

## **Clerk's Report – 19.07.2021 - Bures Hamlet Parish Council**

**Works completed:** All grounds maintenance completed as per contract. Contractor to trim and weed pull as an alternative to use of Glyphosate for the time being. Weed removal at various locations in the parish ongoing. Sweeping in main centre of parish ongoing. Tree branch at Lamarsh Hill cleared. Several footpaths cleared of vegetation as requested by the Parish ROW Officer. Vegetation trimmed around the 30mph signs and at the Lamarsh Hill gateway sign. Weeds cleared around bus shelters but this needs to continue to be monitored regularly. Wooden handle on the Colchester Road gate replaced by a resident

**Essex Knoll:** Neil Haswell has replanted the flower bed around the village sign. Thanks to Neil for a splendid display again this year.

**Waste:** BDC Commercial Waste team has confirmed continuation with the fortnightly collections of the trade waste bin at the Essex Knoll during 2021. Minor issues with this but all now rectified. All invoicing costs raised and completed. Recycling from blue bin at Bures Common transferred to clear recycling sacks for a fortnightly collection by BDC. Systems to ease waste issues currently under control.

**VAS at Colchester Road:** This has been repaired by ECC Highways however it was agreed not to lower the height as it is set higher than usual because it is near a junction. Due to the Doppler effect, the radar would be reading vehicles pulling in and out of Normandie Way if it were positioned any lower, not those vehicles travelling on the B1058.

**Effluent at Ferriers Lane:** The Environment Agency Officer has visited the site and has since been requested to arrange a follow up visit as the issue has not been resolved. Reported to EA again. Ref 1961793.

**Highways Devolution:** Quarterly reports being completed when requested. £1,000 grant received from ECC for 2021 to meet costs of maintenance works via the Devolution Scheme.

**BDC Verge cutting trial:** The trial has been extended to all parishes for a 12 month period with a further consultation later in the year. The trial report can be found via [www.braintree.gov.uk/vergecutting](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/vergecutting)

**Highway works:** Kerbs repaired at Normandie Way. Blocked gullies at Bridge Street and Colchester Road cleared of debris. Further jetting to follow during the year. Flood signs removed following the Clerk's request to Highways.

**ECC Salt bag scheme:** The Clerk has completed the request form and applied for delivery of 1 tonne of salt in the autumn. All parties aware and Clerk to keep informed of delivery date.

**Recycling sacks:** The Clerk has agreed to hold a stock of recycling sacks enabling local residents to collect a single roll of recycling sacks if they run out before the BDC annual delivery to all residents. Clerk has advertised the initiative and residents are encouraged to contact her as the need arises.

**Shrubs:** It has been agreed that the height of the shrubs along Colchester Road will be reduced by about 1 foot following the bird nesting season. This would allow better vision for vehicles accessing onto the highway from the rear of the properties. The bend warning sign has been cleared of vegetation to allow improved visibility for motorists.

**Normandie Way playarea:** The fence has been reported to BDC for repair. The hedge needs cutting back again. Clerk following up with the parish contractor for a timescale.

**BALC:** The Chairman and Clerk attended the first meeting of the newly formed BALC held on 1<sup>st</sup> July via Zoom. Guest speaker – Sonia Church, Highways Liaison Manager. Next meeting scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> October at Steeple Bumpstead Village Hall.

**Funding Grants update:** NALC Funding Bulletin circulated and information held on file. Details of other grants available – BDC Councillors Community Grant, National Lottery Community Fund, Essex Coronavirus Response and Recovery Programme, ECC Community Initiative Fund (CIF) 2021, ECC Lockdown Support Fund, ECC Contain Outbreak Management Fund

**Training:** The training record had been updated and can be found on the parish council website. Cllr Baker attended a second virtual BDC Housing and Homeless briefing earlier this

month. (Slides circulated). Cllr Shackell attending Councillor and Chairman training during the year.

**BDC Supporting Communities meetings:** Clerk has been attending these virtual meetings with other parish clerks and BDC Officers during the past year. Varying topics covered and the meetings allowed Clerks to maintain good contact with Officers.

**Snippets page:** This has recommenced with a snippet page included in future parish magazines. The magazine Editor encouraged the parish council to submit articles of interest.

**Government guidance on Coronavirus:** All information received has been circulated as widely as possible. Government guidance on safe use of community facilities can be found at <http://bit.ly/Communityspaces>

**Good Neighbour Scheme:** The Clerk has received information and details of funding on the Good Neighbour Network and Buddy Up and will follow up for the joint parishes of Bures.

**Vulnerable persons:** The Clerk has made all members aware that an Emergency Plan and a Vulnerable Persons plan were held as Case Sensitive for when emergency action was required within the village. The Vulnerable Persons plan has been active during the Coronavirus restrictions.

**NHW:** The Clerk continues to circulate NHW newsletters via her emailing list. Essex Police newsletters advertised on the parish council website. NH Watch Week 2021 was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June and supported by the Roger Hirst, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex.

**Messages of interest via Cllr Schwier – all circulated and details held on file:**

- a) Long Term Covid 19 Effects – Cllr Kevin Bentley, Leader of ECC has announced a new independent commission which will identify the long-term effects of Covid-19, alongside the opportunities available to Essex residents and businesses to build a better future.
- b) Free School Meals and support for families to continue over summer – This summer ECC is continuing the holiday free school meal vouchers scheme it has run successfully since Christmas 2020. ECC has allocated 2.6m to continue the scheme.
- c) New Care Technology Services – Essex residents with care and support needs will benefit from an exciting new county-wide care technology service from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021.
- d) Details of the Free summer activity programme available for young people in Essex – Active Essex to deliver the Governments Holiday Activities and Food programme across Essex from 26<sup>th</sup> July.

**The Clerk is in receipt of the following and all circulated and held on file:**

Details of BDC's Draft Climate Change Strategy Public Engagement

Details of the ECC initiative of a first step in a long-term strategy to transform its bus network by working with bus operators to enable them to provide more buses and better services.

Planning Newsletter No. 4 July 2021 – several updates included.

EALC Structure and Executive Members roles advising the appointments of representatives on EALC Executive Committee.

Census 2021 – Outputs Consultation Launch – Engagement – Clerk to complete the consultation before deadline of October 5<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Details outlining the plans for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations 2022 – beacons to be lit.

Details of Mental Health First Aid and Dementia training –available for all councillors and residents.

Essex Highways Highlights June Edition.

