

Crowle & Ealand Town Council

Annual Parish Report

Recent years has seen our community go through the most awful unprecedented ordeal that most people couldn't have imagined. Many of our residents had little or no support, leaving them feeling extremely vulnerable and alone.

As a council we got together and tried to put a plan into place to tackle the main issues our residents faced during the pandemic. An assistance plan was born, but which would only work if our community and shops rallied together to help. A Town wide leaflet drop was done with the help of the Regen and a pool of volunteers quickly swarmed offering direct help with shopping & prescription/deliveries, pet and bin services, and check in/support calls for those that lived alone or just needed someone to talk too. This plan grew arms and legs and spread beyond our boundary to the smaller outlying villages and lasted for 18 months. We are so very proud of our residents and local businesses for everything they did to help so many people.

During this period, the majority of council business carried on as normal but, as with everyone else in the country – we went virtual. Staff worked from home where possible and everything adapted to the new way of life, but all planned projects went on hold.

Following the slow move back to 'normality', we were able to get on with plans and projects that we had hoped to accomplish and are very happy to see many of them reaching their conclusion:

- The chapels, which have stood empty since the 70s was always a big project that we wanted to tackle. They have been an off/on challenge for various reasons for many years but finally went out to Public Procurement in 2021 with the contract being awarded to local company 'Wroots'. Works began in Jun 2021, with aims of completion within the year. Unforeseen delays forced works into 2022 but are now in the final stages. The restoration has been done traditionally and sympathetically, bringing the unloved buildings back to their former glory. Plans for the chapels are now to make sure they are fully utilised, so they never fall into disrepair again. The council office will relocate to the left-hand chapel in due course and the right will be available for hire as a Chapel for smaller, more intimate funeral services and council meetings.
- Following the annual park inspections, Ealand Park has undergone some sectional refurbishments and all repairs have been completed, mostly by our trained staff rather than having to use an outside company, thus saving a good deal of the budget which has offset funding in other areas.

- We are entering the final year of our grass cutting contract which was devolved to us in 2019. The contact permitted the council to tender for contractors to carry out the works and utilise any underspend of the allocated funds within the Town to improve public spaces. Much of this has been spent on additional cuts, maintaining the local area, improving the cemetery, parks and following raising complaints about speeding throughout the Town, the installation of the two speed cameras at both ends of Crowle which have had a positive impact on the speed entering the Town from both directions on the A161.
- A Youth Council is underway with local schools' visits to discuss how they can get involved and understand how they can impact the democratic system of local government to better shape our Town for the younger generation has been happening this week and elections planned for Jun will hopefully get it off the ground.
- The Queens Platinum Jubilee plans are looking great, offering something for everyone and bringing us together in celebration – much needed after everything and local children have been delighted to receive a commemorative mug to mark the occasion.
- We continue to advertise grants to support local groups and organisation and are delighted that so many local groups have survived and are finding their feet again. Hopefully next year we will see the return of the larger events; Rescue Day and the 1940s weekend.

A breakdown of spending is as follows:

Cemetery Expenses

Bins	£ 512.49
Cemetery Map	£ 1,375.00
Hedge Planting	£ 1,425.00
Memorial Safety Work	£ 147.00
Rubbish Removal	£ 200.00
Spoil Soil Removal	£ 550.00
Tree Work	<u>£ 500.00</u>
TOTAL SPEND	£ 4,709.49
Chapel Restoration	£111,970.51
Park Repairs	£ 2,524.00

Grants:

Crowle & Ealand Lights Community	£	1,000.00
Crowle & Ealand Regeneration Project	£	1,000.00
Crowle & Ealand Pavilion	£	1,000.00

Grasscutting	£	18,566.00
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Speed Cameras	£	5900.00
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