

Bilbrough Parish Council Chair's Report 2021.

It's been a difficult year for all of us, of course, with the Covid-19 restrictions in place. All Parish Council meetings for the year have had to be held online and any work undertaken, done so with social distancing in mind. However, it has been a productive year all the same, with the Council progressing a number of projects despite the current difficulties.

With Summer coming, a phasing down of restrictions and the hope of warmer weather, the council would yet again like to thank residents for all the work they do in keeping the village looking so good all year round. The hard work that goes in to cutting hedges and clearing the pavements outside properties, as well as keeping front gardens looking good, all goes towards making Bilbrough what it is. We would particularly ask all residents to make sure pathways adjoining their properties are kept clear of overhanging vegetation. Moorland Garden Services have again been engaged to cut the verges on the approaches to the village and the playing fields in between the times Selby DC does it.

This last year has seen the installation of the *Twenty is Plenty* signs at the entrances to the Village. Many thanks to the landowners for allowing us to place the signs on their land. Unfortunately, we still have an issue with speeding along Cat Lane. We urge residents to collect registration numbers to report to the police and complete the 95 Alive Forms which are available from the Clerk. We also saw the resurfacing of the roads around Bilbrough, which was welcome and much needed. Some concerns have been expressed about the quality of the surfacing, particularly on Back Lane. A representation was made to NY Highways who sent out an engineer to inspect the surface. The response, however, was minimal, so we seemed to be left with the promise for some minor repairs only.

Additionally, thanks to Colin Winnett for repairing the notice board outside the pub when it fell off in February. It needed a new back board and repainting, and he was able to repair and restore it immediately.

The main event though was the repair and refurbishment of the Playing Field equipment and many thanks to Becci Davison for masterminding this. This was financed by a combination of The Parish Council funds, the Community Infrastructure Levy arising from the new building at Village Farm and a grant from NYCC Locality Budget through Richard Musgrave. We were also pleased to be able to appoint Karen Talbot-Reynard to fill the vacancy for a Clerk, and a huge thank you to her for all the work she has done on behalf of the Village.

That being said, the village has much to look forward to this year, restrictions permitting. The bluebells are blooming in the local woods; we look forward to the pub reopening on May 17th; a Village Picnic/fair is planned for 3rd July to celebrate the refurbishment of the playing field; the Wine Club summer BBQ is set for 17th July; and no doubt, residents are planning long awaited summer holidays.