

Burbage Parish Council Newsletter



January 2021

Burbage PCSO wins top Force award



The Parish Council was delighted to hear that Burbage PCSO Darren Stretton was named Police Community Support Officer of the year for 2020 by Leicestershire Police.

PCSO 6035 Stretton is based at Millennium Hall, near to the Parish Office, and works closely with Council Members and staff to address issues of concern for residents, such as speeding traffic and anti-social behaviour.

He said: *"I am really proud to have won it.*

"Burbage is a fantastic place to be and I have met many amazing residents with their own stories.

"Like anywhere, there can be local concerns but by working together, being kind, compassionate and maintaining our community spirit, I am sure we can all help each other."

Would you like to work with us?

The Parish Council is looking for a highly motivated, enthusiastic person with a flexible approach to join the staff team as Community Projects Officer.

Home-based initially and starting at 20 hours per week, with the possibility of additional contracted hours being available in the future, the new role has been created to support the management and organisation of Council-led community events and improvement projects across the parish.

Full details are available on the parish council website www.burbage-council.co.uk or may be requested for collection from the Parish Office.

Applications must be received by 9am on Monday 25th January 2021.

Covid closures

In line with National Lockdown Restrictions which came into force on 5th January, Parish Council managed play areas remained open but outdoor gym equipment and multi-use games areas were closed at the time of publication.

The Parish Office is currently closed to the public. We remain open for business but the office is temporarily closed to visitors, in line with National Lockdown restrictions.

If you need to get in touch, you can call **01455 637533** or use the post box inside the front sliding door between 9am and 4pm, Monday to Friday. The best way to make contact is to email info@burbage-council.co.uk

Farmers' Market

Burbage Farmers' Market is set to return to the car park of Burbage Methodist Church, Windsor Street, on Saturday February 6, starting at 9am and running until about 12.30pm, if Covid-19 restrictions allow.

A queuing system will be in place to aid social distancing and hand sanitiser will be available for shoppers' use

Meetings for the month ahead

Council meetings are continuing to be held via Zoom video and web call software on Monday evenings. Joining instructions and confirmed timings will be published together with the agenda on www.burbage-council.co.uk

At the time of printing, meetings were scheduled as follows:

- Finance & General Purposes Committee, January 18, 6.30pm
- Planning Committee, January 25, 6.30pm
- Parish Council, February 1, 6.30pm
- Planning Committee, February 8, 6.30pm
- Finance & General Purposes Committee, February 15, 6.30pm
- Planning Committee, February 22, 6.30pm

Parish freezes Council Tax charge & agrees no increase in fees in 2021

For the second year running, the Parish Council has agreed to freeze the amount it will ask households to pay towards its share of their next Council Tax bills.

Councillors have approved a zero-increase precept which will see households of Band D properties continue to pay £71.11 for the year – the same amount that they were charged last year and the same as in 2019-20.

Households of all other bands will also continue to pay the same as last year.

The parish precept will generate £427,043 to help cover the costs of facilities and services provided by the parish council, which include community buildings, public open spaces, recreation grounds and sports pitches.

Fees charged by the parish council for use of its facilities and services, including Burbage Cemetery and allotments at Woodland Avenue and Blackways Meadow, will also remain frozen at last year's rates, with no increase to be levied from 1st April 2021.

The parish precept forms just one part of the Council Tax bill received by every household, which also includes charges from Leicestershire County Council, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service and Leicestershire Police.

Parish Council Chairman Cllr Richard Flemming said:

"Due consideration was given to the financial impact the Covid-19 pandemic is having upon the Parish budget and the residents of Burbage alike.

"It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to deliver a high level of service for its residents but without the need to add further financial burden upon residents by way of precept and fees charged for services provided.

"It is hoped that this will relieve some of the stresses and strains we are all facing in these unprecedented times. Please keep safe and follow the guidelines."



Green scheme grows across the Parish



Estates Officer Andy Harrison has been leading the Parish Council planting

Hundreds of new hedging plants have been dug in to thicken-up existing boundaries and fill in gaps at two of the Parish Council's most popular public green spaces.

Young specimens of species including hazel, hawthorn, rowan, dog rose, blackthorn and pussy willow have been planted at Britannia Road Recreation Ground and Far Lash open space, together with native trees including oak and silver birch, as part of an ongoing biodiversity project.

Designated areas of managed longer grass have also been extended or added to create wildlife corridors and islands, known as 'biodiversity strips'.

Together, these carefully managed habitats will offer food and shelter to a wide range of creatures, from insects and amphibians to birds and small mammals, and will allow for the natural introduction of a greater variety of wild plants, increasing the richness of flora and fauna for all to enjoy.

The biodiversity strips are left to grow naturally and are only cut once a year. This means they might sometimes look messy or unkempt but they soon grow back and are clearly defined against the shorter, regularly mown grass.

As an extra encouragement, bird and bat boxes, including ones designed for barn and tawny owls, have been put up in safe places across the parish.