16th April 2024

Annual Parish Meeting April 2024

**Community Plan for Bradley - Beautiful Bradley Update**

**Purpose of report**

To bring residents up to date with what the Beautiful Bradley Group (BB Group) have been up over the last 12 months; a busy 12 months in which we have issued the Community Plan for Bradley and started to implement community initiatives that residents have highlighted are important to them.

**Background**

This time last year we reported that:

* We had delivered 300 hard copies of the questionnaire to every household in the parish and made this available online for completion, and placed collection boxes in the pub and church.
* 85 completed questionnaires were returned representing a 41% return rate for all households (almost all residents advised that they completed a questionnaire on behalf of their household).
* We then presented the findings from the questionnaire to around 40 residents in the village hall in November 22, with around 60 residents viewing a copy of the presentation on the Council’s website in the following two days.
* This time last year at the Annual Parish Meeting, we had consulted on the draft final Community Plan and were about to send an order to the printers for 150 colour copies of the plan to be prepared.

**Progress since last year.**

In June last year we launched the Community Plan. We advertised its availability, placed copies in the Church and Pub and distributed copies to local groups and businesses that took part. We only have a hand full left so most residents have taken one home to read.

After taking a well earned rest during last summer, members re-grouped again and have begun meeting once every two months since the autumn of last year. Two members decided not to continue at that point, so the group reduced to a small number of ten residents.

The plan has been well received and has been with groups, organisations and local businesses to consider. You will have already heard of the parish council’s response to the Community Plan from Paul, but I will also cover the response of the Pub/Lewis Partnership and Wells Dairy to the plan shortly.

**Community Initiatives**

The initiatives that the group has worked on since the Autumn of last year are:

Recycling

You may have seen Luke’s post on Bradley Buzz yesterday, we have had a small recycling point outside Luke and Sara’s house in Smithy Lane for residents to deposit packs and containers, such as tetra packs, milk cartons, and coffee cups, that the borough council do not recycle from goods put in our blue bins. This collection point is used regularly but we’re always happy to see more residents use it.

Gardening Club

A small group of 13 residents have come together to form a gardening club called Bradley Bloomers on WhatsApp. The group only started in February and there has been much ‘chat’ since covering subjects such as peat free gardening, maintenance of house plants, fishponds and herons, how to deal with ‘leather jackets’ (lava of crane flies), plant exchanging and no-dig gardening. Notices are on the notice board and as you may have seen Malc’s posts on Sunday on Bradley Buzz inviting other residents to join in with the gardening ‘chat’.

Pop Up Market

On Saturday 9th March, led by Sue Holliday, we held the first Pop Up Market in the Village Hall. This was in response to positive comments from residents where 86% said previously they would use a market` regularly (weekly or monthly). The event was a success with the hall full of stalls selling various goods such as cakes, pies, haberdashery, plants books, make up, knitted stalls and honey, most of which were all sold by the end of the event. There was also a raffle for charity and teas, coffees and biscuits. The next Pop Up Market planned is on Saturday 22nd June with six stalls booked already, some different to the market in March.

**Initiatives by local business and the Parish Council**

Of course, the Community Plan sets out a whole serious of possible initiatives that could be carried out and most of these are not the responsibility of the BB Group. This is where the Plan has had its most significant impact so far with the positive responses of Wells Dairy, the Lewis Partnership and of course the Parish Council.

**Wells Dairy** have responded over the last nine months by promoting:

Community Bulk Oil Purchasing Scheme

Following a very positive response to the Community Plan by Paul Holt of Wells Dairy, the BB Group has since been in discussions with Paul on various initiatives in our community. One initiative that was set out in the plan, in which 45% of residents said they would be interested in, was a community bulk oil purchasing scheme. Following discussions with Paul, he was able to agree a scheme with his regular supplier of oil, 4 Fuels of Stoke on Trent, where all residents of Bradley would receive a 3 pence per litre reduction on the cost of their oil. One of the advantages of the scheme is that they deliver to Wells Dairy twice a week (Tuesdays and Fridays) and so with orders placed on a Monday and Thursday, residents are guaranteed next day delivery, subject to tanker capacity.

Wells Dairy Online Farmshop.

Wells Dairy have also relaunched their online farmshop selling a full range of dairy and associated products, offered to local residents at a 10 % discount across all products. Delivery is free on Tuesday and Saturday mornings. Details are on the notice boards and posted occasionally on Bradley Buzz.

Paul has offered to explore with the parish council how Wells Dairy can help with the cutting of grass in Malthouse Lane and along some grass verges in the village, the frequency of which by both the borough and county council’s has reduced in the last twelve months.

Discussions continue between Paul and the BB Group to explore how Wells Dairy can continue to help with other community initiatives in the parish.

The **Red Lion/Lewis Partnership** have responded over the last nine months by:

* Continuing to adapt their menu, with a fixed price lunch offering and some additional dishes that are classed as more ‘traditional’ food, which was the most popular ‘ask’ of residents within the village survey.
* Maintained the LP Rewards scheme offering residents a discount on all bar and food prices.
* Organised a number of ‘community evenings’ when they have launched their new seasonal menus, offering discounts for local residents on the evening, which has proven very popular.
* Donated a large bag of daffodil bulbs for residents to plant, responding to the fact that 94% of residents said they would like to see more bulbs and flowers planted.
* Hosted the very successful Santa Sleigh evening with Santa and the Bradley Singers in December which is an event Malc organises with Pauline.
* Looking to use the pub car park for village events in the future.

The **Parish Council** have responded over the last nine months by:

* Adopting the vision statement from the Community Plan.
* Installed a new dog waste bin in Malthouse Lane. (wanted by 95% of residents)
* Supported the erection of a ‘No HGV’ sign at the junction of Bradley Lane and the A518, which the County Council will erect shortly.
* Traditional black and white finger posts (FPs/83%) – Decisions and actions on this were:
* Not to erect any new FP for now but have cleaned those two we have,
* The broken FP in Littywood Lane has been removed,
* The county council has agreed to replace the existing finger post at corner of Chapel Lane and Barton Lane with a metal finger post but on completion of the new house, the parish council will consider replacing that with a traditional black and white finger post.
* Public footpaths – agreed to produce literature to advise residents on how to report issues to the parish council.
* Community website – Agreed to explore reformatting the parish council website into three sections: parish council, community and services. Next steps will involve engaging with local groups to see if they would use the community section to promote their activities.
* The parish council has replaced the notice board outside the village hall and the notice board in Almshouse Croft.
* Installation of a traditional red telephone box has been deferred pending the identification of a use for the box.
* Erect ‘gateway features’ at entry points to the village is not supported due to expense, restrictive nature of type of feature (which would lack impact) and location due to highway verges being too narrow. An alternative proposal is to be put forward for consideration to install low level planters in front of existing signs.

**Community initiatives that will not be progressed**

Initiatives that the BB Group have explored but will not be progressing with are:

Community Compost Scheme

We have explored this and have decided not to pursue it further. The management of a site does, in practice, require a lot of management and whilst enquiries have been made, no appropriate site has been identified.

Milk Station

In view of the fact that Wells Dairy have relaunched their online Farmshop and they can deliver milk to all our homes at discounted prices, we have decided not to pursue the milk machine idea.

**Initiatives over the next twelve months.**

Improving IT Skills

18 residents said in the questionnaire that they would be interested in coming along to an informal training session to improve their computer and IT skills. An event had been organised for this coming Saturday in the village hall (10am till 1pm) but unfortunately, as you may have seen from Luke’s post on Bradley Buzz yesterday, we are now looking to rearrange that. We are now provisionally looking to organise it for Saturday 1st June in the village hall 10 till 1pm, subject to room availability. Details of the new date will be posted on Bradley Buzz and posters are on the notice boards. The event is intended to cover sending emails, using the internet, setting up internet banking, navigating the parish council website, using and posting on Bradley Buzz, tips around safety and scams. Please let Luke or Malc know if you are interested.

20 mph speed restriction in Holly Lane

Malc from the BB Group has met with representatives of the County Council about the possibility of reducing the 30mph speed limit in Holly Lane to 20 mph. The County agreed that as it is now ten years since the last traffic survey was undertaken (when the speed limits across the village were reduced to 20 mph) that a new traffic survey should be undertaken. This has been discussed with County Councillor, Mark Winnington, who has agreed to fund the new survey. The survey will be undertaken using camera technology. This has been discussed with Mick/Laura, Georgina and Simon/Ann whose properties directly front onto Holly Lane and they are all fully supportive of the initiative. Of course, it is not clear what the actions will be, if any, from the survey but residents will be kept informed.

Post office service

As hopefully you all know, the sub postmistress from Haughton runs a sub post office service from the Village Hall every Monday afternoon. From the questionnaire, awareness and usage amongst residents of the service is very low. Following discussions, the sub postmistress has agreed to prepare some literature to raise the profile of the service in the hope that more will use it. This will hopefully be posted on Bradley Buzz and put in the notice boards shortly.

Pop Up Shop

Initials discussions are taking place with options to be explored, potentially to be on a Monday afternoon in the village hall to coincide with the opening times of the post office service. More to follow.

Organise tree and hedgerow planting.

83% of residents would like to see more trees planted in the parish along hedgerows, road verges and field margins to improve the appearance of the village and help address climate change. 16 residents confirmed they would be interested in getting involved and gave their contact details. More to follow.

Explore shared footway/cycleway to be constructed along Bradley Lane.

This was always the most ambitious of projects in the Plan but the BB Group will take this up with the County Council. Preliminary discussions have taken place but agreed that reducing the speed limit in Holly Lane is the focus of those discussions at the moment.

Explore the creation of a woodland are for walks.

Discussions on this are at a very preliminary stage but more will follow.

Explore a community led scheme to install solar panels and air source heats pumps.

More to follow.

Summary

Since the Community Plan was launched in the summer last year, an immense amount of work has taken place by the BB Group, the parish council and our two main local businesses in Bradley to respond to the Community Plan. Our thanks go to the parish council, Wells Dairy and the Lewis Partnership for being so receptive to the plan and the actions they have carried out in response to the Plan. I have to thank residents for their support and our own members for putting the time in that they have.

For those initiatives that fall more on local residents, the BB Group has taken forward various initiatives within its limited capacity. Half of its members work full time, some with young families, so have limited capacity to help, whilst the other half are retired but are away from home a lot, often staying with children and their families in other countries. All though lead and help where they can. **We do though need more volunteers and so if you have an interest in getting involved then please let us know.**

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