

Bures Hamlet Annual Report 2022/23

The year started with a celebration. Jenny Wright celebrated 40 years' service to the community as clerk to Bures Hamlet Parish Council. Celebrating with Jenny were friends, family and council leaders both past and present. It is with great thanks we continue to receive Jenny's invaluable support.

The garden on Station Hill has undergone a revamp. The project was led by Jenny Wright and supported by volunteers who have planted new plants and shrubs which will develop and mature throughout the coming months. New planters have also been installed along the garden.

At the request of several residents solar powered lighting was installed on the wall along Station Hill. Sadly, these have been stolen but are shortly to be replaced.

As part of the 'Bures in Bloom' programme planters have been introduced throughout the village. These were procured through available grants and maintained through voluntary provision.

At the beginning of the year the parish council, generously supported by Geoffrey Probert, acquired a plot of land behind Cambridge Way with the intention of creating a community woodland area. In early spring, volunteers including children from Bures primary school planted 800 plus trees donated by the Woodland Trust. The wood has been named Jubilee Grove and will be managed by Bures Transition Group, Bures Common Land Trust and Bures Hamlet Parish Council.

Speeding remains an issue with many residents. The council continues to lobby the local highways panel with several requests for mitigations particularly at the Mount Bures/ Colchester Road junction, along Colchester Road, and an extension of the 30mph limit to the top of Lamarsh Hill.

Potholes are an ongoing issue to road users throughout the country. Members of the parish council report all that they are aware of through the Essex Highways on-line reporting tool. Essex Highways will then assess and act accordingly. Recent potholes in Bridge Street were reported, assessed, and repaired within 3 days. Worthy of note is that anyone can directly report any highway issue using the on-line tool.

Throughout the summer months ECC undertook extensive works to upgrade the drainage system in and around the Station Hill/ Colchester Road junction, outside the Eight Bells and along Bridge Street. Unfortunately, heavy rain in October resulted in flash flooding demonstrating the upgrade had not been successful. The parish council continues to lobby ECC to rectify the situation.

Throughout the year the parish council undertakes projects for the betterment of the village. Whilst the past year has been affected by many financial constraints' council members have been securing available grants to progress projects with the focus this year being to support the improvement and administration of the sports ground. This year BHPC will attempt to secure funding to renew the fencing along the millennium path from Colchester Road gate to the footbridge.

Noting financial constraints throughout the year BHPC has attempted to maintain some aspects of village infrastructure through voluntary contribution. Particularly we have cleaned and varnished the bus shelters, maintained and cleared public footpath's, washed street signs and furniture and wood-stained benches.

Richard Shackell

Chair, Bures Hamlet Parish Council