

# Cockfield Annual Parish Meeting

May 2021

AGENDA & REPORTS

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Cockfield Annual Parish Meeting, May 2021  
7.30pm on Thursday 20<sup>h</sup> May 2021 in the Village Hall (main hall area)

## 1. AGENDA

1. Welcome and introduction by the Chairman of Cockfield Parish Council.
2. To note any apologies for absence:
3. To approve the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 30 May 2019.
4. Matters arising from the minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting.
5. County Councillor Report – Derek Southgate for Cllr Robert Lindsay.
6. District Councillor Reports – Cllr Clive Arthey & Cllr Margaret Maybury.
7. Parish Council Report – Cllr Derek Southgate, Chairman.
8. Suffolk Constabulary CEO (Sudbury and Haverhill) – PC Darren Marshall
9. Village Organisations and Activities:

A key opportunity for the various organisations and groups which serve the community, and others who represent the village, to provide brief reports on their activities in the last 12 months and their future plans:

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 9.1. Community Council                 | Rodney Williams       |
| 9.2. Village Hall Management Committee | Janne Cutting-Keyton  |
| 9.3. Computer Circle/Village Website   | Derek for Neil Ashton |
| 9.4. CEVC Primary School               | Norman Kelly          |
| 9.5. CATEY Pre-School                  | Derek for Dick Bayes  |
| 9.6. St Peter's Church                 | Dave Smith            |
| 9.7. United Charities                  | Tony Box              |
| 9.8. Women's Institute                 | Brenda Cantlay        |
| 9.9. Football Club                     | Joe Brinkley          |
| 9.10. Congregational Church            | Gerry Blake           |
| 9.11. "Green Links"                    | Janne Cutting-Keyton  |
| 9.12. Village Recorder                 | Brenda Dyer           |

10. Open Forum:

To raise any matters relating to Cockfield which residents wish to highlight.

***Cllr Derek Southgate***

Chairman, Cockfield Parish Council

Published: 28 April 2021

## 2. Draft Minutes, Cockfield Annual Parish Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

PRESENT: Derek Southgate (Chairman), Parish Councillors Carl Brinkley, Janne Cutting-Keyton, Andy Golding, Ian Levett, Robin Morley and Ralph Turner.

District Councillors Clive Arthey and Margaret Maybury, Rod Williams (Cockfield Community Council), Norman Kelly (CEVC Primary School) Brenda Dyer (Village Recorder), Dave Smith (St Peter's Church), Tony Box (United Charities), Brenda Cantlay (Women's Institute), Joe Brinkley (Cockfield Football Club) and one member of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes were taken by the Parish Clerk Steve Ball

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Were received from Suffolk County Councillor Robert Lindsay, Parish Councillors Mark Webster, Trudie Harkin (CEVC Primary School), Neil Ashton (Computer Circle/Village Website), Dick Bayes (CATEY), Revd Sharon Potter (St Peters Church).

**MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:** Were read and approved by a proposal from Cllr Janne Cutting-Keyton and seconded by Rod Williams.

There were no matters arising from the minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting.

**COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:** In Cllr Robert Lindsay's absence, Derek Southgate read the annual report (written copy attached).

**DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT:** Cllrs Clive Arthey and Margaret Maybury gave their joint annual report (written copy attached). Cllr Clive Arthey answered a question on the scrapped items collection and recycling scheme. Cllr Margaret Maybury answered questions on the Suffolk County Council School Bus Service.

**PARISH COUNCIL REPORT:** Cllr Derek Southgate, Chairman, gave the annual report (written copy attached). Brenda Dyer asked about the judicial review on the Factory site planning application. District Councillor Arthey advised that the current planning approval decision had been withdrawn and the application will be resubmitted to a future BMSDC Planning Committee.

**SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY CEO (Sudbury and Haverhill):** In PC Darren Marshall's absence, no report was available.

## **VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS and ACTIVITIES**

COCKFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL: Community Council Chairman Rodney Williams gave the annual report (written copy attached).

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: Committee Chairman Janne Cutting-Keyton gave the annual report (written copy attached).

COMPUTER CIRCLE/VILLAGE WEBSITE/VILLAGE BROADCASTS: In Neil Ashton's absence, Derek Southgate read the annual report (written copy attached).

CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL: In Headteacher Trudie Harkin's absence, Chair of School Governors, Norman Kelly gave the annual report (written copy attached).

CATEY PRE-SCHOOL: In Dick Bayes absence, Derek Southgate read the annual report (written copy attached).

ST PETER'S CHURCH: In Revd. Sharon Potter's absence, Church Warden Dave Smith gave the annual report (written copy attached).

UNITED CHARITIES: Trustee Chairman Tony Box gave the annual report and accounts (written copies attached).

WOMENS' INSTITUTE: President Brenda Cantlay gave the annual report (written copy attached).

FOOTBALL CLUB: Club Secretary Joe Brinkley gave the annual report (written copy attached).

COCKFIELD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH: In Gerry Blakes absence, no report was available.

"GREEN LINKS": Editor Janne Cutting-Keyton gave the annual report (written copy attached).

VILLAGE RECORDER: Village Recorder Brenda Dyer gave the annual report (Written Copy attached).

**OPEN FORUM:** The PC was asked to place a note on the Website advising that Minutes of Parish Council meeting were available on request from the Clerk.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

### 3. Cockfield PC 20.5.21 Annual report from County Councillor Robert Lindsay

During this most challenging of years, it was pleasing to be able to continue to work and to represent people and hold the administration at the county council to account, helped enormously by being part of a cross party political group with two fellow Greens as well as LibDems and independents.

Being a group allowed us to put together a series of budget amendments and several motions over the year which although they were voted down by the Conservative administration, will have flagged up areas that need attention and some of which were later adopted by the administration.

#### Budget Amendment – floods

One of many amendments my political group proposed in February was to fund an extra officer for the flooding team to help bid for funding and manage projects. At the end of March the flood risk scrutiny committee recommended to cabinet that the council hire extra staff to the floods team to help tackle the flooding backlog.

Other motions from the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group in the year:

- A 20mph scheme to reduce speed limits in all suitable residential areas from 30mph to 20mph, for a price of £4m. Communities would have been able to opt out. This was rejected with the administration saying that 20mph could not be enforced without expensive measures. However since then they have bought 10 number plate recognition cameras to help identify speeders in 20 and 30mph zones.
- A biodiversity motion that would implement a new biodiversity strategy. This was passed unanimously.
- A carer's motion that will create a database of both paid and unpaid carers and offer increased support. This was passed unanimously.

Some motions my group had proposed in previous years also came to fruition this year.

#### Pension committee

I sat on the pension committee and during the past financial year the committee agreed, after much pushing from me, to move its entire passive equity fund into a low carbon fund in three phases. It represents about 10% of the total fund. The bits already moved have outperformed the stocks left in the ordinary passive equity fund.

#### Cabinet approves 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk

In June 2020 the Cabinet approved a 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk, which identified 148 potential routes to be prioritised. This is as a result of a motion proposed by me

in July 2018, which called on the council to produce a strategic costed 5-year cycling plan. The cycling plan will provide a strong basis to bid for funding as and when it becomes available.

#### Climate emergency recommendations published

In July 2020, the Cabinet approved the recommendations of a cross-party policy development panel outlining how the council should respond to the climate emergency and reduce emissions. This followed a motion from myself and my Green colleague in March 2019, which declared a climate emergency and committed the council to be carbon neutral by 2030.

#### Locality budget

Among many other contributions, I was recently was able to donate £1k towards Hadleigh Community Transport's Wheels within Wheels wheelchair friendly, car service which gets people to hospital and medical appointments. This followed an earlier donation last spring to HCT's threatened 471/472 scheduled bus service.

#### Hadleigh Quarry expansion

This application was rejected by county council planning committee after I and others spoke against it. I have my objections known to the Planning Inspectorate which is considering the developer's appeal.



#### 4. District Councillor Annual Report 2020-2021 – Cockfield - Cllr Margaret Maybury and Cllr Clive Arthey

The past year has been dominated by Covid 19, its restrictions, its implications, its financial impact, and its effect on parish life. Despite the restrictions occurring in “lockdowns” of which the country has had three, both of us have been uplifted by the stories of voluntary work undertaken to keep the more vulnerable amongst us safe. From us both, thank you, you know who you are.

The District Council has received monies from Government which has allowed business grants to be distributed to those businesses who qualified in the first round of grants and then under discretionary powers BDC were able to help other businesses as covid regulations bit into their trading, manufacturing, or hospitality hours and systems of work. Over £30 million has been paid to nearly 4000 eligible businesses.

The vaccination roll-out has been administered mainly within Lavenham for the Ward, with other GP surgeries through patient visits also “getting the jabs into arms”. Those residents who have helped at Lavenham surgery in particular need a special mention when the weather changed from tolerable to snowy, extremely cold and wet plus they continued during the early evening in darkness in difficult circumstances. We both thank you.

To continue with the subject of volunteering within the Ward, it was a pleasure to congratulate Cllr Doreen Twitchett on her New Year’s Honours Award of a BEM. Nominated for her outstanding volunteering position within Lavenham as she initiated the Good Neighbour Scheme and then also the Lavenham Dementia Alliance, Cllr Twitchett is the home-grown epitome of what volunteering can do to improve parish life. Cllr Twitchett has been especially busy during Covid 19 arranging lifts to medical appointments as well as arranging food and pharmacy deliveries.

#### Finance:

2020-21 has been badly affected by Covid, but Government support should help achieve a favourable year end. Council Tax has been raised by 3% for 2021-22, rents increased by 1.5% for 2021-22, our sheltered housing charges by £0.69 per week, but garage costs stay the same as do utility costs for sheltered housing.

#### Car Parking:

The contentious issue of introducing car parking charges over the District arrived at Cabinet; a decision was deferred, debated at Overview and Scrutiny Committee, brought to full council by a petition, and then returned to Cabinet. Charges will not be implemented before 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2021 and one hour will still be free. We will see what impact it will have on Sudbury and Hadleigh. Lavenham, where the parish council

have a management agreement with Babergh, were excluded from this decision as the Parish Council were already negotiating to lease the car parks and toilets.

#### Belle Vue House:

A decision on the future of Belle Vue house has been made, with Cabinet agreeing to the sale of the house for conversion and new build to provide retirement accommodation. The proceeds of the sale will be used to fund improvements to the frontage and entrance to the park.

#### Customer Access point:

An access point for residents, which had been provided at the Town Hall, has now moved to the library in the Old Corn Exchange building and is staffed on Mondays and Thursdays.

#### Planning:

In November the new Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan was approved for submission to the Secretary of State for an Independent Examination this year. It followed consultation periods in 2017 and 2019. The Plan provides for 416 dwellings per year, or 7900 dwellings by 2037, but around 4000 of those already have permission, so the plan allocates sites to meet the remaining need. The only sites identified for Cockfield already have planning permission and are under construction. Policies in the Plan seek to balance growth requirements with the need to protect our rural landscape and rich heritage. They recognise the importance of Affordable Housing, Employment, Town Centres, Tourism, Infrastructure, The Environment and Climate Change.

#### Climate Change:

Following the work in 2019-20 to identify areas where the Council could have an impact, we are starting to see some of those initiatives implemented. The refuse collection fleet was identified as the largest element of the Council's carbon emissions, so we are moving to using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) for all refuse freighters. We are using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to increase the number of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points and planning policies will require new development to facilitate householder chargers. The Chilton Woods development will include EV connection provision for all houses. Recently we secured funding for 'solar carports' in Sudbury's Kingfisher car park which will generate electricity to charge a vehicle (via PV panels) whilst parked in the shade under the roof!

#### Waste and Recycling:

Covid presented huge challenges, affecting collection crews and Household Waste Recycling Centre staffing. It was necessary to suspend some services during the year, but residual (black bin) waste collection was maintained throughout. Collections, including garden waste, are now back to normal cycle, but HWRCs remain on an

appointment system. Unfortunately, we have seen a rise in fly tipping incidents and recycling (blue) bin 'contamination'. The Suffolk Waste Partnership embarked on an awareness campaign to improve the quality of our recyclables by reminding householders what should, and should not, be in the recycling bin.

#### Council Tax:

Council Tax has increased for the coming year, making a band D property annual council tax total of £1919.88 which BDC collects and forwards, with 72.8% going to Suffolk County Council, 12.4% to Suffolk Police, 9.1% to Babergh District Council and 5.8% to Cockfield Parish Council. This is made up by the following figures and percentage of increase: SCC £1397.16 (+4%), Suffolk Police £237.69 (+6.7%), BDC £173.86 (+3%) and Cockfield PC £111.17 (-0.5%).

#### Chilton Woods:

The strategic planning site at Chilton Woods was sold to Taylor Wimpey for £35m by Suffolk County Council. TW bought the residential area only and currently a working party is convened to bring the site into build out.

The working party has been meeting bi-monthly and is constantly challenging, checking and suggesting ideas, alterations and improvements to what TW have put forward. The latest information is that the build out will last 10-11 years and initially construction traffic is proposed using a one-way system from the A134 to access via Acton Lane and exit via Aubrey Drive, with full washing facilities for all HGVs leaving the site.

#### Jeffreys Green:

Work has progressed well throughout the Covid restrictions, but unfortunately it hasn't been possible to have regular meetings on site to fully appreciate the development during the phased build. People with Cockfield connections have been successful in securing a new home and the Parish Council can be proud that it has provided for the need identified twenty years ago for 'local need housing', with schemes at Great Green, Cross Green, Howe Lane and now Jeffreys Green. We hope some of the 'self-build' plots will be acquired at a local discount to enable Cockfield people to build their own home in the village. Further CIL funding has helped the Parish Council with its ambition to provide improve access and link to the old railway line.

#### Great Green Playground:

Another Parish Council initiative where we were pleased to support a CIL bid, topped up with a Councillor Locality Award, to help fund the new provision. This is a fantastic facility for Cockfield's children that also seems to attract parents and children from a much wider area.

## 5. Cockfield Parish Council Chairman's report for the Annual Parish Meeting 20th May 2021

### Introduction

It has been an odd year for the Parish Council with lockdowns and the move to virtual meetings. However, we have been able to operate as reasonably near normal during this period.

We expressed our thanks to Rodney Williams who "retired" after 14 years of service.

We have also welcomed Andrew Golding to the Council.

### County and District Councillor

The Parish Council thanks Robert Lindsey, Margaret Maybury and Clive Arthey for their efforts in assisting the village.

Inevitably budget limitations at the authorities and their working restrictions during the pandemic have impacted responses and getting some matters actioned.

### Local Needs Housing:

This is an exemplar initiative that after considerable patience and efforts over many years has now delivered the first phase of dwellings for local people, some of whom moved in this week 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The site work continues to move to the next phase which should speed up now working restrictions are easing and with the release of the first self-build plots.

The Parish Council thanks Robin Morley and Clive Arthey for sticking with this project to overcome the difficulties and drive us to where we are now.

### Greens Report:

Another success for the village in the CIL project to upgrade and replace the Great Green Play equipment which again was impacted by the pandemic. However, now the site is open the usage is phenomenal, giving enjoyment and opportunity to so many children and accompanying families.

We must not forget those other hardworking individuals and we thank their efforts in keeping local greens in excellent presentation.

### Glebe land / allotments;

This is another part CIL / S106 funded project so the opening up of Jeffries Green and of course the wider village we are now looking to progress setting up allotment plots and improving the site.

#### Planning:

We continue to see a number of sizable planning applications for consultation within the village and those previously determined have construction proceeding at a pace.

During the forthcoming year we should see the adoption of the new Joint Local Plan taking over from the "Core Strategy 2014"

#### Financial Matters:

Our budgeting and financial position is robust in order to cover our general obligations and we continue to project funding for ongoing and new village projects. The CIL working Group are exploring opportunities for usage of the growing CIL funding coming from the various new developments. This has to be used within the rules surrounding this expenditure.

We would thank our Internal Auditor Lyndon Mills for his work to ensure all matters are in order prior to examination by our external auditors.

#### Earls Meadow / Bruffs Line:

Whilst there has been some impact with covid measures the working groups are now progressing again. The refurbishment of the bridge to the main meadow at Jeffries Green, one of our CIL projects, is underway and should be completed by the end of May, weather conditions permitting.

#### Parish Paths:

Ralph Turner reports on the Path situation, this is always challenging with the county council financial resources given to maintenance. There is a continued reliance on local land owners and volunteers to keep paths open and we thank them for their efforts.

#### Cemetery:

Rodney Williams and Ralph Turner have again kept the cemetery grounds in excellent condition despite the challenging weather conditions.

#### Pavilion:

There has been limited use of the pavilion although this has now reopened. Remediation work to the settlement issues should proceed during June and a general maintenance tidy-up is planned for the later this year.

#### Highways:

Limited or non-existent responses and advice from Highways are frustrating getting projects underway, such as the potential footpath from Mill Corner to the War memorial and the Mackenzie Place new bus shelter.

Alongside this the Parish Council is still self-delivering some low risk tasks such as pavement clearing and verge cutting, and we are now looking at outsourcing litter picking.

The speed awareness devices are a tremendous success with the recent purchase of a new unit to gain greater coverage. Ralph Turner and Rodney Williams do an excellent job rotating the locations and changing the batteries.

Emergency planning:

There have been no emergency events. However, Cllr Webster is updating the plan assisted by the County Emergency officer and other local representatives.

Emergency Services:

Unfortunately, there have been some issues with anti-social behaviour in a number of locations in the village and we continue to seek guidance from the authorities on measures we can deploy to aid resolution and identify those responsible.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Councillors for their work during the past year and we are looking forward to the challenges for the remainder of this year.

***Derek Southgate - (Chairman)***

## 6. Cockfield Community Council; Chairman's Report May 2021

At one point during these past months the only light that shone in the darkness was from a Christmas Tree up on Great Green.

These have been harrowing times but the community has won through and better times are ahead.

Last year, when restrictions allowed, the Community Council rose to the challenge and put on some events, such as starting the cinema, albeit with covid restrictions in place. The community responded and supported it strongly.

A number of online quizzes were held which proved very popular. A big thank you to the people who worked so hard to make these things happen.

We are coming out of the lockdown and, like the phoenix, rising from the ashes, the Community council is stirring once again. The cinema is restarting at the end of the month, a sale trail will be held in July, the Cockfield Show will return to the village hall in September and a number of footpath rambles, with dogs welcome, are also being planned.

A major community event is being planned for September involving Great Green, The Pavilion and, of course, the community; Cockfield Back Together is a party to which all are invited, a chance to gather, enjoy each other's company and relax after months of lockdown.

A quiz at the village hall is being organised for October, always a popular event and, we will be looking at a Christmas event, in December on Great Green, involving the switching on of the lights on the Christmas tree.

Earlier this year a very sensitive decision was taken by the Community Council trustees regarding the community minibus. Obviously during the pandemic the minibus was not used by the village but in the previous year it had had so little usage that the trustees questioned if it was still needed, The bus just about broke even financially but no funds were accruing to fund a replacement when the current bus reached the end of its life. Much of the usage was from outside the village and the trustees thought it unwise to risk community council funds to subsidise this usage.

A joint letter from the Community Council and the Parish Council was published in Green Links and on the Community Broadcast explaining the situation and asking for views, ideas and suggestions as to how the minibus could be better supported and utilised. Sadly there were very few responses and the Community Council concluded that the situation was unlikely to improve. A motion was put to the trustees and the majority vote was in favour of passing the minibus back to the Parish Council, its

legal owners. Accordingly the bus was MOT'd, serviced and passed back to the Parish Council on 31st March 2021.

The Earl's Meadow, Bruff's Line and Jefferies Green project has really been a valuable asset for the community during these difficult times, a quiet, beautiful place to relax, wander and, sorry to say it, remain safely socially distanced in the fresh air. A credit to the team who has made it so!

During these times the Community Council has not been able to raise funds for the village so we joined a charitable Post Office donation scheme. A huge Thank you to all who have responded.

During this year the Community Council has donated £5000 to the new play area on Great Green and £5000 to the refurbishment of the village hall bar

It is said that hard times bring out the best in people and that is certainly true for this village of caring people caring for people.

Well done to all

***R Williams***

CC Chair



## 7. Village Hall Management Committee Chairs Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Let's hope the last year was a one off but one I fear we will be feeling the effects of for some years to come.

Understandably bookings have been virtually non-existent and extra costs have been incurred but we were able to secure a number of Retail Hospitality & Leisure Business Grants from Babergh which will certainly help to keep us running in the short term and hopefully as confidence levels rise our regulars will start to return.

We are using most of the grant monies to reinvest in the structure of the hall, the bar refurbishment has been completed and our thanks are offered to the Community Council for their donation of £5,000.00 towards the costs, we have ordered 25 new chairs and we will be replacing the flooring and the doors in the chair cupboard, the existing tiles and the adhesive both contain asbestos so the cost is hefty. We are also obtaining quotations to replace the curtains and our consumer unit.

Following some antisocial behaviour, including what the police class as attempted arson, we have installed CCTV, our thanks to the Parish Council for their contribution towards the cost from the Parish CIL Fund and the support of the school and St Peters.

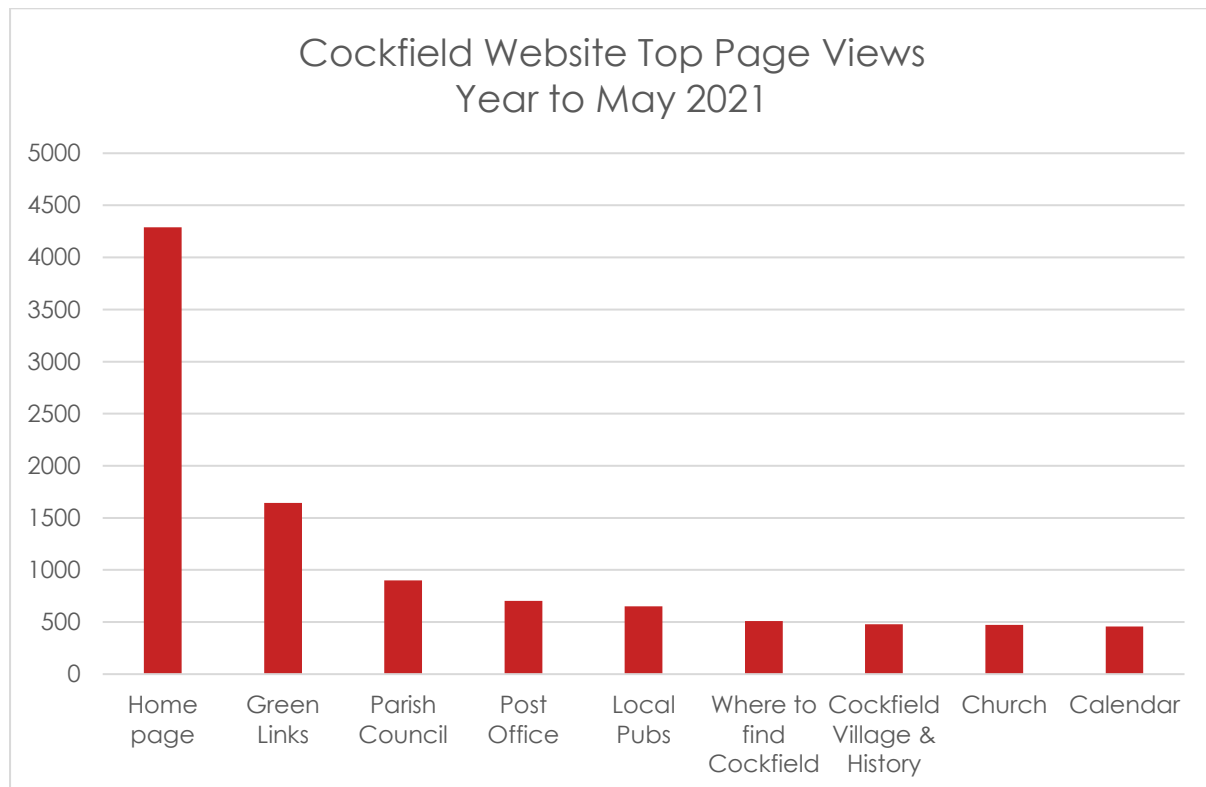
Our doors are open – we will just have to see what the remainder of 2021 brings.

***Janne Cutting-Keyton.***

## 8. Village Website, Community Broadcasts, Computer Support

Village Website, [www.cockfield.org.uk](http://www.cockfield.org.uk)

In the early months of lockdown there were noticeably fewer accesses to the site. This is hardly surprising as there were no events to show, and no travel was permitted. For the year to May 2021, apart from the home page which is always going to be the most accessed page, the next highest number of hits belong to the Green Links, Parish Council and Post Office pages.



### Community Email Broadcasts

#### History

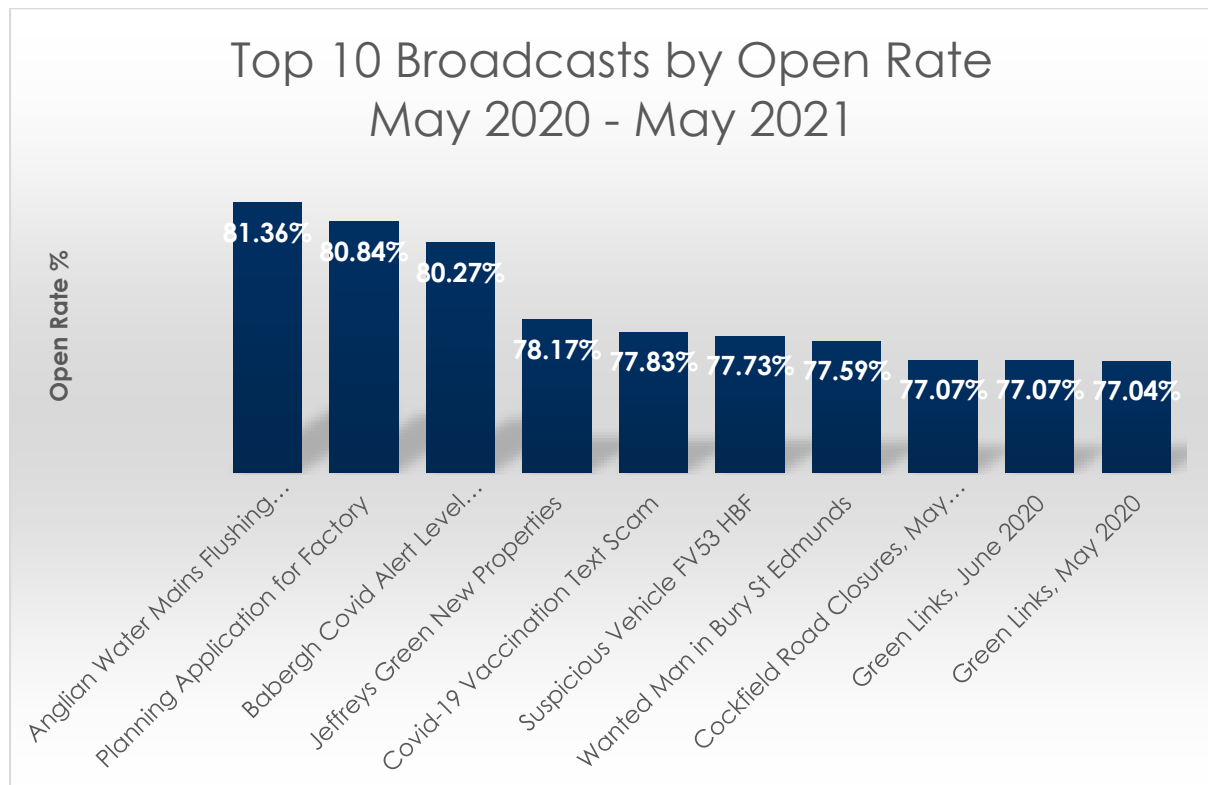
- The 'new' Community Broadcast system replaced eVine in February 2015
- The new system allows people to subscribe and unsubscribe, is GDPR compliant, and provides a range of reporting tools to help understand and improve the effectiveness of the communications

#### Subscribers

- When we began we had 153 subscribers
- After GDPR this number dropped to 121
- We now have 241 subscribers. This equates to probably about 220 households
- The best way to improve the effectiveness of the broadcasts is for more people to subscribe and increase our reach. So please, if you are not a subscriber, visit the website at [www.cockfield.org.uk](http://www.cockfield.org.uk) and follow the link in the page footer. Please also encourage your friends to sign up.

## Broadcasts

- Since the launch of the system 377 broadcasts have been issued, an average of about 5 a month.
- In the period May 2020 to May 2021 94 broadcasts were issued (previous period 97)
- The average open rate for May 2020 to May 2021 was 68% (64%)
- The highest open rate exceeded 80% in this period for the first time
- Broadcasts of selected relevant Police Connect messages continue to show a high open rate



## Computer Circle

Formal Computer Circle classes have ended but I am quite happy to organise classes on specific topics if there are sufficient numbers.

In place of the classroom training I have been running virtual advice and training sessions, and where possible fixing laptop problems.

Although the CCC as we know it is inactive, the philosophy behind it - to provide computer related help and support to the community - is very much alive.

**Neil Ashton**

May 2021

## 9. Cockfield CEVC Primary School



An unusual year for everyone and in school we continue to manage the rules, adapting routines, timetables, classrooms, bubbles, to ensure we mitigate the risks and keep our children and staff safe.

During the past year Key Worker and vulnerable children have attended school and the Lockdown resulted in many parents taking on the role of teachers at home. Our parents did a wonderful job, using resources we supplied and supporting their child during online lessons.

Despite everyone's best efforts we are aware that there has been an impact on the progress of every child and we have been working hard to identify gaps, and catch up on missed learning. Our staff recognise the effects on the children's resilience and independence and in some cases the mental health and wellbeing of children and their families. I am particularly proud of the portfolio of interventions and programmes of support for our children. I am confident that over the coming months there will not be a lost generation at Cockfield.

The school has 71 children on roll but we have several new families moving to the area over the next few weeks and months. In addition, we have received enquiries for places for the following year intake too, as the newly built houses go up for sale. We are predicting a gradual increase on the number on roll.

Changes to staffing and some catch up funding has resulted in taking on several new teaching assistants and support staff. In addition, Mrs Card joined us last September as the part time Y5/6 teacher when Mr Mills left for New Zealand. We have filled all present vacancies.

The school building is in need of some urgent work to the roof which is now in a poor state of repair, and despite this being a concern for number of years our Landlords have been slow to respond and effect repairs. We have been forced to commission our own survey to demonstrate the extent of the problem and we are expecting a positive outcome to our claims imminently.

SIAMS – we are preparing for our next Church inspection, (a Church Ofsted), which has been pushed back because of COVID and delays in the inspection calendar. We do expect this to take place next year instead of this autumn. Our school's Christian vision shapes and drives forward developments as a church school. We have created a distinctive Christian vision and this impacts on every area of school life.

FOCSA fundraising continues to make a significant contribution to the school and whilst opportunities for trips and visitors have been limited, this is starting to return to normal and we have some summer activities planned. A recent fitness challenge resulted in our children raising a significant amount towards new playground markings and these markings will be completed next month.

Our Y5/6's enjoyed Bikeability this month, other special days planned for the rest of the summer include an archery day, science and environment week and visits to Earls Meadow and Bradfield Woods. The children are presently working at being Climate Heroes, undertaking pledges at home and at school. Their pledges relate to saving Power, (saving carbon emissions), Plastic and Plants. Some involve changing lunch habits such as using a reusable wrapper for packed lunches rather than food wrap/cling film or foil. For some it may be turning off the tablet/TV and spending an extra 30 minutes outside or turning off the tap when they brush their teeth. Our aim is to change habits and educate the next generation and also hopefully receive a Green Blue Peter badge!

Inter- school sporting events have continued, as we complete the tasks in school and submit our results. So far we have done very well in cross country, skipping and athletics - winning several prizes. The fitness of our children continues to improve as we undertake skipping every day.

Breakfast and after school clubs continue to be popular and this service can attract new children and working parents to the school. We are very grateful to the Village Hall Committee for their support in allowing us to have additional use of the Village Hall.

Kind regards,

***Mrs Trudie Harkin***

Head teacher

## 10. CATEY Pre-School 2021 Annual Report

Firstly, may I apologise for not being able to deliver this report in person.

The preschool continues to offer an excellent standard of early years education within the EYFS curriculum, despite all the restrictions that COVID has placed us under. I offer all praise and admiration to the staff who have worked tirelessly under the pandemic safeguarding regime we have had put in place, whilst still meeting the learning needs of the children.

We are fortunate to have a highly dedicated, patient & skilled staff, consisting of two permanent level 5 qualified & three part time level 3 bank staff. This enables the children to explore & develop their skills in a well-equipped, friendly, safe & secure environment.

Government funding to the Early Years Sector, which accounts for 90% of our income, is abysmal, it is distributed on a county basis, and Suffolk is unfortunately at the bottom of the pile so SCC get almost half the rate of some other counties. We have approached our MP on this subject, but the Government have a hidden agenda and are not willing to divulge any future plans for the sector. So far this year nearly 2000 Pre-schools in England have closed.

Fortunately, CATEY Pre-school currently has 26 children registered with us, but they don't all attend at the same times, although we are at maximum capacity for two sessions per week. Headcount wise the outlook for the next academic year is good, with our two-year-olds staying with us for another year and hopefully we won't have any major capital expenses eating into our merger reserves.

We continue to operate with our Outstanding OFSTED status, but we are overdue an inspection, so we wait with bated breath for the dreaded call!

I must also offer genuine thanks to our dedicated team of volunteers who form our committee enabling the Pre-school to operate as a limited charity.

Finally, may I offer our sincere thanks to everyone in the local community who have given donations & supported our only fund-raising at the moment, the 100 Club, which is always ready to welcome new members!

***Dick Bayes***

Chairman

## 11. St Peter's Church Cockfield - Review Of The Year 2020

2020 was a year like no other in living memory. The COVID pandemic affected the entire community and turned 2020 into an "annus horribilis". However, as ever, the restrictions imposed to control the virus brought out the best in the church community with an inexhaustible willingness to help neighbours when needed.

St Peter's continues to be a great example of stability and continuity in Cockfield. The church attendance before the first lockdown averaged 30 adults. During the lockdown periods the services went online, after a steep technology learning curve, and weekly views on the Facebook page were generally in excess of 20 during the service and up to 160 subsequently. The services continued to be live streamed when lockdown was lifted and in the period between lockdowns church attendance averaged 25 with social distancing as required.

Wednesday Worship was started, using Zoom as well as Facebook. Messy Church and Collective Worship also continued. Sadly there was no Harvest Service and the Remembrance Sunday Service was held at the War Memorial.

In December there was a Carol Service, Christingle Service and Christmas Eve Midnight Communion but the numbers attending were limited due to the restrictions. Once again all of the above demonstrates the high level of activity in the Cockfield Benefice with a congregation far and wide via the online services

A special thank you is due to Rev Canon Sharon and the Ministry team for their dedication to the pastoral needs of our community. It was a great double pleasure that Rev Sharon was installed as a Canon in the Cathedral and Richard Stainer was ordained in 2020. Richard is now officiating and we look forward to his induction as a Curate in 2021.

St Peter's is very fortunate that a willing group of ladies and gentlemen organise the rota for flower decoration, brasses, grounds & buildings, maintenance etc. and they work away quietly in the background. The traditional fundraising events had to be cancelled but with goodwill and perseverance the St Peter's Plant/Book/Preserves etc. stall was very well supported throughout the Spring, Summer and Autumn raising a pleasing sum of money.

The Church continues to reach out to our extended community to explain our Christian commitment not just on Sunday but every day of the week and to provide assistance with whatever is required.

The work with families and children continues through Cockfield Primary School in the form of on-line weekly assemblies. Sadly Open the Book, Collective Worship and

the annual Holiday Club have had to be postponed but will revive as soon as it is safe and legal to do so.

St Peter's continues to be a very outward looking Parish and money is raised for local and national charities, both at times of extreme need and as part of our annual giving. The food bank collection container at the back of the Church, for those less fortunate in our local community, has been very well supported throughout the year.

This year we have contributed generously to, Christian Aid, Global Hope, Royal British Legion, Crisis at Christmas and the Ipswich Night Shelter amongst others

The occasional offices that have been undertaken this year are as follows:

Weddings 1: Funerals 4: Electoral Roll 80:

***Norman Kelly***      ***David Smith***  
Churchwardens



## 12. United Charities of Cockfield

Annual Report Y/E 28/02/21

As in previous years the Trustees are finding information about who in the parish might benefit for some support despite the difficult year that we have all had. The availability of help from the UCC has been promoted but little response has been received. This may be due in part to people being too proud to ask for help or legal restrictions on passing details of identity/address.

The Charities provide grants or loans for living expenses to those with limited resources who are in distress or need throughout the year from the interest received. Please note that we cannot use any capital for giving grants. The widening of the terms of reference in 2017 have enabled the trustees to offer help to unemployed people, students of all ages in education, those affected by crime and the bereaved in addition to existing help for medical related expenses. These changes allowed the Trustees to provide more grants. We applied to the Charity Commission to widen the terms of reference to allow funds to be donated for educational needs last year but no reply was received and we shall need to reconsider this.

We thank Mr Lyndon Mills again for auditing the Charities' accounts for Y/E 2020 and very much appreciate his work done without charge. Following this, Mr Mills confirmed that we had a further £159.06 available as interest. As a result, the accounts were amended and this year's accounts includes this additional amount. A copy of the audited accounts will be supplied.

During last year the restrictions imposed by the Government regarding lockdown due to covid 19 have meant that the Trustees have had a Zoom meeting only in December 2020 with some further business undertaken by email exchanges. It is our intention to hold a meeting when restrictions have eased. We have been able to help eight parishioners during the year due in part to the changes in the deeds in 2017. These included food parcels, educational assistance and clothing at a total cost of £807.00.

Mr Michael Swiney, the Charities' treasurer has reported that as at 28/02/21 the Charities have total assets of £18522.71. Of this we have £1884.30 interest available for distribution. A copy of these accounts will be provided and we shall be having the accounts audited by Mr Lyndon Mills later this year.

The position about the Charity Commission trying to ensure that small charities spend more of their funds remains. We cannot emphasise the importance of any Cockfield resident notifying any Trustee of a potential beneficiary in total confidence, especially during the coronavirus restrictions that will be affecting many families.

The Trustees are Mrs Barbara Ruffell, Rev. Canon Sharon Potter, Mr Robin Morley, Mr Dick Bayes and Mr Tony Box (Chairman). I thank my fellow trustees for their commitment to the Charities' work.

***Tony Box***

Chairman of Cockfield Charities.

### 13. Cockfield WI Report 2020/21

We had just celebrated our 91st Birthday Meeting when lockdown measures were introduced in March last year and life as we knew it was about to change. Unable to hold meetings, we set up a Chat Line where several committee members volunteered to call small groups of members on a fortnightly rota basis. This, along with a monthly newsletter, has enabled us to keep in touch and support our members throughout the past year and has been much appreciated.

WI ladies are a resilient bunch and have kept occupied and active as one would expect during the last fifteen months. Daily exercise, decorating, crafting, bread making, singing online, spring cleaning, decluttering, toad rescuing and lots of gardening have kept members busy. Growing our own fruit and vegetables proved popular and resulted in a scramble to find jars for jams, pickles and chutneys.

It must be said that the wonderful weather we had last summer helped enormously in enabling us to spend so much time outdoors and kept us healthy in both mind and body. Small groups were able to meet in members gardens and we joined with neighbours on the 8th May to celebrate VE Day in glorious sunshine. Living in the countryside and village life has its benefits. Several members entered various categories and won awards at the Cockfield Show in September.

In November we introduced our members to Zoom. It's definitely not everyone's cup of tea but it has provided a means of not just resuming our meetings but has also given members the confidence to join talks and events offered by both Suffolk and National Federations. I would like to thank the Community Council for allowing us access to their license and Neil for his support.

Lockdown from January 2021 has been challenging mainly due to the prolonged cold and unsettled weather resulting in spending more time indoors. The new WI year brought changes to our constitution allowing for a new "flexible" way of doing things. Thanks to our healthy finances at present we were able to subsidise our members subscription for this year. We are now looking forward to resuming meetings in the Village Hall from July and restarting our programme of events including the Village Coffee Mornings from June 24th. Let's hope that restrictions are lifted on the 21st and we can get back to some form of normality!

**Brenda Cantlay**  
WI President

## 14. Green Links

Last year was certainly a year like no other but we kept going publishing on the website when we couldn't commit to hand deliver a printed version and managed 12 editions as normal.

The website is a tremendous asset to the village and I work closely with Neil to make content available, in March this year the on-line Green Links had 292 views.

There is a library of back editions building up on the website and when I have the time, I will convert further copies for them to be added in.

*I did enter Green Links in the 2020 National Parish Magazine Awards, there were 262 entries in the A5 category and we achieved 17th place so we keep in the top 10% nationally.*

As I look forward to the next year goodness knows what the next few months will hold but with the flexibility of publishing on-line Green Links will remain out there and hopefully be as interesting, current and objective as usual even if copy is a bit sparse some months.

Green Links performs a vital task in our growing community - to inform and entertain but most importantly to keep the village in touch with itself.

For another year I can still say I am truly proud to be editor.

Thank you.

Janne

Janne Cutting-Keyton  
Editor

## 15. Village Recorder Report – May 2021

This report covers the period from May 2020 to the present and during this time the country has been under government regulations concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. After various periods of lockdown when people were confined to their homes except for exercise from March 2020, we started 2021 with the availability of a vaccine and the immunization of the population began with the elderly taking priority and working down through the age groups. Transport assistance to vaccination centres was offered to Cockfield residents but neighbours and family stepped in to ensure everyone got to their appointment. It is hoped that the 21 June date scheduled for the ending of restrictions can be adhered to.

During all this period, it has been good to hear that Cockfield residents have been keeping in contact and activities in the village have continued on internet platforms such as Zoom and Skype with bookings starting again in the Village Hall, albeit with covid regulations, masks and social spacing adhered to.

The main visual change in Cockfield has been the number of houses being built in various parts of the village. The largest groups are at Jeffrey's Green on the Lavenham Road and at two areas off Great Green. Some of these are affordable houses with self-build plots and market sales houses too.

As well as these, there are several small private developments in Howe Lane and Chapel Road and at Cross Green. It remains to be seen how the increase in population will affect the dynamics of the village.

The 2021 Census also took place this spring.

Finally, the two cycling Normans (Gregory & Kelly) have become the face of the Suffolk County Council's Ride It Out campaign. They have been filmed and photographed as they ride around the village. As Norman Gregory (aged 99) says, "If you don't exercise, you rust!"

If anyone has any Cockfield related archive, I would be happy to look at it and advise on how it can be kept safe for future generations and historians.

**Brenda Dyer**

Cockfield Village Recorder

## 16. Village Hall

Let's hope the last year was a one off but one I fear we will be feeling the effects of for some years to come.

Understandably bookings have been virtually non-existent and extra costs have been incurred but we were able to secure a number of Retail Hospitality & Leisure Business Grants from Babergh which will certainly help to keep us running in the short term and hopefully as confidence levels rise our regulars will start to return.

We are using most of the grant monies to reinvest in the structure of the hall, the bar refurbishment has been completed and our thanks are offered to the Community Council for their donation of £5,000.00 towards the costs, we have ordered 25 new chairs and we will be replacing the flooring and the doors in the chair cupboard, the existing tiles and the adhesive both contain asbestos so the cost is hefty. We are also obtaining quotations to replace the curtains and our consumer unit.

Following some antisocial behaviour, we have installed CCTV, our thanks to the Parish Council for their contribution towards the cost from the Parish CIL Fund and the support of the school and St Peters.

Our doors are open – we will just have to see what the remainder of 2021 brings.

***Janne Cutting-Keyton***