

Good evening, this is your Chairman's report for 2020. It has been a very productive year for the East Goscote Parish Council.

### **Council and Staff:**

This year Michelle Nelson joined the council. Unfortunately, Kevin Preston and Mehmet Gonulalan stood down at the local elections and subsequently, Roger Merry-Howe resigned. We currently have only 7 Councillors. I have continued as Chairman and I have been ably supported by my Vice Chairman, Cathy Duffy.

Cllr Webbon completed a new Councillor course.

Whilst the Councillors make decisions, our staff work hard to carry out these decisions to the benefit of the village. Our clerk, Liz Pizer, and our administration assistant, Caroline Taylor also keep us in line with legal and regulatory requirements. Liz also supervises work done around the village.

Charlie Cadle continues in the Caretakers role although, Nick Shivers assists when we need an extra pair of hands. Work done by our Caretakers is of a very high standard.

Mr Webbon has continued as Tree Warden on a voluntary basis.

Our thanks go to all Councillors and the staff for their continued hard work.

### **Planning Applications:**

During the year 17 planning Applications have been received and considered by the Parish Council.

### **Remembrance Sunday**

The Council purchased 40 more poppies to fix to lamp posts in the run up to Remembrance Day, so there are 80 poppies around the Long Furrow and other areas.

### **Gladman's Development**

Evidence was given by several residents of East Goscote, our Borough and County Councillors against the appeal in June. The Planning Inspector turned down the appeal.

Subsequently, Charnwood Councils Draft Plan suggests that the same area of land could provide 250 houses for the Borough quota. Your Parish Council, Borough Councillor, County Councillor and KEGGs are fighting this.

The council would like to thank Rod Axon for his investigations and KEGGS for leading the fight.

### **Village Facilities**

The Tennis Court is still popular with 106 members. During the winter the court has been closed to protect it and the moss has been cleared from its surface by Nick and Charlie.

New bus shelters have been placed opposite Lilac Way and by the playing fields.

A group called Greener Goscote has been formed to fund the recycling centre. The clothes bank is already funded by the Salvation Army and providing funds for the Village Hall.

The Parish Council are looking at improving the car park around the pavilion and scout hut.

### **Vandalism:**

The cost of vandalism for March 19 – March 20 amounted to £400 which is very low compared to other years. This was mainly damage to the wet pour surfacing on the play areas.

### **Dog Fouling:**

This continues to be a constant complaint received by the Clerk and Councillors, this is despite the fact that over 57,000 dog poo bags have been purchased this year and there being a plentiful supply of bins around the Village.



The library continues to distribute dog bags at 80p per pack of 50. Any profit from the sale of the bags is retained by the library towards its upkeep

Allowing your dog to foul without clearing up afterwards is totally unacceptable behaviour and we need YOUR help to catch those people responsible for spoiling our streets and green spaces. If you know an environmental offender, call 01509 634564 or email: [cleaner.greener@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:cleaner.greener@charnwood.gov.uk).

### **East Goscote Library**

The library continues to provide a vital need for East Goscote. As well as the supply of books and computer use, the library has many more functions including the distribution of Dog Bags, Coffee Mornings etc. There will be more about the library later in the meeting.

### **Parish Phone App/New Website**

The success of the website and the App continues.

The website has had 9809 page views over the last 12 months and the parish app has had a total of 818 downloads.



To download the app please see details at the end of this report.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Duffy has taken on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. More NW volunteers are required around the village. New "Charnwood Watch" signs have been installed around the village.

### **Christmas Events**

In December, in conjunction with St Hilda's, the Village Hall Committee and the Brownies, two events were organised by the library and funded by East Goscote Parish Council.

### **Snow Warden Scheme**

East Goscote Parish Council is registered with the County Council Snow Warden Scheme. This means that they supply salt and pay the parish council for clearing snow and ice around the village where it is considered dangerous. Charlie and Nick have worked hard spreading the salt whenever we have had snow or icy conditions this last winter.

### **Trees**

Mr Webbon is continually checking trees around the village and reporting back to the council. During the year. two trees have been removed and a County Council tree was blown down during the storms in February.

Cllrs Nelson, Needham and Webbon have planted bulbs near the Tennis Court and will be planting trees from the Woodland Trust adjacent to the playing fields in the spring.

### **Long Furrow**

A "Golden Jubilee Edition" was distributed in August 2019 to mark 50 years of community magazines in East Goscote. Gareth Roberts continues to design the magazine with help from the committee members. The committee are continuing listen to comments and review the way it works. From May, copies of the magazine will once again be delivered to every house and business in the village. For this to happen on a regular basis, volunteer distributors are needed.

The Council continue to support the publication.

### **Defibrillator**

An anonymous donor has donated £1000 to fund a defibrillator which is sited by the doors of the Village Hall. The Village Hall Committee made up the shortfall and agreed to maintain the equipment. We now have two defibs covering the playing fields and the centre of the village thanks to fundraising and generous donors.

### **Leases**

The Lease between the Scouts and the Parish Council has now been signed.

### **Speedwatch**

The Speedwatch Project has not taken place due to lack of volunteers. Instead, banners are to be placed occasionally on the bus shelters and residents are being asked to put stickers onto their Wheelie Bins to get the message "20 is plenty" around the village.



### **Doctors Surgery**

It is with great sadness that I have to report that despite a lot of effort from the Doctor and the Patient Participation Group, that the Surgery closed on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019. The surgery opened in May 1994 and served this village for 25 years.

### **Greener Goscote and the recycling centre**

The Greener Goscote Page in the Long Furrow has been a feature of the magazine since 2005. The page has focussed on enabling the community of East Goscote to improve our environmental sustainability. Greener Goscote has now developed into a community group with a written constitution. The group has recently been successful in establishing a bank account and can now seek funding for projects. Linked to the group is a Greener Goscote Facebook Group with all the usual social media activity going on. The group's intention was to hold a first General Meeting in April to recruit more members, invite donations and agree projects. Unfortunately, this has been put on hold due to Covid-19. See the Greener Goscote Page in the Long Furrow for the group's progress.

### **Next Year's Projects Include:**

For next year we hope to continue with the high standard the village is being maintained.

One major project is that we are investigating the possibility of re-surfacing the pavilion car park. We are also looking into the cost of new village welcome signs, new village green swings and a new seat/bench for the playing fields.

The council are also installing a new bench opposite the Doctors Surgery in appreciation of the care that Dr Shah gave to the residents of our village.

Finally, we hope to again consider a Christmas event of some sort for the elderly of the village.

### **Thank You's:**

I would like to thank all of the Parish Councillors, Borough Councillor, Laurie Needham, County Councillor, Mr Poland, and our MP, Mr Argar for their help and support during the past year. In addition, I would like to thank our staff for their service and expertise during the year.

To PCSO Harbutt for the time he has spent on our village before leaving us to train as a fully fledged PC. We now have a PCSOs, Lesley Richards who is seen regularly patrolling the village.

Thank you to the East Goscote Library volunteers and committee for their service to our residents in keeping the library open, and for working so hard to make the East Goscote Christmas celebrations a great community event once again.



Chairman

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