

Chair of Glington Parish Council report 2022/23

Cllr Gerry Kirt

16th May 2023

Well, what an outstanding 12 months it has been. In May 2022, we welcomed six new councillors, Gordon, Andy, Sukhvinder, Rita, Steve and Helen. In addition, long-standing councillor, Bob Randall was appointed to be Deputy Chair, and I was appointed to be Chair of the Parish Council for the first time. From the get go, there seemed to be a new energy about the institution and I felt it essential to harness this power in order to make a real difference to our village of Glington and the lives of its residents.

I set out last year an overarching desire to establish a real sense of community within the village, but at the time I was unsure quite how to achieve this.

To commemorate the platinum Jubilee of Elizabeth II we lit a beacon adjacent to the village pump. Despite limited advertising, numerous people turned up, and subsequently many people expressed disappointment at missing it. However, what emerged was a real hunger and desire within the community to have further events in Glington. So as a result of the sad passing of her Majesty, I decided to use the coronation of Charles III as the launchpad for the first significant event in the community in more than a generation.

With the outstanding support of councillors and significant numbers of residents, Glington's Coronation Celebration on Saturday 6th May, despite poor weather, was a resounding success. Indeed, compliments from Glington residents and those from surrounding villages has been overwhelming. This positive support combined with a fierce demand for further events has led to consideration of potential fireworks or drone event in November and creation of the first of Glington's Big Celebrations on Saturday June 8, 2024. This latter event could forge together the traditional school summer fete and key elements of the coronation event.

Just before the Coronation day we presented each child attending Peakirk cum Glington preschool and primary school with a special commemorative mug. These gifts have been incredibly well received by the children and their parents/carers.

Several key learnings emerged from the complex organisation of the Coronation event, the main one is a certainty that to meet the council's long-term ambitious plans for the village we need sponsorship and grant funding. Without financial support from our sponsor Country Court Care and a grant from the National Lottery, the Coronation event would have been much smaller. The good news is that some grant funding remains which will enable us to partially cover the cost of community events through to April 2024.

Before leaving the subject of community involvement we once again financially supported the annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony. In my first year as chair I was honoured to be invited to switch the lights on - but thankfully, for the audience sake, not to sing. The event was a tremendous success with those who had attended many previous occasions saying it was the best attended by some margin.

To underline the importance of external financial support we have recently successfully obtained grant funding to move ahead with another key 2022/23 objective which is the installation of two additional defibrillators to provide better coverage for residents living at both ends of the village.

Traditionally consideration of planning applications took a high percentage of Council meeting time. For 2022/23 it was decided to focus predominantly on contentious applications. One being the expansion of the Clare Lodge facility. Although, not against the expansion in principle, certain aspects would have a negative effect on resident quality of life and it would extend beyond Ginton's Village Envelope (which contains all new development). Despite taking our objections to Peterborough's City Council Planning Committee the planning application was passed. However, we did manage to obtain some concessions for local residents.

We have been more successful supporting residents objections to the Kisimul Care Home for autistic young men. Sited in the centre of Ginton the behaviour of some of its residents often makes the life of its neighbours miserable. With support of the Parish Council, Kisimul's application for 'Use of dwelling by no more than 6 residents living together as a single household where care is provided' was turned down by city planners on the basis it was in fact clearly run as a secure care facility on a commercial basis. We have subsequently supported the residents now the appeal is with the Secretary of State for final determination.

Litter picks throughout Ginton have continued under the stewardship of Cllr Claire Bysse.

We have carried out a number of Speedwatch sessions. The most recent was in the 20mph limit outside the Primary School. Between 08:00 and 09:00 just over 10% of all vehicles exceeded 24mph with the highest recorded speed being an astonishing 38mph! A single decker bus demonstrated that excessive speeding is not only confined to passenger vehicles!!! In a previous exercise we were surprised by the seemingly large number of vehicles sporting false registration plates.

Cllr Denis Batty has continued as our representative on National Association of Local Councils and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Association of Local Councils which helps us understand relevant legislation and keeps us up to speed with developments within other Parish Councils.

The Climate Change Emergency Action Group has met often with the objective of working with other groups to assist residents become energy efficient, save money and reduce Glinton's carbon footprint. Cllr Steve Jackson has produced an overall electricity and gas consumption figure for Glinton which will be used in future years as a benchmark to determine whether our consumption falls or rises. We have published a series of articles in the Village Tribune to assist residents understand a range of different technologies. The group has ambitious plans to create an energy park near the National Grid site possibly in partnership with Octopus which would potentially produce a revenue stream for use on projects within the village.

Under the superb stewardship of Sue Lane, our village hall is becoming increasingly popular and is busier than ever. GPC has decided to embark on a series of staged improvements to its energy efficiency and interior, under the direction of Cllr Gordon Wright. Work is underway with an architect and building services company to determine the current as built status and identify a range of potential options and grant opportunities.

The Parish Council's new Facebook page, developed by Cllr Steve Jackson, has proved very successful . Steve also created a special Facebook page for our Coronation event called Glinton Golden Orb. There are plans to rename it Glinton Events in order to archive what we have done and highlight our future plans. On Wednesday 19th May 2023 the stats were as follows:

Golden Orb last 28 days

Reach, the number of people who saw a post at least once 2,757

Engagement, the number of likes reactions or shares 1,128

Followers 145

Glinton Parish Council last 28 days

Reach 1,452

Engagement 161

Followers 111

During the past 12 months we have met with the City Council to discuss and agree a variety of works around the village including a new litter bin by the old stone bridge and resurfacing some pavements along with many other improvements. Unfortunately implementation tends to be a slow process. With the assistance of Cllr Peter Hiller, a vandalised bench in the recreation ground was replaced.

PCC has indicated that we are likely to successfully acquire the Ashburn play area. Cllr Helen Aylesbury has already identified suitable new equipment to enable the project to be completed rapidly and once again deliver fun to the local children.

Following the annual City Council safety inspection, one item on the recreation ground, has been deemed dangerous and fenced off. Given the c£2000 needed to replace it combined with the large log built climbing

frame/cargo net rotting in places and the surface of the basketball court that requires long term replacement, we are discussing funding and grant opportunities with the PCC.

As a result of outstanding work undertaken by enthusiastic volunteers; assistance from PECT, John Clare Countryside and PCC Glington's Nature Recovery areas at Clarendon Green and the triangle by the Lincoln road/bypass roundabout have been ablaze with spring bulbs and wild flowers.

We have supported the establishment of a Glington Warm Hub in the village hall. This has evolved into Glington Warm Welcome. We are encouraging the organisers to be proactive and reach out to those in the village who perhaps have mental health issues, suffer from loneliness or are shy or infirm.

We have continued to support the good neighbours scheme.

At the beginning of this report I mentioned our 5 new councillors. It is essential to remember the 4 who stood down - Eric Spendelow; John Holdich; Bob Johnson and Peter Skinner. With 173 years of combined service to the Parish of Glington we decided to award them Freeman of the Parish - the first time this has been granted to any councillor in any of Peterborough's 26 Parishes. To mark the event each was presented with a certificate and a special reception was held in the village hall for them, their families and guests.

Before leaving the work of this Parish Council I must compliment, on behalf of my fellow councillors, the dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work that John Haste, our clerk, has shown which has enabled this council to function as a professional body.

I consider this summarised list of achievements delivered during the last 12 months by Glington's councillors has positively raised the profile of this Parish Council within the village.

So in signing off for the year it is important to say I have thoroughly enjoyed the last twelve months and I believe that my overarching aim of establishing a real sense of community within the village has been met. We have clearly demonstrated that with a strong dedicated team of councillors almost nothing is impossible and going forward I am certain that Glington's Parish Council can continue to enrich the lives of our residents still further.

Genny Kuit