



*Here to enhance the quality of the Parishioners lives
whilst delivering an efficient and proactive service.*

Cassop cum Quarrington Parish Council

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Parish Council Annual Report 2020/2021

Covid-19 and A New Way of Working

This is the first annual report which I have prepared as Parish Clerk and what a year to look back over!

The Covid-19 pandemic and national lockdown had a significant impact on the business of local councils, however the Parish Council soon got to grips with the concept of remote meetings and has continued to meet regularly and transact business over Zoom during 2020. It has been a learning experience for all concerned but new technology and ways of working have been embraced by the Parish Council and will continue to be used in 2021 and beyond.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council has been kept updated throughout the year with the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and is delighted that this is now in its final stages. This will be an essential document for the future of the parish and we look forward to it being formally adopted.

New Artwork for Bowburn

The Parish Council has engaged artist Andy McKeown to produce a landmark piece of art to reflect Bowburn's rich mining heritage. A miner's lamp design has been selected following consultation with local residents and there will complementary seating installed in the area around the sculpture.

Funding for the project will be provided from moneys received from developers under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The Parish Council is looking forward to the artwork being installed in the summer of 2021 and hopes that restrictions will allow a suitable event to take place to mark the installation.

Summer Flower Baskets, Barrels and Tubs in the Parish Area

I am sure that all residents in the parish area will have enjoyed the wonderful summer display of hanging flower baskets and tubs provided by the Parish Council once again in Bowburn, Cassop, Parkhill and Tursdale in 2020.

Thinford Nurseries have done a fantastic job in the preparation and maintenance of the seasonal display for the last 15 summer seasons. They prepare winter and spring bedding plants for Bowburn and Tursdale and now also for the new planters which have been installed in Cassop during the year.

Local Care and Maintenance of Footpaths and Rights of Way

The Parish Council once again applied for a grant under the County Council's Parish Paths Partnership Scheme to trim the grass on various local Rights of Way which had been approved for the 2020 season. I am sure you will appreciate the importance of this work when we have all been exercising closer to home.

This was the sixth year that the Parish Council has been successful in obtaining funding to carry out this maintenance work and was also able to extend the programme to include more footpaths in 2020.

Local Youth Services

In July, the Parish Council was able to support Bowburn Youth Project with funding towards works to landscape the rear yard of the youth club to make it a usable outdoor space. This was extremely important to allow the youth club to offer services in a Covid safe way and has enhanced the look of the area. The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the Youth Project team for their fantastic work during the pandemic in making sure that vulnerable young people and their families have continued to be supported even when the building has been closed.

Gillian Kelly
Parish Clerk