

Patrick Brompton Parish Council
Chair's Report to the Parish Annual Meeting.
May 2023

The 021-2023 Village Plan saw many of the proposed actions completed. This has included a new waste bin by the tank turning area by the crossroads, a tree survey and associated works, and the restoration of the War Memorial.

A new more simplified Village Survey was circulated to all households in the parish. Sadly, only 14 returns were received. However, there was an overall satisfaction with life in the village, with many respondents showing gratitude to those who contribute to the village life. One suggestion that has been actioned is the introduction of a Whats App group, which can be used to pass on essential information about incidents and events affecting the village. A new costed Village Plan will be drawn up in the coming weeks and this will include the maintenance of those items and areas which the PC are responsible for. This includes the bus shelter, the Phone Box Defibrillator, the benches, village green and track by the schoolroom, Manor Green and the trees.

The introduction of the new Vehicle Activated Sign has been well received and, despite a delay in installation, is now up and running. We are grateful to the now defunct Richmondshire District Council Lower Wensleydale Area Partnership for a contribution of £1000, and to County Cllr. Tom Jones for a contribution of £1000 from his locality to help funding the cost of the sign. The attendance of the NY Police Speed Bureau Speed check motorbike has increased in regularity. The speed issue was the major concern from the earlier Village Survey.

I am grateful once again for the support of Patrick Brompton Community Events Committee. They have organised events which have recognised national events, including Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee, and the Coronation of Charles 111. Events have included the annual bulb planting, litter picking, Christmas lights in the village, carol singing and the poppy display by the churchyard wall in November. Thanks also to Community Events for maintaining the Planters, both at the entrances to the village and those by the bridge.

Many positive comments were received from the village and beyond about the stunning impact the 2002 Christmas lights made to our village celebrations. This year, we extended the Christmas Tree lights to include decorating the Old Schoolroom (with thanks to the Atkinson Clarke Educational Foundation).

The quality of the village grass cut has generally improved overall from last year. The regularity of the cuts to the areas which the Parish Council is responsible for works out at approximately 3 weeks. Sometimes the grass growth is very rapid during this 3 week period. The contract is for 12 cuts during the growing season. We have closely monitored this. The fact that different areas are owned, and therefore cut by different grass cutters and at different times does complicate matters. This includes areas which were maintained by RDC which is now part of the NYC remit, NY Highways, and the PC.

It is worth noting that the NYC is responsible for the maintenance of the grass at the crossroads and despite approaches from the Parish Council, the grass cutting here takes place only 2/3 times in the year and only to improve view lines from the junction. As ever, we are very grateful to the village residents for their agreement to cut grassy areas beyond their property boundaries.

There have been very few planning applications which have required the Parish Council to make a response. We still monitor the developments at the Green Tree. We noted that despite the planning application included the building of an extension, this has not materialised. We look forward to hearing about an opening date soon!!

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow councillors who have worked to represent the village and its community. There are many unseen actions carried out which ensure that Patrick Brompton is a good place to live.

Finally, I am very grateful for the support given to me and the rest of the Council by Jon MacNamara, our former Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. His expertise and knowledge was invaluable.

We welcomed Bethan Jones as Clerk and RFO earlier in the year, and wish her well in the post.

I commend this report to the council.

Grahame Shepherd MBE

Chair,

Patrick Brompton Parish Council.