Breaston
PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH ROOMS
BLIND LANE, BREASTON
DERBYSHIRE, DE72 3DW
TEL: 01332 870119

Newsletter
Summer 2017

Welcome to Breaston Parish Council's Summer 2017 newsletter.

We have been enjoying mixed weather for the past few weeks but I'm sure that you'll agree that the village has been considerably brightened up by the efforts of the Breaston in Bloom team and despite the gloomy weather and the efforts of vandals and thieves the team and all of their helpers have made a fantastic difference all over the village. We congratulate them on their great achievement with the Silver Award in the East Midlands In Bloom Competition

- Well Done to you all!!!

Dates for your diary

Community Forum Pumpkin Party
Duffield Close
Saturday 28th October 4:30pm

Remembrance Service & Parade
Memorial Garden, Blind Lane.
Sunday 12th November 11:00am

Carol Concert & Christmas Light Switch on
Duffield Close
Friday 8th December 7:00pm

Vandalism and anti-social behaviour

I am sorry to have to report that over the past few weeks the village has been a target for a number of petty crimes, criminal damage and various reports of anti-social behaviour have been made. We are not alone; the whole Borough appears to be having the same problems.

We have been particularly badly hit by vandals on our open spaces, it seems to escalate whenever there is a school holiday and has been an extremely costly summer. The Parish Council is often faced with difficult decisions on how to manage funding and resources. All extra expense that is outlaid must be accounted for when we set the budgets and the cost of repairs caused by the vandals, is currently totalling over £3,000.00 this year alone.

You may ask what has this to do with us? All of the damage caused has to be paid for and YOU are paying for it via the Parish Precept proportion of your Council Tax Bill.

This year we have had extra expense in replacing 2 of the floodlights on the MUGA at Perks Park, extra work dealing with branches broken from trees on the park. Repairs to benches on the Jubilee Garden and Johnson's Meadow. The picnic benches on Perks Park have been badly hit again with structural damage and fire damage on several occasions over the summer, it has now been resolved that the picnic benches will have to be removed because the constant cost of repair and repainting is too great.

Very sadly, the Sensory Garden which was provided by the Community for the Community, which is tended by volunteers has been a target on a number of occasions this year with graffiti and damage to the plants and benches.

Finally, at the beginning of September the sign at the entrance to the garden was pulled out of the ground completely and has had to be removed for safety reasons. We have excellent CCTV footage of the boy carrying out this "handiwork" and have passed it on to the Police for them to investigate.

It is difficult to understand why young people carry out vandalism as there seems little point, but as parents ourselves we ask you all: "Do you know where your teenagers are and what they are doing?"
The Parish Council's CCTV system is of excellent quality and footage of any anti-social behaviour or vandalism will always be passed on to the Police for action to be taken.

Despite all the reports, Breaston is still a very safe place to live and work and residents shouldn't be unduly concerned.

Finance and Budgets

I am happy to report that the Parish Council after careful consideration of the budgets and income were able to leave the Parish Precept unchanged at the same rate as 2016/17. Whilst the concurrent functions budget we receive from Erewash Borough Council was reduced once more we were able to cover the shortfall from income and savings in other areas.

We continue to strive to retain services at current levels without increasing the costs to residents.

Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31.03.17

Balance Brought Forward	**55,531.47**
Income	
Precept	21,840.00
Concurrent Functions	53,624.00
Parks & Cemeteries Income	12,460.68
Gala	3,122.63
Interest	319.41
Other Income	19,802.74
	111,169.46
Expenditure	
Parks, Open Spaces & Cemetery	30,448.50
Loan repayments	1,394.16
General running costs incl salaries & Parish Rooms	44,996.69
Improvements to Parish Rooms	5,758.02
Windmill	5,280.00
CCTV Upgrade	2,370.00
Kissing Gate Perks Park	860.00
Repairs to St Michael's Clock	774.00
Gala	3,294.91
VAT	7,413.79
	102,590.07
Balance carried forward	**64,110.86**

A more detailed copy of the accounts is available on request from the Parish Clerk.

Councillor John Luke
Chair of Finance Committee

New Play Equipment

The Parish Council and Community Forum joined forces to find out what improvements residents would like to see on the play area at Perks Recreation Ground – Cllr Parkinson, the Clerk and Mrs Poland made an application for the Derbyshire County Council Community Priorities Funding Programme which was successful resulting in the new toddler equipment installed on the park in March. The Parish Council and Community Forum are to continue with further investigation of possible further improvements to the play equipment.

Thanks to residents who sent in feedback on the last newsletter. Hopefully this edition will provide information on some of the work that the Council has been engaged in over the past few months.

Derbyshire County Councillor

First, my thanks for re-electing me as your County Councillor. I will do my best to continue to justify your trust. The overall result was a change in the administration in Derbyshire (37 Conservative, 24 Labour, 3 Liberal). Immediate policy changes were to cancel the new charges for household rubble (so reducing possible fly-tipping) and for on-street parking in Matlock Bath, as well as reducing the money paid to Cabinet members. I believe that recently there has been some noticeable improvement in pothole/pavement repairs (and in clearing the backlog) and in attention to street light outages. Proposed changes to funding of Community Transport are to be reviewed so that they can operate more effectively and increase the number of journeys. These are all matters on which I shall be keeping a close watch!

Cllr Robert Parkinson
(Mobile: 07715012459, email: robert.parkinson@derbyshire.gov.uk)

Neighbourhood Planning

We have recently re-examined the possibility of the Parish Council preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The previous coalition government introduced more control for local communities in the Localism Act 2011and the prospect of parish councils creating their own, more detailed planning proposals in the form of a Neighbourhood Plan in 2012. Such a plan would take as a basis the existing Core Strategy created by the local authority and add more relevant local detail to this outline.

Many local communities have taken up this opportunity to be more involved in determining the development of their local areas. Some of the issues that can be included are land use planning – affordable housing, designation of local green spaces, protection of gardens, renewable energy, control of advertisement and protection of traditional shop fronts - and many other items.

There are many advantages as any agreed Neighbourhood Plan would have statutory significance. i.e. it becomes law and would be enforceable.

The resource needed to prepare such a plan is significant. Grants are available to provide professional support. Such an exercise does take considerable time and effort would require discussion and scrutiny by the Local Authority. Any plan would then need to be taken to referendum so that it is supported by the majority in the village.

We considered all the possible advantages and have decided at this stage that we are able to achieve much of what we want to achieve by working closely with the surrounding authorities without committing to the resource needed in producing a Neighbourhood Plan. We will periodically review this decision and monitor any advantages that may result.

Councillor Roger Cockle
Chair of Environment Committee

Litter

You will know that one of the biggest problems faced by Councils across the country is the cleaning up of litter. Breaston is not without this problem and I'm sure that you will all have noticed the build-up of rubbish in the Green area and on the Parish Council's green spaces when the Caretaker was on holiday.

The Caretaker is only tasked with keeping the land owned by the Parish Council clean so other areas are not given the same attention. The WI hold an annual litter pick and we are very lucky to have a band of dedicated volunteers who clear the areas out of reach such as Sawley Road, Risley Lane and Longmoor Lane. Without their help, these areas would be ankle deep in litter thrown from cars and blown into the hedgerows by the wind.

On the 31st of May the Parish Council ran its first Community Litter Pick and it was a great success, lots of residents came out in the glorious sunshine to clear up litter throughout the village and it is hoped that further such events can be planned for the future.

The Parish Council would like to thank all of those residents who came along to the litter pick and to those who regularly take out their litter pickers and keep the village clean and tidy it really is very much appreciated.

Use of Public Places

It has come to light that many residents don't realise that if they want to organise an event and hold it in a public place that they have to get permission from the landowner.

Events organised for instance by the Community Forum on Duffield Close are organised with full support from the Parish Council – with the Forum clearing their use of the space well in advance.

If you are organising an event in a public place and there are likely to be a large number of attendees you will probably need to arrange for Public Liability Insurance for the event and have a risk assessment for the activities too.

It all seems like a lot of red tape but should anything go wrong the responsibility lies with the organiser which would be you!

Village Improvement Programme

The Parish Council has continued to look around the village to find neglected spots and tried to organise improvement where ever possible.

Street clutter is a real problem with so many utilities boxes, signs and equipment – much of which is not regularly maintained and can soon become an eyesore – it can be very difficult to find out who owns such equipment and whether it is redundant or not – the Clerk was tasked with contacting various suppliers about such equipment over the past few months with varying levels of success.

One great success was the removal of the redundant Postal pouch boxes. You may not have noticed them but there were 8 of the boxes at various locations throughout the village – Royal Mail agreed that there were no longer used and arranged to remove them.

The Electricity & Water stations on Wilsthorpe Road and Draycott Road were cleared of vegetation and tidied up considerably on request and the main entrance to the reservoir on Wilne Lane was cleared of old banners and given a general tidy up. An electricity box on Longmoor Lane was found to be very neglected when the ivy was cleared away to gain access to the box during a thunder storm when power was interrupted. Following the Parish Council's request, the box was given a lick of paint and now looks as good as new. The stone wall adjacent to the bus shelter on Draycott Road was rebuilt after many years of resembling a rockery!

Several other sites continue to be chased as part of the ongoing programme and if you can think of anything that fits the bill contact the Clerk who will arrange for it to be added to the list for attention.

The Parish Council would like to thank all of the organisations and landowners who have assisted us with this work it is very much appreciated and helps to improve the visual amenity of the village.

Smart Motorway and Noise Pollution

The Parish Council has been involved in discussions with the teams responsible for the improvements to the M1 between junction 23a & 25. We have been lobbying for improvements to the barriers on the motorway to reduce noise pollution in the village. Unfortunately, the experts from Highways England report that the noise recorded in Breaston is not above national standards and therefore there are no plans to improve the barriers in our area. However, the noise is set to reduce because of the new surfacing that will be applied to the road along this stretch. The Parish Council continues to seek ways of making further improvements and we have asked for new measurements of the noise to be taken so that we know that the Highways England Team and the Parish Council are both working on the same information. If any further developments are made we will of course keep residents informed.

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE.

You may wonder what this is. Well this committee was set up to cover any thing that was not related to Highways and Lighting, Parks and Cemeteries. Planning and Finance. In other words, the items that don't fit into these categories.

Items that fall into General Purpose are probably the most interesting. For example, The Christmas Carol Concert, the Summer Band Concert, Christmas Lights, May Day Gala. Armistice Day. All these things need planning well in advance. ie booking the Mayor, checking that the Salvation Army band is available. Closure of roads. The committee needs to make sure that events don't clash with activities in the surrounding area.

An important item now being discussed is what the Village intends to do for the commemoration of World War 1 in 2018.

Another project being worked on is a 'Map' of the village. This will show places of interest together with drawings provided by a local artist.

The parish rooms have recently been refurbished following closure of the Police office. We now have a toilet and storage facilities! Again, another task for the GP Committee.

Councillor George Mounsey
Chair of General Purposes Committee

Responsibilities

There is often confusion over who is responsible for what within the village here is a short list to hopefully help clear that up!

Breaston Old & New Cemetery,
Longmoor Lane
- Breaston Parish Council

Longmoor Cemetery,
Longmoor Lane
– Erewash Borough Council
(the area to the left-hand side of the driveway and the natural burial space at the end)

Perks Recreation Ground,
Longmoor Lane
– Breaston Parish Council

Duffield Close,
Blind Lane
– Breaston Parish Council

Jubilee Garden,
Wilsthorpe Road
– Breaston Parish Council

Memorial Garden,
Blind Lane
– Breaston Parish Council

Centenary Garden,
Draycott Road
– Breaston Parish Council

Johnson's Meadow,
Hills Road
– Breaston Parish Council

Verges
– are owned by DCC but the grass is cut by EBC

Grass cutting/litter clearance
on Orchard Close,
Rectory Road Flats,
Spring Close
– East Midlands Housing

Bin Emptying
– Erewash Borough Council

The Chairman of BPC, Kevin Miller has an unusual hobby and passion.

For the past forty years he has been involved with the Tall Ships Youth Trust. The Tall Ships Youth Trust is a charity that sends young people to sea on tall ship adventures around Europe and indeed around the world.

Kevin works for the trust as a fund raiser and as part of the crew on a voluntary basis.

They have five paid permanent crew, twelve volunteer crew and forty eight trainee crew, per voyage.

Any person fifteen to twenty-five is sponsored, adults up to eighty years old must pay.

They have a tall ship called the Stavros S Niarchos, a 200 foot Brig of 500 tons and four Challenger 72 foot Yachts.

The Stavros, is a ship with two square rigged masts, designed to sail anywhere in the world, Stavros carries a traditional eighteenth-century rig on a modern hull making life at sea very exciting but having the comforts of heating and air con. If you are interested in sending a young person on the adventure of a lifetime or wish to sail yourself please look at tallships.org or contact Kevin.

Contacts - Parish Councillors

Roger Cockle	872203	Robert Parkinson	872793
Graham Elliott	874049	Peter Pepios	874232 before 4pm
John Luke	873734	Susan Toon	874741
Margaret McCaig	872372	Heather Wrigglesworth	873159
Kevin Miller	872720	Julie Rowlinson	875156
George Mounsey	873854		

Parish Clerk - Nicala O'Leary - The Parish Rooms, Blind Lane, Breaston, DE72 3DW.
Office open mornings only Monday to Friday.
Telephone 01332 870119
Email breastonparish@outlook.com
www.breastonparish.co.uk

Other contacts
Erewash Borough Councillors -Robert Parkinson 872793 Kevin Miller 872720
Derbyshire County Councillor - Robert Parkinson 872793
Police - 101 or in an emergency 999

List of useful contact numbers

Building Regulations	EBC	Bus Shelters	EBC
Cemetery (Breaston)	BPC	Christmas Lights (Breaston)	BPC
Council Tax	EBC	Concessionary Fares	EBC
Dog Wardens	EBC	Education	DCC
Libraries	DCC	Neighbourhood Wardens	EBC
Open Spaces (Breaston)	BPC	Planning	EBC
Public Conveniences	EBC	Refuse Collection	EBC
Social Services	DCC	Street Cleaning	EBC
Street Lighting	DCC	Trading Standards	DCC

EBC - Erewash Borough Council Tel 0115 907 2244
DCC - Derbyshire County Council Tel 01629 580 000
BPC - Breaston Parish Council Tel 01332 870 119