

# Annual report by Councillor Christine Howe, Chair of Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council

## 2020/21 – We have survived!

Since I took over last year in order to allow Andy to spend more time in France, a lot has happened. Unfortunately, Andy's optimism about a restart after the first lockdown was short lived.

The good work started by Catherine, the Parish Clerk and Suzanne at the Parish Hall continues and will hopefully become less of a burden shortly. Thanks go to everyone who has helped make the time more bearable, from the village shop to the litter pickers.

Let's keep this village vibe going!

Parish meetings held on zoom tended to be a little shorter but we have still managed to achieve a lot this year:

**Neighbourhood plan:** Our desire to have a say in our development resulted in a survey of the village from what we liked about our village to what was disliked about the village. A 54% response was excellent and again thanks to all who responded. We have now set up sub groups to provide evidence based aims to improve the village and translate these into planning policies which will accompany the Local Plan. We will be tendering for a planning consultant shortly.

**Sports Club:** Having raised funds for the rear extension to accommodate much needed toilets with the help of Active Northumberland, Anne Dale's members fund, the cricket club and our own funds, we unexpectedly received funding from the Football Association via our team to commit to further extensions to provide additional changing space and showers.

The cricket club have also provided nets, scoreboard and picnic tables to enhance their facilities. Their ECB backed All Stars children's taster cricket will start on 7<sup>th</sup> May and will be a welcome addition to the village.

**Mill Pond:** Tyne Rivers Trust finalised their report on the Mill Pond and leat restoration project and we opted to take the project forward step by step. Tests were carried out to prove the land was not contaminated. We then arranged for the Tyne Rivers Trust volunteers to carry out some clearing of the leat and pond area, in order to establish whether or not a viable pond would naturally occur. This work was put off when we went into lockdown and is currently timetabled for later this year. Inevitably this has overlapped with our own tree surveys which have identified several trees dying and/or suffering from ash dieback and this work is ongoing.

**Village Trail:** The regeneration sub group have been continuing to fine tune the map of sites and buildings of interest in the village, and have reached the stage where we can get a specialist company on board to put together the actual signs. We are proposing 2 locations- the Parish Hall and the Old Playground which will include

leaflets with further information about each location. Planning permission is currently being sought and the signs will be funded via Anne Dale's member's fund.

**Spinney:** The local authority has finally implemented the traffic calming measures around the school access; and we have installed a gate to the Spinney itself to comply with H&S rules for when children are visiting. The church intends to install a gate access in the NE corner to link with the new proposed peace garden.

**Traffic calming:** The, long anticipated, zebra crossing is scheduled to be installed in May close to the Wellington where schoolchildren are dropped off by the school bus. It is hoped that this will have a further traffic calming effect.

**Tree planting:** By the time you read this, the parish clerk will have acquired 105 trees (Hazel, Crab Apple, Birch and Willow) from The Woodland Trust for planting around the village. Many will go to replace those lost in the Marchburn woods. Thanks go to the scouts and others who have volunteered to help with the planting. Although a little late in the year to be planting (the delivery was delayed) we are hopeful the latest rainfall will help, and we will be monitoring the trees.

Regulations permitting, we will be back to normal meetings shortly.  
Thank you all for your support throughout the year.

CH/ 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021