

BRADFIELD ST CLARE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022

This meeting was held on 24th May 2022 in the Village Hall, Bradfield St Clare.

Present: Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr John Kirk, and Cllrs Malcolm Hignett, Paul Foster, Alex Duchesne and Sue Partridge. Parish Clerk, Nicola Sturgeon, County Councillor Karen Soons and Borough Cllr Sara Mildmay-White also present. Andrew Tucker the Area B network coordinator for Safer Neighbourhood Watch Association (SNWA) also present, along with one member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence: PC Lee Andrews-Pearce, Bury St Edmunds Community Engagement Office sent his apologies, due to a recent injury he was off work and therefore unable to attend the meeting.
2. To consider and approve the Annual Parish Meeting report of 4th May 2021.

All Cllrs approved the record of the Annual Parish Meeting report for the 4th May 2021.

3. County Cllrs annual report.
2021/22 Annual Parish Newsletter from County Cllr Karen Soons is available on the village website at bradfieldstclare.onesuffolk.net
4. Borough Cllrs annual report.
Once again, COVID19 dominated much of our work stream followed by our recovery plan. The Council delivered a strong response to the challenges imposed by COVID19. Our most vulnerable residents were helped and many of our businesses were given access to funding and support. We were one of the top councils in the country in respect of helping businesses access grants and business rate relief. We reduced homelessness and supported rough sleepers into accommodation.

West Suffolk Council continued to deliver our successful growth agenda by investing in an incubator building for the manufacturing and engineering sector centre in Bury St Edmunds. The EpiCentre in Haverhill celebrated its first birthday in November with more than 20 companies and all the laboratory space taken.

Work continues on the £8.4 million scheme to redevelop the Post Office building in Bury St Edmunds. This is scheduled for completion in the summer. The historic Victorian façade will be retained and the rear of the building developed bringing a visual enhancement to the St Andrews Street scene.

Bury St Edmunds Railway Station enhancements have consisted of a new car park to the north side of the station and work is underway to create a new station entrance.

This includes a reconfigured station lobby with two new retail spaces inside the station. This new entrance will be funded by the DfT following a successful bid and award from the Access for All Funding. Greater Anglia will also be installing up to 75 additional cycle parking places, as part of a successful Cycle Rail funding scheme.

A £9 million investment to help meet West Suffolk Council zero carbon ambitions by 2030, this will include greener vehicles and buildings as well as extending the Council's solar rent and roof scheme.

£1.3 million investment earmarked for investment, into our heritage assets such as Moyses' Hall and West Stow and our parks which have again received the nationally prestigious green flag awards.

We continued to lead a countrywide project to help children and their families access events where they could have fun trying different sports and learning new skills for instance cooking.

The Council together with other partners opened the new community centre on the Howard Estate. West Suffolk prides itself on our families and communities work which includes the locality funding enabling councillors play a vital role in supporting their local communities. In addition, £450,000 was awarded through our Community Chest grants.

In 2020/21 the Council exceeded our housing delivery target of 95% and delivered 112%. This year government figures released in January showed we had again exceeded our target on their housing delivery test and reached 128%.

So far this year we have delivered 192 affordable dwellings of which, 114 affordable rent, 29 social rent and 49 shared ownership.

Barley Homes has successfully completed its first development at Westmill Park in Haverhill with all 37 homes sold and occupied, this includes the 30% affordable properties. Stonemill Park is well under way and all 26 homes have been reserved, again policy compliant with 30% affordable. Barley Homes will now be paying a dividend to the Council.

Local Plan 2024-2040

This year a great deal of work has gone into preparing a new local plan. The next public consultation will commence on the 26th May for eight weeks on the preferred issues and options. I would urge people to get involved, as this document will set the scene for development and economic growth in West Suffolk for the next 15 years.

Locality Funding

I gave the following grants to organisations in my area: £1,000 to Rougham Sports Hall to help with their planned storage facility. £1,000 to Stanningfield for their

speed sign, £800 to Rougham Play area for a new piece of equipment and £500 to the Wedgewood Unit at the hospital towards their new garden scheme.

This year I have funded several of your Queen's Jubilee celebrations and I look forward to joining you at these events.

Sara Mildmay-White

5. Reports from Safer Neighbourhood Watch Association and village organisations and clubs.

Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association

Introduction

The Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch Association (SNWA) Bury St Edmunds Area B covers the 6 parishes of Bradfield Combust with Stanningfield, Bradfield St Clare, Bradfield St George, Rushbrooke with Rougham, Little and Great Whelnetham, and Nowton.

The statistics below have been extracted from the Suffolk Constabulary's website and the 14 defined crime categories is a National system used by 43 police forces across England and Wales. It is recognised that the National reporting format has its limitations.

2021 Statistics

During 2021, the parish reported/recorded just 3 crimes: 1 x violence/sexual, 1 x criminal damage/arson, and 1 x anti-social behaviour. This crime rate is well below the average of 20 for our 6 Area B parishes. The 2021 monthly average for the whole of Area B was 10 (cf. 13 in 2020) while the monthly average for the whole of the Bury St Edmunds Police Reporting Area was 467 (80 to 90% of crime occurs in Bury St Edmunds itself).

Points of Note

- Violence and Sexual (incl. Domestic Abuse): our Area B saw a **20% decrease** on 2020 and the category accounted for **55%** of our Area B recorded crimes in 2021.
- Anti-Social Behaviour: a **45% decrease** on 2020 and accounted for **16%** of Area B crimes.
- Burglary: a **60% decrease** on 2020 and accounted for **3%** of our Area B recorded crimes.
- Vehicle: a decrease with 4 in 2021 (cf. 5 in 2020) accounting for **3%** of crimes.
- Cybercrime (scams) continues to be a huge problem and thanks to residents forwarding scam emails to report@phishing.gov.uk, the National Cyber Security Centre are taking down an average of over **3,000 scams** and over **6,000 malicious URLs per month!**

- For the year ending June 2021, the Office for National Statistics ranks Suffolk as having the 10th lowest crime rate out of 43 Police Forces (excl. British Transport) across England and Wales, with Suffolk being second lowest in the East of England 6 counties.

Area B Network

SNWA Bury St Edmunds Area B Network continues to be extremely healthy and proactive. Over 100 local residents receive alerts, information and monthly stats via e-mail (incl. parish councils, our local County and Borough Cllrs and our MP's office) however, social media (especially facebook and Nextdoor.co.uk) continues to be hugely successful. Alerts and monthly stats etc are posted on 4 parish/village community facebook pages (Bradfield Combust and Stanningfield Residents, Rougham Village Community, Great Whelnetham Residents and Nowton Village) and on Nextdoor.co.uk followed by residents in all 6 parishes. As of 1st January 2022, **3038** residents (with some duplication but excluding innumerable further sharing with family and friends) in our 6 parish Area B are now connected electronically to our NHW network. The monthly stats and other information are also uploaded onto the dedicated Area B page on the SNWA's website (suffolknwa.co.uk/bseb.html)

Team Effort

Finally, thank you to our 9 registered NHW Scheme Coordinators, parish council and clerks, residents, our CEO (Sgt Lee Andrews-Pearce), SNT, SNWA, the various agencies and other key individuals for making our Area B NHW Network meaningful and hugely successful!

Andrew Tucker

SNWA BSE Area B Network Coord

Suffolknwa.co.uk/bseb.html

Parish Neighbourhood Watch coordinator is Dianne Bullard

Bradfield St Clare Village Hall

The back end of 2021 and the early part of 2022 has been a better time for the Bradfield St Clare Village Hall as we now find ourselves in a position where we can reopen for some events such as Whist, Kit Café and Book Club, should it wish to continue, as the conditions and guidelines relating to the closure and reopening of Village Halls, etc. no longer apply.

The first Kit Café was well attended and it was good to see a social gathering in the village again. The Whist Drives are also well attended with people returning to the game from other villages such as Felsham, Cockfield and also Bury as well as from our own village.

The committee is now able to meet on the dates planned and inside the Hall. Despite this improvement we continue to monitor the situation and would act accordingly should circumstances change.

A village litter pick was held on Saturday 5th March 2022 starting from and ending at the Village Hall. This was successful with a considerable number of rubbish sacks being filled. All sacks, and litter picks equipment was, as always, provided by the Council who also organised their collection and disposal.

The project to relay and level the path leading to the Village Hall, repair the boundary fence and install pathway lighting has received positive feedback from Whist players on leaving after dark.

The committee thanks all parishioners for their continued support and looks forward to being able to get back to normal.

John Kirk (Chair of the Village Hall Committee)

KIT Cafe

We were delighted to reopen our Kit Café for the first time since the pandemic on Saturday 23rd April. We plan to open on the 3rd Saturday of each month but will miss out May due to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Street Party at Bishops Farm.

We have purchased two new 'A' board signs with the kit Café logo that will be displayed outside the village hall and Linden House a few days before each opening advertising the opening times.

We continue to provide tea, coffee and refreshments at no charge and we gratefully accept donations of home baked cakes, biscuits and pastries. Many villagers who use the café also generously contribute cash to the donations pot placed on the table and this covers the rental of the hall. Any reserves of cash donations are accounted for and used to buy treats and decorations to enhance the café experience.

Val Nunn

Book Club

We have not yet resumed Book Club. Since we were forced to stop due to Covid some of us have enjoyed reading and swapping books without the pressure of having to read a chosen book. If there is enough interest it may resume but would need more members to make it viable.

Val Nunn

Footpath Warden

The footpaths around St Clare Hall have been cut.

Two bridges over ditches near Sutton Hall have been replaced.

Three footpath signs near Elm Green Farm and Larkhill have still not been replaced, and so I will follow that up.

I will also follow up on the footpath at Bush Green which at the time of providing this report needed cutting.

Fenella Fraser

Footpath Warden

6. Date of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting to be agreed later in the year.