

FREETHORPE PARISH MEETING

ANNUAL REPORTS

2022

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INTRODUCTION

This document contains reports provided by various organisations which operate in the parish of Freethorpe.

1. Norfolk County Council

Verbal.

2. Broadland District Council

Author: Councillor Grant Nurden

Report for the Marshes Ward – 2021/2022

We have come to the end of another year that has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. This virus is still with us and still affects our daily life, but we remain positive that as we adapt, things will get easier.

This year has seen the return to in person meetings with the lapsing of the regulations introduced at the beginning of lockdown in 2020, the Council being awarded the armed forces Gold standard, work started on site at the Broadland Food Innovation Centre and delivering fantastic homes at St Giles Park. The year has been full of successes.

The Council's staff (the One Team) have continued to play their part in looking after our community and businesses and since the start of the pandemic has paid out a very impressive £104 million pounds to businesses across both Broadland and South Norfolk. This is an outstanding achievement to disperse these grants to business that really needed them, while at the same time doing amazing work to support the NHS.

As the Council continues its collaborative journey, we have welcomed lots of new starters both Councillors and staff. We have launched our joint website, and started to align the systems that sit behind it and have launched 'Teams' which is proving to be a great new tool, particularly for communicating in the agile working space. We are working through our accommodation review which will hopefully see us consolidate on one site, and the waste contract has been let with the Contractor (Veolia) expected to maintain a quality service. The One Team are also key players in driving the new ICS model (Integrated Care System), ensuring that the work we do as a district is front and centre of how we collectively support our community. The new business plan has been signed off and the 2022/2023 budget approved reflecting a zero percent increase in Broadland's share of the annual Council Tax bill. This has been due to both councils continuing to show a reduced revenue requirement.

Looking ahead there is still much to do, - we await the Levelling Up white paper, Planning Reform, Implementation of the Environmental Bill and Local Government finance review, all of which will have significant impact on our team and the community.

We have started a review of the collaboration journey and will be undergoing an external Local Government Association Peer Review which will help us drive out the best value and quality services for our residents whilst robustly maintaining the independency of the Council. Who would have known when we embarked on our collaborative journey just how timely it was to build resilience ahead of a pending pandemic or how important our IT refresh would be to enable remote working and keep our services running. But above all, the collaboration is reducing individual and collective revenue requirements year on year, creating capacity to be able to support our community and businesses as well as embark on some big projects, both internally and externally.

3. Norfolk Police

COMMUNITY UPDATE

ACLE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

ACLE, BURLINGHAM & MARSHES WARD

   www.norfolk.police.uk

APRIL 2022



WE ARE YOUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM – WANT TO GET IN TOUCH?

CONTACT US – E: SENTACLE@NORFOLK.POLICE.UK TEL: 101

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FACEBOOK: /BroadlandPolice

TWITTER: @BroadlandPolice

YOUR LOCAL BEAT MANAGER



PC 1586 JACKIE CHAMBERS
& PC 1682 STEVEN GODDEN

UPDATE FROM YOUR ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WHAT ARE WE ALL ABOUT?

WHAT DO WE DO?

We support our members to create well-connected communities who support those who are vulnerable and isolated and thereby increase community health and wellbeing. All our schemes are run by local volunteers who want to make a difference. By joining up with your neighbours, you can help to reduce crime and the fear of crime together.



WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY ABOUT US?



COMMUNITY FOCUSED
NEIGHBOURLY
SUPPORTIVE
PROACTIVE

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

You can join us as a member and join your local scheme or if there isn't one, why not consider starting a scheme of your own with your neighbours.

If you are interested in volunteering, we have a number of both local and national volunteering opportunities.



Joining Neighbourhood Watch is simple. Scan QR code to get started.



To find out more about Neighbourhood Watch and how you can get involved visit our website: WWW.OURWATCH.ORG.UK

CURRENT NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIORITIES

- Speeding
- Anti-social behaviour

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA?

Speeding and Traffic calming still remains the Priority over the Acle and surrounding villages area. The Acle team are pleased to report that many of you have contacted them to express your concerns regarding certain roads across the area. The team appreciates this feedback and will endeavour to conduct speed checks – where it is safe to do so – along these specific stretches of road. We are working closely with the Special Constabulary Roads Policing Team to conduct the area speed checks, sadly several speeding tickets have been issued, but in the main these visual checks are a good deterrent to keep people's speed in check. In February the Acle team completed the Road safety sign competition with the Freehorpe Community Primary School, the children's designs were amazing and so much effort was put in. With thanks to the Freehorpe Parish Council the signs can be displayed in the village, encouraging road safety. Freehorpe Community Primary School deserve to be very proud of themselves!

This week the same competition has been launched with Acle St Edmunds C of E Primary School, the team looks forward to seeing these results around the village, the winners will not be announced until after Easter. Park Walk and Talks will remain across the area, please come and talk to the team or any officer you may see walking about in your local area. Please do also report any areas you feel are unsafe through the Street Safe App via the Norfolk Constabulary website.

The following Priorities have been agreed:

- Speeding
- Anti-social behaviour

I would like to say 'thank you' to the community for your vote & voicing your concerns. We will concentrate on these 2 priorities over the next 3 months.

Stay safe and Kind Regards, Jackie and Steve

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Local Community Meeting- Tuesday 28th June at 6pm via online Teams

For local Engagement Surgeries see Broadland Police social media pages



CONTACT US THROUGH OUR
SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



CALL US ON 101 OR 999 IN
AN EMERGENCY



TALK TO YOUR LOCAL
BEAT MANAGER

4. Broadland Tree Warden Network

Author: John Fleetwood



Broadland Tree Warden Network

Report for Freethorpe and Wickhampton Annual Parish Meeting – 16 May 2022

The Broadland Tree Warden Network is now in its fourth year as an independent Network, following the closure of the Broadland District Council scheme. We continue to enjoy an excellent relationship with the District Council who have supported us with an annual £7,000 tree planting budget and several town and parish councils kindly give us an annual donation. Sadly, not all councils make a donation but we are extremely grateful to those who do as it allows us to pay our annual subscription to The Tree Council and secure insurance cover.

Today, this Network has 36 Tree Wardens, sadly two less than last year, and we cover 25 of Broadland's 63 parishes. That is 39.7% coverage. Of those 63 parishes, 6 have unfortunately stated that they have no interest in having a Tree Warden. Whilst we have less Tree Wardens, those we have are more active.

In our report to the parish last year my fellow Tree Warden for the parish, Andrea Rowlands, and I were pleased to report that we had been joined by a third Tree Warden for Freethorpe and Wickhampton, David Brown from Wickhampton, but regrettably David decided that Tree Wardening was not for him and resigned leaving us to continue as before.

Andrea has left her post at Freethorpe Community Primary School but still intends to be involved with our Junior Tree Warden scheme which has understandably suffered considerably due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She has retained close links with the school and we now hope to resurrect our valuable scheme after a two year break, albeit with new Junior Tree Wardens.

Broadland Tree Wardens, in addition to their roles within the parishes to which we have been appointed, now also work as teams, enabling us to tackle larger, more ambitious projects. The Network is now leading a nationally important scientific project, the Sentinel Treescapes Project. Funded by Defra, we work with Fera, Newcastle University and, of course, The Tree Council. Based in Burlingham Woods, sensors have been attached to trees to measure climate, movement, reaction to weather extremes and general tree health. We now have details of what happens inside a tree when it is blown over in a gale, thanks to the recent storms!

We monitor battery levels, change and re-charge them as necessary, plus carry out visual inspections of trees recording minute details. The project will last for another 18 months after which it is planned to roll it out across the rest of the country. We are proud that our small Network is at the forefront of national scientific research.

Another major project is the thinning and restoration of Low Farm Wood in Brundall. A woodland planted on Norfolk County Farms land fifteen years ago, it has sadly been neglected ever since. No initial management was carried out and the species planted were far from ideal. Luckily our Tree Warden for Brundall, Richard Farley, and I are certificated chainsaw and woodchipper users allowing us to fully tackle the work involved in this two year (3,000 man-hours) project.

During the 2021-2022 planting season which ended at the end of March, Broadland Tree Wardens planted 950 trees, all supplied from our £7,000 tree planting budget from Broadland District Council. We also paid for several Tree Wardens to obtain forestry first-aid certificates and several others to gain a Level 1 Tree Safety Inspection certificate. We all know that land on which to plant trees is difficult to find and Broadland District Council will only fund planting on

publicly owned or publicly accessible land, making it even more difficult. Therefore, we think that we have been very successful with our tree planting.

In Freethorpe, Andrea and I planted a pedunculate oak on the grass at the front of the village hall on behalf of the parish to commemorate the platinum jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

That same day we also planted a rowan in the grounds of the Methodist Chapel in memory of Geoffrey and Edith Moll for their lifetime of service to the village of Freethorpe and the Methodist Church.

We also supplied six trees complete with stakes and guards to David Brown for planting in the Wickhampton playground.

Nationally, tree nurseries are again warning of severe shortages in the next couple of years because several organisations have committed to ambitious tree planting targets without actually considering where the plants will come from. It takes five years to grow an oak from an acorn to a 1m tall whip suitable for planting out!

All of our Tree Wardens continue to be on the look-out for trees that warrant a Tree Preservation Order and make appropriate recommendations to Broadland District Council if and when necessary. Similarly, our Tree Wardens report any cases of unlawful works carried out on protected trees. Your Tree Wardens for Freethorpe and Wickhampton keep the Clerk to the Council fully informed of any applications to carry out work on protected trees and luckily we have not found it necessary to report any unlawful works.

Together Andrea and I surveyed all the trees on the village hall site following concerns expressed regarding their safety. I possess a Level 1 Tree Safety Inspection qualification so am qualified to carry out such inspections. We recommended necessary work to the oaks adjacent to School Road as the trees overhang the highway and the entrance to Freethorpe Community Primary School. We also advised management works to the poplars bounding the site.

During 2021 the Network came under heavy pressure from several fronts wishing us to work on their various projects, finally leading to my resignation as Network Co-ordinator. However, I am pleased to report that, thanks to support from fellow Tree Wardens and The Tree Council, I agreed to withdraw my resignation and today I continue to be enormously proud to be the Co-ordinator of The Broadland Tree Warden Network and of all that we have achieved to date. I am also privileged to be continuing as the East of England representative on the Tree Council's National Advisory Group, where I represent all the Tree Warden Networks in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. It is a great honour for this Network to have such an influential seat at the national table.

It must be appreciated that Tree Wardens are volunteers. They receive no remuneration or reward for the time they devote to their roles, other than the satisfaction of knowing that they have contributed to the preservation and improvement of our precious natural environment.

We wish to assure you that your Broadland Tree Wardens for Freethorpe and Wickhampton shall always endeavour to serve the parish to the best of our abilities and protect and enhance our local environments.

Finally, I wish to thank Andrea Rowlands for her much-valued support in our work. She may keep a lower profile than I do, but her help, support and friendship are much valued and there would be no Junior Tree Wardens without her.

John Fleetwood
Broadland Tree Warden for Freethorpe and Wickhampton
The Broadland Tree Warden Network Co-ordinator

5. Freethorpe Parish Council

Author: Andrew Moll / Nick Spencer

The Parish Council enjoyed a stable year with excellent support and attendance from the Parish Councillors. The council operated within budget, and delivered a number of projects from earmarked reserves within budget.

During 2021-22 some of the highlights were:

Play Areas

- Operating a monthly/quarterly/annual inspection regime for the play areas at Freethorpe and Wickhampton; and keeping on top of corrective actions and risk mitigations highlighted by inspections.
- Removing an 'end-of-life' assault course and replacing it with a new piece of play equipment targeted at younger children, at a cost of £10,000, funded by Section 106 grant funding.
- Replacing the Wickhampton shelters with a new bench (installed) and a picnic table (on order).
- Continuing to provide for grounds maintenance at Freethorpe Playing Field, and adding Wickhampton Play Area to the maintenance schedule, as well as a "vertidrain" at Freethorpe.
- The lease for Wickhampton Play Area was extended for another 10 years with the kind support of Beckhithe Farms.

Speed Management

- Monitoring speed measurement in Freethorpe and sharing data with the Police for targeted speed checking. The statistics continue to give particular cause for concern on Reedham Road entering the village.
- Purchase and installation of a second SAM machine to monitor and discourage speeding in Freethorpe
- Helping to plan and fund a joint Road and Speeding Safety Initiative at Freethorpe Community Primary and Nursery School, working with the Police and Highways. Awards were presented to the children for their poster designs by councillors Mike Blake and Grant Nurden.

Wickhampton

- Installation of a new village sign for Wickhampton
- Installation of three new village entry signs for Wickhampton
- Supporting the Wickhampton Telephone Box refurbishment, funded by Councillor Nurden's Member's Grant

Allotments

- Exploring the possibilities for providing allotments with local landowners

Funding and Support

- Financial contribution to Freethorpe Village Hall; and for grass cutting in the three churchyards/cemeteries in the parish
- Making section 137 donations to a number of organisations providing support services in the community, with an additional donation to Norwich Citizen's Advice Bureau, reflecting the difficult circumstances of the last year.
- Responding to the problem of the power cut on the Common, and working with Broadland District Council to prepare for such occurrences with a Community Emergency Plan.
- Signing and publishing an Armed Forces Covenant.
- Dedicating and installing a blue plaque at the Village Hall to commemorate community resilience through the pandemic.

As well as the standard precept (£15,299), the Parish Council received income from:

- Recycling at the Village Hall (£549.78), collection costs being just £52.
- Norfolk County Council's Parish Partnership fund towards the second SAM machine
- Community Infrastructure Levy funding relating to Suttons Crescent development

	Budget	Actuals	Variance	2020/21
Income				
Precept	£15,299.89	£15,299.00	£0.89	£14,000.00
Grants	£0.00	£1,708.50	-£1,708.50	£0.00
Recycling	£200.00	£549.78	-£349.78	£928.37
CIL	£0.00	£3,062.30	-£3,062.30	£10,070.45
Other	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£10,831.24
Interest	£32.11	£0.53	£31.58	£32.11
Total Parish Council Income	£15,532.00	£20,620.11	-£5,088.11	£35,862.17
Add VAT reclaimed Aug 20-Aug 21	1,105.00	£1,406.07	£301.07	£5,884.55
Add funds held on behalf of Wickhampton Telephone Kiosk project (Members' Grant)	£0.00	£425.00	-£425.00	£0.00
Total Income for Bank Rec.	£16,637.00	£22,451.18	-£5,212.04	£41,746.72

Expenditure				
OPERATIONAL				
Clerk Salary	£1,977.60	£1,905.64	£71.96	£2,312.22
HMRC	£494.40	£476.00	£18.40	£528.40
Mileage	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Administration	£300.00	£74.99	£225.01	£253.65
Training	£150.00	£0.00	£150.00	£195.00
Subscriptions	£250.00	£229.45	£20.55	£229.45
Audit	£300.00	£267.00	£33.00	£875.00
Speed Management Services	£240.00	£168.00	£72.00	£144.00
Grounds Maintenance	£2,000.00	£1,825.02	£174.98	£1,883.12
Insurance	£500.00	£402.41	£97.59	£444.36
Church Grass Cutting (3)	£2,055.00	£2,020.00	£35.00	£2,055.00
Recycling	£50.00	£52.20	£-2.20	£39.00
Play Equipment	£2,675.00	£3,003.43	£-328.43	£4,122.24
Village Hall Hire / Donation	£3,600.00	£3,600.00	£0.00	£3,600.00
S137	£815.00	£850.00	£-35.00	£1,065.00
Miscellaneous	£125.00	£195.62	£-70.62	£391.78
Audit writeback	£0.00		£0.00	£-40.00
OPERATIONAL SUB-TOTAL	£15,532.00	£15,069.76	£462.24	£18,098.22
EARMARKED RESERVES				
Wickhampton Village Sign	£2,248.75	£2,198.75	£50.00	
CIL (by 2024-25) - Play Equipment	£10,000.00	£10,012.11	£-12.11	
Second SAM Machine	£3,667.00	£3,667.00	£0.00	
School Road Safety Project	£1,000.00	£247.84	£752.16	
Benches Palmers Lane & Wickhampton	£1,150.00	£594.27	£555.73	
Wickhampton Telephone Kiosk	£0.00	£4.56	£-4.56	
EARMARKED RESERVES SUB-TOTAL	£18,065.75	£16,724.53	£1,341.22	£0.00
Total Parish Council Expenditure	£33,597.75	£31,794.29	£1,803.46	£18,098.22
Add VAT paid on expenditure Apr 21-Mar 22		£3,846.40	£-3,846.40	£1,372.10
Add payment made for Wickhampton Telephone Kiosk project (Member's Grant)		£425.00	£-425.00	
Total Expenditure for Bank Rec.	£33,597.75	£36,065.69	£-2,467.94	£19,470.32

The Parish Council plans for 2022-23 include:

- Successful internal and external audits of accounts and administration
- Reduction in speeding through the second SAM machine and exploration of other measures with Highways
- New picnic bench at Wickhampton and new seat at Palmers Lane
- Identification of CIL and S106 community infrastructure project/s
- Any action that can be taken in relation to the closure of the Rampant Horse
- Restoration of the Freethorpe Village Sign and addition of planters
- Some additional grounds maintenance by Norse at the Village Hall.
- Progressing the rental of land for allotments
- Tree surgery at Freethorpe Playing Field
- Starting a nature plan for the parish
- Completing a Community Emergency Plan
- Contributing to the planning process regarding the former garage site

6. Norfolk Citizen's Advice Bureau

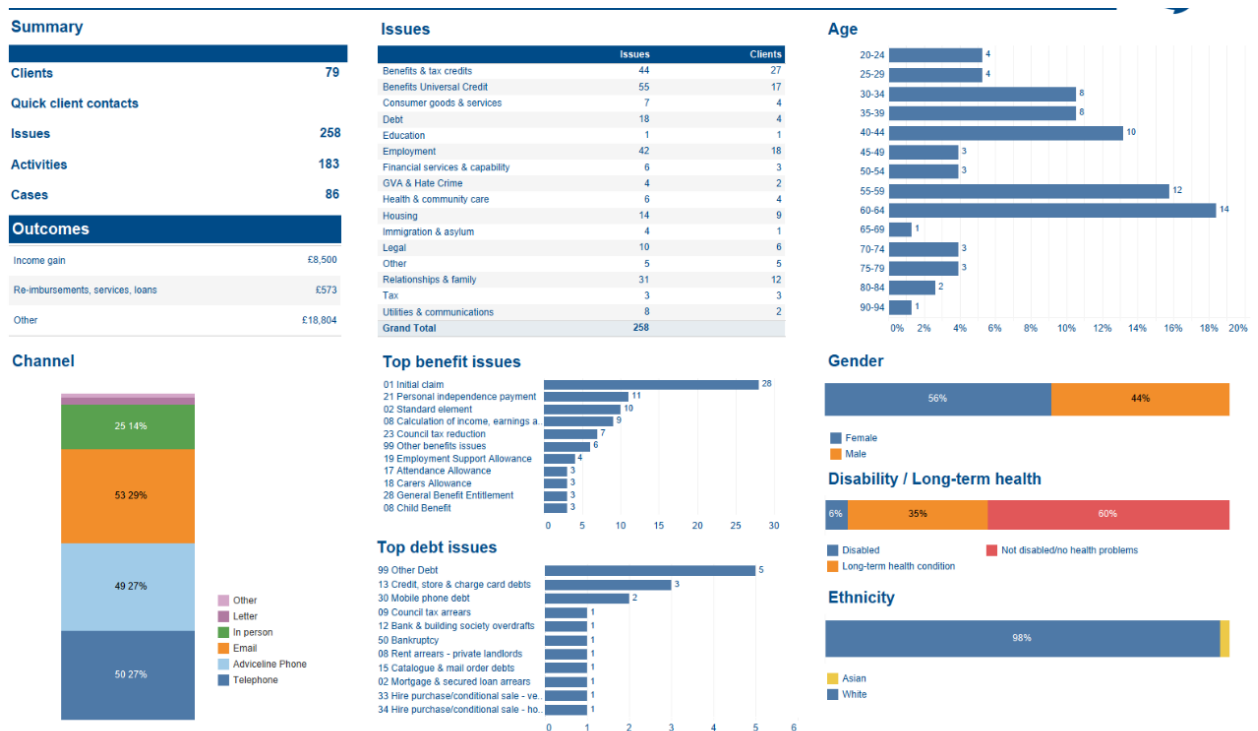
Delivery to support Freethorpe

12 people in last 12 months – small numbers so not statistically significant but general details may help to understand the nature of the work we undertake:

- Age range from 20-94, average 45
- 65% male
- At least 30% disabled
- Employment is a dominant issue – 40%; will be other underlying issues

Delivery to support Marshes ward

- Key overview below for the last two years
- Lower than average : clients with disabilities and long-term health conditions
- Higher than average : employment issues



Delivery to support Broadland district

- Key overview below for the last two years
- Lower than average : face-to-face consultation, largely a result of lack of funded offices in the districts and reliance on digital support
- Higher than average : relationship and family issues, female client %

Summary

Clients	1,016
Quick client contacts	
Issues	3,061
Activities	3,586
Cases	1,166

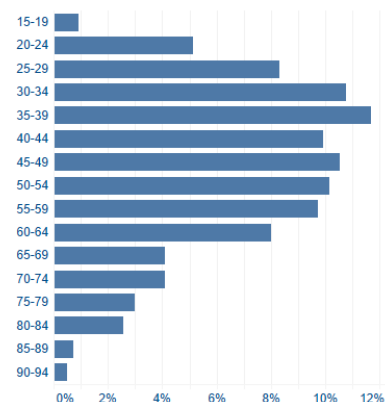
Outcomes

Income gain	£125,236
Re-imbursements, services, loans	£1,543
Debts written off	£17,930
Repayments rescheduled	£130

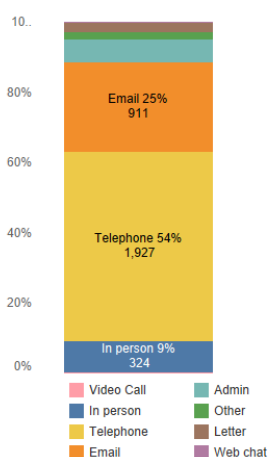
Issues

Issues	Clients
Benefits & tax credits	252
Benefits Universal Credit	114
Charitable Support & Food Ban..	8
Consumer goods & services	56
Debt	140
Education	15
Employment	140
Financial services & capability	48
GVA & Hate Crime	20
Health & community care	53
Housing	138
Immigration & asylum	8
Legal	83
Other	83
Relationships & family	154
Tax	4
Travel & transport	35
Utilities & communications	40
Grand Total	3,061

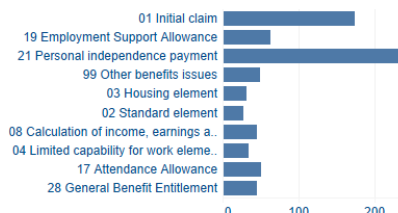
Age



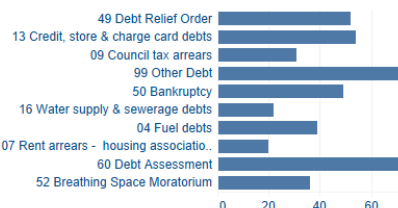
Channel



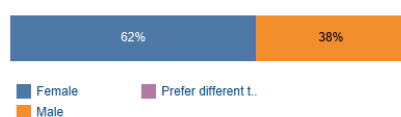
Top benefit issues



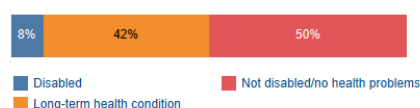
Top debt issues



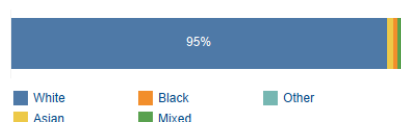
Gender



Disability / Long-term health



Ethnicity



Broadland 12-month trend analysis:

- Huge increase in energy and utility issues – up 1000%
- Increase in detailed debt queries and range of debt ‘sub-issues’ i.e. debt is more complex and requires more detailed support to resolve
- Recent spike in tax issues, up ~200% in the last quarter
- Benefits support remains high with Universal Credit issues the single largest common factor in client requests for help
-

Call to action

1. Please volunteer
2. Please donate
3. Please help others understand our role, purpose and services

7. Acle & District Foodbank

Author: Andrew Moll

Acle Food Bank continues to support people needing some short-term help with provision of food parcels. This includes anyone in the parish of Freethorpe. Individuals' needs are being reviewed in May 2022, sadly in anticipation of likely increased demand in 2022.

Contact the Foodbank for a food parcel on the freephone number 0800 774 7286 for some short-term help.

8. Friends of Wickhampton Village

Author: David Brown

REPORT FOR FREETHORPE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MAY 2022

The Friends of Wickhampton Village, (FOWV) was formed to ensure that residents have a voice about amenities in the Village and to act as a focus to pursue matters of interest or concern with the Parish Council and others.

We would once again like to express our thanks and appreciation to Freethorpe Parish Council for the help, time and support throughout the past year on a number of important issues for the Village.

“Welcome to Wickhampton – Please Drive Carefully” Signs

Following our approach to the Parish Council last year and the Council’s agreement, three signs have now been installed on Church Road, Low Road and the Wickhampton Road. Not only do these denote the Village but it is hoped that these may help to reduce speeding traffic in the Village which has become worse in recent months. Given that new families with small children have recently moved into the Village, this is even more important.

Wickhampton Village Sign

The new Wickhampton Village sign has been installed to replace the old sign which fell into disrepair. The FOWV worked closely with the Parish Council to ensure that the sign reflected residents' wishes and we are extremely pleased with the result. The post and base have also been refurbished and set off the sign beautifully.

The sign was officially unveiled in February by District Councillor Grant Nurden at a well-attended opening ceremony.

The FOWV is grateful to the Parish Council for facilitating the replacement sign.

Telephone Kiosk

The FOWV adopted the old BT telephone kiosk in Wickhampton as it is an important part of the character of the Village. It has been refurbished by the Friends and converted into a “book exchange” for villagers.

A substantial amount of money for the project was raised by a few residents but this was insufficient to meet the full cost of renovation. The FOWV applied to the District Council for a grant under the Ward Members Community Allowance and the bid was successful. The Friends are very grateful for this grant which enabled the renovation to be completed.

Restoration of the Church Green

Historically, the Church Green was a place where village children played games. The FOWV were concerned that it was being destroyed by cars parking right up to the church wall. After seeking views from the Parish Council, we are currently restoring part of the original green whilst still leaving parking spaces for visitors. Some new turf has been laid and a new flowerbed running along the west wall of the church has been established. The cones currently marking out the Green will be replaced with

permanent posts shortly.

Environmental Concerns/ Nature Plans

The FOWV have previously raised with the Parish Council concerns about the timing of the cutting of roadside verges and supported the suggestion from Norfolk County Council that grass cutting be reduced where it is safe to do so to let flowers set seed to encourage their spread. Sadly, there has been no reduction in the cutting of the verges around the Parish.

There has been significant damage to our verges during the past year. It is often said that damage to verges is unavoidable in a rural farming environment and that there is nothing that can be done. We disagree with that view and consider that most damage is done by larger traffic, including farm vehicles. However, oil delivery drivers have specific instructions not to damage roadside verges when turning or manoeuvring and believe that the same “code of conduct” should apply to farming vehicles.

We raise again the issue of the need to adopt a far more wildlife friendly policy towards the maintenance and planting of hedges and trees. It is the case that most of the roadside hedges in the Parish are of no value to wildlife and are cut back far too hard leaving worthless, ugly stumps. We believe that the planting of new roadside hedgerows, joining up existing hedgerows and ensuring these are of sufficient height and width is essential if we are to create havens for wildlife. Suitable roadside tree planting should also be encouraged although we currently seem to be in the ridiculous situation where no planting along highway verges is allowed despite pledges from Norfolk County Council to plant millions of new trees.

We are very pleased to note that the Parish Council is seeking to adopt a new Plan for Nature and look forward to contributing to it.

Friends of Wickhampton Village

May 2022

9. Wickhampton Playground Committee

Author: David Brown

Report for Freethorpe Annual Parish Council Meeting May 2022

The Playground Committee is pleased to report that the new maintenance arrangements for the Playground are working well. We are grateful to Freethorpe Parish Council for all they have done during the past year.

The Committee is pleased to report that the Council has replaced the two aging cradle swings.

The two old shelters have both unfortunately blown over in the strong winds. As they were a safety risk, the decision was taken to remove them. A new bench to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, funded jointly by the Playground Committee and the Council, has replaced one shelter and a picnic table in place of the second shelter is currently on order. This has been purchased through matched funding between us.

Working with the Council we hope to facilitate further improvements to the playground during the coming year.

Wickhampton Playground Committee

May 2022

10. All Saints' Church, Freethorpe

Verbal

11. Freethorpe Flower Show

Author: Corinne Hill



The Annual show was held on Saturday 28th August 2021. Due to Covid we were unable to hold the show in 2020.

Our show is now open to all residents of Freethorpe and Wickhampton together with surrounding villages. This year we accepted entries from Reedham, Halvergate, Lingwood and Acle.

Entries in the Horticultural classes were of a high standard. Entries for Cookery, Handicraft and the Children's classes were not so well supported.

As was our usual practice light refreshments were available throughout the afternoon.

We closed the show by auctioning off the surplus vegetable and fruit. The proceeds from this auction helps towards the cost of running the show.

The jumpers in the charity class were donated to Knitting for Peace, and we thank all those who contributed to this effort.

We ask the village to continue to support this show. We were established in 1936 and it would be a loss to our community if this was to cease.

Any enquires regarding the show should be made to:-

Corinne Hill, 107 The Common, Freethorpe, NR13 3LT. [Tel:01493 700965](tel:01493700965)

12. Freethorpe Football Club

Author: Stephen Smith

2nd May 2022

Season 2021 /2022 started badly as pre-season Marcus Smith our long-standing First Team Manager decided to resign his post after 20 years in the position. Marcus has given his all, to his team and the club throughout his tenure. His massive and concise contributions to the funding successes the Football Club had in securing grants from Barclays Spaces for sport's, Sport England, Biffa, FA and the Football Foundation should never be understated or forgotten by the FC or the parish.

Season 2021 / 2022 started with the Club running 6 teams, Men's Sat, Men's Sun, Ladies Sunday, U9, U10 and U13.

Financially this has been a difficult season with little or no fundraising events (due to Covid) and no support from the FA. Last season the FA provided funding to cover lost fundraising. Just as an example of the costs: - to host a home fixture in the Anglian combination, Pavilion hire £21, referee £40 and after match food £20, typically around £80 per home game.

The demise of the MUGA has seen 4 of our 6 teams training at Acle, with the associated costs and travelling making it less than ideal.

Nationally adult Grassroots football (village football) is in serious decline in my opinion due to Covid, excess governance from the FA and Leagues and lack of player commitment.

To survive these difficult times the Football Club will have to revisit its business plan with costs being covered by players without relying on fundraising events to subsidise expenses.

The FC are looking to appoint another new manager for the Adult Sat Team as the current management team have resigned and it looks like one of the youth teams may be lost due to the manager moving away from the area.

The FC would like to thank the Sports and Social Club for providing excellent after match hospitality since its reopening and the Parish Council for maintaining the pitches through Norse and the extra work undertaken to improve the playing surface.

This will be my final report to the Parish Council as at the end of the Season after 52 years with the club and 28 years as either Club Secretary or Club Chairman I have decided to stand down from all positions within the club. I would personally like to thank the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and the Social Club for their undaunting support in all the projects that have been undertaken especially since 2005. We should all be proud of what has been achieved as a community, resulting in some of the best sporting and community facilities in Norfolk.

Stephen Smith

Secretary Freethorpe FC

13. Freethorpe First Responders

Author: Julie Risby, Co-ordinator

Update re Freethorpe Community First Responders group:

During the majority of the pandemic/lockdown the group had to stand down. Members are keen to resume responding and recently met with Andrew Barlow, who is the Community Response Manager for Norfolk and Waveney, to discuss refresher training and new procedural requirements.

There is a high volume of demand for updating CFR's basic life saving training across the county but it is hoped that arrangements will be finalised and completed in the next couple of months. The CFR group has also registered the defibrillators that they look after and maintain locally onto the new data base 'The Circuit'. The Circuit replaces the previous method of logging defibrillators on the 999 system.

There are two new recruits who have applied to be CFRs and they are waiting for training. If anybody else is interested in becoming a CFR please get in touch at Reedhamcfr@gmail.com

14. Royal British Legion

Author: Jayne Smith, Area Co-ordinator

Following our Covid restricted collection in 2020, The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for 2021 was a huge success.

With restrictions lifted, the Guides were able to carry out door-to-door collections around Freethorpe. This raised the wonderful sum of £317

As always we are extremely grateful to all the shops, schools and businesses who support our efforts. The final district total raised was £9697.67

Since 1 January 2022, I am now the Poppy Appeal Organiser for the entire district. This covers an area from Reedham to Runham, Halvergate to Strumpshaw and all villages in between.

Moving forward, I would welcome any requests or suggestions for the Poppy Appeal this year and beyond. I can be contacted via email jaynesmith15@btinternet.com

The Acle and District British Legion are hoping to organise a quiz in June and a concert in September, so keep your eyes open for information. In addition, with the Queens Jubilee, the members are likely to be presenting the Standard at various occasions.

Finally if you are a member of the armed forces or not, there is a monthly meeting of The Royal British Legion held on the first Friday of the month in The Bure Room, Acle Recreation Centre, Bridewell Lane at 2pm. In addition, for those who may be working, there is a meeting on the first Sunday of the month in The Yare Room, Acle Recreation Centre at 3pm. New members are always welcome.

Jayne Smith
Poppy Appeal Organiser
Acle & District

15. Freethorpe Methodist Church

Author: Corinne Hill

Report to Freethorpe Parish Council

Freethorpe Methodist Church, Chapelfield, Freethorpe, NR13 3LY

E-mail contact: c.hill6@homecall.co.uk

Steward & Church contact person : Mrs Corinne Hill

Secretary: Minutes secretary Mrs Ruth Bacon. Correspondence and bookings Mrs Greta Brown and Mrs Corinne Hill

The mission of our church

- Love God with our whole being
- To bring people to Christ
- To be a Christian presence and witness in our community
- To give support and help to other people and organizations where possible

This past year has been a difficult one for all of us. Our pattern of worship has changed a great deal. We were pleased to have Zoom services at the height of the pandemic. We resumed worship in our church with one service per Sunday. Alternating between morning and evening services.

Our own fund raising activities were curtailed but we did hold a Coffee Morning in October. We have continued to support outside organizations and charities.

- Harvest Goods donated to Great Yarmouth Food Bank.
- Austerity Lunch held for M.R.D.F.
- Cycle ride for the Norfolk Churches Trust.

We continue to work closely with our friends at the Anglican church. The following events were held jointly.

- Carol Service at Freethorpe Village Hall on 5th December.
- Joint Covenant Service at Freethorpe Methodist Church.
- Women's World Day of Prayer service was held at Freethorpe Methodist Church.
- A team continues to go to both Freethorpe and Reedham schools with "Open the Book". This is well received and the children are very receptive to what we are telling them.

Other Church events

We have resumed POP-IN at 2.30 p.m. on a Wednesday. This is held for anyone who wishes to have tea and a natter. On Remembrance Sunday the service was attended by the local cub pack. Laying of poppy wreaths took place at the war memorial in our churchyard. Some of the usual seasonal services were able to be held. at Easter, Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Carols, Christmas, were held.

The past year has been a sad one for us as we note the loss of four of our members. Mrs Rita Wilson, Mr David Chettleburgh, Mrs Edith Moll and Mr Geoffrey Moll. All of these were loyal and faithful servants of our church. On a more cheerful note we were pleased to have the wedding of Kelly Crow and Paul (PJ) Dunthorne take place in June.

16. Freethorpe Primary and Nursery School



Freethorpe Primary School **Report to Parish Council May 2022**

Author: Mrs. Robbie Houghton

Since Easter 2021, Freethorpe Primary School has been a part of the Coastal Together Federation. This federation of six schools shares an Executive Headteacher, with each individual school having its own Head of School (a role more similar to the traditional Headteacher). Robbie Houghton and Rosie Maunder are heads of school for Freethorpe, job sharing the role. Simon Wakeman is the Executive Headteacher. The other schools in the federation are: Cantley Primary; Horning Primary; Bacton Primary and Mundesley Infant & Junior Schools.

At Freethorpe, we currently offer out of school care from 7:30 am each morning, and between 3:30 and 5:30pm each afternoon. Additional extra curricular clubs are returning post covid: Dance Club, Sports Club and Art Club at present. Our school runs its own Nursery so we take children from the age of 2 years old, up to the end of their Primary school journey at Year 6. From Freethorpe, the majority of pupils transition to Acle Academy for their secondary school education.

This year we have revised our curriculum and the children have been covering topics including "From Stones to Steel", "Crowns and Castles" and "Walk Like an Egyptian". There are lots of exciting activities that the children take part in and we have even had a federation wide quiz where Freethorpe was crowned champion! Cluster events remain a key part of the school's offer and so far we have had children participate in events such as a rugby tournament, KS1 football event, cross country and netball. These are fantastic opportunities for the children to work alongside pupils from other schools within the local area.

This academic year we have worked alongside Norfolk Police and the Parish Council to promote a Road Safety campaign, encouraging drivers to stick to the speed limits when travelling through the village. We had some fantastic entries from the children and the winning ones have been produced as professional signs which are now on display throughout Freethorpe.

Linked to road safety, our Year 6 pupils have taken part in Bikeability sessions, learning about how to use their bikes safely and responsibly when on the roads. Additionally, we have been a part of the Norwich and Norfolk Open Studios event which culminated in an exhibition that was open to all in the school hall. This was a fantastic opportunity for school to be open again post covid restrictions lifting. We will again be displaying work that the children have produced as a part of the Jubilee celebrations that we are holding in school.

The school has been involved in promoting a new schools event at the Royal Norfolk Show. The results of this work will be displayed at the Show in June as part of the

“On the Map” project which is encouraging children to make links with food and farming within their local area.

As always, Friends of Freethorpe have been working incredibly hard with organising events to raise funds for the school. Thanks to the generous donations we now have new trim trail equipment on the field, as well as many other items to improve the school grounds. Future events will include another garage sale around the local area, which has had lots of interest after the hugely successful event that took place last year.

It has been fantastic to be able to welcome people back into school and as such, we have seen the return of Open the Book assemblies once a fortnight. These are an interesting way for the children to hear stories from the Bible told by a group from the local community.

During this academic year, it has been truly lovely to gradually feel some of the pre covid normality returning. Our children have shown real resilience during a challenging time and now are flourishing with things opening up again. We are all looking forward to the exciting events and activities that will be coming up in the next 12 months.

I would like to express my thanks for all the continued village and community support. The school continues to thrive as a result of this and we very much enjoy working with members of our local community throughout the academic year.

Robbie Houghton
Head of School
Freethorpe Primary School

17. The Walpole Almshouse Charity

THE WALPOLE ALMSHOUSE CHARITY

Charity No. 208467

May 2022

In September 2021 the residents, trustees, former trustees and friends joined together in the gardens to celebrate 75 years of the Almshouse Association and 150 years since the Freethorpe Walpole Almshouses were constructed. Afternoon tea was enjoyed by all and a new plaque was dedicated to mark the occasion.

The exceptionally strong winds in February thankfully only resulted in one tile being dislodged and this has been repaired. There is a lot of moss on the roof and this will be removed for a full check of the roof to be carried out and its condition to be assessed.

The Trustees have again increased the weekly maintenance charge. We appreciate the exceptionally high cost of living at present and always give the residents the opportunity to discuss the increase should it cause them hardship.

Cheryl Nicholls

Clerk/Trustee

18. St. Andrew's Church, Wickhampton

No report this time.