Rolleston on Dove Parish Council

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Winter 2024

Flooding Update

A meeting was held with our new MP to review the agreed actions (from the meeting organised by our previous MP), and progress made so far on delivery of these by the various organisations involved. Please see further details of these actions in the separate article in this edition of the Rollestonian; these may also be found on the Parish Council's website and Facebook page. Flooding is an agenda item at every Parish Council meeting and Councillors welcome comments, ideas and thoughts from all residents on this matter.

Craythorne Playing Field

Further to the incursion by Travellers earlier this year, a security and safety review of the field and car park entrance has been undertaken to assess whether additional measures may be implemented, to try to prevent a re-occurrence. Following discussions with SCC and ESBC it has been agreed to install large temporary concrete barriers near the car park and field entrance. The full costs, including dealing with the incursion, damage repairs, clean ups, legal fees and post event security measures, are being finalised. (Note: Full legal fees, which would have been circa £2500, were not incurred as the field was vacated before initiation of the formal Court process).

Project Updates

S106 Meadow View Play area completion

It has finally been possible for the contractor to install two much needed drains to ease the very muddy entrance from Forest School Street and through from Meadow View play area into Tafflands. Replacement of the rotting wooden posts along the border of the open space is also complete. Attention can now turn to the next potential projects, including installation of further benches inside the play area near the toddler equipment and extending the stoned path from Forest School Street.

Elizabeth Avenue Play area improvements and play equipment review

Planned repairs to various items of play area equipment have been completed. The paving slabs have been re-levelled and new paving slabs added. In addition, the overgrown grass along the edges of the path leading to the school entrance have been removed. A Working Party has started the play equipment review, considering what to replace or update, consulting with schools and sourcing possible costings. Residents' ideas and views on this are most welcome. A new gate and fence from Elizabeth Avenue onto the field to replace the current dilapidated ones have also been approved to be installed by the end of this year.

Rolleston Station Cattle Dock renovation project

The renovation of this historic and unique old cattle dock wall on the station (funded by a full grant from East Staffordshire's Ward Enhancement Programme, together with a donation from a local resident) has been successfully completed. With wooden sleepers forming the edge of the wall (required to protect the cows' hooves as they were moved on and off the trucks), the area now looks much more as it would have done when it was in use. Tree maintenance works, coppicing of Hazels and Elders on the cattle dock and removal of two extremely large Laurels further along the Jinny Trail have been completed. Planting of native species such as Hawthorn, Gorse and Foxgloves, together with a wildflower meadow and an interpretation panel, will finish the reinstatement.

Sport England funding (compensation for loss of Forest of Needwood Playing Fields)

The Parish Council continues to work with the consultants on this application to place a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on Craythorne field. They have submitted the pre-planning application to Sports England (SE) for review. As required by new legislation, the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment report has been undertaken. Once the response from Sports England has been received, together with the BNG report, it will determine whether it is possible to go forward with a full planning application. This hardcore, soft tarmac area would allow tennis, netball, basketball, cricket and football to be played and provide a surface for yoga, tai chi and other gentle exercises.

The Platinum Orchard (located off Meadow View)

The Plum trees, provided by a kind donor to create this orchard, have sadly been setback due to vandalism and are slowly recovering from this. Two old original Cherry trees located there have died and have been removed. An application for grant funding has been submitted with the aim, if successful, of clearing a further area for planting twenty more fruit trees and installing ranch fencing to protect the orchard whilst allowing access points. As part of the award, the Parish Council could receive up to 30 hours of free volunteer labour to help with these tasks. We await the result of our application!

Tafflands Woods and Play Area improvements

The Parish Council is pleased to confirm that the popular slide mound has now had its new surfacing installed at the top, and along the path up the mound to the slide, replacing the existing play bark. A number of dying trees have been removed, and further areas cleared of Sycamore seedlings.

Progression of proposal for a new Bus Shelter and hard standing to be located on Station Road opposite Needwood Avenue

The Parish Council received several requests to improve the facilities at this well used bus stop. After consultation with Staffs County Council (SCC), who agreed that this may be done and that they may have some funding for it, the option of installing a polycarbonate shelter and increasing the area of hard standing has been put forward. A donation of £1000 provided by Bellway has been matched by the Parish Council, and the proposal is currently with SCC for their consideration.

The Diamond Jubilee Orchard

The Jubilee Orchard, (owned by the Parish Council and managed by the Parish Council and a group of volunteers) has recovered well from damage caused by the recent vehicle accident and is undergoing a revamp. This involved the moving of a number of the fruit bushes, as well as making the decision to remove six old Cherry trees (all showing signs of disease). This will open up the Orchard, make it easier to maintain the other trees and for the contractor to mow safely. Regular working parties are held to keep it in good condition - a big thank you to all the volunteers! If you could spare some time and would be willing to help on a Saturday morning, please contact Mike Robson (01283 480599) or any Parish Councillor.

Additional flower troughs along the Burnside railings

To complement the existing much-admired flower planters, the Parish Council has agreed to fund three extra troughs to be situated on the railings outside the Almshouses.

Friends of Brook Hollows

The Parish Council wishes to congratulate "The Friends of Brook Hollows" on achieving a silver gilt award in the Heart of England in Bloom competition - an excellent result for a first-time entry in the competition.

Public footpaths and stiles

Rolleston has a number of popular and well used footpaths. If you notice any areas, including stiles, on public footpaths that require maintenance, please report these to the Parish Council Clerk (the stiles have now been numbered). The steps on the Jinny Nature Trail (located part way along on both sides) are being assessed for replacement, as it is many years since these were installed. It is hoped, subject to cost and weather, to undertake this project later this or next year. Footpath walks leaflets are available from the Clerk and may also be found at https://rollestonondovepc.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Village-walks.pdf

Parish Council meetings

Meetings start at **7.00pm** and are held at the Old Grammar School Room. Everyone is welcome to attend. The agenda for each meeting can be found on the Parish Council's website, Facebook page and on noticeboards the week before the meeting is held. Should you wish to ask the Parish Council any questions or raise any points with us, 15 minutes at the beginning of each meeting are set aside for you to do so. The full list of Councillors and contact details can be found on the Parish Council's website.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 11th Nov 7.00pm – Parish Council Meeting
Monday 9th Dec 7.00pm – Parish Council Meeting
Monday 13th Jan 7.00pm – Parish Council Meeting

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