Bolehill & Steeple Grange Improvement Group

Chair's Report for 2021

2021 has been a relatively quiet year for the Group because of the ongoing existence of Covid: -

Meetings – We were unable to have an AGM in 2021, and the existing holders of the BIG posts of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer & Publicity Officer agreed to continue in their roles until the next AGM in 2022. In 2021 we held just two meetings because of Covid restrictions in September at the Malt Shovel PH and in November at the Institute. At each meeting 13 people attended.

Social Events – At the meeting in November, we agreed to get together for the annual carol singing by the Old Telephone Box in Bolehill Road. The event held on 17th December was well attended by approximately 40 people including children. The planned wine & mince pies in the Institute afterwards were cancelled because of Covid. Many thanks to Ronnie Cotterill, Marvin Harding, Caroline Eyre, Liz Ormond & Sheila Harding for their contributions to the event including the leading of singing, 'on the street mulled wine' and decoration of the Old Telephone Box.

Covid 19 - At the beginning of 2021 volunteers from our Covid 19 Support Group helped take residents to Ashbourne for the vaccinations. We also continued to help Paynes with Pharmacy deliveries until early April, when it was agreed that we would stop doing so, as the Covid restrictions for the over 70s were being relaxed. From April 2020 until April 2021, we delivered in the region of 230 prescriptions to the over 70s and those shielding. In November we decided to close the support network from the end of December as requests for help had significantly reduced as the year progressed, and residents and volunteers were redirected to the Wirksworth Community Response Group (WCRG). A BIG thank you to all those residents who helped support other residents in 2020 & 2021.

Remembrance Sunday – This year we were able to meet at the Steeple Grange Memorial for Remembrance Sunday, attendance was great with over 60 people there. Many thanks again to Liz Ormond & her team for organising the event and taking part.

Village Calendar – Marvin Harding & Sheila Harding took on the organisation of the production and selling of the village calendar for the third year running. The theme for 2022 was life in Bolehill & Steeple Grange and several residents contributed photographs. Thanks to both Marvin & Sheila who sold 69 calendars and raised £185 for BIG funds.

Councillor Meetings – During 2022 I have met, with other residents, both the new County & District Councillors who were elected to represent Bolehill & Steeple Grange in May 2021. We have raised with varying degrees of success, issues such as the flooding of roads & property, the condition of Oakerthorpe Road footpath to the Malt Shovel, condition of the Bolehill playing fields, and the autumn leaf clearance on 'Chapel Hill' & Oakerthorpe Road.

Newsletter – At the meeting in November we agreed that we would produce a newsletter to publicise the work of the Group, this was circulated in early December.

2022 – Hopefully 2022 will be a more active year for the Group.

Jackie Batchelor

Bolehill & Steeple Grange Improvement Group Chair

January 2022

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