

One of our key aims was to revive the bus shelter opposite Marlingford Road. Both the exterior and interior murals look fantastic, and we thank Mark from Harper Art Services for his excellent work

We have also improved the area around the village sign, including the pump, bench and the amazing new sign itself with thanks to Ian Wickham

Special thanks to Revd Penny Goodman who has helped administer the COVID Recovery Fund, we provided over £1500 to 4 local community groups – we are looking to provide a further round of funding to provide additional support to our treasured groups

After months of advertising, we now have a handyman who has already got stuck in repairing the bus shelter and fixing issues on the allotment site

The campaign against litter has proved effective as it's got people thinking, talking and acting, in turn improving the appearance of our village

We have almost secured planning permission for the new village hall and are excited to soon be progressing with the construction of the project. Traffic calming measures will be brought in around the school area as part of this development, easing concerns many residents currently have about the safety of the area

A traffic island will be put in place on Dereham Road between the bus stops near the Bawburgh Road junction and will hopefully be the first of additional traffic calming measures in that area. The bus stop to the north of Dereham Road at this junction will also be replaced and brought forward in coordination with the Orbit Homes development

We also submitted responses to lots of planning applications, more detail on these can be found in each month's Grapevine and on the South Norfolk District Council website: We made representations and attended a hearing with the Planning Inspectorate in support of the A47 Easton to North Tuddenham Development Consent Order which is crucial for the wellbeing and safety of residents of Easton both sides of the A47

We supported an application for a photovoltaic development in Colton (of which associated infrastructure is in Easton) due to the extensive significant benefits this will provide

We supported the SEN school along Dereham Road as well as submitting several responses to householder applications

We have made comments on the Dereham Road footway/cycleway and the proposals for the safe crossing of the A47 at the Longwater Interchange, and are continuing to liaise with the relevant bodies over this crucial scheme

We objected to an application for an oversized billboard at the Southern Longwater Roundabout for appearance and safety issues

We made comments against the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Associations proposal for a "farm shop" on the showground site opposite the Premier Inn citing concerns over highway issues, a lack of local need and the troubling precedent it would set

We also made comments relating to the variation of conditions of a previous planning permission at Diocese House to safeguard the wellbeing of residents and protect the area

These were all in addition to the ongoing dialogue with Orbit Homes and Persimmon Homes regarding their respective developments.

Lots of progress has been made and we have submitted formal responses alongside making comments on draft plans on key areas such as the allotments, open space and the layout of forthcoming phases

These developments are currently in limbo due to Natural England's Nutrient Neutrality restrictions which is impacting development in 74 local authorities across England

Going forwards we will:

Complete the improvements to the play areas on College Heights

Continue to fight for traffic calming measures along Dereham Road and the Longwater Interchange

Continue to work with Orbit Homes and Persimmon Homes as they build out their schemes

Oversee build of the new village hall, hoping for this to be complete in approximately a years' time

Review the Easton Neighbourhood Plan to ensure it is up to date and continues to provide the basis on which planning applications are assessed against

I would also like to give very special thanks to Cllr Milliken for his continued hard work, the Parish Council would not run without his efforts. I would also like to thank our Clerk Gina for coming in at a troubled time but fitting in so well and getting the job done. I would like to express gratitude to Cllr McCarter for his litter picking activities as well as placement of the SAM2 devices despite incidences of abuse. Also, a quick thanks to Daniel Hardwick for collating and publishing the traffic data generated by the SAM2 devices. And of course, thanks to all the Councillors for their input on all of the aforementioned matters. I hope this coming year can be as successful as the last

2022/4) District and County Councillor's reports

NCC & SNC Cllr Dewsbury had provided the following Annual report prior to the meeting which was noted –

The Council recently agreed that the Council Tax for the next financial year will increase by 1.99% plus another ringfenced 1% to help fund Adult Social Care (Social Care Precept) as allowed by the government.

Adult Care

The demand for Adults Social Care has continually increased. There has been an increase in domestic abuse and mental health issues since the start of the pandemic plus over the last couple of years Adult Services has supported thousands of people who have been discharged from hospital, due to the demands on the NHS and their capacity issues, but still need support. Many were able to return to their homes but others still needed short term care in a care home.

The White Paper with proposals to reform the service has just been released and the Health and Care Bill is awaiting Royal Assent. These will help reform the service and build closer collaboration between the Council and the NHS in the coming years.

As people are beginning to get out and about again Norfolk County Council wants to make it easier for disabled people and their families to plan a day out or go shopping in local towns so we are providing new toilets called Changing Places which include space for carers, adult sized changing benches and other equipment that they might need.

Business Support

Norfolk County Council's Go Digital Grant Scheme has been supporting small and medium sized businesses with free advice and funding to help them adapt and make better use of digital technology.

Employment

The uptake of apprenticeships across the county has increased by 53% and is now 10% higher than the national figure. Apprenticeships are a Government funded scheme for all ages. <https://apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org/> The County council has committed to continue it's Recruit, Retain, Reward financial incentive scheme for Norfolk businesses to help them recover from the problems they have experienced over the last couple of years.

A bursary grant is also available to support apprentices' travel and equipment costs.

Children's Services

An increasing number of children are in need of extra support and there is also a need for more school places. New schools are being planned and £120 million has already been allocated to provide 500 more specialist places and for three new SEND schools. The first two schools have just been opened at Fakenham and Gt Yarmouth and the third school is about to be built this year, at Easton. It should open in the spring of 2023. The funding will also cover eleven Specialist Resource Bases in mainstream schools across the county.

The Fostering System has been reviewed and £700,000 per year will be invested to pay higher fostering fees to carers who look after children with the highest needs. This replaces a system that has been in place for 30 years, since 1993.

Social Services, PfA (People from Abroad) Team have prepared support for women and children arriving from Ukraine including unaccompanied children seeking asylum.

Active Norfolk

Active Norfolk, which is based at Easton college, has been working closely with Norfolk County Council to provide healthy activities for children during school holidays. The council provided the food for children who qualified for free school meals.

Zero emissions

The council has just completed it's first year of distributing trees following it's aim to plant a million trees over five years to help counteract emissions.

41% of street lighting has been converted to energy efficient LEDs. We will complete the move to low energy lighting in all estate owned freehold buildings by 2024 and we are ceasing the installation of gas/oil boilers unless alternatives are unfeasible.

Recycling

There are now two new recycling centres on the edge of Norwich. One at Harford Park and Ride replacing the Ketteringham site and the other at Sprowston replacing the Mile Cross site. Sprowston has already opened a large reuse shop. This is the fifteenth of Norfolk's 20 recycling centres to have a re use shop.

The Wymondham site should be moving to a larger site later this year.

Highways

The design of the Norwich Western Link has been refined to minimise the impact on woodland where a colony of bats have been found roosting.

Following on from the success of the Beryl bikes and E-scooters in Norwich the scooter trial has been extended until November 2022.

The results of the Parish Partnership applications have just been announced. The scheme will be run again next year.

Trading Standards

Trading Standards has prosecuted several people for fraud over the last year and the SCAMs team has been working with businesses and community organisations to try to keep people aware of the latest scams and not be caught out.

Museums and libraries

During the pandemic many museum visits had to be cancelled or carried out virtually but over the last year museums and libraries have gradually reopened with visitors wearing masks and socially distancing. The Castle Museum is once again hosting weddings and visits from groups of school children to the displays in other parts of the castle.

The transformation of the Castle Keep at the Castle Museum to a replica of what it was like in Norman times is progressing well. There is a new Royal Palace Reborn Project film which has been shared on line. By the end of February approximately 37,000 people had viewed it on Facebook. The project will be completed and opened in 2023.

Fire Service

During the year the Fire Service has received some new appliances and training towers have been built at the stations for them to train at height.

They have continued to assist the ambulance service when they could not keep up with demand due to the back up of ambulances waiting at hospitals.

The Ashes to Art project which they organised to raise funds for the Fire Service charity and Break raised £8,000. They invited artists to take away an old fire helmet, decorate it then bring it back to be displayed in Norwich then auctioned off.

Crucial Crew which provides multi organisation events to teach children how to stay safe in a wide range of scenarios – fire, water, on line, etc. - has just restarted events for groups of school children.

Adult Learning

When the pandemic caused lockdown many other Adult Education Services closed their courses but Norfolk moved all courses, apart from pottery and silver smithing, online and added 200 more. This made them more available to people who could not travel and enabled people to continue studying for qualifications as well as meet up with others during lockdown. Some course are now going back to face to face but some are a mix of virtual and face to face. This enabled 145 students to attend the same yoga class.

We have also just launched two Construction courses for people who want to do DIY or learn skills for employment. To support equality of opportunity the service is encouraging take up by female learners and they currently make up a third of students.

Norfolk Association of Local Councils

During the year, NALC, which had moved into County Hall a couple of years ago improved it's collaboration with Norfolk County Council. NALC now employs two staff funded by NCC to provide a dedicated link between NCC and all local Town and Parish Council Associations. This will help raise the profile of Parish Councils and the work they are doing as well as helping them to access help and information from County Council services.

Future provision

The Government's Levelling Up White paper was released at the beginning of February and its objectives have been the subject of much debate and discussion. The Government has yet to release more information about funding and how things can be progressed.

Cllr. Margaret Dewsbury

Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships

Norfolk County Council: Hingham Division

South Norfolk Council: Easton Ward

2022/5) Reports from local clubs, groups and organisations

The following written reports were received: and noted-

Easton Football Club

Easton Football Club are coming to the end of another busy season, running 5 Adult and 3 youth teams.

The Saturday first team finished a very creditable 4th place in the Anglian Combination Division 1, narrowly missing out on promotion scoring 95 goals in the process. The front 2, George Crowe (29) and Tom Amies (24) were the division's top scorers. In the Norfolk Senior Cup they reached the last 16 and after a close match lost to Thurlow Nunn side Mulbarton.

They also reached the final of the league cup where on Friday 6th May they met Premier division Caister and in front of a crowd of more than 400 at FDC Bowthorpe substitute Matt Thurston scored an injury time winning goal to make it 2-1 to lift the impressive Mummery cup. The first final they have won since 2003.

The Reserve team also competed well and after a poor start to the season recovered to record a 12 match winning run, eventually finishing in 4th place in Anglian Combination Division 5 North.

The newly formed A team managed by club chairman Tim Wickham is a mix of young and experienced players and they also competed well also finished 5th in the Central & South Norfolk league.

The Sunday team had a very good season winning the Norwich and District Sunday league Premier division with a last day win over title rivals Acle.

They have also reached the final of the Norfolk Sunday Senior Cup which is being played on 22nd May.

The Veterans team however had a more difficult season, due to a few team raising issues won only 2 of their league matches.

The 3 youth teams Under 14's, Under 12's and Under 10's all did very well.

The Under 14's finished 2nd on goal difference in the Norfolk Christian Youth league.

The Under 12's won their Division in the Norfolk Combined Youth league winning 19 of their 20 matches and drawing the other.

The Under 10's also played in the Norfolk Combined Youth league I'm told also played very well but the results aren't published.

Planning for next season is already well underway and it looks like we will have another youth side in place.

The club would like to thank the committee, sponsors and supporters without which we would be unable to compete at the level we do.

Michael Cossey

Secretary

Easton FC

Easton Women's Institute

We now have a membership of 21 having lost four members during the last two years for various reasons that do not include Covid. Since July last year we have managed to be back having our meetings on the second Thursday of the month in Easton Village Hall at 7.30pm. We have also been out for a meal together once but are still not as active as we were before March 2020! Some members are either shielding or live with people who are and they are still not happy to risk catching Covid. This has made getting the WI up and running again quite slow.

We were very grateful to receive a grant from the Parish Council Covid recovery fund as our finances took a big hit because of not being able to meet or hold fundraising events for so long. Next year will be the 70th Birthday year of Easton WI and we are now able to start planning an event to celebrate this knowing we have an amount of money which will help us to do this as we had hoped we might. We have also been able to book good speakers or entertainers for our meetings. We have a programme of speakers booked up to April next year and we will gradually plan other activities as long as the risk remains low. (See attached programme)

We have once again begun to invite other W.I.s to our Birthday and Christmas Meetings where we are renowned for our tasty buffet tables, we in turn are invited to join them for their special evenings.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors to up to three of our meetings before they decide to join us as members.

Mary Blathwayt

President

St Peter's C of E Primary Academy

A year ago, I reported that the school was returning to something like normal after the worst of Covid was over. If only that had been entirely correct! Covid continued to disrupt our lives well into 2022 although the school was never fully closed, there was a week earlier this year when that situation came very close. Some of the staff and pupils have had Covid more than once and the pandemic may not be completely over yet. The governors have been able to go into the school to look at the work children are doing this term for the first time since 2019 and were delighted to see good progress is being made. There is still catching up to be done but everyone is working hard to bridge the gaps left by Covid absences. By September we hope that all the children will be at or near to the level they were expected to be at before this all began.

I recently overheard a conversation between two Easton residents outside the school, expressing surprise at the number of cars parked in the school grounds during the school day as they thought we had a little village school with just a few staff working there. This was once the case but nowadays there are currently one hundred and seventy-seven pupils in the school in seven classes each with a teacher and at least one teaching assistant. There are also three office staff, Midday staff to serve dinners and supervise lunchtimes not to mention visiting specialist teachers for music, tutoring etc. Then there is also the on-site Treetops Pre-school which is run by a private company, who have at least four staff working with the little children every day. There are also before and after school clubs offering childcare for parents who work and need provision for their children at these times.

The number of children on the site is set to grow when the new houses in the village are occupied and this will bring the need for more staff to be employed. We have thirty children joining the school into the Reception class in September and this is the maximum number we can currently take into that year group. We are hoping that the plans the Local Authority made a few years ago to cope with this situation will be actioned to involve building work to increase the size of the school and the enlargement of the whole site before too long.

During the Covid years we have recruited two new Governors who we have only met face to face recently. It has been very hard for them to get to know the three schools in our Federation but hopefully we are now settling back into a more normal way of

working. Anyone who is interested in joining the Governing Body of the Trinity Federation would be very welcome as we do have a couple of vacancies.

Mary Blathway
Chair of Governors
Trinity Federation of Church Academies

Friends of St Peter's School

Good afternoon - apologies that we are unable to attend in person. We have gradually been able to hold more fundraising events and have continued to focus on fun events that would hopefully bring some smiles to our families. We are looking forward to our Jubilee School Fair on Sunday 12th June, this represents a return to 'normal' fundraising style activities and there is a lot of hard work going on behind the scenes to make it a fun family style celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Highlights from the last year of events include; • rainbow run (throwing coloured powder over the children while they do a sponsored run around the school field!) • Summer and Christmas raffles. • cake and krispy kreme donuts stalls • family photo shoot • non uniform days • village garage sale • virtual balloon race • kids' Christmas cards. We have been so pleased to be able to spend our fundraising efforts on; • library books • funding for class trips • funding for year 6 legacy • purchase and installation of football goal posts • ice creams at end of term • Christmas online pantomime. We continue to run the school lottery which any one is able to join, which brings £1000 a year per 50 tickets bought. We have also signed up to online fundraising schemes such as Amazon smile and easyfundraising and receive income from the textile recycling bin on the school grounds. We would like to thank the Parish Council and residents for all their support of the Friends, it is invaluable and much appreciated.

Clare Chisholm

Easton Marlingford & Colton Community Car Scheme

Community Car Scheme figures for last 12 months

April, May, June 2021	£24.74
July, August, September 2021	£41.86
October, November, December 2021	£43.10
January, February, March 2022	£53.54
Total	£163.24

Two thirds contribution from EPC £108.82

Miles over last 12 months 174 and journeys 21

Telephone accoun now with Post Office as cheaper than BT

Balance at 3 March 2022 - £1423.63

David Ditton

Easton Bowls Club

First of all Easton Bowls Club would like to thank the Parish Council for the donation of £500 from the Covid Recovery Fund.

There isn't much to say regarding last season's Bowls, one league we played for points and the other league we played as friendlies.

This season is going well although a lot of teams are finding it hard to find players due to the pandemic.

Thank you

Merilyn Cossey

Secretary

Easton Good Companion's Club

Following the months of the Covid19 pandemic, the Government announced that 'Freedom Day' would be Monday 19th July 2021 and I am happy to say that we resumed our fortnightly meetings from Thursday 29th July 2021 by celebrating the belated birthday of our 100 year old member with a special iced cake, chat and catch-up. Unfortunately, all the Committee members missed the next meeting and a birthday garden party as a Committee member had tested positive with Covid19 and at that time isolation measures were in force. The Newsletter introduced during the pandemic 'lockdown' continues but three times per annum instead of bi-monthly.

Entertainment

Our programme has been varied as Speakers had, in some cases, to reschedule or cancel due to Covid but we were entertained by Jan Sheldon who spoke about the work of the

St. Martin's Trust and their involvement with the Homeless; Paul Cooper showed a local film of the 1940 era which had recorded pictures and voices of a few people, some of whom were known to our members; Juanya Lewis told of Tales from Around the World; Rev. Laura gave an interesting address together with hymns at our Harvest Festival and John Robinson gave an informative talk regarding the advantages of having in place a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) being preferable to an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA).

Charity 2020/2021

Our Charity from 2020 through to 2021 was St. Martin's Trust. Last September at a Coffee Morning we raised £161.80.

Membership

Our membership is down to 24 due to poor health or moving from the area. with an age range from 72 – 94 and the average attendance is between 21 - 24

Outings

July '21 we celebrated our 66th birthday with lunch at Glen Lodge Golf Club, Bawburgh.

Sept.'21 Hunstanton & Princess Theatre Show

Oct. '21 Fish & Chips followed by desserts in Village Hall.

Jan. '22 Christmas Lunch at Glen Lodge Golf Club, Bawburgh

April '22 Afternoon Tea at Café Verde, Mattishall

Grants

We applied for and were granted monies from the *Covid19 Recovery Fund* for which we were very grateful, part of this allowed all members to enjoy an Afternoon Tea at Café Verde, Mattishall, last month.

Special Birthdays

We celebrated ONE special birthday over the last year (1 x 100)

Special Events

The tins of food /packages brought in by members for our Harvest Festival were donated to the Norfolk & Norwich Assn for the Blind.

We have, once again, enjoyed a mixed and pleasurable year thanks to our Entertainment and Outings secretaries. As always, we extend a warm welcome to anyone over 55 who would wish to join us.

Pamela Hooker

Secretary

The Chairman thanked everyone for their reports

2022/6) Parishioners' questions and comments

The Chairman invited the parishioners present to speak and comments received and discussed included the following –

- Concerns regarding speeding
- Report of a motorist speeding and overtaking on chevrons along Dereham Road
- It was felt there are not enough police officers to control traffic
- SAMs machines have been removed following instruction from Norfolk County Council Highways and this is of great concern
- Easton Parish Council has requested changes and speed control measures which will be installed in the future
- Easton Parish Council have previously requested chicanes, however, these have been declined
- Easton Parish Council are working to have part of the road narrowed near Persimmons Homes site and also trying to get crossing point by bus shelters
- Easton Parish Council want to plant some new trees, will be in conjunction with the Jubilee and will provide shade in some of the play areas; all will be native specimens
- Diocesan House want to separate part of the land from the main building, Easton Parish Council – re condition 3 – suggest it should be open longer for small business use and have suggested opening until 9pm. Easton Parish Council suggest it should remain in ownership of Diocese and not separated.
- The new Jubilee Bench will soon be installed at Peacock Close and will be moved later to new Village Hall site.

The meeting closed at 3.50pm