

Bramfield Parish Council

Chairmans Report for year 2019-2020

The year commenced with Parish Council elections. On the 2nd May 2019 the following persons were duly elected Parish Councillors for Bramfield

Cheryl Jackson, Marietta Johnson, Stella Johnson, Chris Armstead, Nicholas Savage, Guy Tucker, John Wells.

Sadly Stella Johnson lost her courageous battle against cancer. The vacant Council position was filled by co-opted member Graham Lyons who was welcomed to serve on the Parish Council for the period 2019 to 2023

Village Sign- After a number of months of discussion the design of the Village sign was agreed and purchased the sign was erected on the approved location being the grassed area in front of the churchyard wall and many thanks to Chris Armstead for overseeing this project. There were mixed reaction initially to the sign but I am pleased to say that generally now favourable comments are received.

Bury Lane Site – The activities on this site continued to be a nuisance to the Parish with frequent communication with the Parish Council and Planning Enforcement Officer of the East Herts Council. In January of this year we were advised by the EHC that concerted effort had been made by the owner to clear the site of builders rubbish and as such the owner had now complied with the previously served Enforcement Notice and Section 215 Notice (untidy site) to the satisfaction of the Council and the case is now closed. The PC were advised that the site has permission for vehicle repairs which is the current activity of the site albeit it has been more recently reported vehicles are being broken up and parts salvaged for spares. The owners of the site have submitted plans to the EHC for development of 4 dwellings on the site also with conversion of the existing building on that site for two semi- detached dwellings .Planning Application Ref 3/20/0930/FUL gives details of the application

Traffic Calming- The Parish Council had discussed possible methods to control the speed of traffic passing through the village. Before any system can be approved and installed there must be positive evidence that the village do in fact have a problem of traffic speeding. With co-operation of the Herts Rural Police a traffic survey was carried out for one week in July 2019 with the following results, South bound 4517 vehicles average speed 28mph, max speed 62mph % offenders 22.0% North bound 4693 vehicles average speed 25mph max speed 57 mph % offenders 12.4%..We were advised 15% non -compliance is essentially the norm and the relatively low average speeds suggest high levels of general compliance and as such figures were unlikely to attract any support from HCC Highways. The considered opinion was that these figures were not a true representation of the traffic problem as it was carried out in the school holiday period. The PC felt a further survey was required within the school term time and a request made to the Herts Rural Police for this survey. To date and with the current Covid -19 crisis this survey has not taken place. The PC to pursue this issue when traffic flow back to some sort of norm

Foot Path rear of Village Hall –It was agreed a suitable footpath constructed with kerb edging and block paving be installed to the side and rear of the new building annex of the Village Hall. This

project was jointly funding with 1/3rd HCC Members Locality budget (Thanks to Mr Ken Crofton) 1/3rd Parish Council 1/3rd Village hall. The subsequent construction of the footpath running parallel to the east wall of the village hall was constructed and financed by Rights of Way, Environment and Infrastructure Hertfordshire County Council.

Village Condition Maintaining a tidy village is of importance to the PC, A contractor is employed to keep the grassed areas of the village which are the responsibility of the Parish Council cut on a regular basis. Frequent communication is made with the Customer services Department EHC regarding road channel weed spraying and mechanical broom sweeping. I am assured these services have recommenced. Damaged road signs are reported to HCC Highways and any fly tipping sightings promptly notified to the EHC.

Conclusion I wish to thank all Councillors for their support and co-operation throughout the year and in particular officers of the Council and Liz Hamilton our clerk who does an excellent job in keeping us updated with all PC matters

Please be informed it is my intention to vacate the position of Chairman for the year 2020-2021. Next year I will be 80 years of age and feel it is time to reduce some of my external responsibilities. I hope to remain an active member of the Parish Council

John Wells May 2020