



**HADDENHAM**  
Parish Council

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## Chair's Report

A look back at 2019 & 2020; and forward to 2021 & beyond

Our Business Plan Objectives were:

- To manage (as far as we can) the impact of substantial growth: Haddenham has been designated a “strategic settlement” with plans for 50% growth, equivalent to 1000 new homes and c.2500 people. On completion, Haddenham will have a population of around 7000.
- Managing our assets (grounds & facilities) and environment
- Electing a new Parish Council in May 2020 and getting “match-fit” for the new Unitary era after the merging of Buckinghamshire County Council with the 4 four District Councils: Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, Wycombe and South Bucks to form one higher level council: Buckinghamshire Council (BC).

How we did: Impact of Growth

- Transfer of new assets: The Parish Council has taken on the open spaces at the Airfield; the transfer of open spaces at Dollicott is imminent; and is progressing at the Aston Road site with the legal agreement having been drafted.
- Funding is in place for Haddenham Streetscape project as per the Neighbourhood Plan (NP).
- Funding for commuter parking phase 2 feasibility will be via S106 developer contributions as the Land West of Churchway site progresses.
- Mr Truesdale has agreed to Chair Haddenham-Waddesdon Community Board Sub Group to push for the Thame-Haddenham-Aylesbury cycleway.
- Speed limit changes have been implemented at Dollicott (20mph), Scotsgrove (40mph) & Stanbridge Rd (the 30mph has been extended to beyond the garden centre).
- Buckinghamshire Council is starting work on a new Draft Local Plan for the entire county. The Cambridge- Milton Keynes - Oxford expressway has been cancelled but a new homes strategy is promised. The residual role for Neighbourhood Plans in a government white paper up-ends planning.
- It was business as usual for planning applications in volume and challenge (major applications include Green Dragon and Land West of Churchway); and the developers are still out there....

#### How we did: Managing our Assets

- A business plan, budget & reserves are in place to meet our short and longer term obligations managing our grounds & facilities
- The grounds maintenance contract is currently going through the re-tendering process.
- The Village Hall: new legal relationships are being drawn up between the Village Hall Management Committee, the Parish Council and Banks Park Recreation Ground Charity; a joint project group is in place as well as funding; the day centre lease has been surrendered from Buckinghamshire Council and a thorough internal refurbishment has been completed, including a new flat roof; the large hall will be the next project.
- Climate emergency projects have been identified and presentations made to several community groups around the village.
- We have been working with ReLeaf and have taken a more ecological approach to verge cutting.
- We have continued to manage and invest in playground equipment, which experiences high levels of wear and tear: The new playground at Sheerstock was well received, the Woodways refurbishment will go ahead soon.
- We negotiated a new permissive path agreement with Manor Farm plus new signage. Thank you to the Bucknell Family for permitting the use of their land.

#### How we did: Match-fit PC and Covid Intervention

- Local Elections were delayed to May 2021; All meetings have been held remotely since April 2020; with the office closed to visitors in line with Covid-19 restrictions.
- Buckinghamshire Council was created in April 20 but was immediately diverted by Covid; there was a delayed start for the Community Boards but Mr Truesdale has now attended 4 meetings.
- The Council issued briefings on accessing local services; set up registers of need, co-ordinated volunteers, created a dedicated phone help-line; and set-up Haddenham Hamper, a central website for local shops.
- The Fish scheme extended help to include pharmacy deliveries and lifts to vaccination appointments and the Rotary Club took charge of vaccine parking coordination at the Pharmacy. We would like to say a big thank you to Alison Green, Jean Watts, and Martin Andrew, and to the help-line volunteers for their invaluable assistance.
- The Parish Council gave advice, drafted risk assessments and had difficult decisions about Parish land including: playgrounds, Orchard, annual fair, Remembrance Sunday.
- While Buckinghamshire Council diverted our attention with an "Emergency Active Travel" pop-up cycleway and 20mph on Thame Rd....

#### Looking Forward: 2021 and Beyond

- Village Hall Development: options for large hall (as per the NP project)
- Funding is in place for the "Streetscape" project (NP)
- Options for the Woodways pavilion (NP)

- Land transfers at Dollicott & Aston Road
- Building the Tibbs Rd (airfield) pavilion
- Planning the burial & cricket grounds at Aston Road
- Responding to BC Local Plan and National Infrastructure Commission priorities
- Thame-Aylesbury “greenway”?
- Asset management plans: taking stock of what, where, condition, annual maintenance, investment needs and how best delivered
- Going for Local Council Quality Award accreditation
- Supporting volunteers at Snakemoor, Orchard, Allotments
- Premises management (Village Hall, Woodways)
- Climate Emergency projects
- St Mary’s Churchyard restoration
- May Elections: new Parish Council (uncontested) and Bucks Councillors (voting on 6<sup>th</sup> May)
- Active role with Bucks Council
- Support to Charities (Banks Park RGC, Educational, Parochial, HYCC legacy youth work)
- Update to the Village Guide

The staff were thanked for their work over the last year.

Robyn Thorogood was also thanked for all his hard work as the former Volunteer Manager at Snakemoor for many years.