

Terrington St John Parish Council-Chairman's report

February 2021

I am aware that some of our Parishioners have suffered COVID-19 and I hope that they, their families, and everyone reading this is safe and well.

TSJ Parish Council has continued to function, holding monthly PC meetings via zoom.

The actions I have reported on previously have been progressing, albeit slowly in some cases as we are dependent upon outside agencies, for example Highways and KLBC staff who also have been subject to the perils of COVID-19.

I have listed below updates on our actions and included more into the mix we are pursuing. As I have mentioned previously these achievements have not been down to one group of Parish Councillors, but 'ALL' parish council members have played their part in getting us to where we are today!

- The Neighbourhood Plan

We submitted our completed document to KLBC before the end of last year. The next part of the process normally takes only 6 weeks, but we are subject to issues within the KLBC and are at their mercy in terms of taking up the next stage following approval of our submission -the referendum -which we hope will be in May of this year. We made the document available to everyone last year prior to our submission. If anyone wishes to review the submitted document, please contact our Clerk, Gail Robertson clerksjpc@gmail.com

- The school Road housing development

The developer contacted us early in 2021 informing us of his intention to revise the development housing offering to include several bungalows. At the time of writing the PC had not meet to review and consider these revisions - the outcomes should be known by the time you read this. As a reminder the currently approved development will provide:

- A pedestrian crossing by the school and improve the road layout safety by the school.
- The area outside the school will become a 20mph 'school patrol' zone during the construction of the housing development AND this will remain.
- The 30 MPH speed limit will be extended south along school road - exact distance still to be confirmed, but we are seeking to extend it as far as possible.
- The layby in front of the school playing field is retained and improved to ultimately provide a 'drop off and pick-up point' for children. This will greatly reduce the need for parents and guardians to park on School Road and together with the crossing greatly improve road safety outside the school.

- Footway
The footway from Main Road to the school is scheduled to be completely replaced and re-laid during 2021. We are waiting confirmation of start date from Highways.
- Housing Development -Church Road
The development here has started and one property is nearing having the roof fitted at time of writing. To remind you the agreement for this development is for a footpath from the pharmacy, on the west side of the road, which will be extended the full length of Old church Road, providing a pedestrian access to the new development.
- Old Church road vehicle parking and obstruction
Again, it is of great concern to see drivers flagrantly ignoring the 'KEEP CLEAR' road markings outside of the pharmacy. We remain extremely anxious about vehicles 'short term' parked in the road whilst the owners 'Pop' into the 'Chip shop, store or pharmacy! Consider the scenario if emergency vehicles - Fire appliances, ambulances are unable to enter or leave Old Church Road due to parked vehicles! There are more than enough parking spaces in the car park for such short-term parking -AND PLEASE -if you really must turn around in Old Church Road DON'T drive in to the car park and then reverse out 'BLIND'!The
- Trod along Church Road
This stretch has now been upgraded and is totally different and much safer to walk.
- Village playing area
We reopened the play area last year following confirmation from our insurers of liabilities etc. Sadly, and probably as a result of young people being bored during the lockdown the hand sanitiser we installed was vandalised after two days - we will not be replacing it, so users need to provide their own sanitiser. Again, I am sure as a result of the lockdown issues the wire fencing has been all but destroyed by people sitting on it. We are seeking to replace it with metal railings soon. The PC has a liability to ensure the safety of especially those younger children using the equipment from running onto the car park into vehicles moving around to park. The surface of the car park has degraded over the past year or so and we will have it resurfaced.
- Scout hut
We have been delighted with the progress made with Scouting over the past months in agreeing a new contract with them. The scout leaders have been able, with the award of a grant to take the opportunity during lockdown to fulfil the requirements to upgrade the facilities and interior. They have done a magnificent job! We plan to use the facility for our PC meetings in future when we are allowed to meet in person. Use of the facility by the community is now being developed with the scout leaders and we will be posting information as soon as we are able.

- Fencing
Along the north boundary of the playing field is planned to be moved further north to take advantage of the recent piping of the dyke.
- CCTV
Sadly, there have been several instances giving rise to concern for safety and property. We have decided therefore to install CCTV cameras covering the car park, play area and Scout hut. This is likely to be completed by March/April this year.
- Our Speedwatch
The initiative is currently on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions but hopefully would have resumed by the time you read this We still need more volunteers. The Police are aware of the speeding issues and do provide speed cameras and patrols.
- SAM 2
Another first by TSJ in the area, (some 7, 8 years ago) they provide specific data on speed and volumes of vehicles 24/7/365 days a year. Data from this equipment should be used for further highways initiatives we are pursuing.
- Highways actions
School road has benefited from a recent, joint review with highways resulting in several areas being resurfaced, repaired and drain hole covers being lifted and re-laid to avoid the generation of vibrations especially by HGV 's.
 - Pedestrian safety along School Road. Investigation into extending the footway south along School Road by approx. ¼ of a mile has been undertaken in conjunction with highways. The consultation for this was very positive so we have applied for Parish Partnership funding for half the cost and we should hear if we have been successful in March. This should see a further significant improvement of the safety of our parishioners.
 - New Bus shelter – we are in the process of replacing the bus shelter on the west bound side of the road.
 - A pedestrian crossing on Main Road. We were supported in the funding of a feasibility study for this crossing by Highways and Councillor Brian Long. This study is in processes, in fact some of you may have seen equipment erected for a short period late last year. Unfortunately, this survey has taken place during the restrictions of COVID-19 lockdown, however we will be extremely diligent when the results are available to ensure this is fully taken into account.
 - Radical changes to incoming roads to reduce speeds and improve safety. This applies to the bypass and Church Road. Both have been subject of the feasibility study.
 - The village gates have been in place for some time now, except for an ongoing issue along new road. We are working with highways to install the gate as soon as possible.

- Replacement Village sign at Fen end. The old sign was removed some time back with the intention of replacing it. I am pleased to say that we are in the process of investigating and selecting a suitable cost-effective replacement. As soon as we have designs to share, we will do so prior to purchasing and installing.
- Fly tipping. This has worsened over the past year and I am sure we all abhor the state of our verges peppered with tin cans, bottles, nappies, tyres and of late black refuse bags. This concern was raised formally (again) at our last PC meeting at which Councillor Sandra Squires attended. A suggestion to avoid Christmas build up of refuse was made which she is investigating. I have written to Councillor Brian Long seeking a long-term radical review of waste recycling and disposal. We constantly advise Highways KLBC when we see and are advised of rubbish having been fly tipped. You can all do the same by going onto the KLBC website and advising them. The more of us that do so, the more notice must be taken for change! Our two litter collectors still collect and pick litter along a pre-defined and safe route, but we can all pick up our own rubbish and take it home or dispose of it in the large bins we have provided around the village.
- We are in the process of securing for the use for the community an area of land which potentially can provide a tranquil area to walk and just relax. This is subject to several agreements and we will be updating progress at our monthly PC meetings, so please do not hesitate to look at our website, contact our clerk and join the meetings via zoom.
- White road lining – we are expecting this to be completed around the village very soon.

Colin Clifton - Chair Terrington St John Parish Council