

Strumpshaw Parish Council Chairmen's Report for the Annual Parish Meeting - 21 May 2024

Councillors

The vacancy carried over from the May 2023 ordinary elections was filled by the co-option of Will Faulkner on 19 September 2023. We currently have two casual vacancies on the parish council following the resignations of Stuart Blythe in December 2023 and Martin Kentish in March 2024. One of the vacancies should be filled by co-option at the Annual Parish Council Meeting later this evening.

The parish council thanks Stuart and Martin for their time served as councillors. Martin's oversight of the Speed Awareness Message Sign (SAM2) and allotments was very much appreciated by all concerned.

With speeding through the village being a concern to all, the parish council would welcome volunteers from the community to assist with the deployment of the Speed Awareness Message Sign (SAM2) and collecting the captured data. By law, the SAM2 has to be moved every four weeks and cannot return to a site within eight weeks.

If anyone is interested in assisting with the SAM2 or becoming a parish councillor, please contact the Clerk for further information. The parish council aims to support new councillors with training.

Footpath on Norwich Road

The Parish Council received the very welcome news that its bid to Norfolk County Council's Parish Partnership Scheme for the 100-metre footway on Norwich Road was successful.

The footway has been a high priority for the Council since 2008. Its estimated cost is £24,000, of which Norfolk County Council will pay half and the Parish Council must fund the other half (£12,000).

County Councillor Andrew Proctor has generously agreed to support this project with £8,300 funding from his member highways division fund. This leaves the Parish Council responsible for securing the final £3,700. A grant application submitted to Broadland District Council Green Infrastructure Fund Scheme for £3,700 has been successful.

Work (site visit, scheme design or scheduling of the works) for the footway can be booked once the Parish Council has submitted payment for the £3,700 contribution. The Highways Engineer estimates it will take 10 working days to install the footway.

Review of Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan

The current plan adopted in 2014 covers the period up to 2026 and forms part of the development plan for the district. It is one of the main considerations in determining any future planning applications submitted with regard to Strumpshaw.

A Steering Group, formed to review and update the Neighbourhood Plan for the next 15-20 years, will be providing regular updates to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council secured a £6,000 Neighbourhood Plan Review Grant from Broadland District Council to assist with the review costs. A further Locality Basic grant application will be submitted once the funding support package has been announced for the 2024/25 financial year.

Early March, members of the Steering Group, along with its consultant (Rachel Leggett and Associates), met with colleagues from AECOM (commissioned by Locality to deliver technical support) to proceed with the design code work and undertake a Housing Needs Assessment.

Consultation event 23 March and online survey

A commendable 70 or so parishioners participated in the consultation event on 23rd March and over 20 responded to the online survey. Thank you to everyone who contributed their views to inform the new Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan.

Next Step

The Steering Group will use this feedback and other collated data to draft a new Neighbourhood Plan for Strumpshaw.

Future steps

- Summer 2024; further community consultation and engagement (i.e. leaflet drops, surveys, consultation events).
- Autumn 2024: submission to Broadland District Council (LPA) and Broads Authority, 6 weeks public consultation.
- Winter 2024: Independent Examination, modifications.
- Spring 2025: Referendum on the final, revised Neighbourhood Plan.

Please do keep an eye out for updates in Parish News, Facebook and the website.

Community Hall

The Community Hall Committee has had another successful year with their popular organised events for the community, a talk on discovering the HMS Gloucester wreckage, a cheese and wine quiz night, a race night and the Macmillan coffee morning.

However, the committee is appealing for more volunteers to come forward to build on the success and share some of the workload. If anyone is interested, they should contact Sarah Cartwright, Chair of the Community Hall Committee.

The community hall continues to provide a variety of weekly classes for the community, pilates, yoga, tai chi, art classes, sound bath and Yare Folk play along.

Buckenham Woods (separate report from the CIO)