



*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 2021/2022

Return to Face-to-Face Meetings

Following a year where the Parish Council conducted all its business remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have now been meeting face to face for the whole of 2021/2022. As quickly as we got used to meeting via Zoom, we were soon back in the swing of in person meetings and it was lovely to be able to see everyone in the flesh once more.

Parish Council Arrivals and Departures

There have been a number of changes to the membership of the Parish Council throughout the year. At the Parish Council elections in May 2021, two longstanding Members of the Council stood down, Andrew Shutt and Mike Syer, and we welcomed Glenn Prince as a new Member.

Frank Salisbury and Paul Leake have subsequently retired as councillors and in recent months Alfie Dolan, Raymond Ralph and Nicola Henderson have joined the Parish Council.

Councillor Sylvia Raine and Councillor James Robinson were appointed as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Parish Council for 2021/2022.

Neighbourhood Plan

The referendum on the Cassop-cum-Quarrington Neighbourhood Plan was held on 23 September 2021 with the 'Yes' vote prevailing. 90% of voters wished to adopt the Neighbourhood Plan and subsequently, Durham County Council approved the Plan on 20 October 2021. The vision, aims and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan must be given due consideration in relation to any proposed development in the parish area. The Plan seeks to improve the Parish as a place to live and work, whilst enhancing and protecting its green spaces and rural assets.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been no small piece of work and the Parish Council were extremely grateful to all who had been instrumental in bringing the Plan to fruition.

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.

There had been some delays with the project but the Parish Council is pleased that the foundation works had now been completed and the artwork is currently under fabrication and will be installed in the summer.

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 2021.

Thinford Nurseries have done a fantastic job in the preparation and maintenance of the seasonal display for the last 16 summer seasons. They also prepare winter and spring bedding plants for Bowburn, Tursdale and Cassop.

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 2021 season.

This was the seventh year that the Parish Council has been successful in obtaining funding to carry out this maintenance work and we were also able to continue the extended programme which was first been developed in 2020.

Play Facilities

During the year, refurbishment work has been completed at Tursdale play area and the Parish Council is pleased to see this £40,000 project completed. The new play area was designed in consultation with local residents and it is hoped that the children of Tursdale will be able to enjoy the facility for many years to come.

Durham County Council have been consulting local people on a proposed scheme to refurbish the toddler play area at Cassop. The scheme has the support of local county councillors and the Area Action Partnership and the Parish Council looks forward to the scheme being progressed.

Working with Bowburn and Parkhill Community Partnership

The Parish Council and the Bowburn and Parkhill Community Partnership have worked together to make representations to Bellway Durham on their planning application for 100 homes on the Integra 61 site. It is planned to have further joint meetings in the future to address issues which are important in the parish area.

Gillian Kelly
Parish Clerk