

Good evening, this is your Chair's report for 2022. It has been a very productive year for the East Goscote Parish Council despite the challenges we have all faced during the pandemic. There were many changes to the way we held meetings. The ability to hold meetings remotely was removed which meant that it was sometimes challenging to work safely. I'd like to thank Councillors and Staff for their professionalism and flexibility during this time. The pandemic also meant that we had to make the difficult decision to cancel the Christmas Event planned for the Village Hall – I very much hope this can return this year.

### **Council and Staff**

This year we have had one new councillor join the Council – Shane Mousley. I would like to welcome Shane, who, since joining has helped to improve our Neighbourhood Watch scheme and is currently working very hard on the Jubilee Celebrations. Three Councillors resigned, Gemma Slack, Martin Webbon and Michelle Nelson. I would like to thank them all for their service and efforts.

We have two vacancies and would love to hear from anyone interested in joining our council.

I'd like to use this opportunity to highlight the excellent work of the Council's staff.

This year we appointed a new admin assistant, Charlotte Turlington who is working very hard to support our Clerk and is currently building up her knowledge by completing the ILCA training course.

Liz Pizer our clerk will have worked for the village for 30 years this December. She carries out her role with professionalism and good humour. Liz ensures the legal duties of the council are fulfilled, as well as providing admin support and staff supervision. Her work is vital in enabling the Council to perform its function and getting things done for our village.

Charlie Cadle continues in the Caretakers role and provides exemplary work around the village. He is assisted on occasion by Paul Harper.

A heartfelt thank you to all staff and councillors this year.

### **Planning Applications**

During the year 18 planning Applications have been received and considered by the Parish Council.

The large development application for the Land Off Melton Road was approved by Charnwood's Planning Committee and there is no further option to appeal. There is no detailed time scale for the building to begin as yet, but it is expected to be within the next 12 months. As always, we will ensure that residents are kept up to date with any new information about this.

I would like to thank Cllr Axon in particular for the detailed and extensive work he puts into research for this application and also to the KEGG group for all that they do to keep residents informed and supported.

The new Charnwood Local Plan 2021-37, which determines the level and location of new housing within the Borough has gone through its final stages of consultation. This has now been sent to the national Planning Inspector, with examination hearings expected to take place in the next few months.

### **Remembrance Sunday**

Cllr Mousley and Cllr Shivers attended the Remembrance service on behalf of the Council. The council marked the event with the poppies on the lampposts.

## **Village Facilities**

The Tennis Court continues to be popular with 159 members. During the winter the court gets closed for protection and the surface then cleared by our caretaker Charlie.

There will be a new sports wall and roundabout on the Mound play area hopefully by the time you read this.

The village green play area gateway has been resurfaced. We had to take the decision to remove the spinning pole.

We have installed new bigger litter bins with lids on the jubilee playing fields.

New LED lighting has been fitted in our sports pavilion main room and Kitchen.

## **Vandalism**

The cost of vandalism for March 21 – March 22 amounted to £150 which is extremely low compared to other years. This was mainly damage to the wet pour surfacing on the play areas and some chains and locks being stolen when the play areas were closed.

## **Dog Fouling**



This continues to be a constant complaint received by the Clerk and Councillors, this is despite the fact that thousands of poo bags are sold and there being a plentiful supply of bins around the Village.

The library continues to distribute dog bags at 80p per pack of 50 and 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 operate at a lower level than pre COVID: the footfall is approximately at 50%. Nevertheless, the facility is still being used by groups as well as normal library services and the Poo Bags are still in demand. A number of volunteers have not returned since the lockdowns but we have found some replacements. What we need are more occasional volunteers to cover the 10 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. Saturday shift. Remember, the library is a community facility, and if it is not used, it could close.

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

The success of the website and the App continues. Our Parish app has had a total of 1066 downloads, which again, is up on previous years.

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

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Mousley has taken on the role of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator. More NW volunteers are required around the village.

### **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.

### **Long Furrow**

This long-standing magazine continues to be published quarterly and has been able to return to colour prints and full distribution.

Gareth Roberts continues to design the magazine with help from the committee members and John Malpus has resumed his former role as editor.

Volunteer distributors are always needed so please get in touch with the delivery coordinator, using the contact details provided in the Long Furrow magazine.

The Council continue to support the publication.

### **Speedwatch**

The Speedwatch Project has not taken place due to covid restrictions. LCC did install Speedwatch posters to remind people to drive slowly around our village.

### **Wildflower verge**

A wildflower verge has been created along Long Furrow, both sides of the bus shelter on the brook side. This was supported by Leicestershire County Council and a £300 grant with members of the Council, our caretaker and Greener Goscote undertaking the bulk of the work. Sincere thanks to those who are working on the project. It takes time for these projects to reach their full potential, but we should begin to see results this summer.

## **Treescapes**

Thank you to Cllr Cannon, who has led not just the wildflower verge project, but also secured 35 trees from Leicestershire County Council, to be planted on the steep sides of The Mound, nearly opposite Yeoman's Dale.

## **Queens Jubilee Celebrations**

After conducting a short opinion poll, the Parish Council are pleased to be organising a Jubilee Festival on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The free event will be taking place on the Village Hall Green with live music, a bouncy castle, and the option of purchasing refreshments from local suppliers. Thank you to the small number of residents and Councillors that have made this happen.

## **The Circus visits East Goscote**

For the first time ever a family circus will be visiting the village from June 10-12. The circus will be pitched on the Jubilee Playing Fields with performances held during some afternoons and early evenings. The Parish Council hopes that this will be enjoyed by residents of East Goscote and the surrounding areas.

## **Greener Goscote**

A group of local residents regularly volunteer to undertake projects such as litter picks and maintaining the recycling centre behind Merchants Common. They help add to our green and colourful village with the planting and care of trees, wildflowers and other plants which encourage and support wildlife (see wildflower & tree planting above). Thank you to these volunteers for their time and hard work.

## Next Year's Projects Include

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

Resurfacing to our Lilac Way play area which has been closed due to the lifting of the surfacing by tree roots. We have removed 3 trees and will be renewing the ruined surface underneath the swings.

Re-tarmac the multi sports court.

## Thank You's

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors, our current 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.

Reverend Tim Day, for continuing to provide an opportunity for people to attend service during difficult times, but also for his assistance with Covid support groups and his work around the vaccination centre at the church.

Chair (Laurie Needham)

**DOWNLOAD HERE USING YOUR SCANNER OR GO INTO YOUR APP STORE AND SIMPLY - SEARCH "EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL"**

