

## **GREAT BEALINGS PARISH COUNCIL**

### **REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2021/22**

#### **Community Governance Review**

ESC are currently carrying out a Community Governance Review (CGR) of East Suffolk. The initial consultation period has now closed. The Parish Council has provision for eight councillors and we have proposed that the number should be permanently reduced to seven, which is what we are currently have. We are not expecting a decision imminently.

#### **Planning Matters**

During financial year 2021/22 there have been 9 Planning Applications affecting the Parish. Seven were supported by the Parish Council and permitted. One was refused (DC/21/3993/Ful - shed on land belonging to Regency House)) and one is still outstanding (DC/21/3045/FUL – Land next to Lavender Cottage, Kiln Lane) . The appeal to the Secretary of State against the refusal of permitted development rights to convert Barn A on land adjacent to former Woodbarn Cottages to a dwelling house (DC/20/4032/PN3) was refused. The Parish Council did not submit comments to the Inspector in that case.

#### **Neighbourhood Plan**

The drafting of the revisions to the Plan are well under way. The next step will be to consult ESC on the proposed modifications and for the Council to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment which will take about 8 weeks.

We shall then carry out a public consultation on draft revisions to the plan (the Regulation 14 consultation), and consider any comments before the revised Plan is formally submitted to ESC at which point there will be a further public consultation, following which the revised Plan will go through an Examination by an independent Examiner. At this stage, the Parish Council is not proposing any changes others than those necessary to ensure that the revised Plan continues to meet the strategic objectives of ESC's Local Plan and we hope that the Examiner will agree that the revised Plan can be made without a referendum. This will depend on the Examiner's views as to whether the changes are so significant or substantial as to change the nature of the Plan.

#### **Environmental Issues**

**Trees** As part of the nationwide tree planting scheme to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (the Queen's Canopy), members of the Parish Council, with family members and neighbours planted 150 whips (very young trees) along Rosery Lane and Lodge Road. We intend to continue with the tree planting initiative next autumn/winter and have submitted a request for 400 trees as part of a programme being organised by the

Tree Wardens Council and the Woodland Trust. Thanks go to Cllr John Carter Jonas for his work on this initiative as tree warden.

The Parish Council has also been given an oak tree to mark the Jubilee. This is to be planted by the Talking Bench in Lower Street at 4pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Footpaths** As part of the Discovering Suffolk initiative, councillors have attached QR plaques to footpath signs in the Parish.

**Water Quality in the River Lark.** Woodbridge Town Council has been concerned about the quality of the water in the Deben. As a result, they formed a partnership with the University of Suffolk in Ipswich, with a view to setting up a testing facility. Having tested the water in thirteen locations along the river, they found extremely high E. Coli levels at three locations and lower, but still illegally high, levels at several other locations. In every one of the thirteen locations, they also found illegally high Nitrate levels

Parish Councils with rivers flowing into The Deben were invited to participate in the testing scheme.

The Parish Council decided take part in the scheme and test the water quality in the Lark from Boot Street bridge. We found unacceptable levels of E.coli and have purchased our own equipment for regular testing. We are working with Grundisburgh Parish Council who are collecting water samples from the river as it flows through Grundisburgh, to help identify possible sources of the E.coli. We are indebted to Farran and Dominic Douse who are conducting this research on behalf of the Village.

### **Traffic issues**

Our thanks go to Cllr Colin Hedgely, Martin Cripps and Anthony Shepherd for their continuing commitment to the speed watch campaign in the Village, in particular in helping motorists to become aware of (and, increasingly, observe) the 30 mph limit along Hall Farm Road.

### **Quiet Lanes**

Five lanes in the Parish have now been designated as Quiet Lanes (Grundisburgh Road, Hasketon Road, Rosery Lane, Seckford Hall Road, west of the Golf Club, and Lower Street.) We now have the signs for all the roads where the location of poles has been agreed but SCC have yet to erect the poles. We are in regular correspondence with them on this matter. There is also the outstanding issue of finding a suitable location for the pole at the southern end of Lower Street. Cllr Sally Johnson is looking into this.

### **Celebration of the Queen's Jubilee on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Cllrs Sally Johnson and Caroline Saunders are working with colleagues in Little Bealings Parish Council to arrange a Jubilee BBQ Party as part of the celebrations across Bealings.