

Chairmans Report - May 2020

By Councillor Jon Buxton

A summary of some of the key Activities in and around the village :

- Covid-19 Response – The Parish Council set up and publicised a Nextdoor social networking service for village residents to keep in touch, and ask for help/ offer help during the pandemic. The Chairman's and Vice Chairman's telephone numbers have been publicised so that requests for help can be made by village residents without access to Nextdoor. We used some of the Councils reserve funds, together with a grant from Tendring District Council, for purchase of essential cleaning items (and Easter eggs) which were distributed to all households in the village. Special thanks to the Vice Chairman, Anita Spall, who was the key driver behind the Councils Covid-19 response.
- Changes to your Parish Council – The Parish Council Elections were held on the 2nd May 2019. Councillor Louise Joplin decided to stand down from this date, and we thank her for her work and dedication. The Election was uncontested so all other Councillors continued to serve. We advertised for an additional Councillor and following several applications Stephen Sauka joined as our newest councillor.
- Broadband – OpenReach completed their work across large parts of the village and have provided fibre to the premise broadband capability. Many village residents have subscribed and the feedback received is very positive. Parts of the village could not be supplied by Openreach and we understand that County Broadband continue to consider providing a service here.
- Closure of A120 Crossing – After considerable delay from the initially publicised schedule the A120 Crossing at Pelhams Corner was finally closed. Representatives from the Contractors attended a number of Parish Council meetings, provided updates and took feedback from residents as the work was under way – especially around the diversion signage for road closures.
- War Memorial – The Remembrance Day Service took place at the War Memorial on the 10th November, was led by Gregory Frostick, and was well attended. Mr Ken Hatch advised the Council that he wanted to retire from maintaining the War Memorial and we would like to thank him for his support and hard work. We are pleased to now have a group of residents who will continue to maintain the War Memorial going forward.
- Little Bromley 10k – the last Little Bromley 10k was held in April 2019. Roly Knott from the village is the lead organiser and he reported the following – “ On the day the weather was perfect for runners but the course Records from 2016 still remain. The race continues to be well supported, 548 runners completing the race this year. Eighty people helped to make this a success by sponsorship, directing cars, marshalling and many more tasks.” The April 2020 Little Bromley 10k had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 lockdown. We understand that a 2021 event is planned.

- Friends of Little Bromley Church – The Friends Committee continued to organise varied events throughout the year, making the Church a real hub for the village. These have included our annual Carol Service, a Summer Tea Party, Bromfest, Cantilena Cellos, Anglia Baroque, and more. Thanks to all involved.
- Village Planters – these continue to be supported and maintained, providing a nice display where located. This year the number of planters has been increased to Six. Thanks to Roly Knott and Ken Hatch and all other residents involved in their upkeep.
- Planning – the Parish Council reviewed 6 planning applications for the village in the year.
- Ongoing work –
 - Extension of 30mph Limit, Bentley Road. The Parish Council met with Essex County Council Highways who rejected our request for the 30mph extension. We then contacted our local MP, Sir Bernard Jenkin, who contacted Highways on our behalf to request an exception, which was again rejected. Sir Bernard Jenkin is now to request a site meeting with Highways to discuss further.
 - Village Sign. Inspection of the Village Sign showed that the post holding the sign had rotted at its base and the post had also become loose in the ground. As such we removed the sign and will have it re-installed on a new post with metal 'shoe' to reduce future rotting. We are also looking for local craftspeople who can inspect the sign itself and carry out cleaning and any necessary restoration.
 - VE Day 75th Anniversary. We plan to have the new Village Sign Post engraved to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day.
 - Church Toilet and Memorial Garden. The Parish Council agreed to provide a Grant for the provision of a toilet at St Mary's Church Little Bromley. We had positive discussions with the Reverend Simon Heron on the establishment of a Memorial Garden at St Mary's. We plan to continue these discussions with the future Reverend when appointed.
 - Residents continue to raise concerns on heavy lorry traffic through the village. Please continue to report any suspect HGV traffic to Councillor Smith, especially any companies that are regularly seen, and forward any photographic or video evidence to him.
 - Fly Tipping continues to blight the village and surrounding area. The Parish Council Footpath Warden can report these to Tendring District Council for you, so please let us know if any fly tips are found.
 - Defibrillator – we are investigating the provision of a Defibrillator in the centre of the village. Tendring District Council are looking into providing power and a site in the village car park.

All the Council's meeting Agenda's, Minute's, Reports and interesting articles can be found on the village website which is littlebromley.org.uk. This website has been upgraded this year to meet latest accessibility requirements – thanks to Hugh Frostick for this work. The council can be contacted by email at littlebromleypc@gmail.com. In addition to the Nextdoor social networking service there is also a Little Bromley Community public Facebook Group.