

Bedingham Annual Report to Woodton Parish Council AGM 10 May 2022

Since lockdown restrictions have been lifted we have been able to have both of our meetings together in the Village Hall this year. We had our first Parish Tea last summer, which will be repeated this year, (17th July, Mulchy House), for the Friends of Bedingham Church Fabric Fund with invitations being cast more widely.

A tranche of our CIL funding has been donated to WPC as a contribution to a BBQ to be constructed in the Community Woods. We look forward to its use for the Jubilee.

We are looking forward to The Jubilee. It provides a great opportunity for the community to come together after the previous couple of years of isolation. Particularly for our elderly and vulnerable residents. While there is a real sense of community for some, others in our more sparsely populated parish remain separate from village activities.

In addition to a donation to the Community Wood BBQ, we have agreed to invest some of our CIL funding in nature on the Parish Piece. We have commissioned specific bird boxes and their installation. The hedge on the south side boundary of the Parish Piece has been replanted. The pond has been registered with the Norfolk Ponds Reclamation Project, and folk from NCC's Green Places to Green Spaces team have visited. We await a visit from Norfolk Wildlife Trust for further advice. Since the land was given to the Parish as part of the final Inclosure Act in 1846 it has been let for grazing. We hope to be able to combine both nature and grazing symbiotically. We have Kingfishers!

There is some enthusiasm from some quarters for the Parish Piece to have public access for Bedingham residents, particularly the area of woodland in the south east corner.

The issue of obtaining an additional dog poo bin remains unresolved, at this time. Most enthusiasm for it comes from the north end of the village, who were not widely represented at our last meeting. If we commit to one, its emptying contract will take dealing with dog poo in the parish to 25% of our annual precept! Dog owner behaviours persist in perplexing suitable solutions. Some residents are routinely collecting dog poo from their gardens to put in the bins, when they should be using their own black bins for this, for example.

Roadside grops still present issues in parts of the Parish and while some drainage repairs have been done, there are still some flooding/ water on road issues.

As a Parish we all expressed our disappointment at the loss of the Village Shop, particularly for the elderly and vulnerable for whom the shop represented far more than a place to pick up the paper and buy milk.

Bedingham is pleased to be able to work closely alongside Woodton, given the close proximity of boundaries and we continue to value our independent administrations.