

# Burbage Parish Council Newsletter



June 2020

## Call 101 to keep community spaces crime-free

Parish Council property has been damaged and Council-managed open spaces abused in a spate of anti-social incidents in recent weeks.

The Council's estates team is urging residents to call the Police on 101 immediately if they spot any acts of anti-social behaviour or vandalism, so that people who may have information about the incidents can be spoken to.

## Hanging baskets recycled

Burbage is not blooming as brightly this year, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Winter hanging baskets were to have been removed in May and re-planted in a red, white and blue theme to tie-in with the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Burbage Gardening Club was to be contracted to do the planting, as in previous years, but the need for self-isolation and social distancing meant that it was not considered safe at the time.

Contents of the winter baskets are to be recycled, with spring bulbs planted in public spaces around the parish, to bloom another year.

## Farmers' Market returns

Burbage Farmers' Market has returned to the village now that Covid-19 restrictions have been relaxed.

Held on the car park at Burbage Methodist Church, Windsor Street, the next open-air sale is scheduled for Saturday July 4, starting at 9am and running until about 12.30pm.

A queuing system will ensure that social distancing is observed, and hand sanitiser will be available. Organisers hope that the market will continue to operate on the first Saturday of each month from now on.

### Contact us...

The Parish Office is currently closed to the public but you can still call and leave a message on **01455 637533** and use the post box inside the main sliding doors between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Post will be collected and messages picked up daily during the week. The best way to get in touch is by emailing [info@burbage-council.co.uk](mailto:info@burbage-council.co.uk)

## A year to remember

Outgoing Chairman Cllr Paul Williams has reflected on some of the positive aspects of his year in office before the onset of the global Coronavirus pandemic.

The Liberal Democrat Councillor for Stretton ward, who is also a Borough Councillor for Sketchley & Stretton, served a little longer than his anticipated 12 months, as the Parish Council adjusted to operating under Covid-19 restrictions.

Cllr Williams said: "Many things have been achieved during the year: A super new sports pavilion on the playing field at Britannia Road, a reconstructed layout of the Millennium Hall building, providing a second hall and an extended meeting room which can be split into two.

"Of course, in the last two months the Coronavirus emergency has closed the hall to public use and our exciting plans for 2020 have been brought to a halt."

Those plans included celebrations for the 75th anniversary of the end of Second World War in Europe in May.

Cllr Williams was particularly pleased to see the Burbage Neighbourhood Plan deemed suitable for going to referendum, although also delayed due to social restrictions.

He said: "Cllr Flemming has steered the plan through all stages over the past seven years and it is appropriate that the referendum will be planned during his term as Chairman of the Parish Council.

"I truly express my best wishes to Richard in his term of office and hope that the situation will allow him to return to parish meetings at the Millennium Hall as soon as it is deemed safe to do so."



## New Chairman makes history

Burbage Parish Council's new Chairman, Cllr Richard Flemming, made history on May 29 by being its first Chairman to be elected virtually, via video link.

The Council's annual meeting was held using Zoom conferencing software, which has replaced Millennium Hall as a meeting place since the introduction of restrictions to protect against the spread of Covid-19.

In a symbolic 'handover', outgoing Chairman Cllr Paul Williams held up a box containing the Chairman's chain and Cllr Flemming signed an acceptance of office form in his own home, showing it to the camera for those present to witness.

Cllr Keith Lynch, Lib Dem, who represents Tilton Ward, was elected Vice Chairman.

Liberal Democrat Councillor Mr Flemming, who has represented Lash Hill ward since 2009, was previously elected Chairman of the Parish Council in 2011, serving for four years until the local elections in 2015.

In 2019, he was also elected Borough Councillor for St Catherine's & Lash Hill ward.

Thanking his predecessor for what he described as a "difficult time" in office at the height of the Coronavirus pandemic, Cllr Flemming said: "I would like to record my personal thanks to Paul for his Chairmanship. "He has put in a tremendous amount of effort over the past year and it is much appreciated."



## Meetings for the month ahead

Meetings are currently being held via Zoom video and web call software. Joining instructions will be published together with the agenda three working days ahead of the meeting date on [www.burbage-council.co.uk](http://www.burbage-council.co.uk) and on the council noticeboard at the front of Millennium Hall:

Planning Committee, Monday June 22 at 6.30pm, confirmed.

Full Council, Monday June 29, 6.30pm, confirmed.

## Colts Close scheme takes shape

Work has begun on a new family-friendly play, fitness and recreation space at Colts Close Recreation Ground.

The scheme, by JP Landscapes, was chosen through public consultation earlier this year and is being paid for by money allocated from the development of new homes around Sunloch Close.

It will include a multi-play unit for 5-12 year olds, a basketball hoop, gym equipment, seating and picnic space, and a new path laid with child-sized 'road' markings to make cycling and scooting more interesting.

In addition, the Parish Council has paid for the revamp of the existing junior play area on the site, where all the equipment, benches and bins have been given a cheery paint make-over.

## SHIRE Grant backs biodiversity

Leicestershire County Council has awarded the Parish Council a SHIRE Grant of £3,000 towards the planting of new, wildlife-friendly hedgerows around Britannia Road Recreation Ground.



The planting is part of a wider planned Parish Council-led biodiversity project covering Britannia Road, Far Lash, Sketchley Hill Farm and Courting Stiles open spaces.

It will include planting new hedgerows and trees, sowing wildflowers, increasing the amount of managed biodiversity strips and putting up bat, bird and owl boxes.

Planting is due to start this autumn.