

Anston Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 17th March 2021

Parish Council Report

Over the last 12 months Anston Parish Council and the Recreation Charity of which it is the sole trustee have continued to operate during the pandemic and to provide a range of services to residents.

At the start of the pandemic we put our resources at the disposal of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council should they need them and joined their Community Heroes Programme. We gave grants of £500 towards the Salvation Army food bank in Dinnington which serves the parish, £300 to the Dinnington Coronavirus Action Group which serves North Anston and £100 to the National Emergencies Trust. Last Autumn we have £2,000 each to the Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice, the Thornberry Animal Sanctuary and the Yorkshire Air Ambulance. More recently we have agreed to purchase a laptop each for the four primary schools in the parish to help children having to work from home during the pandemic.

The pandemic has meant that during the year some facilities have been open and closed at different points.

- The Parish Hall has largely been closed for use but the pre-school continue to operate from it and we hope to welcome back our regular user groups later in the year. Repairs to the roof have been carried out. Some asbestos has been removed from the building. LED lights have been fitted to the streetlights in the car park. Works to trees have taken place in the Recreation Ground.
- The play facilities at the Parish Hall Recreation Ground and elsewhere in the parish have mostly been open during the year and we have continued to maintain those facilities. We have received several presentations from companies from whom we may purchase newer equipment.
- We have continued to maintain the bowling green and football pitch at the Parish Hall recreation ground and look forward to seeing both being used again later in the year.
- The Crowgate recreation ground has been brought back into use with a football pitch reinstated at the site
- The cemetery we operate in South Anston has remained in operation throughout the year both for new interments and for relatives to visit.
- Both allotment sites have remained open and lockdown has seen a noticeable increase in people wanting to be added to the waiting list for a plot.
- We have maintained the Anston Stones Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest and wider nature reserve and have worked with Rotherham Council to improve aspects of the rights of way through the Wood. Increased usage of the Wood during lockdown has caused some concern about the impact on the site and the revised management plan for the SSSI and Nature Reserve is close to completion.

- We provided a Christmas tree and lights for both North and South Anston and they appear to have lifted spirits during a difficult year.
- We have again provided hanging baskets in the parish
- We have maintained the memorial displays at Turners Triangle on the A57 and on the Baulk in North Anston. Sadly the usual Remembrance Day parade had to be cancelled as did the annual Bonfire Night and Fireworks Display event.
- We have contributed towards the cost of lighting at St.James Church in South Anston
- We have provided a defibrillator at the Parish Hall albeit the cabinet is currently awaiting repair
- We have maintained the village green at North Anston and the area known as the Baulk.
- The Council also maintains various other pieces of land around the parish (e.g. Paradise Square in South Anston) which appear to not have an actual owner.
- The Council has maintained the community building at Hillcrest. We hope to see it back in use as a community facility once the ownership issue with RMBC has been resolved.
- Parish Council and Charity meetings have been held online over the last year and in general they have been felt to have been more productive as a result.
- A little over a year ago we launched a new website which we hope is more user friendly and a resource for the community. Local groups and businesses can have a listing on the site if they so wish.

The parish precept for 2021/2022 has been set at £385,000 which is £131.89 per annum for a band D property and a 2% increase on the previous year.

During the year we saw the resignation of Cllr Glyn Prendergast and we thank him for his work on the Council. Elections to the Parish Council take place on Thursday 6th May 2021 and anyone wishing to stand can find the relevant material via the Parish Council website or directly on the Rotherham Council website.

Cllr Diane Graham (Chairman of Anston Parish Council)