

FRATING PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

The Parish Council ended the year with a full complement of councillors. As Chairman I wish to thank them and our Clerk for their contributions during the past year.

County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi (Tendring Rural West Division) attends our meetings when possible reporting on policy changes and initiatives created at county level. When unable to attend Carlo has submitted written reports. Carlo is also a Ward Councillor on the District Council and is well versed in rural affairs.

District Councillor Lynda McWilliams has been actively supportive at our meetings. We have received progress reports on the emerging TDC Local Plan which hopefully will be completed during 2020. Councillor McWilliams has also been very active in supporting residents in Tokely Road who have voiced concerns regarding the new Penny Fields development and inconsiderate parking on the estate.

As in previous years planning tends to form a significant part of the work of the council as it can impact greatly on the well being of the parish. Although generally consulted we are not the decision makers but we are grateful for the input by residents in our consultation with County and District planners. During 2019/20 we have continued to be involved with the development on land north of Tokely Road, known as "Penny Fields". Sanctuary Homes appointed Hill Construction to carry out the construction of the 67 homes which should be completed by Spring 2021. The Parish Council will monitor the progress of the construction and will liaise with the Site Manager when necessary to assure that the developer works within the conditions laid down by TDC Planning.

We have maintained our representation on a number of District and County Associations in order to liaise on a regular basis with other Town and Parish Councils. We ended this year in the grip of the Covid19 epidemic and we will all do our best to support all those vulnerable and elderly residents within the Parish. Fortunately we have an Emergency Plan in place that will help us coordinate our efforts in achieving this. The Emergency Plan can be viewed on our website.

Terry Cuthbert, Chairman

Planning

As with other Tendring Town/Parish Councils we are focussed on the emerging TDC Local Plan in particular the housing allocation to provide future homes. The draft plan has moved forward since our last report and should be completed by late 2020. This dependant on the Government Inspectorate's approval and Covid19. When in place it will mean that TDC Planning will have control of planning issues rather than planning being led by landowners and developers.

Within the latest plan the number proposed new houses to be built between 2012 -2032 is at a rate of 550 annually which equates to approximately 10,000 over the period. The proposed major development is still to take place in the west of the district at a site adjacent to Colchester close to Essex University known as "Colchester Garden Community". The Parish Councillors have attended meetings and will attend future planning meetings at TDC so that we are aware of any changes to the plan.

Permission was granted by Essex CC in 2008 for the construction of a reservoir off Great Bentley Road (Lufkins Lane) and subsequently planning was renewed to keep the planning live and active. Construction of the reservoir has now commenced and the aggregate extracted is being taken to Alresford Pit for processing. The site should be active for a maximum of three years. Over this period there will be some 14000 lorry movements. The Great Bentley Road junction to the 31029 has been altered to assist these lorry movements but the Parish Council feels this has been to the detriment of road users entering the Great Bentley Road from the B1029 from Frating. We have had a site meeting with Essex County Council Engineer to outline our concerns and they will be monitoring the situation and reporting back their finding to the Parish Council.

Work has now started on the roundabout on the A133 near the Car Auctions. This work should be to aid the flow of traffic using the roundabout.

Local Issues of Concern

The parish council has continued to ensure that the Public Rights of Way in Frating are kept open for public use. The parish works with ECC P3 Scheme which supplies us with equipment and signage as and when required. The Parish Council wishes to acknowledge that although not always easy due to cropping etc. the work that most local landowners do to keep the footpaths

clear for public use. We are also grateful to the landowner at Morehams Hall as with permission they allow the public to use the track on their land that runs from Clacton Road/Bromley Road and Harwich Road. We continue to report defective roads and road signs to ECC, many road signs on the A133 & B1029 are missing or damaged

Fly tipping still continues to take place, we report these incidents to TDC who arrange clearance as soon as possible.

The Parish Council is still concerned with the number of accidents, some very serious that have occurred at the Cross Roads, A133/B1029. We are continuing our discussion with the Local Highways Panel to try to improve the fading of the traffic lights which we feel will improve the situation greatly. As part of this scheme we have requested that a speed survey be carried out on the A133 which hopefully will lead to a reduction in the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph.

Grass Cutting and Lighting

The parish council has a contractor who cuts small areas of grass to maintain the good appearance of the parish. We are grateful for the additional efforts by residents who cut and keep tidy areas in the frontage of their properties and the flowers that appear twice a year in the front of the Memorial Hall and at the Frating village sign. The parish lights in Bromley Road, Great Bentley Road, Haggars Lane and Frating Park bus stop remain subject to contract to inspect, maintain and replace. These are not included in the ECC policy for street lighting.

Dog Fouling

As reported during the year the Council is monitoring the situation regarding dogs that are allowed to foul public areas and their owners do not clean up after them. Also it has been reported that some owners do not keep their dogs under control while using the local public rights of way. Please advise the Dog Warden at Tendring District Council of any known offenders.

Frating Memorial Hall

The parish council as Custodial Trustees of the Frating War Memorial Hall and Institute, a Registered charity, are represented on their Management Committee. The Management have maintained the hall in good working order attracting regular bookings. It has its own governance policies in place and has regular electrical and fire checks. It is self regulated for serving food on the premises. It is not licensed for alcohol.

Parish Council Administration

The Annual Report for 2018-19 was printed and delivered to all houses by parish councillors too reach many of the residents who do not attend meetings. The Minutes of all the Parish meetings are displayed on the notice boards and our web site.

Parish Clerk- Remuneration and Working Hours

It was agreed at the December meeting that the remuneration for the Clerk would be increased in April 2019 as NJC guidance, the Clerk's hours would remain at twenty hours per month

Training

During 2019/20 Councillors and the Clerk attended a number of training courses necessary for good governance and to update on new procedures as part of the councils training policy.

Frating Parish Council Governance and Meetings Attended

The Parish council has annual governance in place which is reviewed each year reflecting the guidelines of TDC and the County and National Associations. A great deal of time was spent in reviewing our Data Protection procedures as these changed on the 25th May 2018.

An Emergency Plan for Frating is lodged with TDC and updated with councillors attending TDC emergency planning workshops. Parish Councillors have attended numerous other meetings throughout 2018-19 in their own time and at their own expense to ensure that Frating is represented in a variety of forums. Details of the meetings are reported at each parish meeting after the event.

Frating Parish Councillors 2019-2020

Terry Cuthbert- Chairman

Paula Bland-Vice Chairman

Robin Buck

Lisa Anderson

Reg Mogg

Terri Philp

Angela Oxley-Crisp

Parish Clerk Detail

The Parish Clerk is only employed on a part-time basis (5 hrs a week) by the Council. If you leave a message on the answer phone or send an email, she will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Michelle Salazar, Frating Parish Council, 5 Cleave Close, Bockings Elm, Clacton, Essex C016 8GQ

Tel: 01255 223994 Email: fratingpc@hotmail.com Twitter: [fratingessex](#) Facebook: Frating Clerk

The Parish Council's website address is <https://e-voice.org.uk/fratingparishcouncil>

Parish Council Minutes, contact details and other relevant information is available online.

ACCOUNTS

Donations were approved for 2019/20 in accordance with the parish council's powers and commensurate with the benefit and wellbeing of the residents of the parish for the following:-

Essex & Herts Air Ambulance Appeal £200

St. Helena Hospice £200

Chavasse VC House (Help for Heroes Recovery Centre) £200

During 2019/20 in order to receive advice with regular mailing and to keep the parish council up to date with emerging policies, changes in legislation and procedures the following subscriptions to organisations were considered essential to good governance:-

CVST

Essex Association of Local Councils (inc. National Association)

Tendring District Association of Local Council

Council for the Protection of Rural England

Rural Community Council for Essex.

Budget 2019/20

The proposed budget and precept for 2019/20 were discussed in December 2019 and was not increased (current precept amount £9,000). More information will be available on the website.