

## **Barlborough Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting**

This annual report covers a period of 2 years from July 2019. A period which has been challenging for our community and the Council. It has also been a time of great sadness for us all, especially those who have lost love ones and our thoughts are with them and the people who have worked to keep us all safe.

This report aims to highlight the work of the Council and look forward to our work in 2021/22.

### **2019**

In the Autumn of 2019, we began to develop our Sustainable Barlborough Strategy which was finally agreed in February 2020. It set out actions on litter, recycling, traffic, planting and young people. While some progress has been made, the work came to a halt in the summer of 2020. We plan to review and update the strategy to shape our work in 2022. This will include a relaunch of our commitment to take forward Community Speedwatch, which had an initial poor response.

The annual remembrance service was held and the memorial in the bus stop was blessed by our Rector Bryony Taylor.

We held our annual Christmas Fair and Santa handed out gifts to the children. We agreed that we needed to change the format of the fair for future years and this year we will be working in partnership with the PTA at Barlborough Primary School with lots of fun activities for the children.

### **2020**

This year was a year of cancellations so no Brass on the Grass or Fun Run but, in spite of the this, the village still found the space to continue village life.

**VE Day** - May saw the VE day celebrations and across the village, and in glorious weather, we saw people dressed in 1940s clothes with tea parties and music on many drives and gardens. We decorated bunting to hang around the church and were grateful for the support from the school, Busy Bees and Boots childcare in involving the children. Gill from the Methodist church produced lovely artwork on the bunting.

**VJ Day** – The weather was not so kind but we marked VJ day and used our bunting again.

**Remembrance Sunday** – We could not hold our normal commemoration but our wreaths were laid over a couple of days. The Rector led an online service from the Remembrance Garden on a beautiful Autumn morning. The children decorated remembrance stones and we hung remembrance bunting around the village and at the Church and the school. We will be repeating this in 2021. The Parish also purchased 2 remembrance benches for the garden and a remembrance soldier for the village green.

**Christmas** – We had great plans for Christmas but as the Covid news became much grimmer we could not do as we had planned. Instead, Santa and his Parish Councillor Elves walked around the village talking to the children while playing Christmas music on our new sound system.

### **2021**

As the vaccination programme gave us all hope, we thought that we would be able to restart our events. But this was not possible and our meetings continued online until May.

**Easter-** The Easter Bunny came to the village over the Easter weekend and moved into Clowne Road. A daily Treasure Hunt allowed the children to claim a socially distanced cream egg from Egg quarters.

**Summer** - We could not go ahead with Brass on the Grass or our planned picnic in the park as the restrictions were still in place. We invested in Extreme Wheels and outreach work to support our children and young people. We also campaigned for the playgrounds to be open as soon as possible and supported this with clear signage.

We are now planning for our Christmas Fair with a fairground and the school Christmas Fair working together followed by the Advent Service in Church. So slowly we are starting to return to our normal cycle of activities. The money we have saved over the last 2 years is being invested in facilities for children and young people and in support for local organisations such as the Heritage Centre, the Country Park and the Village Trust.

**Tree Planting** – We were successful in getting trees to plant around the pond. The community helped to plant these, some in memory of those they have lost. The Council are funding a commemorative bench near the trees to support people in their remembrance.

**Roads** – The new footpath at the side of the Country Park and the new crossing were opened thus making it safer for our children to get to Heritage.

**Campaigns** – We have been working on a number of campaigns. This includes: -

- Continued opposition to the Clowne Garden Village and campaigning for the right road solutions for our village;
- Litter around Amazon. They have paid for litter bins and the Council has paid for signage;
- Overnight lorry parking around Barlborough Links and the environmental impact of noise, pollution and human waste. We have written to various authorities but there has been little progress;
- Speeding around the village;
- Pollution at the pond. The polluter has been identified and some action has been taken.

So, the Council has been active but in a different way to previous years. I am very grateful for the support of all Parish Councillors to me as Chair throughout the year. A special thanks to our Clerk Jen, who has kept going in spite of the difficulties and who helps us to achieve all that we do.

Finally, thank you to the community of Barlborough. It is an honour to serve you.