

PC monthly report Feb 2023

A resident attended the Assets & Environment Committee which met before the full meeting to ask about issues arising from the poor state of some allotments. There are conditions in the tenancy agreement, but it was felt that there should be a clearer policy statement about what is acceptable or not, so a further meeting and consultation was needed. There was no public comment in the main meeting.

On Butt Close, the solar panel installation on the pavilion is now generating, subject to final certification and SEG tariff arrangements. This will reduce the carbon footprint of the Council's assets considerably and the Council is grateful to Cllr Storr for initiating and driving this project forward to conclusion. The Council is also looking to improve facilities for youth activities by the installation of an artificial 'wicket' in conjunction with the cricket club.

The official opening has taken place of the Scout HQ, as it will be known. The Scouts are in the process of planning various improvements and seeking further outside funding to which the PC's commitment of its own funding hopefully can be used as a contribution to maximise its effect.

The PC has raised the issue of poor lighting conditions along the first 30m or so of College Street with VIA on several occasions. Although some hedge/tree foliage has now been cut back, it is felt that more could be done to reduce the tree canopy near the first street light. VIA has now informed the PC that, following the upgrade to LED lights, no new lighting works will be carried out there.

Despite a low response to a request for volunteers to get involved in Community Speed Watch, enough Councillors came forward to enable this to progress, although more volunteers from the community would be welcome. Further consideration will also be given to purchasing a speed indicator sign which also collects traffic data.

According to press reports, the Villager bus service has been under threat of withdrawal by Trent Barton but it has been announced that it has been saved by the County Council, at least for now. Hopefully, the service may become more reliable, since the news was accompanied by a statement basically saying 'use it or lose it', and hence the threat may return later if numbers stay as they are.

The next meeting is on Monday 13th March at 7.30pm in the chapel.

Election year

Local elections will take place on Thursday May 4th. Apart from electing a new Parish Council, there will also be a change to the Borough Council wards as a result of the Boundary Commission's work, with a new East Bridgford ward Borough Councillor to be elected. Anyone interested in putting themselves forward for election can find full details, including the relevant forms on the RBC website. The PC will be holding a forum to discuss how it functions, what priorities should be used in making financial decisions etc at its Annual Parish Meeting which will be held in April, details of which will become available in March. These elections also see a photo-id requirement being introduced this year for the first time.

Details of acceptable photo-id, such as passports, driving licences & blue badges, and how to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if you have not got one, can be found on

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate>

King Charles III Coronation May 6th and Holiday Monday May 8th

The PC will be discussing how to support the community in celebrating the Coronation at its March meeting. It has some funding available to support activities like hanging bunting or other street decorations on the central roads, and it is aware that people are planning garden or street parties, or getting involved in the national Big Help Out on the holiday Monday, for example with the Friends of Springdale Wood planting bulbs etc. Some families may wish to picnic on Butt Close, and the PC will issue some advice about that in due course, but please note that individual or family group BBQs of any kind will not be allowed. If a street party involves obstructing or closing a road, there are strict rules laid down by Notts Highways to follow – details can be found on

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/licences-permits/events-public-roads>