

Chairman's annual report April 2022.

A year ago I reported on the increased public participation as a result of our online PC meetings. A year ago the rules changed and we were obliged to have physical meetings only. I am pleased to say that the interest has not waned, as evidenced by two new members joining the Council next month.

We are also fortunate that our retiring councillors continue to offer their particular skills and knowledge to the village.

Sam Berry well represented the farming community, but the pressure of work and bringing up his young family meant that he no longer had the time to attend meetings. With William Barron's help we have surveyed the poor state of the beck/playing field wall and Sam will be making the repairs. William also left us this year. We will miss his contributions to the PC meetings, but we are fortunate he has continued to volunteer his practical help for the benefit of the village.

Steven Wood is another stalwart who is standing down this time. He revived the footpath committee which has tramped all the routes. He has organised maintenance and liaised with NYCC. We also value his IT skills, which are so necessary these days.

Derek Booth is leaving us. He has been the longest standing councillor of us all. There is nobody else in the village whom I have met who knows so much about the ways and things that were and who can recall them for our discussions. Many have been the times when we have thought about something new and discovered that he's been there before and he knows the reasons why it was not acted upon. We shall miss his wise counsel.

We co-opted Edward Coulson and Andrew Binns and we are pleased that they will be staying with us in the new council next month. Veronicka Dancer continues to keep a watchful eye on highway safety issues. Andrew Slade has a special interest in all things green and is our go between with the Bradley in Bloom group who have done so much to make the village more attractive.

The hardest worker of all of us is your multi-tasking clerk, Mags. She is a true hands on person. For example, not only does she edit and publish the Bradley newsletter, but delivers it to those who distribute it throughout the village we must also thank them.

The topic of planning arises at every meeting. As you know, the PC has a statutory right to have its views heard, though their effect is limited. On a couple of occasions communications with the CDC planning department got ignored and it was only with the help of our district councillor Andy Brown that we received a very delayed and grudging acknowledgment of an apology. We are grateful for all his and Patrick Mulligan's support, though we will lose the chance of Patrick's representation in May due to him changing wards.

The draft local neighbourhood plan has been capably updated and reworded by the magnificent efforts of David Snelson, working entirely voluntarily. He has paid particular attention to detailing those aspects of design and layout of any proposed developments which Craven would not insist upon as part of a planning approval.

We have an ongoing dispute with NY Highways about cleaning the drains. The changing climate seems to be encouraging ever greater amounts of water in any single rainstorm and our drains do not seem to clear the water fast enough. The village store resorts to sand bags more often than not and large amounts of debris remain on the roads. The PC believes that the existing network of drains has been well designed and would cope much better if it was properly maintained.

We finished the refurbishment of the pavilion, the first time since it was rebuilt about 10 years ago. The playground fencing has been repaired. Both jobs were undertaken by Scott McLuckie, who worked to a high standard within our budget. Some of the playground equipment is showing its age, raising the odd query after insurance inspections. It is probably now time that we encouraged some fund raising for replacements.

We have retrieved our ownership of the extension land to the cemetery and fenced it off. There is an active group looking at a modest landscaping and planting scheme. We are limited by our deeds in what we are allowed to do as it has to remain as a burial place.

I'll finish as I have done previously as it is worth repeating. Bradley PC represents a small place. Its ability to influence decisions taken elsewhere is small. But, the more that Bradley residents participate in those decisions, the more respect will be given to our views. Please make them known.

David Cohn  
Chairman Bradleys Both Parish Council