

**Hazlerigg Parish Council**  
**Chair's Report**  
**27<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

The past year has been challenging on many levels for those within the Parish. Hazlerigg Parish Council has continued to meet, albeit virtually and with a brief break, throughout the recent pandemic. It has been more important than ever, during this difficult time, to support the community centre, which has been a huge asset to the people of Hazlerigg.

Firstly, I would like to thank the clerk for taking the necessary steps to allow us to continue to meet via Zoom over the past few months and Cllrs Fairley and Garbett for all their hard work supporting the community. I would also like to thank Cllr Younghusband for her efforts to engage more people with the work of the Parish Council and to encourage participation in the recently introduced recycling scheme.

Despite the challenging circumstances, we have made progress in several key areas and achieved tangible changes for the Parish.

I am pleased to confirm that the Parish Council has:

- Engaged with residents via social media in the absence of face-to-face meetings during the early stages of the pandemic
- Liaised extensively with Newcastle City Council to resolve the ongoing issue of parking on grass verges and resultant tree root damage at North View, which was achieved through the installation of wooden fencing to prevent vehicular access
- Pursued Newcastle City Council to carry out long overdue works on roads in the village, which resulted in Link Road finally being resurfaced
- Negotiated a new grass cutting regime with Newcastle City Council and planted the containers with pollinator-friendly plants. With support from Save Newcastle Wildlife we have been able to successfully manage existing wildflower areas
- Planted nine heavy standard broadleaf trees (cherry, lime and silver birch) with the support of Newcastle City Council
- Created approximately 200 metres of new hedgerow on the community centre playing field and on land at High Ridge
- Registered and been accepted as a Tree Charter Branch
- Liaised with Your Homes Newcastle to agree mitigation for bird nesting sites lost during the most recent roofing works in the form of nest boxes at Newham venue, Heddon Avenue and Castle Street

- Resolved the ongoing fly tipping issue on George Ireland Livestock's land by ensuring the installation of a gate, accessible only to allotment holders
- Liaised extensively with Your Homes Newcastle and Northumbria Police in relation to antisocial behaviour at Ferguson Crescent and have seen a marked reduction in complaints
- Submitted representations to planning applications (2020/1613/01/DET, 2017/0666/09/RES, 2017/0666/01/OUT) that would harm biodiversity and negatively impact the residents of Hazlerigg
- Submitted a formal response to Newcastle City Council's consultation on a Green Infrastructure and Open Space Strategy Plan calling for enhancement and protection of green space and wildlife in the Parish
- Registered with Northumberland Association of Local Councils (NALC) to access support and guidance on Parish Council business and for advice on government regulations in setting up a new, fit for purpose, website.
- Continued to liaise with Newcastle City Council regarding the use of harmful pesticides in the Parish
- Supported the community centre to deliver vital services for residents
- Introduced a new recycling scheme in collaboration with the community centre through Terracycle
- Worked with trustees of the community centre to begin developing a community allotment garden
- Raised concerns about antisocial behaviour in the Dark Plantation which has led to regular police activity
- Welcomed a new councillor, Cllr Younghusband, to the Council last year
- Invited Newcastle North MP Catherine McKinnell to visit Havannah Nature Reserve and listen to community concerns around lack of management in the reserve and the negative impact of development on the Parish
- Raised concerns about flooding as a result of all the new development

Looking forward to 2021 and beyond, the Parish Council has many objectives. It is a top priority to facilitate better engagement with parishioners and to create a central location for minutes, agendas and reports in compliance with Website Content Accessibility Guidelines.

We will work to ensure that:

- The parish boundary is amended as agreed by Hazlerigg and Brunswick Parish Councils

- The Community has access to an up-to-date and fully functioning website, which complies with Government recommendations for best practice
- All parish councillors are aware of their duties and responsibilities and the recent changes to parish councils by attending a NALC briefing session
- Essential works to roads in need of repair are carried out in a timely fashion, particularly the promised works for Ferguson Crescent
- Ferguson Crescent garages are refurbished and available for lease
- Hedgerows in the parish, particularly at Elliott Walk, will not be subject to any further damage
- Parishioners have better access to allotments, by engaging more with the private allotment association
- We undertake a strategic approach to nature conservation and biodiversity, through the introduction of a tree strategy and biodiversity action plan and collaborative working with neighbouring Parish Councils
- Hazlerigg has representation on the Airport Consultative Committee and feeds back information to the community on airport-related business
- Effective traffic calming measures are installed to reduce speeding through the village
- More trees and hedgerows are planted across the Parish
- We introduce better engagement and understanding around planning issues and their impact on the village through the website