

Boxted Parish Council Annual Report 2019-2020

From the Chair

It is usual for the Chair of Boxted Parish Council to summarise the Council activities for the financial year in a report that is read at the Annual Parish Residents Meeting, which we had hoped to hold in May this year. Unfortunately, the coronavirus lockdown has meant that there won't be a meeting. I have still written this report in case anyone finds this useful.

Firstly, these are unusual times and very difficult for many, but I wish is that you and your families stay as safe and as well as you can. Please do look at the Parish Council website for information on the Community Hub meals on wheels service, the Good Neighbours Scheme for households that are isolating or shielding, and the delivery services from the Langham Community Shop

Boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk

I have been really pleased with the village response to the lock-down. The various volunteer groups stepped up quickly and attempted to identify those that might need help with food, hot meals, shopping, prescription pick-ups and basic household shopping.

The Parish Council has funds which have been, and still can be, used for providing funding to volunteer groups so that they are not out of pocket.

We cancelled our April Parish Council meeting as we couldn't convene together, however, we will be trying virtual meetings in May to see if these work for Boxted Council.

In 2019/20

We started the year with the Parish Council elections in May, however with two departures early in the year we had 3 vacancies to fill. This happened over the summer and all councillor positions are now filled.

What we were able to achieve during the last year included:

- A new team contracted for cutting the grass on the Recreation Ground are doing a good job.
- We have kept the play equipment in good order with a fresh coat of paint and new shredded rubber flooring.
- We have had defibrillator training for the 2 publicly accessible defibrillators in the village.
- We still hope to take on a green at the heart of the village.
- A good year seeing the Village Hall regularly hired out, well until recently!
- A brilliant Boxtoberfest event in the Village Hall with 3 local bands playing.
- Our second Christmas Tree event which saw many local people turn out and enjoy.
- We have supported the excellent Boxted Players group who have put on two show runs raising funds for the Hall. Hopefully, with a grant recently received from Essex Council we will be able to purchase stage lighting and fire retardant stage curtains.
- We have cleared the drainage and repainted the Cage Lane car park.
- We were successful in getting planning consent for the erection of enclosed cricket nets and we are hoping the cricket club can now apply for grants

- We moved over to a new council website as the old site hosting from Essex County Council was withdrawn.
- We stayed within the budget we set and now have a reasonable reserve. If you want to see the end of year position, please email the clerk

Looking Forward

We have a Committee working through the options for the Section 106 money that is available to compensate the village for the Boxted Cross development. This money is for spend on the Community Hub and Recreation Ground. One idea that is being fully investigated is the provision of a further car park running behind the Village Hall for Recreation Ground users. This would take a bit of pressure off the village parking situation.

We will be rendering most of the outside of the Hub.

We were planning to continue with community events, but these are obviously on hold for now.

Finally,

I want to take this opportunity to thank every member of the Council, including our Clerk, for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to improving Boxted as a lovely place to live. I also want to thank Nigel and Anne, our representatives at Colchester Borough and Essex County Councils. Being a councillor isn't always easy, and we all lead busy lives, but effective committed parish councillors mean that Boxted stands the best chance of being a great place to live, work and play.

Also, a big thank you to those volunteers during this Coronavirus lockdown. Your time and effort is very much appreciated.

Your Current Council is

Cheryl Damen (Chair)
James Collitt (Vice-chair)
Arabella Brentnall
Heidi Chaplin
Steve Kent
Angela McLaughlin
Robin Oxford
Gene Pugh
Jamie Seakens

Karen Thompson is the Clerk to the Council.

Cllr Nigel Chapman is our Ward Councillor at Colchester Borough Council.
Cllr Anne Brown is our Essex County Council Member.

For council information

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www.boxtedparishcouncil.org.uk