

Station Adopters Report for Parish Council July 2022 meetings

We had problems with vandalism at the station on 20th May involving a group of drunk teenagers who damaged some of the plants in the tubs, broke the window to the waiting room, ripped off several panels on the wall and a framed photograph we had recently rehung after previous vandalism. It was reported to British Transport Police who discovered that the CCTV had not been working hence no one could be identified. Further problems occurred on 10th June involving drunk teenagers when a man waiting for a train was assaulted by one of the group and caused bleeding to his ear but unfortunately the police arrived too late to catch the youths who caught the train to Sudbury where a woman at the station was also assaulted. The police took statements from the injured man and took him away but again there was no CCTV working. Greater Anglia have advised me that they are in the process of repairing it but to date I have received no confirmation. I have been in close contact with concerned neighbours, staff at Greater Anglia, Police, Parish Council and British Transport Police who are taking matters seriously.

The station garden was opened for the Bures Open Gardens on May 28th and 29th and received many visitors who were all very complementary and we had a stall on the Saturday giving away leaflets and walking maps which link with the train stations. Fortunately we were able to get the repairs to the waiting room and new planting done in time for the event.

Greater Anglia are aware of the need to replace the wire fence along the platform and path at some stage but careful thought needs to be given as to what material to use as a picket fence will clearly risk being vandalised.

Greater Anglia planted a crab apple tree at the station on 7th June in commemoration of the platinum jubilee. It is fitted with a hydration bag which needs to be regularly filled and the team take it in turns to fill it every two days. We have been given a printed plaque which Geoff Davies is in the process of mounting on a piece of oak and the sign will be fixed to a post in the ground beside the tree and the £25 cost will be paid for out of the jubilee funds.

The school have not yet embarked on the proposed painting project re wildlife and climate change this term but I will follow up with Ruth Slater after the summer holidays. It is planned to hang the pictures along the fence leading to the platform.

We had a very successful music train on the Gainsborough Line on Sat 11th June with sax player Andrew Bruell and Ben Smith on guitar. People were dancing in the aisles and at Marks Tey, passengers waiting for a train joined in dancing too!

We continue to receive some very positive comments about the planting at the station from a wide variety of passengers, both young and old.

Mary Turner
12th July