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# Parish Council Report 2019-21

Annual Parishioners Meeting 2021

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The Parish Council provides a report to the annual parishioners meeting each year setting out the challenges, achievements and future actions for progressing the Parish Plan for Tollerton and managing the Parish Council.

In 2019-21 **challenges** for the parish, village and residents included:

- Coronavirus Pandemic,
- Two major flooding incidents on Tollerton Lane and Cotgrave Lane
- Closure / sale of the village pub
- Planning application for the Strategic Urban Extension around Tollerton Airport (Gamston Fields)
- Deteriorating pavement quality across the parish and limited maintenance from responsible bodies
- Incidents of unwelcome behaviour at the Open Space and increased fear of crime

During 2019/21 Tollerton Parish Council focused on improvements requested by residents in the parish plan. The Council's budget is aligned to support this work and has funded short term actions and longer-term projects from the Parish Plan that include the following **achievements**:

- A. Village Centre – The Parish Council provided leadership for the project to save the Air Hostess and establish it as a Community Pub. The transformation of the pub galvanised community spirit in 2020 and is now owned by shareholders in the Flying Club. The Parish Council took out a loan to support the purchase and has a 50% stake in any future sale, plus an option to buy should the flying club be dissolved. The Parish Council appoints two councillors to the management committee to monitor this investment. In 2020 the paintwork on the front of the parish rooms was refreshed and the red phone box library was also repainted, both brightening up the village centre.
- B. Old Village – The war memorial is a focal point for the community in November and the Parish Council worked with St Peter's Church to live stream this year's Covid safe act of Remembrance. In 2019 the Council refurbished the Remembrance Garden including new plants and a new brick wall to match the historical wall of Tollerton Hall. Equipment for managing flooding was also installed in the Old Village and support provided to residents whose homes flooded.

- C. Open Space – Getting outdoors has never seemed more important and the Open Space now provides more for all ages. The Parish Council secured funding from WREN to install a bespoke piece of adventure play equipment from Proludic which is the largest in the UK. Also installed was the first interactive play equipment in Rushcliffe with games chosen by the Tollerton School Council. With support from the Local Improvement Scheme the Parish Council installed an outdoor gym and more recently the Mobilus ‘spinning/bouncing seesaw’ has been replaced. Older play equipment has been repaired, the lights on the games area have been refurbished and a tennis net provided for summer use. Entrance gates have been replaced with wooden gates more in keeping with the Open Space’s rural setting and the access track potholes have been filled in by volunteers.
- D. Village boundaries / Airport – First impressions count and the Parish Council has planted 100s of daffodils around the village, refurbished and replanted the planters at all village gateways. The Council held several initial discussions with the developer of ‘Gamston Fields’ and put forward proposals for footpaths, cycle routes, traffic calming & road safety and the enhanced green buffer. Working with TABU an initial response was provided to the planning consultation for an outline application for the site.

In addition, the Parish Council has:

- Co-ordinated volunteers to help residents shielding or self isolating from coronavirus. Thank you to all the residents who helped fetch food, medicines and met the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community and to everyone at Tollerton Post Office for the lifeline they provided.
- Supported covid recovery and Tollerton local businesses through social media, introduced the first pop up shops outside the parish rooms and provided opportunities to six different talented artists to show case their work at the Parish Rooms.
- Conducted detailed Neighbourhood Plan Consultation across the Parish, delivered to all residential property across the parish, advertised online and on social media, notice boards and local press on the emerging policies of a neighbourhood plan for Tollerton. 98 responses were received with 10 completed young people's surveys plus a virtual consultation session with Years 5 & 6. 26 people also filled in the pandemic questionnaire. Some general comments included:
  - Strong like of the village's character and keen for it to be protected
  - Some felt the document was a bit vague
  - Multiple references to the strong community spirit
  - Concern about the impact of Gamston Field on the village
  - Lots of good ideas about how to use buildings and spaces around the parish and village centre - particularly the Methodist Church
  - Concerns regarding various issues relating to traffic and parking

Looking to 2021 the Parish Council's **future activities** could be expected to include:

- the recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, helping Tollerton businesses and groups getting back on track, resetting village life and acting on residents' new and long-term needs for the village informed by the responses to our post pandemic and neighbourhood plan surveys.
- building on the community spirit exemplified both throughout the pandemic and during the creation of a community pub, recognising the contributions of residents to the village, marking the Queen's jubilee in 2022 and supporting the evolution of the Tollerton Community Trust into a charitable foundation for community activities.
- improving the look of the village and looking after the parish council's assets including providing additional weeding and verge maintenance through the summer above that offered by other responsible agencies, more planting of bulbs, flowers and trees, refreshing paintwork and further repairs to the war memorial.

The Parish Council has agreed three core projects to further this activity and actions from the Parish Plan:

- **Active Tollerton** - Increasing opportunities for residents of all ages and families to access sport, exercise and play in Tollerton; Enabling healthy lifestyles in Tollerton; Supporting enabling groups, clubs and societies, increasing awareness and membership.
- **Your Tollerton** - Developing a hub for village life focused around the Community Pub, Methodist Church, Parish Rooms/Shops and Green Space; acting on residents' new and long-term needs for the village; tackling the challenges that come with thriving business and village life.
- **Greener Tollerton** – A community led approach to protecting the environment, developing sustainable village life and sensitive housing growth around Tollerton; Delivering a neighbourhood plan for Tollerton; Promoting wildlife, green lanes, a nature reserve as a green buffer and linking wildlife corridors and green space.

Councillor Matt Garrard, Chairman of the Parish Council

May 2021