

Glenfield Parish Council Annual Report 2020-2021



Welcome to this year's Glenfield Parish Council Annual Report.

The past year has been interesting, busy and in many ways different from previous years. Naturally the Covid 19 pandemic has had a major influence on the work of the Parish Council. At the start of the year, we were already in lock down and we were forced to cancel both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual General Meeting.

I am now into my fifth year as Chair of Glenfield Parish Council and I would again like to offer my thanks to all Councilors and Staff for their efforts throughout the year and members of the public and other agencies who have assisted with projects and initiatives that we have undertaken during this year.

A special mention goes out to Cllr. Nick Chapman, Vice Chair of Council, in helping us reduce our carbon footprint within our premises as well as being our Lead Member on the Glenfield Community Support Group and establishing the Glenfield Community Food Hub in March 2020 and which continues to assist the most vulnerable in our community during the pandemic.

The Parish Council would like to thank the members of the Support Group and all the volunteers who made this initiative such a success.

The Parish Council Office has managed the difficult Covid-19 circumstances with their usual efficiency and good cheer, dealing magnificently with online meetings, closed facilities, risk assessments and constantly changing Government guidelines.

Parish Manager, Ms. Beverley Greenwood MSc. MBA. BSc. (now PSLCC) has guided us again well this year making her a valuable asset that will help the Council achieve the best for Glenfield and all its residents. Mrs. Sue Pugh our part time admin assistant that assists with the smooth running of the office has also achieved the qualification of ILCA.(Well done Sue).

I am extremely grateful for their support.

As we look forward to this coming year, we hope to welcome more residents on to the Council. (We currently have two vacancies and are allowed 16 members / Councilors) where they can become involved with all our plans, expectations and aspirations.

***Councilor Richard Bowers
Chairman at Glenfield Parish Council.***

Our ambition remains to provide space for sport and recreation and general relaxation, help fight pollution and to green up the village and to preserve and enhance the wildlife in our village for future generations

Community Committee – Chair, Cllr Thelma Abbott

How different the year has been, how quiet, how restricted. Many plans to commemorate special events/occasions have not been able to take place. Plans had been discussed to celebrate VE Day 75 along with many significant groups across the UK. The Committee was beginning to purchase particular items to be placed in Memory Boxes ready for presentation to each of the two primary schools in Glenfield and pin badges for individual children to commemorate the event. At the same time, it had been agreed to celebrate 125 years since Glenfield Parish Council had been set up. Unfortunately, neither could take place.

As for the Spring and Summer Garden competitions – these were no longer possible either for the Community Committee or for Glenfield residents to enjoy.

However, the Memorial Garden, started earlier, began to develop. The Chairman and a few Councillors were able to choose a Memorial Stone from the quarry at Mountsorrel. This was donated by Tarmac and is presently on hold, pending restrictions, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

On the Stone is the following wording agreed by the Parish Council: *'Time may pass but memories linger'* A second plaque with suitable wording showing the donation of the plaque will be placed near to this when restrictions lift.



Unfortunately, despite the presence of COVID 19, Glenfield Parish Council grounds have been subjected to high levels of anti-social behaviour. Much of this has taken place in the Memorial Garden. Deciding to counterbalance this and aware of the peace hoped for within the Garden, the Committee considered putting in a grant for the purchase of ironwork that would circulate the Garden and show our respect. The grant was approved, the Committee's objective was achieved and it is hoped that residents are happy with the result.

The Committee considered a request for support from Glenfield Hospital which was agreed. A presentation grant award for Raising Health (a charity of Leicestershire Partnership National Health Support Trust) to buy sensory equipment for mental health and learning disabilities for the new Children and Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Ward at Glenfield Hospital was granted. This was presented later and grateful thanks were extended.

As everyone is probably aware, the War Memorial at St Peter's Church is in a sorry state. The Committee has been working hard to try to help. Quotes have been received from specialist stone masons for the cleaning and restoration of the War Memorial. In time a full planning application will be submitted and the application for permission for the works to be done can be forwarded to the Diocese.

Many residents have told the Council about unclean pavements because of dog fouling. As a result, the Committee decided to enter into an agreement with Blaby District Council in respect of dog patrolling services. Sadly, this has had to be discontinued as the areas in greatest need have not been serviced.

All residents will remember the pleasure, every year in the participation of Remembrance Day. So many different organisations have been involved. 2021 changed that entirely! The Committee, having discussed this with the Rector, were advised that all events would need to be online. The only event to be provided

was from the two primary schools where poppies could be made to create a poppy meadow in St Peter's Churchyard. Two minutes silence were to be held outside people's houses at 11am on Sunday, 8th November 2020 and at 11am on Wednesday, 11th November.

After such a poor time during 2020, the Committee made splendid plans for Christmas. The Committee needed to make this as special as possible! It was agreed that 12 new columns, making 27 in all, should be lit. Each was structurally tested and electrical infrastructure was installed.



The Christmas Fayre could not take place due to government guidance but the Chairman and another Councillor had spent many days and weeks painting and preparing Santa's Sleigh (with reindeer). Santa and the Sleigh made four excursions across the whole of Glenfield over a four-week period leading up to Christmas. Children and their families lined the streets to wave to Santa and receive a present. So, some very enjoyable occasions.

All lights, including those on the 'Christmas' tree in the square were switched on at the same time on 27th November 2020 and all external decorations were there to be enjoyed.

A competition for the best shop window festive display and the best front garden festive lights display were awarded prizes according to the 'Judges Favourite'. This is the first time this has been done but it is likely that it will be done again at the end of 2021.

To involve children in the village in community events and enjoy their participation the Committee asked the schools if Years 5 and 6 (children aged 9 – 11) could contribute by writing poems about Christmas. Both schools did and Committee members enjoyed reading them. They were displayed in Morrisons on their community notice board, in the deli area, just inside the entrance to The Forge, on the Council's notice boards and on the Council's Website – a commendable effort from all Years 5 and 6.

Christmas was indeed a special time.

The Committee meets monthly again now and is hoping that during 2021 normality will resume. In 2020 Meetings were not as frequent. Along with all Glenfield's residents the plans are for a 'normal' future.

Communications Committee – Chair, Cllr Nick Chapman



Work has been underway and continues on the development of a new web site which is more dynamic and responsive than the current website www.glenfieldparishcouncil.org.uk. This

Having revamped and under new management, the Parish Council have returned to publishing the Glenfield Parish News within the Gazette every two months, ensuring every household in Glenfield receives a copy (subject to external distribution). We are still using the parish notice boards which are being renovated or replaced as necessary.

Property Committee – Chair, Cllr Richard Bowers

The Property Committee consists of the Chairs of the various other Committees. It meets on a regular basis to assess the maintenance and development needs of our buildings. This has been difficult throughout the pandemic and where possible we have made our facilities covid safe. Our thanks again go to our hard-working staff and contractors that has allowed us to keep on top of things.

We look forward to the coming year in the hope that more can be achieved as things get better with restrictions lifted.

Finance & Audit Committee – Chair, Cllr. Stacy Thornton

The purpose of the committee is to ensure the Council's financial matters are run effectively and that the budget is set to meet the Council's expenditure each year. The committee also reviews the council's administrative policies. We have recently had our accounts audited and the auditors concluded that our financial control systems are "Sound".

The Coronavirus pandemic has had a major impact on the council's finances with a very large reduction in income as a result of fewer bookings of our sports and meeting facilities. At the same time, we have had to continue to provide our core services and maintain our estate, including our green spaces, which have been a vital asset for the community during lockdown. The Council has also actively supported local voluntary efforts during this crisis, including setting up the food bank, and has been successful in off-setting most of those costs by seeking grants.

The budget for 2021-22 has been set and, despite the financial fallout from the pandemic, the parish precept has only been increased in line with inflation - an increase of less than 10 pence per month for an average household. This has been possible by drawing a small amount from our reserves.

All our accounts and budget strategies are available on our website.

It is your Council's ambition to make Glenfield a more attractive, desirable and welcoming environment and a safer place to live, work and visit by assisting in the reduction of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour. The Council seeks to improve the provision of adequate leisure and recreational opportunities and to create and preserve open spaces for the enjoyment of all residents.

Included within the services provided and/or subsidised by the Parish Council are:

- Multi-sport facilities at Ellis Park
- Leisure facilities within the Millennium Green
- Ellis Park Bowling Green
- Subsidised community use of the facilities at Park House
- Subsidised sports facilities at the Glenfield Sports Ground
- Community use of the Glenfield Sports Pavilion
- Open spaces – Barley Close Greens (2) / Blackthorn Green / Peartree Green / Wheatfield Pond / Wollaton Green / Gynsills Woods / Gynsill Meadow
- Ellis Park and Station Park Public Amenity Areas
- Glenfield Meadow Wildlife and Recreation area
- Normandy Green Amenity Area
- Allotments – Main St and Mill Lane sites
- Mill Lane Dog Exercise Area
- The Glenfield Parish Council Annexe
- Christmas lighting scheme and Christmas events
- Hanging baskets and planters
- Additional Dog Patrolling Enforcement service provided by Blaby District Council

Working Parties and Groups

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



The Parish Council initiated a neighbourhood plan to protect the village from unwanted developments. These plans give local communities powers to help shape the areas in which they live. If we wish to object to development we do not want, we need to have a plan in place saying what we do want and that shows we have assessed thoroughly how we can satisfy housing need.

A steering group was formed with a mix of councillors and members of the public and I was elected Chairman. After a couple of initial meetings consultants were appointed to assist and we had one meeting with them before COVID descended on us and meetings were no longer possible. Since then, we have continued by exchanges of E-mails which is far from ideal.

We have had two targeted mailings on specific issues affecting certain locations and two wider consultation surveys.

One issue was can we accommodate any more housing and do we have the right mix of housing?

Soundings to date suggest protecting our open spaces and keeping the village separate from neighbouring communities is an issue important to residents. Providing a burial ground is another as is preventing pavement parking.

The full results of the recent survey when over 800 residents responded are available on request. Following on from this we now have several hundred residents wishing to keep involved giving us a very representative focus group who can be asked to comment on the plan as it develops

The next stage will be to produce a first draft of a suggested plan for further comment and then a second version to put to the village as a formal consultation. If agreed it then goes to Blaby DC who check it against

their policies and then do their own consultation so residents will still have a number of opportunities to help shape this plan.

The final stage is it going to a government inspector for approval and that might involve further required changes. It is a long-winded process but does ensure it reflects the views of the community and once adopted does give us a real say in what happens in future.

Cllr Roy Denney, Chairman GNP Steering Group

Health & Safety Working Party



This Working Party provides a forum for employees and Council members to work together to solve health and safety problems. An effective group can help prevent injury and illness on the job; increase awareness of health and safety issues among workers and managers; and develop strategies to make the work environment safe and healthy.

With the ongoing pandemic the Council continues to ensure that its facilities remain Covid secure.

All staff members and active Councillors undertake a weekly lateral flow test - such regular testing could be the difference between a workplace being able to stay open and operational, or needing to close due to a COVID-19 outbreak. It also forms a crucial part of the government's plan to gradually and safely ease restrictions.

Cllr Nick Chapman, Lead Member

Climate Change Working Party

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, the working party has not met. After concerns were raised, consideration was given to an initiative around cars idling outside of schools, but this was shelved when schools were closed due to the pandemic.

It is anticipated that the Working Party will meet again in the spring which will lead to further conversation about Climate Change and most importantly take up further work around the Climate Emergency once again. Community involvement is a particular priority this year.

A number of local councils, including Glenfield, did take part in helping with the development of a community level carbon footprint tool which went live recently impact-tool.org.uk/

There is a webpage on the Council website which is open for suggestions from the community.

Cllr Nick Cox, Lead Member

People

Your Councillors 2020/2021:

Fairestone Ward

- Cllr Thelma Abbott
- Cllr Roger Bobby (resigned)
- Cllr Nick Chapman (Vice Chair)
- Cllr Ian Collier (resigned)
- Cllr Nick Cox
- Cllr Roy Denney
- Cllr Graham Huss
- Cllr Richard Wyatt

Glenfield Parish Council has ten members of staff.

Ms Beverley Greenwood
Parish Manager,

Mrs Sue Pugh
Administrator

There are seven other members of staff providing premises cleansing, ground and property maintenance services.

Ellis Ward

- Cllr Angela Bowers
- Cllr Richard Bowers (Chair)
- Cllr Martin Lane
- Cllr Pana Morjaria
- Cllr John Springthorpe
- Cllr Lee Stephens
- Cllr Stacy Thornton
- Cllr Karen Wilson

Glenfield Parish Council consists of 16 members. There are two vacancies at the end of March 2021. Anyone wishing to apply should write to the Parish Manager giving information about their skills and aspirations.

Contact Details

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