



Foxton Parish Council

Annual Report to Residents from the Chairman, Adele Rogers, May 2021

It's that time of year again - time for our Annual Meeting for residents.

One year on, and we are still unable to meet in person, so we have decided to postpone the meeting until later in the year and provide a written report for our residents, as we did last year.

The pandemic has changed all our lives, but thankfully we can now see the possibility of returning to a more normal life. The Parish Council has still continued working, although all our meetings have been via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend any of our meetings. Details of how to access the meeting and the agenda are posted on the PC noticeboard near the Little Me Nursery on Main Street and on the PC website.

Here are some of the things we have done this year.

- The NDP subcommittee has now completed its review of our Neighbourhood Plan, and this plan is with Harborough District Council and will be sent to the official examiner soon. If you wish to view a copy of the plan, it is available on the PC website (www.foxtonparishcouncil.org.uk).
- We secured grant funding for temporary 20mph speed signs through the village (although the wording on these is a little misleading!). We hope to make the 20mph speed limit through the village permanent in the future. The grant is also allowing us to purchase another vehicle activated speed sign, which will be positioned at the top of the village opposite the church. Data monitoring of the existing speed sign shows that the vast majority of vehicles do slow down on approaching the sign.
- We have signed up to the county council's Wildflower Verge scheme and have our first wildflower verge next to the field in front of Hoggett (formerly the Shoulder of Mutton), marked by the Blue Heart signs.
- We have taken matters into our own hands concerning the state of grass verges around the village, and put up simple wooden signs asking people not to park on the verges. Initial feedback shows that it does appear to be helping.
- We have also placed traffic cones near the canal bridge, preventing people from parking too close to the bridge (we had asked Highways to put some double yellow lines either side of the bridge but this was refused).
- All the street benches and noticeboards were repainted last summer. One of the benches near the Robert Monk Hall was in a very poor state, so thanks to a donation by the daughter of the people to whom the bench was dedicated, this will be replaced by a new recycled plastic bench in the next few months.

- We have continued to report problems such as potholes, blocked drains, faded road markings, broken road signs and roads requiring cleaning to the relevant county and district councils. Many of these have been resolved and we continue to follow up those that have not. Anyone can report road problems to highways. There is a new website about which you can find details on the PC website under 'News'.
- The VE day grant from HDC has now been used to purchase planters for the front of the Robert Monk Hall. These have been beautifully planted up by members of the Gardens Society.
- We continue to look after the Baptist Cemetery and Softwell Lane Nature reserve. A lot of tree work has been required in the cemetery for safety reasons. Fortunately, the flooding in the nature reserve has now cleared. We will continue to monitor the situation.
- Following the completion of the Glebe Meadows development (between Middle Street and Vicarage Drive), the green area adjoining the development should have been landscaped for use of village residents. Indeed, this was a requirement for planning permission being granted. However, no work has been done so the PC have reported this to HDC planning enforcement. Hopefully, we will get our lovely green area in the not too distant future.
- We have a new councillor, Debbie Billington, due to the resignation of Rob McNeill. We thank Rob for the brilliant work he did on the PC website during his time in office.

All our clubs and societies have had a strange year, some being unable to run at all due to the pandemic. With the gradual relaxation of lockdown rules, we hope that they will all be able to resume their activities soon.

Indeed, the Foxton Society will be hosting a village celebration event, on Saturday June 26th (subject to change depending on government guidelines).

We hope you will all be there.

Adele

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adele', with a light grey circular stamp or watermark behind it.