

**Parish Council update Newsletter - October 2022**

We hope that you have had a good if hot summer and as autumn is now on us, this edition is a brief update of news, our local projects and other information which may be useful.

**Alert** John Toye, our District Councillor, has had reports over recent weeks from more than one location of potential break ins and thefts from properties, including in remote locations. We are fortunate to live in an area of low crime but it would be sensible to be a little more careful to discourage any potential threat. If you have any suspicions or information, you can call the police on 101 or report online [https://www.norfolk.police.uk/contact-us/6-report-it](https://www.norfolk.police.uk/contact-us/6-report-it?fbclid=IwAR27xa7h02uV6J6qp6gBh6fON5F1PnW-GLBWB6KPE4slXI8mwgNn4j14FJ8). Please remember to keep this in context and not cause panic with the vulnerable in our area.

**Parish Clerk**  The Parish Council has appointed a new clerk. Welcome to Colin Studholme, who joined us at the beginning of August and has been very busy learning about us and our work and projects. Colin retired to Norfolk after a career in nature conservation and when not clerking, he is birdwatching. Colin can be contacted on email clerk@colby-banningham-pc.gov.uk or phone or send WhatsApp message to 07756 287290.

**Fibre Broadband** You may recall that last year, we tried to set up a Community Fibre Partnership scheme but were informed by Openreach that most of the parish was already included in a programme which would see fibre being available to premises during this year. Indeed, this summer we saw connectors appearing on some of the telephone poles. Recently, Openreach have been contacted to ask about progress and we were informed that it “isn't planned to have Ultrafast Full Fibre built in the next year” – a great disappointment.

However, we have been advised that the more people in a community or area that register their interest for ultrafast broadband on the Openreach website, the more likely it is the area will be prioritised. So, please do register at [openreach.com/ultrafast](http://click.info.openreach.co.uk/?qs=6acc7765cd38d1ff47411f6ffd8867f898a72c9d6bde895f8070f2abcf1c97d24bed55ae39efe7ec15c1ca2680e735a7995df9307d6dfc57fd265b60527f516c) and help by spreading the word to others in the parish. Registering does not imply any commitment. We will continue to exert pressure on Openreach.

**Speed of traffic** At the beginning of the year, we became aware of a number of cases where speeding traffic have caused dangerous situations on Colby Long Road, on the B1145 near to Mill Road and in Banningham village. This is of particular concern near to places where children live. This has been discussed with the County Highways department and the police. The Parish Council is looking at obtaining a Speed Awareness Monitor (SAM) which is attached to posts and can be moved between sites to remind drivers of their speed in restricted areas. County highways have advised that once this is organised, we will inform residents next to planned sites.

**Affordable Housing** Following the open meetings with NNDC and Broadland Housing Association in September, a "Call for Sites" letter will now be circulated to all owners of local land and to all households

**Village Hall**  There is more progress with the work on the hall.

* The new double doors at the back of the main hall are now installed and have changed the feel of that room.
* A new suspended ceiling has been completed in the annex.
* There is new lighting in the hall, the annex and the foyer which has made a huge impact on the look or the whole hall.
* Two bright new signs for “Banningham and Colby Community Hall” have been produced and put up on the hall. They were designed by Jess, a local student at Paston College whom we have thanked.
* New road signs were supplied by County Highways directing visitors to the hall.
* The restoration of the bar has been completed due to the generosity of Greene King.
* Most welcome is the installation of new air source heating in the hall and annex – this has made a massive difference on cooler days!

An application for funding from the Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund has been submitted – this aims to enable the refurbishment of the former Sandy Lane Club rooms at the hall. We are also preparing a number of smaller project bids to be ready when other funds are announced and which will allow the completion of the whole project.

The Parish Council has been working on the application to the Charity Commission which was explained in the last newsletter. The day-to-day management of the hall will then be delegated to a new Team which begins work this month.

A key task is now to get the hall used regularly and this has already started.

* At the end of July, the Village Hall hosted its first grand event since the main regenerating work was completed - the wedding reception of two of our own parishioners, George and Sara Neale. Judging by the pictures, it was a fabulous day – congratulations to them and what a good way to showcase the redecorated hall.
* The Green Fingers Gardening Club have recently held 2 very successful meetings in the hall – around 50 people attending each one. In September, Jane Steward talked about medlars (the fruit). October’s talk was The Diversity of British Gardens by Kathy Gray. On November 3rd, Jim Payne will present the Walnut Tree Nursery. The club meets at the hall every first Thursday of the month (except for January!).  Everyone is welcome and guests are asked to contribute £2.50 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits.
* Since 2016, the Bure Valley Harriers Running club have held a 10-mile run around Banningham, Colby & Suffield. This year’s run was the conclusion of the Sportslink Grand Prix series, and was held on a gloriously sunny Sunday morning at the beginning of October. Almost 300 runners from across Norfolk and Suffolk were at the start line at the Village Hall and the event was judged a great success – runners praised the newly updated facilities and the refreshments provided at the hall. A video is available:<https://www.facebook.com/sportlinkrunningandfitness/videos/602043338332339>

**Now that the hall is ready for use, please do tell anyone or any organisation looking for a venue for an event or meeting – check the Parish Council website** [**https://www.colby-banningham-pc.gov.uk/**](https://www.colby-banningham-pc.gov.uk/) **for booking information or contact the Parish Clerk (see above for contact details).**