

**Patrick Brompton Parish Council**  
**Chair's Annual Report September 2020.**

I write this in early September following an unprecedented change in life styles for many. We continue to live in strange times due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. After several weeks of lockdown, restricted movements and, initially, wonderful weather, we are grateful to the village for the support and help given to neighbours and friends. I am very grateful to those villagers who stepped up to support others and in particular to Alex Franks proprietor of Angel's Share Bakery, who lives in our village. Her weekly kind donation of goodies added to well needed cheer. Thanks also to those villagers who came out to 'clap' the NHS and other key workers. Several of our villagers received a "Goody Bag" provided by Jonathan Greenwood's "Group Hug" initiative.

The Council year began under unusual circumstances at a time of the new elections. As nominations closed, I discovered, from the Clerk, that I was the only Councillor from the previous council who had stood for re-election. There were only three of us who stood and were therefore elected un-opposed, and so the Council year commenced with three out of five councillors, two of which were new to the post here in Patrick Brompton. I was told it was logical for me to be elected as Chair. I was happy to accept the nomination under the circumstances. The initial period of the new council focussed on the co-option of two other councillors. Following appropriate self-nomination, two further councillors were appointed.

Our major focus has been centred on the development of a Village Plan. The previous council had undertaken the initial village survey and, this has enabled the current council to develop a plan focussing on a number of specific objectives. We decided that it was essential to come up with some clear statements about the purpose of the plan. Our aim is to develop a community which was strong and inclusive, safe, healthy, prosperous, and with an improved climate. Little did we know that inadvertently, the Covid 19 pandemic certainly allowed the village to move on with some of those aims.

Villagers rallied around to support each other and in particular those deemed to be vulnerable. A real strength of our community. To date, I am unaware of any cases of the coronavirus in the village. The introduction of lockdown contributed to a safer community with a reduction in traffic. With less traffic came cleaner air. I am sure the flora and fauna population of our village had taken advantage of those lockdown days to increase in numbers.

The Village Plan has provided the Council with a structure for development, There have been a number of actions that have been completed and others hindered by the Covid-19 pandemic. However, we have continued to promote good working partnerships. Joint working with activities led by the Patrick Brompton Community Events Committee has included bulb planting, litter picking, production of the village newsletter, and the erection of an additional Noticeboard to the west of the village. This was share funded by a grant provided by RDC Lower Wensleydale Area Partnership and the Events Committee. Erection costs were borne by the Parish Council. Thanks also to the Events Committee for the placing of Christmas lights in several trees, and to the upkeep of the planters situated at the entrances to our village. Discussions have taken place with the Reverend Lawton regarding community support and we provide representation on the Atkinson Clarke Trust, Newton Le Willows and Patrick Brompton Village Hall Committee, RDC Lower Wensleydale Area Partnership, and the Yorkshire Local Councils Association Richmondshire Branch.

There have been very few planning considerations this Council year although we are still concerned about the proposals to build next to Oak View Cottage by the village green. The situation regarding The Green Tree Inn is at a standstill. The owner had submitted a couple of planning applications to develop the building as an eating/drinking establishment. There were important discussions with RDC planners and the Conservation and heritage Officer regarding the proposals which, by all accounts, came to an impasse. We have not heard

anything since early March. The Parish Council submitted an application to place The Green Tree on the Community Asset Register. This application was successful. However, it should be noted that if offered to the village, the Parish Council are of the opinion that sufficient funds to buy and renovate the pub would be impossible to raise. We await further news.

We continue to review the quality of the grass cutting to those areas which are the responsibility of the Parish Council. There have been several incidents of Dog Fouling that have been reported to the Councillors. A decision was made to erect three new notices reminding villagers and visitors about keeping Patrick Brompton clean, together with an information letter. Other aspects of the plan have been delayed and this includes the re-roofing of the Bus Shelter, issues regarding further public footpath signage and mapping, and then development of a major incident plan.

A very useful site meeting was held with officers from NYCC Highways and County Councillor Karin Sedgwick. Areas for discussion included the Safer Roads funding initiative, footpaths, illegal siting of advertising notices at the crossroads, and the quality and condition of the A684 as it passes through the village. The Government Safer Road Funding proposals include the introduction of right hand turn lanes at the crossroads. We are also pushing for a 40 mph restriction on the A684, from beyond the entrance to Butterwell Farm to the current 30mph sign to the west of the village.

I would like to thank those fellow Councillors who have been busy throughout, willingly carrying out tasks. This includes the erection of the village Christmas Tree (thanks to Rosa Kirkham for the kind donation), production of a village welcome pack, the erection of signs, renovating benches, cutting/strimming grass, and weed killing, cleaning the bus shelter etc.

In conclusion, I would like to particularly thank our clerk, Jon MacNamara. Initially, Jon had resigned from the post and the process was put in place to appoint a replacement. However, with the onset of the pandemic, Jon very kindly offered to stay in post. This will be reviewed in Spring 2021. We have been able to continue with the statutory requirements of the Council with Jon's guidance and support. Thank you Jon, your support is greatly appreciated.