



## **BOTUS FLEMING PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022/2023**

It is my pleasure to present Botus Fleming Parish Council Chairman's report for 2022/2023.

It has been yet another busy year for Councillors and our community volunteers.

Last June saw another successful and well-attended Big Event in Hatt Recreation Field, celebrating H.M. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Sadly, Queen Elizabeth II, the UK's longest-serving monarch, passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at Balmoral aged 96, after reigning for 70 years.

The Big Event Committee are now busy organising another event for this year on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Last summer also saw the playground equipment installed and opened on Hatt Recreation Field. A group of residents raised the money for "Playtime In Hatt". The group consisting of the 3 Rebeccas; Trembath, Law and Escott, Jeanette Taylor and Sarah Edwards, worked tirelessly raising money for the playground equipment.

December saw the residents of Stuarts Way pull together and organise another successful Christmas festive "switch on". The volunteers raised £1199, which was then split between Cornwall Air Ambulance and Hatt Recreation Field improvements. We hope to be able to install some fencing around the playground equipment shortly.

Cllr Malcolm Fletcher took the lead for the Parish Council, and acquired and installed a defibrillator at Hatt Service Station. We thank Hatt Service Station for accommodating the defibrillator and to Darren Doney for installing it without charge for his time and materials. We then arranged some training for our residents at St Mary's Church Hall. We're now working on installing a second defibrillator to be sited in Botus Fleming.

We worked on introducing the 20 mph speed limit in Vollards Lane. The parish council were keen to introduce "Twenty's Plenty" throughout the parish and lobbied Martin Worth our Cornwall Councillor for his support. The 20mph vehicle speed limit is now to be rolled out in villages shortly as a confirmation of our local needs and requests.

We have been supporting some of the work being done by Margaret Matthews and the Botus Fleming and Hatt Emergency Response Group (BOTHER). Despite the latest dire predictions by climate scientists concerning the likelihood of achieving agreed UK climate targets, and the alarming prospect of extreme weather events becoming more frequent, BOTHER's attempts to recruit new members have been unsuccessful. Particularly disappointing has been the inability to engage younger residents of the parish. The group remains so small that activity has been necessarily limited. Over the last twelve months BOTHER activity has been largely directed at continuing efforts to get agreement for the construction of a walk/cycleway from Hatt roundabout to Carkeel. Cornwall Council has engaged constructively with the project, as have a few local landowners. Progress has been made, but it is very slow, and has temporarily stalled while plans for the proposed new crossing at Roods Corner are finalised, as well as the exact layout of the next phase of Treledan (the walk/cycleway will have to traverse both of these).

With regards to the Ecological Emergency, the Parish Council has continued to maintain and add to the tree plantation on the verge of the A388 northeast of Hatt roundabout with the help of a small group of volunteers. The original planting of 104 trees in March 2020 has now increased to 130 with some new plantings and comprises 12 different species. Given the dependence of pollinators on a wide variety of wildflower species, and the catastrophic decline in wildflower meadows in the last century, BFPC decided in 2019 to manage Hatt roundabout in such a way as to maximise the potential for wildflower growth. This became part of the contract for grass cutting in the Parish and was paid for by the Parish.

However, given the increase in the cost of the contract and CORMAC's decision to adopt a more pollinator-friendly verge management regime, the Parish Council handed back the cutting of the roundabout and the grass verges in Hatt to CORMAC. The regime practised by BFPC has had a marked positive effect on the number of species growing on the roundabout. Inevitably there will be times of the year when flowering is over, and the roundabout looks somewhat untidy. However, BFPC, like councils all over the UK now, believes this is a small price to pay for the health of our environment and that of future generations. BFPC has also replaced the Landmark Tree in the playing field that was vandalised in 2022 thanks to a donation from Cllr Ellis' quiz "Flower Pot" collection.

In September last year we sadly lost Nick Brown our groundsman. He died suddenly and left a big hole for his wife and daughter and the Parish Council. He was a big part of our team, attended most of our meetings, was completely reliable and did so much extra unpaid work for our community. He was our friend as well as a colleague and he is sadly missed.

This then resulted in having to put out a tender for the contract for ground maintenance (grass cutting) of the Recreation Field, Moditonham Quay and the Parish Pound. The successful candidate was a resident, Ally Hill.

We worked with Landulph Parish Council on a joint project, a Housing Needs Survey. In March 2023 Cllr. Martin Worth informed us that the Housing Needs Survey (HNS) had been published and had resulted in Landulph & (BFPC) 605 households contacted and 190 responses received. Some of the results will be of assistance when trying to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP).

Producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan will provide an opportunity for our community to be more involved in shaping our environment and the place we live. We are keen to start an NDP in 2023 and Cllr Marc Solomon will head this piece of work. We will actively attempt to recruit residents to support this task.

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 2023