



SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARISH MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 17th MAY 2023

COVID-19

Normal living returned at the end of February 2022, COVID is still active. It seems the population must learn to live with this virus, as we do with others such as Flu and be inoculated annually.

TRAFFIC PASSING THROUGH VILLAGE AND SPEED MONITORING

This perennial problem was once again raised as early as April 2022, with residents' concerns being voiced regarding the increase in HGV traffic. The Unitary Council, Darlington Borough Council, remain opposed to traffic calming and any other suggestions proposed to improve this situation. Any New Proposals as to how this can be resolved would be appreciated.

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA - REAR OF ABBEY ROAD

In August 2021 Darlington Borough Council planted 8 trees and a public seat in memory of those Darlington residents who lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is disappointing to see several of these specimens are showing signs of deterioration and despite reporting one, which is growing at what looks to be an alarming angle, no action has been taken.

The funds to refurbish the Children's Play Park at the rear of Abbey Road, totalling some £46,000 (+ a possible £7,500 contribution from Sadberge Parish Council) will not start until several of the new properties are sold.

THE MOORHOUSE WIND FARM COMMUNITY FUND

The Banks organisation continues to support Sadberge Village projects and its residents. A Grant was secured for the Old Allotment site.

CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY GROUP

The Group headed by Rich Hurst has continued its projects.

The **Old Allotment site** on the southern boundary of the Village was completed. A new fence and gate have been erected, new fruit trees have been planted and the site will provide habitat for birds, animals and insects.

A new project is planned, a wildlife Pond in Town Farm Field, subject to successful negotiations with Darlington Borough Council.

The Group joined with Highways England in planting hundreds of spring bulbs in and around Sadberge

It also purchased 50 Hedgehog Highways to ensure these animals have secure passage through the villagers' gardens and continue their vital work.

PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT

The MIDDLETON ROAD development of 25 homes has been moving along, the development will be monitored closely to ensure the promised construction of a “chicane” close to the entrance and provide some ‘traffic calming’ on entering the Village, part of the conditions of the Planning Agreement is for sections of the road surface to be renewed either side of the entrance. The Parish Council will lobby Darlington Borough Council to resurface from the slip road to the A66 as far as the crossroads at the centre of the village.

The **OLD RESERVOIR** site, development has started by “Homes by Carlton”, 46 new properties will be erected, only Groundworks at present. The new development will be closely monitored to ensure the expected influx of HGV’s and construction traffic observe any restrictions imposed by DBC’s Planning regarding routes in and out of the site.

GRANTS PROVIDED BY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council made the following Grants:

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| • Sadberge Parochial Church Council Church - Cemetery maintenance | £1,000 |
| • Sadberge Parochial Church Council – Re-building of wall | £2,500 |
| • Sadberge Village Hall – contribution to repairs of roof | £2,500 |
| • Sadberge Memorial Garden Maintenance | £200 |
| • St Teresa’s Hospice Residents Christmas tree collection | £150 |
| • Tree Tots Childrens Playgroup | £500 |
| • Village Greens maintenance (by M Johnson-Volunteer)
(Bob Hall Memorial Garden and other specific areas) | £200 |

THE QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATION. JUNE 2022.

An event was held in the Village Hall. Organised by the ‘Friends of Sadberge Group’, ‘Sadberge Village Hall’ and the ‘Parish Council’. The Village Beacon was not accessible, so a new Beacon was funded by the Parish Council, designed in the image of the original, and fabricated by Mr Mally Schott and lit on the designated date.

The day was “family focused” and was a great success, great attendance by residents, friends, and relatives. Events included an indoor Bouncy Castle and Slide outdoor games, live music, a disco, and a fantastic BBQ.

Every one agreed more such events that bring the community together should be organised.

HAMPASS

This area has seen changes in the last year, the Saxon Childrens Garden Project, after many successful years, alas, with no new volunteer to take over from the previous organiser who has left the Village has ended. A new group of volunteers are planning to convert the area into a focal point of interest and will include a rockery, flower beds, wild flowers planting, area and seating in a sensory garden, volunteers and contributions are welcome.

FIREWORKS EVENT

Sadberge resident Pyrotechnic Expert, Mr David Elmer, surpassed himself this year. Funds were provided from the Parish Council and the venue from the owners of the old Reservoir Site, Homes by Carlton allowed the display to be viewed in relative comfort from the Village Hall Grounds refreshments were provided by volunteers.

David and his assistants put on a magnificent display enjoyed by many residents and their families and their contributions collected, during the display, will be used for future Village events.

Providing a suitable venue can be secured everyone is looking forward to next years "FIREWORKS."

OTHER NOTES

There is a Planning application by Light Rock Solar Farms, to construct a 49.9MW array on land South of Long Pasture Farm (Little Stainton) the Parish Council have objected, no decision to date. This company have Plans to implant Solar Farms in vast areas of farm land around other villages close to Sadberge, totalling some 2,500Acres

The Parish Council were notified in August, of the Passing of Robin Heywood, a long serving member of the Parish Council.

A new Councillor was co-opted, Dr Willson Taylor, a retired doctor and long-time resident of Sadberge.

In March 2023, it was announced that the Tees-Flex bus service will be extended for a further 18 months. Thanks to Ward Councill Jones for his lobbying to continue the service, the only Public Transport available to residents.

Chairman of Parish Council – Mr Lee Tate