



# Eckington Parish Council Chairmans Annual Report 2021/22

Since our last annual meeting we are now trying to progress activities here at Eckington Parish Council in the post Covid world with a “Business as Usual” focus and we are delighted to be able to host this year’s meeting face to face.

Like many businesses locally we have seen our commercial activities, especially at Eckington Civic Centre, take a hit financially - but we did make use of the Covid lockdown time productively to renovate and redecorate our facilities and we hope you will take a look and see what we have done. We have some great community venues across our parish for residents to visit or hire privately.

We offer a wide range of regular social activities and events to cater for all ages across our venues. For details, please visit our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) pages to see what’s on.

Of course, we are always looking for new event ideas, so please let us know if there is something particular that you would like us to consider putting on.

This year we celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee - which marks 70 years of our Monarchs reign - Queen Elizabeth II will be the first British Monarch to reach this milestone and a number of events are being planned across the country to celebrate - this will take place starting Thursday 2nd June

**Thursday 2 June 10am until 2pm Eckington Civic Centre** – Eckington Town Team Jubilee Exhibition, displaying artifacts through the seven decades of the Queens reign – Live screening of The Queen’s Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour) on our 3-metre screen and state of the art sound system. Face Painting and Crafts for the young ones. Cream teas and other refreshments available.

**Friday 3 June 10am until 12 noon Golden Ball field, Renishaw** – Family Sports Day and picnic on the grass. Childrens crafts and face painting.

**Renishaw Hall and Gardens** - Eckington Army Cadets, Brownies, and Scout Parade. The uniformed groups will parade up the drive to Renishaw Hall. Café open 9.30am until 4.30pm and the Gardens open 10.30am until 4.30pm.

**Saturday 4 June 10am until 2pm Eckington Civic Centre** - Eckington Town Team Jubilee Exhibition, displaying artifacts through the seven decades of the Queens reign – Live screening of The Queen’s Birthday Parade (Trooping the Colour) on our 3-metre screen and state of the art sound system. Face Painting and Crafts for the young ones. Cream teas and other refreshments available plus crafts for the younger ones.

Recognising that residents and especially children appreciated getting outdoors locally during Covid lockdowns, we decided to upgrade some of our parks with some new equipment and hopefully we will continue our maintenance and painting schedule during this year. We have great facilities for football teams, so please enquire if you would like to hire.



# Eckington Parish Council Chairmans Annual Report 2021/22

The Parish Council continues to look for ways to reduce our carbon footprint and by becoming more environmentally friendly we aim to reduce our energy bills and save our hard-earned taxpayers money too! We have teamed up with “One planet matters” to set up community orchards and vegetable growing across the Parish. We have already planted up 4 community orchards at Marsh Lane and Golden Ball playing fields and we were delighted to see Renishaw school children taking part in the planting activity. If you'd like to be part of this community project - please do get in touch.

Eckington Parish Council launched a Volunteers Community Speed watch this year - a number of us have been out to our speed hotspots and we hope our activity will help slow down drivers and make sure our area is safer for all.

Hot off the press that we are also taking advantage of a scheme to trial the use of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) - signs that display your speed - The County Council in association with the Police Crime Commissioner is intending to undertake a 12 month trial to test the effectiveness of interactive speed indicator devices (SIDs) we have signed up to the scheme and hope to announce more in the coming weeks - we hope this device will also give us a better idea of how many people use our roads and at what speeds!

We have set up a Parish wide Neighbourhood Watch (eight areas across the Parish)- we have done a soft launch but hope to launch this fully at a residents meeting soon and we have invited the New local PCC Angelique Foster, local police, and other agencies to discuss crime and anti-social behaviour issues across our Parish and help find solutions to tackle the worse affected areas

As always, I am hugely grateful to all our staff

I am thrilled to welcome our New Clerk and Responsible Financial officer (RFO) Emma Smith - Emma has a great deal of experience in both roles and is a very much welcomed presence to our team. I would like to pay tribute to our recently retired RFO Michael Gazur - and wish him all the best for a happy and healthy retirement.

Roz Bullimore remains as deputy clerk and has been working with Rykneld homes, Eckington Town Team to deliver the Holiday hunger and Community pantry project - ensuring families are well nourished during school holidays - we were also able to put on a Christmas activity day with games, a panto and a visit from Santa at Renishaw community hall and Eckington Civic centre. Another great Holiday Hunger session at Easter in Renishaw 12 April. Despite the rain, the planned outdoor sports day event was adapted and took part inside the hall. The children enjoyed a healthy lunch, crafts, sports, and games and they were provided with a substantial food



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hamper and Easter Egg to take home. The feedback was extremely positive, as always.

These events couldn't happen without the whole team so a big thank you Rykneld Homes, Eckington Town Team, Rural Action Derbyshire, Eckington Development Company. Thank you also to GW Price for their continued support of these projects by donating fresh fruit and vegetables & Morrisons and the Coop for their donations too.

Rosanna Hill is responsible for the cemetery and events management, together with her team they have done a great job. We are extremely grateful for all the work our staff do - our cemetery staff and handyman are out in all weathers and work hard to keep our cemetery and green spaces safe and clean. We have invested quite a lot of time and money tidying up the cemetery but still have more to do - huge thanks to the Volunteers of Eckington's cemetery for all they are doing.

I would like to thank Eckington Town Team for their continued support in the Christmas activities, putting up trees and organising the Christmas Market and working with the Parish to organise the Platinum Jubilee events.

We are working well with both North East District Council and Derbyshire County Council and through our hard work and lobbying we have managed to procure hundreds of thousands of pounds for road investments locally for resurfacing and pothole repairs this financial year. We now have superb, upgraded facilities at Eckington Pool, all paid for by grant funding and this facility is now one of the cleanest and greenest Leisure facilities in the Country - huge thanks to our district and county colleague for all their support and investment in our area.

After the permanent closure of Eckington precinct post Covid - We have funding to tidy up and add more street furniture to Eckington precinct this should be complete for the summer. We have lobbied NEDDC to see if we can include Eckington Town centre in future Government levelling up bids - to help tidy up our town and create more local businesses and jobs.

As always, we are delighted to award Donations locally - this year we have supported:

- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Eckington Bowls club
- NEDDC Chairmans Charity Appeal - Ashgate Hospice
- Renishaw Clock Repair
- Free room hire for
- Camms school - school Prom
- Freedom Project (People trapped in Poverty)



# Eckington Parish Council Chairmans Annual Report 2021/22

- Eckington Town Team (Christmas Market)

I am also very pleased to announce that the council has agreed to fund and install 3 more defibrillators across the Parish, one at the Gate in, Troway, one at Green Lawns community centre, Marsh Lane and one at the One Stop shop in Eckington.

We are continuing to host regular litter picks across the Parish - we now have plenty of equipment we can loan out - I am pleased to see photos of Ridgeway Brownies and Guides and the Eckington 6th Scouts litter picking activities this year and am really proud to see our younger generation taking pride in their community and protecting our environment.

We are continuing to install grit and litter bins at litter hotspots - please keep us posted if you know of any hotspot areas near you.

Our allotments are busy as usual - we still have a waiting list - we have recently installed a water supply at the Marsh Lane allotments - if you are interested renting a plot, please contact us.

We have also repaired the bus stop shelter on West Street in Eckington and the one at Renishaw outside the Co-op on the Main Road.

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow Councillors, I am lucky to have a great team - we have varied interests, experience and your hard work, commitment and dedication to serving our local community is incomparable - thank you all.

Above all, our thanks and appreciation to all our residents for your feedback, compliments, suggestions, complaints, and support - we always endeavour to listen to residents and improve our services. I am proud to live and be a part of this wonderful Parish and we will continue to deliver value for money services that meet your needs.

Cllr Carolyn Renwick