

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF BREASTON PARISH, HELD AT 7.15PM ON MONDAY 11TH MARCH 2019 IN THE PCMR, BLIND LANE, BREASTON

Present: Councillors Mounsey, Miller, McCaig, Elliott, Wrigglesworth, Pepios, Luke, Toon, Rowlinson & Parkinson

Councillor Mounsey in the Chair

10 members of the Public as per attached sheet.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs Cockle & Clarke, Mrs Smith (Flower Circle) & PCSO Pykett.

2. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 9TH APRIL 2018

It was RESOLVED to CONFIRM the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2018.

3. REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

3.1 ENVIRONMENT REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR ELLIOTT

The BPC Environment Committee comprises of myself, Cllrs. Cockle, Luke, Parkinson, Miller, Mounsey and Wrigglesworth. We meet every second Monday morning of each month, with the aim of preserving, maintaining and wherever possible, improving the village environment. Our recommendations are presented for endorsement at the full Parish Council meeting that evening.

The following is a summary of the main business of the Committee carried out during the past 12 months: -

In August 2018 Councillor Cockle stepped down as Chairman and being Vice Chairman, I took over.

Our thanks go to Roger for his three years of leadership from 2015.

Planning Applications –

One of the key roles of the committee is to review Planning Applications.

Our local planning authorities Erewash Borough Council & Derbyshire County Council consult us on Planning Applications affecting the village. Each one is considered by the Committee, endorsed by the Full Council and an appropriate response is supplied within 21 days.

Whilst our judgment and comments are generally based on the Government's 'Material Planning Considerations' guidelines and where we believe there is an adverse effect on individual neighbouring properties or the street scene as a whole, we also consider the broader picture in preserving the character of the village, particularly in protecting the Conservation Area and our Green Belt.

During the year we have considered 51 EBC Planning Applications and 3 from DCC (all Firfield School), objecting to 11, approving 13 in principle with caveats and 30 with no objections.

Whilst EBC carefully consider our representations they can choose to take our comments on board or discount them. In the last year, 3 applications were withdrawn, and a significant number of plans had to be revised and re-submitted. All pending, approved and rejected Planning Applications can be viewed using the Erewash Borough Council website.

Unauthorised Development -

During the year, it came to our attention that several unauthorised minor building works, high fences and long-term advertising signs have required retrospective planning applications.

We would recommend therefore, that if you are planning any of the above, you take advantage of the free advice service that is available from EBC Planning Dept.

Flower Beds, Structures & Sponsorship Signs –

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 'Breaston in Bloom' group for their magnificent contribution to the village environment.

We did however have occasions to remind them and a few enthusiastic residents that it was prudent to agree the siting and design of flower beds, structures and sponsorship signs with the relevant land owner and local authority, generally DCC, EBC or BPC, before construction.

Village Improvement Programme –

Building on the success of the previous year, the Committee have continued to identify further untidy or neglected areas of the village and requested those responsible to tidy things up.

To date over 40 items have been raised, 30 closed off and the remainder still being pursued.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee members for their help and support, also our clerk Nicala, for her patience, advice and tireless work both at and between meetings.

Cllr Graham Elliott
Chairman

3.2 PARK & CEMETERIES REPORT BY COUNCILLOR MRS McCAIG

Another busy and mainly successful year has been completed, with hard work and input from the committee to improve facilities and infrastructure where possible, and finance allowing. As a village we are fortunate to have many green areas which are all carefully tended.

Our largest green area is **Perks Park** which is well used and enjoyed by many. The Football teams use the pitch regularly and the pavilion has been complimented on its facilities and cleanliness. It does, of course, undergo regular tests for Legionella. The windmill still dominates and is unique to Breaston, and new play equipment is being installed. The only downside is the old paddling pool, which we are still looking for ideas to utilise.

Cemetery

Our cemeteries are retained as peaceful places of rest, unspoilt as far as possible, by many modern trends. They are regularly mowed and well-tended, as is the chapel which is in frequent use. A huge problem has arisen regarding the safety of the Headstones. Professional checking has taken place, and many are having to be made safe by the families of the deceased. This also applies at St Michael's Churchyard, which, although closed is the responsibility of the Council, and is kept in really good order.

Johnson's Meadow

Is another very pleasant and quiet place for walks and enjoyed by many dogs. It is well maintained with grass cutting, brook clearing and inspection and care of the trees.

Jubilee, Centenary & Memorial Gardens

Are outstandingly beautiful, all with seats, so that they can be appreciated at leisure. The beautiful flower beds and works of art, are largely due to the brilliant efforts of "Breaston in Bloom", who are to be commended for winning a Silver Gilt award. Many Congratulations to them. The first World War Soldier in the Centenary Garden is being moved to the Memorial Garden, where more people will see and remember.

Duffield Close

The centre and heartbeat of our village, which improves year on year, and where our functions such as the Gala, Band Concert and Carol Concert are held. The Sensory Garden is beautiful despite vandals trying to ruin it. They will not win, thanks to the efforts of Mrs Harvey, our caretaker Lyn Bulmer and Jean Davis, to whom we are very grateful for all their hard work.

Another floral garden has been created by "Breaston in Bloom" at the north end, which is lovely, and a seat will be installed so that it can be viewed at leisure.

My sincere thanks go to the Parks and Cemeteries Committee, to Nicala, our Clerk for her help and input, and to Lyn Bulmer, our new caretaker for all her hard work.

Cllr Margaret McCaig
Chairman

3.3 HIGHWAYS & LIGHTING REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MRS TOON

The Highways and Lighting Committee is made up of myself, Cllr Toon, as chairman, Cllr Elliott as Vice Chairman, Cllr Rowlinson and Cllr Pepios.

The problems facing the Committee are much the same as in previous years. We are plagued with potholes, which when repaired, promptly re-appear along with many new ones.

The grass verges on Draycott Road, Longmoor Lane and Wilsthorpe Road have produced a lovely bulb display. Inconsiderate parking on verges still occurs but appears to be less than in the past. The whole village has been enhanced by the Breaston in Bloom team's efforts which resulted in a well-deserved silver gilt award. Many Thanks and congratulations are due to them and to Cllr Rowlinson.

A number of eyesores have vanished thanks largely to the work of Cllr Elliott. The long-awaited bus shelter at Hills Road is due to be installed during the spring.

The M1 noise has been affected by the widening work. Barriers have been restored and appear to be lower due to the removal of soil and practically all of the trees, new saplings have been planted but will take a time to grow and huge gantries have been erected. The work is due to be completed shortly and we must wait to see if Highways England's promises will be fulfilled.

Parking is an on-going problem, worsening each year, many side streets are full all day long with parked cars. Many hours of investigation have failed to find a suitable site for further parking spots. More visits were requested from enforcement officers few have taken place.

The Summer walks have continued and were very well supported many thanks to Mr and Mrs Marshall.

Our new caretaker Lyn Bulmer has settled in well, and I would like to thank her for doing sterling work in keeping the village tidy.

I would like to conclude by thanking my colleagues for their hard work and support, especially during my absence through illness. I would also like to thank the Clerk Nicala O'Leary for her hard work, help and advice which has been invaluable.

Cllr Susan Toon
Chairman

3.4 FINANCE REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR LUKE

The Finance Committee consists of the Parish Council Chairman, Vice Chairman, Chairmen of the various Committees, the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Councillor J Luke and Councillor Parkinson.

The Committee has met regularly during the past year; in January, the current year's budgets were reviewed, and we were able to forecast spend for the remaining 3 months of the 2018/2019 financial year. I am pleased to report the Council forecast a balanced budget at year end.

However, the Concurrent functions budget has been decreasing over the past 5 years or so and the Parish has seen a decrease of over 30% in the budget since 2010. With the grant being reduced by a further 5% this year from £48,396 to £45,976.

Therefore, when looking at budgets for the new financial year we had to make decisions on how the decrease could be managed within the budget or whether to cut services or to increase the precept. We were able to make a considerable saving when employing the new grounds maintenance contractor and as always ensure that we get good value for money wherever possible. As you will already know we have been plagued by a spate of vandalism and anti-social behaviour over the past 12 months and the cost of repairs was an unbudgeted item also.

The clerk made an application to the Awards for All grant fund and we were successful in securing £10,000 for new equipment for the play area to replace old worn out items.

We have also ring fenced a number of budgets to be carried forward into the new financial year with the approval of full council.

Improvements on Perks Recreation Ground	£ 550.00
Replacement of bins on Duffield Close	£2,450.00
Replacement of bins on Perks Recreation Ground.	£1,500.00
Disabled access scheme on to Perks Park	£1,372.00
The installation of a bus shelter at Hills Road bus stop.	£3,000.00
Memorial safety in the cemetery & St Michael's.	£5,000.00

We have ensured within the budgeting process that the village improvement fund and general reserve have been maintained at an annual budgeted level.

As you have heard from my colleagues the Parish Council has carried out further improvements across the parish throughout the year despite these year on year financial restraints. Some of the improvements undertaken during the 2018-19 financial year:

- provision of the memorial bench to commemorate the centenary of the end of the first world war
- refurbishment of the paths on Duffield Close
- replacement of the raised bed on the Sensory Garden
- improvement of access for mobility scooter users to all Parish open spaces
- refurbishment of the picnic bench on Johnson's meadow
- Improvements to the Christmas Lights
- Replacement flood lights St Michael's
- Safety inspections of all memorials at the Cemetery & St Michaels
- Provision of holiday activity climbing wall
- Extended the commemorative poppies along the main roads

The Parish Council continues to operate a strict budgetary control with monthly reports from the Clerk and analyses of all spend.

To conclude, I should like to thank my Committee Members for their support and good prudence with regards to spending. I thank our Clerk Nicala O'Leary for her work throughout the year as Responsible Financial Officer.

Cllr John Luke
Chairman

3.5 GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR WRIGGLESWORTH

The General Purposes Committee is usually the last item on the agenda of the Breaston Parish Council committee meetings/Ordinary Meetings.

The aim of this meeting is to cover any items or topics that are not part of the other committees.

Over the past year 2018 various issues/topics have once again been brought to the committee's attention for debate/discussion and on many occasions required a decision and recommendation.

Our annual events have included:

The Christmas Carol Concert, which again proved to be enjoyed by many, especially the mulled wine and mince pies. We also enjoyed listening and singing along with a new Brass band, who kindly filled the void, when our regular Salvation Army Band were unable to perform.

The Summer Brass Band Concert was another successful event with the bonus of a glorious summer's day.

Remembrance Sunday on 11th November 2018 was special because it commemorated the end of the 1914 – 1918 First World War. Said at the time, a war to end all wars. This we know was not to be. The ceremony was well attended, and the Commemorative Bench which had been installed in the Memorial Garden was officially unveiled.

Our May Day Gala was blessed with a glorious day weather wise, although for some rather too warm! Notwithstanding once again it

drew in the crowds and was a great success.

Other events/topics which have taken place over the past year include:
The Breaston 2018 Calendar. This was a self-funding enterprise, and after slow start regards to entries, finished with a flourish. Prizes were given to those whose photograph was included on the calendar, and after all expenses were paid, the Parish Council was able to present a cheque for over £300 towards the work of Youth Café.

The Community Forum Notice Board was successfully installed on the wall of the Chequers, a few feet away from the Ancient Map, which was placed near the Parish notice board a few months earlier.

Car parking continues to be an issue and has been regularly discussed, and although our subcommittee endeavoured to find a solution unfortunately, were not able to, and the committee was dissolved.

It was decided that following a positive response by residents, the present display of Christmas Lighting would not be increased.

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed our new Caretaker/ Warden Mrs Lyn Bulmer on to our task force, following the retirement of Jean, who had served us and Breaston so diligently over the past four years or so. Our thanks go out to Jean, whom we know now helps Mrs Harvey to keep the Sensory Garden looking so nice.

Unfortunately mentioning the Sensory Garden, there has been a spate of vandalism and anti-social behaviour which has not only caused us great expense to repair, but also distress to our residents' living within the vicinity of the garden. Although lengthy discussion has taken place, it was felt it would not resolve the problem by removing the benches' or enclosing the garden. A trial period of turning off the lights also proved unsuccessful. Therefore, we will continue to encourage people to report any incidents to the police.

The defibrillator which was installed in the Co Op has now been placed on the side wall of the Parish Rooms. The Co Op now having their own defibrillator in the shop.

Our financial constraints continue, and will no doubt have an effect on what projects may go ahead in this forth coming year 2019, but my thanks go out to all members of the committee for their commitment and diligence, and to our clerk Nicala, for all her sterling work; guidance, advice and patience given to us.

Cllr Heather Wrigglesworth
Chairman

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR G MOUNSEY

One of the highlights of the past year was the glorious weather we enjoyed throughout the summer months. The only downside being the lawns which were left scorched!!

Your parish council was kept busy with the usual problems associated with a thriving village.

Unfortunately, we continue to suffer with parking problems, despite serious attempts to provide new parking sites we have been unable to find suitable areas. Should any land become available we will pursue this to alleviate the congestion.

There is a plus side to this as it demonstrates the excellent shops and cafes etc. located in the village centre bringing people in to use the facilities.

Erewash Borough Council has again reduced the concurrent functions grant which is of great concern and will only get worse. This is at a time when we need to address the safety issues regarding Memorial stones in the two cemeteries. Inspections carried out by professionals have found well in excess of one hundred memorials that need attention. Should relatives not be found to pay for the repairs it will fall on the parish to carry out the necessary work.

We were pleased to receive a lottery grant which will be used to replace old play equipment on Perks Park. These new items to be installed shortly.

The Mayday Gala enjoyed sunny weather and crowds turned out to support this popular event. Jonathan and Jean Lupton who have headed up this important day have decided to step back. We thank them for their enormous contribution. We have been fortunate to find two enthusiastic replacements, Ben Gooding and Sarah Lester. We wish them well and hope the weather is kind.

Firfield Primary School has recently appointed a new Head teacher. We wish him well and hope that with his encouragement we can involve the school with activities in our village.

Cllr Mrs Heather Wrigglesworth with the help of the parish clerk produced a Calendar depicting photographs taken of the village by residents and children. This was sold out and may be produced again. My thanks to everyone involved.

Breaston in Bloom members have been out in force and the village has improved with all their efforts. We wish them continuing success for the coming year.

Armistice Day in November was even more important this year commemorating one hundred years since the end of The Great War. The event was well attended with many groups taking part. I would like to mention a gentleman who passed away recently. Wing Commander Mike Clulow. Mike was heavily involved with the day and produced the programme for a number of years. He also chaired the Mayday Gala in its early stages. He was a hard working Councillor prior to his retirement. He will be missed.

As parishioners will see, houses continue to be erected and other properties are having extensions. We monitor these closely to ensure that they comply with regulations.

I am sure everyone has noticed our new caretaker Lyn Bulmer. Lyn is doing an excellent job and the village should be grateful to have someone who is committed to keeping our village in a pristine condition.

Unfortunately like many other parishes we are plagued by antisocial behaviour. Damage has cost the council money that could have been spent on improvements not replacing broken items. Our police do their best, but their resources are

stretched. It is important that anyone who has suffered damage or theft should report this to the police on every occasion.

I would like to pay tribute to all my fellow parish Councillors. It can be a thankless job, but everyone strives to make the village a place to be proud of. My personal thanks go to our Parish Clerk who provides help with all aspects of running the council in a professional manner.

Cllr George Mounsey
Chairman

5. REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR PARKINSON

Rather than my usual type of Report, here is a summary of a recent statement by Cllr Barry Lewis, the Leader of Derbyshire County Council:

“Two years on, we are now leading an ambitious change agenda focused on delivering the most efficient and effective public services at the lowest cost to the taxpayer. Our aim is to become an “Enterprising Council”. This is not just about providing services in a different way but also about changing the mindset of the council. We are one of the biggest county councils in the country and culture change in local government is never easy. However, we are steadily moving from a bureaucratic approach to decision-making to one where teams and individuals feel empowered to get things done. In doing so, we are underpinning a sense of individual responsibility to make the organisation and culture far less paternalistic. “A few people have read “Enterprising Council” to equate to a programme of privatisation – which is wrong. This is not something that is driven by ideology, but by a desire always to find the best solution to delivering the highest quality of public services at the lowest cost to the taxpayer. In doing so, we want to tap into the creativity and passion of our own staff to come up with different solutions. An example of this is a new operating model for our highways services which is already regarded as one of the best in the country, thanks to an extra £6 million of investment since the election. This has seen a record number of 68,000 potholes repaired in 2018. The new model will mean even better performance and efficiency in the future. “We are rolling out a new libraries strategy that is working with local people to turn 20 of our least visited and used libraries into community-run facilities that will not only safeguard their future but also ensure that they play a leading role in the community. We are also looking to work with local organisations to safeguard the future of our mobile library service.

“The sea change in the way that we work with local communities is fundamental to an Enterprising Council. We do not want to be a council that “does things to” local communities, we want to be a council that works with local communities to find the best solutions. In doing so, we are changing the whole dynamic of the council by driving a top to bottom culture change. Working hand-in-glove with our senior officer team, we are developing leadership skills across the organisation to embed an ethos of efficiency, effectiveness, and enterprise, while making sure that the ethos is cascaded down.

“We have just completed a Corporate Peer Challenge from the LGA which has not happened in Derbyshire for more than 10 years. This has been a nerve-racking experience because you open the council to criticism. We did it because we wanted to benchmark ourselves with other authorities. Overall, we came out well with many of the issues identified already clear in our minds and already being addressed via the emerging Enterprising Council approach.

“We have been criticized for not taking the full 4.99 per cent council tax rise allowed by Government without triggering a referendum, but that is not a target to aim for. We have a responsibility to balance our budget and take into account that residents are squeezed too. It is critical to remember that taxpayers fund our services and the people whom we employ or commission. Often it seems that they get very little that is noticeable from us on a day-to-day basis. For them, it is all about street lights, well-maintained roads, bins and pavements. Of course, go below the surface and you will see the sheer range of life-changing services and support that we provide, particularly to people who are more vulnerable. We also take care of large areas of countryside, former pits, railways and opencast sites, canals and other assets that are there for environmental or recreational purposes. Not every taxpayer will benefit directly from this provision. So, we should always ask the question: could someone else look after these sites? If so, who from the local community would come forward to manage the assets at less cost while deriving more benefit from that sense of involvement?”

“There is of course a huge range of other things we do, which is mostly unseen. For example, facilitating economic growth, promoting tourism, providing public transport, managing budgets for schools, and a whole host of other things. All these things cost money, some of which is non-statutory but if we did not do it, who would? This means that Derbyshire has a circa £1.1 billion annual operating budget. A not inconsiderable sum which demonstrates the need to take a carefully balanced view on how we spend the money.

“I hope that I have given you a flavour of the sense of change that we are trying to engender in Derbyshire with good policies and a laser-like focus on efficiency, effectiveness, and lower tax.”

Cllr Robert Parkinson
Derbyshire County Council

6. REPORT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR MILLER

Brown bins, the first signs of spring, brown bin collection is back.

Business rates, retailers with a rateable value below 51 k will receive a one third discount on their business rates bills.

May 2nd, the vote in EBC and the parish elections, if you want to vote you must be registered by Friday 12th April. You can register on line www.gov.uk/register-to-vote
Election key dates register to vote deadline 12th April / apply for postal vote 15th April / proxy votes by post 15th April / proxy vote at polling stations.

Polling stations, Breaston. Polling stations will remain the same in Breaston.

The count, the count will take place at Rutland tennis centre Friday 3rd May

Rates. The Council has set a rise of 2.99% a rise of £5.42 or 11p per week on a band d property, a modest increase in order to maintain services.

Car park charges. Charges have been frozen again to help the retailer.

Derby Sandiacre canal. EBC have injected over 50k to the project.

Ilkeston football club. EBC have awarded the club a new 25-year lease. The site is owned by EBC.

Leisure centres, the running of the leisure centres has been handed to Parkwood leisure in a ten-year deal, EBC retain all properties, and most staff have transferred to Parkwood. It is estimated to save EBC six million over the ten years. No price rises are expected in 2019.

Scammers, beware scammers are purporting to be from EBC rates office.

Bulky waste. The bulky waste scheme is great success and very popular.

Licensed carriers. If employing waste carriers make sure they are licensed as many of them are fly tippers, and you may be prosecuted.

Mansfield district council, EBC building control services have taken over the services of Mansfield district council, this is in addition to Broxtowe, and this brings economy of scale.

West Park greenhouses. A refurbishment project to upgrade west park greenhouses, an investment of £110 k

Community grant scheme. More than 80K has been shared by community and voluntary groups.

Tree wardens. Want to play an active role in conserving trees, volunteer to be a tree warden.

Mayor's awards. The Mayors awards to groups and individuals is very positive, the youngest recipient being only 9 years old.

Summer planting, Planting is underway for this year's summer planting scheme's, the borough will be a sea of colour.

Bike marking, EBC have introduced a scheme for bike marking, along with Derbyshire constabulary, and its free!

Safety, Derbyshire continues to be one of the safest counties in England and Wales. We rank 40th from 42 counties.

Neighbourhood watch, I am in the process of resurrecting neighbourhood watch in Breaston, and looking for volunteers?

Taxi drivers, Erewash taxi drivers wanted to retain tinted windows in taxis, (for some obscure reason), they presented a petition. This was rejected by the licencing panel, of which I am a member, the council's policy remains in place.

Safer homes, residents can benefit from a completely free service through the safer homes scheme, this includes a security inspection of your home and garden to identify any potential weakness, if any are found you could receive some additional security items and have them fitted for free. Contact Derbyshire CVS 01283219761 projectsupport@sd cvs.org.uk

Bert Thorpe. A long Eaton veteran of the D day landing was awarded the Legion D' Honneur at a ceremony at Long Eaton Town hall, this is the highest honour France can bestow, Bert was in the Royal Navy on a motor torpedo boat laying smoke under the German guns. We have a veteran in Breaston with the same award, I intend to see to that he gets a reception in Long Eaton to honour him.

Remuneration panel. EBC have a vacancy on the remuneration panel, you get an allowance of £500 per year, closing date for applicants is 29th March, I am on the appointment panel, you can apply to

angelikakaufhold@erewash.gov.uk or call her on 01159071116

Trent Meadows, Trent Meadows has been granted local nature reserve status

Cllr Kevin Miller

Erewash Borough Council

7. REPORTS OF THE CHARITABLE TRUSTS GIVEN BY MRS O'LEARY

Mrs O'Leary presented the audited accounts for the Matilda and George Abbott Charity, and the Charlton and Jerram Charity, the trustees of both are Mr K Smedley, Mrs C Penny and Mrs R Wallace. The accounts are detailed on separate pages.

8. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST TO PARISHIONERS

a) Breaston Good Neighbour Scheme - Jonathan Lupton. (given by the Clerk)

The Breaston Good Neighbour Scheme aims to provide short term help such as transport, domestic support or household assistance to the residents of Breaston with the use of local volunteers.

Clients leave a message on our mobile phone (07821 657684, publicised around the village) to ask for help. The Duty Officer fields the call and identifies a suitable volunteer, who then performs the task assigned to them.

The overwhelming majority of requests is for transport – to the village doctors, or to Long Eaton or sometimes as far Royal Derby Hospital or the QMC. We average just over 1 request per week.

The clients (who must live in Breaston) tend to be elderly, often living alone and who either do not, or cannot, drive themselves.

In the past the BGNS has benefited from start-up funding from a Borough Councillor's discretionary fund, a grant from Erewash Small Grant Scheme, Breaston WI and occasional fund-raising activities. Volunteers often pass on monies from clients if they feel the client has "over donated" – in fact this has helped to keep the scheme running for several years now.

Main outgoing is the cost of Public Liability Insurance.

c) Breaston & Draycott Village News – Jonathan Lupton (given by Clerk)

The BDVN used to be simply the church magazine for St. Michael's church. Over the years it expanded to include St. Mary's Draycott, and then village as well as church news.

Although run by St. Michael's church, the magazine aims to provide news of both a secular and spiritual nature to both villages.

It is produced monthly with a circulation of about 380 to 400 – some of which are delivered to subscribers, others are sold in shops in the two villages. The magazine is financed by the sale of advertising as well as the cover price.

The editors welcome contributions from members of the public and village organisations.

d) Breaston Community Forum given by Cllr J Rowlinson

The Forum has continued to work in the background promoting village activities over the year. Unfortunately, our committee numbers have decreased, but those that are left have been committed to achieving as much as possible with our limited resources. We have continued to support Breaston in Bloom, run another successful Pumpkin party, held another Yard sale, sold and put up bunting and continued our quarterly newsletter. We also nominated our first local hero, Angela Clark, who was awarded an engraved glass in recognition of her tireless work for the village. At our recent open meeting we had Simon Kilbey, a Co-op Community ambassador, talking to us about community and his new role within the Co-op.

We are now trying to recruit more members and hope to start a new venture, perhaps a Cinema club, in the near future.

Julie Rowlinson
Chair
Breaston Community Forum

e) Breaston in Bloom

In 2018 Breaston entered East Midlands in Bloom for the 2nd time. We chose the theme of Celebrations and made displays related to the Suffragette movement, the Centenary of the RAF & the Centenary of the end of WW, choosing appropriate colours for each display. We also held a Plant pot trail for the first time which was

very successful and some of the models even appeared again on Judging day. We worked with the Scouts & Cubs & the Youth Café, spent many hours on neatening verges, planted a willow play tunnel and added colourful planters to roadsides and Duffield close. After working very hard throughout an extremely hot, dry summer which caused our watering teams a meltdown, and adding many extra aspects to our activities we were thrilled to receive a Silver gilt award and also be the most improved group in the East Midlands. However, we were a little peeved to realise that we were only 2 marks away from Gold! Our success did however swell our number of 'Bloomers' and the 2 marks gap has spurred us on and this year we are entering with even more planting, display features and community involvement. We are keeping everything crossed for Gold!

We would like to thank the Breaston residents & Parish Councillors for their support and kind words and give special thanks to Nicala for the extra work load we have caused her.

Julie Rowlinson
Secretary
Breaston in Bloom

f) Breaston Belles given by Glynis Stafford

The group is thriving and has 65 members and a waiting list of 35, crafts, coffee and cake, knit and natter and many other sessions are held throughout the month. Support is being given to the In Bloom and Community Forum with the litter pick and knitting projects. The group are currently getting involved in the senior citizens luncheon club as part of the Acts of Kindness scheme. Any organisation requiring help with refreshments etc the group are very willing to help, for example the summer band concert.

Mrs G Stafford
Breaston Belles

Meeting closed at 8.05pm