



## **REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL**

### **REDGRAVE COMMUNITY FORUM AND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023**

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, REDGRAVE**

#### **REDGRAVE COMMUNITY FORUM**

The inaugural Redgrave Community Forum (RCF) was held prior to the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 from 6pm. The event was very well attended by both businesses, organisations, clubs, and residents. Thank you to all those that attended with the hope that all found it informative, and delicious! Teas, coffees, and lovely cakes provided by two Redgrave resident bakeries.

#### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**20<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Present:**

Parish Councillors:	Andy Warnes	Ann Preston	Brian Andrews
	Charlotte Giddings	Elaine Brown	Frank Gillett
	Jason Walker	John Giddings	Mike Denmark

Parish Clerk: Alison Spouncer

District/County Councillor: Jessica Fleming

15 members of the public

Following the RCF, at 7.30pm the Chair, Andy Warnes opened the APM by welcoming Guest Speakers PC Stefan Henriksen (Community Engagement Officer) and Phillip Isbell (Chief Planning Officer, BMSDC).

Stefan Henriksen provided an update on the Police's activities within the area. The Safer Neighbourhood Team is now based in new offices in Stowmarket. There are currently 13 fellow CEOs for Suffolk with a consideration to reintroduce the Community Beat Officer which would hope to provide more interaction with communities and the police.

A question-and-answer session followed with the subject predominantly being speeding. It was confirmed that there are fewer Police led speed checks in the villages than would be desirable, however, the voluntary group 'Speedwatch' is a very welcome ally, working and communicating with the Police with follow ups where required. It was suggested the VAS signs were in fact considerably effective in checking driver's speed and those behind them. The new Suffolk Highways led ANPR project was mentioned. PCs can bid to have an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) device placed within the village for a week's study. This can supply valuable information on speeding motorists and can also be programmed to measure the number of HGVs utilising the road which can in turn be followed up by the Police. It was agreed RPC would pursue this option (Cllr Fleming will provide the information providing links for the specific measurements such as HGVs).



## REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

It was suggested if anyone would like to join the 'Speedwatch' team to please make contact (Details can be found on the website).

Neighbourhood Watch also plays a valuable part in assisting the Police in their messaging and updates. A report provided by Redgrave Neighbourhood Watch prompted concerns for some residents as to the descriptions/levels of crimes reported. PC Henriksen wished to provide assurance that these criteria titles are very wide ranging and if there was to be any serious incident with possible consequences for the residents of the village, this would be communicated directly via the PC, social media, neighbourhood watch.

PC Henriksen thanked those present for their support and asked for any queries to be directed to his email address ([Stefan.Henriksen@suffolk.police.uk](mailto:Stefan.Henriksen@suffolk.police.uk)) or via the PC ([clerk@redgrave-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@redgrave-pc.gov.uk)).

Phillip Isbell continued the evening with an informative talk on the process of planning (copy of his presentation can be found on the website).

Mr Isbell outlined the 'material considerations' of a planning application such as highways safety, design, materials, contamination and landscape impact and the varying weight each would carry. His department covers 200 Parishes with c95% of applications being dealt with directly. The remainder will go to an elected Committee (9 members) meeting which are still live screened following its introduction since COVID. The District/Ward Councillor can attend these meetings and speak on behalf of an objection/supporting claim.

There are a number of new policies including the JLP which will provide some changes; however, this is still in its consultation phase. It is hoped this will be providing very tight constraints on developments in villages with a lesser need for many new houses within this area. Enforcement is also seeing some alterations with the new policy now in place, this should provide more transparency of the processes and negotiations.

The floor was opened to questions, with areas raised such as building on a valley view, settlement boundaries and namely the boundary being altered to facilitate the building development on Hall Lane. Mr Isbell suggested the settlement boundary is not binding and can be altered. The position of the PC was questioned should there be a consideration of an enforcement or appeal to a decision. The PC would be able to suggest enforcement if deemed necessary, but an appeal would have to be sent through the court system.

Chair Andy Warnes provided the PC annual report with main considerations over the past year, including the newly formed OSPF play area and the ongoing discussion point of traffic and namely the level of HGV traffic through the village. The PC had a tube survey conducted in February to measure the volume of HGVs and it was found to not be considered high in Suffolk Highways remits. A resident requested the opportunity for the ANPR study, Chair Warnes confirmed contact had already been made. Discussions followed including activities



## REDGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL

throughout the village, namely of use of land and permissions required. It was suggested by Cllr Fleming to remain aware and to report any considered contraventions.

Chair Warnes continued further with details of the OSPF and activities around the site. The PC have been actively working with Suffolk Highways and the Police to ensure safety at the entrance to the OSPF with barriers to be erected and more signs warning of children in the area. Attempt has been made to have a 20mph limit on Churchway but this has been denied by both SH and the Police. Chair Warnes noted RAT's continuing negotiations with Llanover regarding the football pitch. Further discussions are being had for possible land options with a local developer.

Chair Warnes, on behalf of the Parish Council wished to provide thanks to Jason Walker who at the upcoming local elections will be standing down as Councillor for the Parish following a long and successful time, including holding the position of Chair for several years. It is very much hoped that Jason will still attend some of the meetings and his in-depth knowledge will be greatly missed.

The meeting was closed at 8.35pm

Annual reports provided (can be found on the website):

Chair's report  
County Councillor  
District Councillor  
Green Redgrave Group  
Neighbourhood Watch  
Parish of Redgrave cum Botesdale with the Rickinghalls (RBR PCC)  
Redgrave and District Ladies Club  
Speedwatch  
Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARS)

If you have any queries you would like to put to the Parish Council, you will be most welcome to attend the monthly meeting, or if you are unable to attend, please do email the Clerk, Alison on [clerk@redgrave-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@redgrave-pc.gov.uk).

Redgrave Parish Council website: <http://www.redgrave.onesuffolk.net> where all minutes, policy documents, finances and contact details are available to view.