



## **BOTUS FLEMING PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021/2022**

It is my pleasure to present Botus Fleming Parish Council Chairman's report for 2021/2022.

Last year I reported that the past 12 months had brought some unprecedented challenges to the Parish Council. I didn't anticipate saying the same thing again in 2022.

Again, we continued to operate throughout the COVID-19 restrictions and managed this successfully, continuing to hold the monthly Parish Council meetings, operational meetings and communicated with each other on a daily basis, working to improve our community.

In March 2021, after over a year of hard work, we finally completed on the purchase of the Recreation Field at Hatt. The ink wasn't quite dry on the land registry forms, when on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021; the Recreation Field was invaded by a sizeable group of travellers. The travellers then established an unlawful encampment of several caravans on the Recreation Field. We then worked hard to remove the group. The Parish Council tried to keep our residents informed of our progress to remove the travellers. Our residents remained calm and continued to demonstrate their faith in the Parish Council. A week later we "persuaded" the group leave.

Unfortunately on leaving, the travellers caused a great deal of damage elsewhere in the county, at Newquay Cricket Club and Redruth United Football Club. The travellers had damaged fences and left a large amount of debris on the field. The Sunday after the travellers left, a group of over 70 residents volunteered and with Maria McCarthy supervising and advising, the field was cleaned up.

We were then faced with the mammoth task of making the Recreation Field as secure as we possibly could with not a lot of spare cash. The plan was to improve the entrance gate, other gates and install removable bollards. I need to thank and applaud the hard work that Richard Taylor and Dave Willey again carried out to make that all possible. I would also like to thank Dave's sister Liz, who was on holiday from South Africa, Nigel Williamson, Luke Kelly and Adrian Robins for all the time they gave and their labour.

We identified that the weakest point in the field was the wire fence that runs along the entire length of the field. We needed a further obstacle that prevented trespassers taking up residence in the field, so we planned to build a bank or mound that ran the length of the field behind the wire fence. Cutting the fence meant that trespassers would still need to get their vehicles and caravans over the steep bank.

This was another huge task and we as a community were again incredibly lucky that Brian Venables and the Brunel Group volunteered to carry out this gratis work. This was incredibly generous, they were very professional and philanthropic, and Brian and his crew from Brunel; Luke, Tom, Steve, Dale and Blake, worked incredibly hard and with good humour throughout all the tasks I asked them to carry out.

I was also presented with a cheque for £1000 from Saltash United Juniors Football Club (SUJFC) as a donation to help improve the security of the Recreation Field. The money

was collected and donated by families and friends of SUJFC and I thank you all for your contributions.

A group of residents were also busy raising money all year in "Playtime In Hatt" for playground equipment to be installed in the Recreation Field. The group consisting of the 3 Rebeccas; Trembath, Law and Escott, Jeanette Taylor and Sarah Edwards, worked tirelessly raising money for the playground equipment. Their target was £25,000 and the figure on the "Catt-O-Meter" (built by Richard Taylor) slowly rose towards that amount.

There were numerous generous donations from our community. There have also been some notable individuals' contributions including those from Thana (Kanagartnam Thanabalasingam), Kelvin Bloxham, Sally White, Heugh & Fiona Symons, the Royal Devonport Dockyard Social Club and Burcombe Haulage. There was also the sponsorship money of £1,054.73p from 7-year-old Penny Trembath's 100 laps of the Recreation Field. A sterling effort and a big thank you and congratulations to Penny!

On 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022 a Hatt resident Yvette Gallant made a very generous donation of £7,000 in memory of her husband Mark, as they both loved walking and spending time in the Recreation Field. This money allowed the "Playtime In Hatt" group to reach their target.

In September 2021 there was a low-key event "Picnic In The Park" in the Recreation Field. During the day the "Playtime In Hatt" group canvassed adults, young people and children as to what kind of playground equipment residents wanted to see installed in the Recreation Field. An online survey has also been carried out and all the data has been assessed and the decisions made. Hopefully we will see the equipment installed this summer.

In August 2021 Woodside Stables donated 3 wooden climbing towers. A group of volunteers then dismantled them and with the assistance of Stuart Renfree and his transport they were then moved to the Recreation Field. Over the past 6 months they have been repaired and hopefully they will also be available to be used by this summer.

During 2021 our very own Councillor Malcolm Fletcher applied and then received a Landmark Tree. The trees are intended "to mark an event or celebrate a person has been a long tradition and we hope this offer will help communities celebrate what or who is important to them through planting a tree and capturing those stories for the future".

On 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021 we held a ceremony to plant the oak tree in the Recreation Field. The tree celebrates the fact that the parishioners now own the Recreation Field and it also celebrates the life of Mark Gallant who sadly died in 2021. We will in the near future commission a suitable plaque and install it by the oak tree.

We continue to offer support for the Botus Fleming and Hatt Emergency Response (BOTHER) and are very grateful to Margaret Matthews and the group for their hard work. We hope that they will be successful in firstly identifying the land that will be required to establish the walking/cycling routes and then getting them installed for our parishioners' benefit.

Hopefully after a 2-year gap we will see the return of the Big Event in 2022. To commemorate H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Big Event will take place on Hatt Recreation Field on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 from 12 noon to 9 pm. Planning for this year's Big Event started in 2021 and we want to make it even bigger and better than previous years and our commitment to is to make it a family focused day of fun and entertainment, whilst raising funds to improve facilities on the playing field.

We have already planned for bouncy castles, live music, various food outlets, silent auction, licensed bar, children's and adult games, tombola, archery, craft stalls, and much more – all for the princely sum of £2.00 entry for adults and children enter for free.

The event brings us closer together as a community, and the same goes for the volunteers that help to put the event together. So, if you would like to help in making 'The Big Event' a success and feel you could spare a few hours on the day, your help would be warmly welcomed by the organisers.

In January 2022 work commenced on introducing the 20 mph speed limit in Vollarads Lane. The parish council are keen to introduce "Twenty's Plenty" throughout the parish. "Twenty's Plenty" is not the kind of speed you think you might get away with in a 20 mph limit, but actually at an indicated 20 mph or less on your speedometer. The statistic is often quoted that there's a 95% probability of a pedestrian involved in a collision with a car travelling at 40 mph being killed, whereas at 20 mph the chance of being killed is 1.5%.

Councillor Julian Oakes has worked closely with CORMAC and late last year, 3 poles with recording mechanisms were installed and monitored over an 8-day period at locations in Botus Fleming in order to record the speed of traffic. Statistics on the volume and speed of traffic were provided revealing that there was a high compliance of drivers driving within the 30mph limit (85%).

Although the speed limit officially is 60mph, there were clearly hazards to pedestrians, dog walkers and horse riders if vehicles operated at such a speed.

We will continue to work to have the national speed limit of 60 mph firstly reduced to 30 mph and then in turn then reduced to 20 mph. Unfortunately we are unable to have the national speed limit reduced in Botus Fleming from 60 mph to 20 mph, it has to be done in the two stages described.

We will continue to lobby Martin Worth our Cornwall Councillor for his assistance with making "Twenty's Plenty" throughout the parish and in assisting the BOTHER group establish the walking/cycling routes.

Christmas 2021 saw the parish newsletter delivered once again to all the residents' letterboxes. There had been a long gap between the previous newsletter mainly due to COVID-19 restrictions. I would like to thank Malcolm Fletcher for his hard work, reflected in how well received the newsletter had been by our residents.

The Parish Council had been running one councillor light for some considerable time and we again advertised for a councillor. On this occasion a couple of individuals applied for the vacancy and we were very pleased that Councillor Marc Solomon was accepted and now takes an active part in the Parish Council.

I would like to offer my thanks to all my fellow councillors and our parish clerk, for their hard work, commitment and support. We should never forget that all parish councillors are volunteers. They give up much of their spare time in an attempt to make things better for everyone in our community.

Finally, I send my best wishes and hope that all our residents remain safe and healthy.

Thank you.

**David James Edwards**  
**Chairman**  
**Botus Fleming Parish Council**

**April 2022**