

## Parish Council update Newsletter - October 2023



After a somewhat changeable summer, the leaves are beginning to turn and days are getting shorter. We hope you are all keeping well and here is the latest update about our parish.

**Parish Council** After the last newsletter in May, we were very lucky to hear from a number of residents who were interested in the vacant seats on the council. As a result, we are very pleased to report that Jill Morgan from Colby and Serena Woolliams from Banningham are both now co-opted members – they will bring lots of experience and skills to help our work. Thank you also to others who showed interest.

**Speed of traffic** We now have the Speed Awareness Monitor and it has been set up on Colby Long Road. We have heard feedback that traffic does sometimes slow when it flashes so hopefully, it is providing a positive benefit to improve safety. The other site for the SAM, approved by Highways, is along the B1145 around the Mill Road area so it will sometimes be placed there.

**Elden's Retreat** All the newly planted trees and the parking area have been checked. Discussions with the grass cutting contractor have resulted in some improvements. A new sign is on the main entrance to the field. It was suggested that we set up an opportunity for residents to come along to the field on Bridge Road and to meet with some of the Parish Council. This is a chance for everyone to come along and see how the tree planting is doing, how the site is managed and to suggest any ideas for the future. It will take place on Saturday 4th November between 2pm and 4pm. Please do come along.

**Community Hall** There has been more progress to report

- A new Community Hall Administrator has joined our team – Elise Mabbutt – who will be leading on communicating, advertising and promoting use of the hall along with developing the website and on-line booking procedure. Elise has also just moved into the parish - so welcome to her and her family.
- You may have seen that the frontage is looking very smart - it has been part rendered with 'Norfolk' barge board detailing features and repainted with new lights and planters.
- Inside, a new fire alarm system has been installed.
- A new audio-visual system has been obtained from Postles with Phase 1 in place serving the Main Hall and Annexe and this will provide another benefit to those who use the hall.
- The kitchen area has had new work surfaces, cupboard doors, fridge and microwave installed – it's looking very up to date now!
- You may recall from the last newsletter that our bid to the Norfolk County Council's Social Infrastructure Fund was successful. Plans are going ahead with the design and specifications for work on the former Sandy Lane Club as our Phase 3 and work will start as the builder has been selected. This will involve some major renovations and make a big difference to the whole facility providing more options for hirers uses. Much of this work is being organised by some brilliant volunteers from within our community to whom we say a big Thank you.

- The application to the Charity Commission is still in process and we hope that this will be concluded soon.
- Bookings of the hall by regular hirers are continuing – a new Pilates class on Mondays!
- The Greenfingers Gardening Club is friendly and welcoming and has been meeting at the Hall for 28 years. They meet on the 1st Thursday of each month. A speaker is arranged for most months and the programme is supplemented with garden visits, coffee mornings and plant sales and other garden related social events. They have a membership of around sixty. They will welcome more people from the parish. Membership costs £7 per annum, with £2 entrance on the night which includes refreshments. Guests are welcome at £3. The next meeting will be on Thursday 2nd November, when the speaker will be Simon Harrop from Natural Surroundings; his subject is British Alpines. The meeting begins at 7.30pm, with doors open from 7.00pm - parking at the back of the hall. The December meeting will be the AGM and Christmas Social, and a talk on Aylsham in Bloom. For more information, contact [janjeavons@btinternet.com](mailto:janjeavons@btinternet.com).
- The Bure Valley Harriers used the Community Hall recently as the base for their 10 mile road race around the village. 18 clubs were represented with 292 runners finishing (7 of them were 70+). Callum Bowen-Jones won in 54.04 and the winning lady was Eleanor Grubb in 1.00.43 - both broke the course records. We had some good feedback from the runners saying what a lovely course and venue and there's always compliments about the ladies' baking!

**The phase 1 of the hall project is almost complete and is ready for use. Please do tell anyone or any organisation looking for a venue for an event or meeting. For more information, please call David Holgate on 07860 498729 or check the website for booking information - <https://www.banninghamcommunityhall.co.uk>**

**Fibre Broadband** There has been a lot of work around the parish recently by contractors who have been laying in pipes to take fibre optic cables. We understand that this work is for County Broadband, a network provider. The other network provider also active in our parish is Openreach, who have recently advised that

“Over the course of the next few months, we'll be starting the work to install our fibre equipment and cables and carrying out tests in our network to make sure everything works as it should. When FTTP is ready to be ordered, we'll update our website to reflect this. You will then just need to place an order with a Service Provider (SP) that sells FTTP products. A list of which SPs sell FTTP can also be found on our website. If everything goes as planned and we don't come across any glitches, FTTP could be available by March 2024.”

**Affordable Housing** As you may remember, Broadland Housing Association put forward a proposal for the building of 9 new homes on land adjacent to 14 Church Close in Banningham, which resulted in a consultation drop-in event in the village hall in July 2022. At that meeting the Parish Council requested that BHA considered other potential sites within the village and we are awaiting feedback. Contrary to recent local concern, the Parish Council has had no further updates regarding this and is not aware of any further progress.

**Christmas** We are hoping to organise another Christmas event on the Village Green – details will be in the next newsletter.

If you have any questions, then please call the Parish Clerk on 01263 587952 or e-mail [clerk@colby-banningham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@colby-banningham-pc.gov.uk) .