

ANNUAL REPORT

April 2022



CHAIR'S WELCOME

Welcome to Cocking Parish Council's Annual Report to Electors. Due to the Covid Pandemic we have been unable to meet with you since 2019 so I hope you will come along to our Annual Parish Meeting of Electors to be held in the Village Hall on Thursday 14th April 2022 at 7pm. This is your opportunity to meet with, talk to and question your Parish Councillors.

I am often asked what the Parish Council does and I hope this report, which covers the years 2020 and 2021, demonstrates some of the many things we are involved in.

I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors for their time and support. We are all volunteers who freely give time and expertise to help keep Cocking a village we are proud to live in.

Frances Russell
Chair Cocking Parish Council

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council combined with the Church and the Blue Bell to fund a monthly village newsletter. Thanks to Father Jonathan for taking on the responsibility for editing and production of Cocking Column. We will continue to publish an Annual Report in March each year ready for our Annual Parish Meeting.

DEFIBRILLATOR



A defibrillator, funded by a grant from IGas, has been installed on an outside wall in the Blue Bell car park. We plan to organise first aid training for local residents later in the year.

SPEED THROUGH THE VILLAGE

We are aware of everyone's concerns relating to the problem of some vehicles exceeding the speed limit and we are pleased Cat Beaumont is forming a group to monitor vehicles' speed and report back those exceeding the limit. We hope this will have some impact.

To make motorists aware of their speed we are investigating the cost and practicality of purchasing an indicator that shows the cars speed. A number of local villages are now using these and feedback suggests they do have some impact. More news later as there are guidelines to be followed before we can proceed.



BELL LANE SPEED LIMIT

The Parish Council applied to have the 30mph speed limit in Bell Lane extended to the railway bridge just beyond the village hall. Whilst this has been accepted, we wait to hear when it will be implemented.



XMAS TREE

We were grateful to Cowdray Estate for donating the Christmas Tree in the centre of the village and the Parish Council funded the lights. However we were very disappointed to find the lights were vandalised. It is such a shame when people volunteer to undertake projects to improve life for residents of the village to have your work vandalised.

Many thanks to those who took the time to install the tree and lights and then to replace the lights.

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VILLAGE GATEWAY

Many thanks to Jean and Philip Jackson for funding the purchase and installation of the gateway at the north of the village.

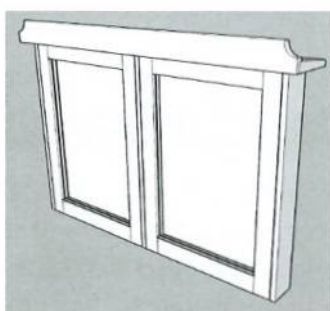
It has now been suggested that we have a gateway at the South entrance to the village near the bottom of Cocking Hill coming in from Chichester. The person who suggested it is looking into the feasibility and exploring ways of making the area more welcoming.

GREENING COCKING CAMPAIGN

The Parish Council has supported the launch of the Greening Cocking Campaign and look forward to working with Terena as she takes it forward.

NEWS FROM THE CROFT

The Council have agreed the making of a Notice Board which will be situated near the salt bin on The Croft green. Once permission is obtained from Hyde Martlet it will be installed.



BROADBAND

The Parish Council was pleased to support residents in the north of the village in their application to get high speed fibre broadband connected to their properties.

SPRING CLEAN

Cocking Needs YOU!



cocking spring clean

Qatar day ftk April/ 10m - Midday*

Meet in The Blue Bell car park..

Please wear suitable footwear and bring gloves.
Litter pickers and bags will be provided.



POST OFFICE AND SHOP

Working with the Blue Bell Committee the Parish Council lobbied The Post Office and Cowdray Estates to demonstrate the need for the post office and shop to be retained in the village. We are delighted to welcome Evie and Travis to the village and thank them for bringing the shop back to life.

COVID

We would like to thank everyone who supported their neighbours during the lockdowns and who continue to keep an eye on our elderly vulnerable neighbours.

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NEW TABLE FOR PLAYGROUND

A new picnic table has been procured replacing a rotting wood one. It has so far attracted a lot of attention; first someone set fire to the transit packaging but no damage was done, and then it was pushed over onto its side which would have taken some strength as it is very heavy. We are exploring ways of pinning it to the ground.



CYCLE WAY

It has been agreed that the best route for cyclists to come into the village from the South Downs Way is using the path that links Bumblekite near the war memorial. However there will be a delay whilst funds are found. The expected cost is £45K. The project is being led by SDNP.

BUS SHELTER

As part of a yearly maintenance plan the bus shelter next to the garage is getting a new coat of weathershield varnish and next year the one opposite The Croft will have the same treatment.



WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

A plaque that used to be mounted on the Tree of Remembrance was mislaid but has now been found. The plaque has been mounted on its own plinth and is situated next to the tree. Many thanks to James Shaw for arranging this.



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<https://www.cockingparishcouncil.co.uk/>

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ELECTORS

14th April at 7pm in the Village Hall with
guest Speak Angelika Morge, Police
Community Support Officer.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council meets in the Village Hall on the first Monday of every month except August. If a bank holiday falls on the first Monday the meeting reverts to the next Monday.

COUNCILLORS

Francess Russell *Chairman*
David Imlach *Vice Chairman*
Jean Jackson
Andrew Cornwell
Elliot Renny
Richard Marks
David Summerfield

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