



## **Parish Council Achievements 2020/21**

Community Responses - Between months of January 2020 and December 2020, the Parish Council responded to over 240 public queries outside of business as usual. This averages over 20 queries a month ranging from concerns over vandalism, reports of damaged / missing items, traffic and parking concerns, responses to various community needs and general public enquiries.

The Planning Committee reviewed and responded to over 100 planning applications and/or appeals since January 2020.

In January / February the Parish Council responded to the community concerns regarding the removal of several the Reading bus services, by establishing a dedicated mailbox and updates via Facebook and Contact. Members of the Parish Council actively engaged with both Reading Buses and HCC to seek a resolution, if possible.

Council members worked with residents and the HW Care Group to respond over concerns within Vivid managed properties and met with representatives to seek a resolution and active engagement.

March / April, the Parish Council responded to the National Lockdown by swiftly moving to online meetings, taking appropriate steps to protect the community as in line with Government guidance as it transpired. The Parish Team and Council members successfully transitioned to a new working model to ensure it was 'business as usual' where possible.

HWPC were instrumental in the setting up and continue to offer ongoing support to the HW Community Hub, successfully creating and delivering a community wide survey and responses.

A Website Working Party was established in May / June with a small dedicated team consisting of both members and staff, working many hours to review, update and create new content for the new HWPC website which went live ahead of the deadline in September 2020.

HWPC Committee Terms of Reference was updated in response to Community feedback as was the Communications and Social Media Policy. Several 'new' policies and risk assessment have also been drafted, supported by the relevant Committees and Council members.

Works within the Appleton Hall and Victoria Hall have been approved, supported and carried out.

Village planters, green space works and ongoing improvements to the Village have continued to proceed despite difficulties due to COVID.

A new Team member job was created, successfully recruited and inducted into the Parish Office Team, working with members and staff on the ongoing Communication and Community Engagement project.

Council members and staff successfully delivered a COVID secure community Christmas event, supporting Retailers as well as the hugely popular Snow Windows project.

The Council welcomed two new Councilors who were co-opted in March, Richard Dodds and Janaka Alwis.

Despite the impact of COVID-19, the Community Bus working party have continued to support the community during an unprecedented year. The bus service restarted in late July 2020, offering a COVID secure environment and door to door service. The Community Bus Administrator did an excellent job keeping in touch with all regular passengers, many of whom are vulnerable.

The Council have invested in a brand-new community bus, working in collaboration with the Rosie Bus Team to provide a comprehensive operating service that will be implemented in the coming months adhering to COVID-19 guidelines.

The Policy Committee has dedicated time to update, amend, and improve various policies, notably the Grants and Donations Policy, the Burial Grounds Policy and the Winter Weather Policy.

Extensive safety and maintenance checks on headstones at St. Mary's All Souls Burial Grounds have been started and are underway aiming to prevent potential hazards.

Clearance works on Hatton's Pond took place in December, allowing wildlife to return to the site once again. The decontamination work is scheduled to take place later this year, when ecologically appropriate which will allow this much-loved pond to return its former glory.

Works for the Jubilee playground areas will begin in May/June in the hopes it will be completed by early August for our younger community members to enjoy.

The works on St. Mary's Sports Field and the Pavilion, which will now be named the Lucy Pygott Centre, are well underway despite the delays caused by the pandemic. The interior will be fitted out in the coming months.

HWPC have continued to subsidize the 90-minute free parking red bays in Monachus parking to support local businesses and allow the community to enjoy all local services. In addition, on Saturday 29 May 2021, free parking will be provided across the car park to support the re-opening of the local High Street.