

## BURTON IN KENDAL PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

### Vice- Chair's Report March 2020

Dear Residents,

With the resignation of the Council's Chair last month, it befalls me to compile the annual report. Reviewing the previous 12 months, it becomes immediately apparent that several issues remain ongoing from the previous year. However, there have been some notable developments as discussed forthwith.

Broadband for the rural North (B4RN) had been under discussion for a considerable time, but over the last 12 months has seen the primary school connected and hosting the main village cabinet. This has then allowed work to commence connecting properties throughout the village. To date, numerous properties on roads leading off the east side of Main Street are connected, or in the process of being connected. Hopefully work will progress across Main Street imminently and thus allow for properties on the west side of the village to be connected.

The Public Realm Improvement Plan for the Square is very nearly reaching completion. Work has taken considerably longer than first envisaged, due to surveys of underground utilities being far from accurate. This has resulted in original designs being adapted to accommodate the maze of pipework in-situ underground. Amazingly the road was only fully closed for two consecutive evenings during the whole operation. However, traffic lights, now thankfully finally removed, had been present since October. Very little work has yet to be commenced on the targeted buildings, classified at risk by Historic England and take up of grant money is said to be poor. With another 12 months still to run on this project the village should see further developments and improvements within the conservation area.

Police Reports have seen a significant increase in the number of reported crimes, however not all fall within the parish boundary. Thefts from properties, especially farms, have certainly been on the increase with quad bikes being a particular favourite of the criminal fraternity. The neighbouring village of Holme has seen a number of burglaries to domestic properties, but thankfully there have been very few reported in Burton. Police have advised that garden sheds are an easy target and remind residents to check their security measures regularly and avoid leaving tools in vehicles whenever possible. Speeding through Clawthorpe remains an issue. Fortunately, the village speed indicator device (SID) is now back functioning fully and reminding individuals of their speed as they enter the village. A few volunteers have been trained by the police to use hand-held speed guns and the past year has seen an increase in the monitoring and issuing of warning letters to offenders.

Planning applications have been regular items on the agenda each month. Mostly considering extensions to properties but a few infill properties have been approved and built. Parking and drainage, key issues in the village, are discussed in detail with each application. Development of the fields to the north of Boon Town Playing Field by South Lakes Housing is still under discussion. Work has started on The Royal Hotel development and it is hoped that the hotel will be reopened in the next 12 months. The developer of Church Bank Gardens has, unfortunately, gone into receivership leaving several conditions set on the original planning notice outstanding. SLDC are currently reviewing this. The parish council have raised concerns over this development on numerous occasions over the past 12 months and before. With this in mind, it is vitally important that the Parish Council continues to engage with the SLDC Local Development Plan, currently under review, in the hope that future developments within the parish will be appropriate and of benefit to the community.

An item that has been ongoing for far too long appears to be finally reaching completion, due to the dogged determination of one councillor. This is the church plaque to commemorate the additional names of men omitted from the original memorial to the first world war. Having finally been approved by the Diocese, this is now on order and hopefully will be installed and unveiled very shortly.

One other item that also has been appearing on agendas each month is Slape Lane. Hopefully over the next year the money ringfenced for this can be spent on improving the short sections of mud, not so glorious mud, that create a constant challenge for any brave soul that attempts to negotiate the path.

I would like to thank those councillors who give their time to represent the parish on numerous committees and working parties and to Cllrs Bingham, Harvey and Cooper for representing our interests with the principal authorities. Thanks also to David Holmes, our lengthsman, Kathryn Smith and John Macness for reporting council meetings to the Gazette and Burton News and finally to Christine, our Clerk, for all her hard work compiling paperwork, accounts and keeping us all in order.