcomes from the conference held on Saturday 17th February, which I attended on behalf of the Council – and which was attended by the Chief Executive and 11 District Councillors from ESC.

The Parish Council tries to ensure that neighbouring properties associated with any planning application are advised and aware of the date of the parish council meeting that will consider that application, as well as ESC's deadline for any response they may wish to make. We also advertise applications that may impact more widely on the parish via our noticeboards and website. Delegated powers have been used, as and when necessary, to ensure ESC deadlines for submitting the Council's views are met. The revised ESC process for ensuring Parish Council's objections are heard has yet to be tested for a Little Bealings planning application.

Community Infrastructure Funds (CIL) totalling £7,577.91 has been received from ESC. This is our share of the levy paid to ESC following development in the parish and already £5k has been allocated to the Village Hall roof fund. A survey of every household within the village in the autumn identified a number of residents' priorities for CIL spending, with our footpaths being especially highly valued. The Parish Council is now working with SCC and the PCC to improve the condition of Footpath 1 which runs through the Churchyard. We will be speaking with potential contractors shortly but understand that works will require both planning permission and a Faculty from the Diocese both of which will take some time to achieve.

The Parish Council continues to support the Safer Village Driving Initiative and Little Bealings has use of a Speed Indicating Device (SID) for 6 months of the year. This device is employed within the 20mph area of The Street and used in Playford Road and Martlesham Road. SCC also employ an APNR camera periodically, last used in January 2024. We understand that it did record data but staff were not available to send letters to anyone travelling above the limit on that occasion

Sinks Pit Community Liaison Group meetings are ongoing, and the Environment Agency has now 'approved' the TRU noise management plan, but the ESC noise abatement notice continues. It remains an ongoing matter for the Parish Council, with an undetermined planning application at ESC.

The Parish Council continues to press SCC for receipt of the fine imposed upon Network Rail contractors in December 2022 for unauthorised closure of the level crossing, given that the

closure largely affected our residents. We have asked our County Councillor, Elaine Bryce, for assistance with this.

The Parish Council is in regular contact with Anglian Water on the sewerage scheme that will have a major impact on the village, and I have a separate update on that to give you shortly.

A major initiative for the Parish Council commenced in Quarter 4 of 2023 is the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Little Bealings. A Working Group has been established, a consultant appointed, government grant received, and considerable work has already been undertaken. It is very important that residents as well as Councillors are members of the Working Group and there are four joining the three Councillors.

The Parish Council remains a member of ESC Community Partnership, Suffolk Association of Local Councils, Community Action Suffolk and the Suffolk Preservation Society.

Our thanks to Colin Hedgley, one of our two District Councillors for his attendance, advice and guidance and to Elaine Bryce our elected county councillor. Their support is invaluable. District Councillor Dan Cleary will become our attending District Councillor later this year and we look forward to welcoming him to our meetings.

Our thanks also to Jenny Shaw our webmaster and Francis Mutimer and John Wittgreffe, our footpath wardens and their band of willing volunteers.

Again, my personal thanks to my fellow councillors and it would be wrong of me not to mention our Clerk, Carol Ramsden. Her knowledge and support are invaluable.

The Council continues to work on behalf of all villagers, representing the parish at District and County level, and seeking the best outcomes for residents on highways, planning and other matters - whether these are more local matters like potholes and the new sewer in The Street, or part of projects with wider significance, like the impact of the Sizewell C travel's plan. We look to promote a community in which we would all like to reside and with facilities to enjoy and infrastructure that supports daily life in our parish.

Ian Ransome