



Newmarket Town Council

Community & Leisure Services Committee Report

May 2021

Well, it's been a strange year for us all. No face to face meetings since March 2020 but we have all become very proficient with Zoom despite the ongoing cry of 'you're on mute'. We have however, despite all the problems thrown up by the pandemic, managed to achieve a significant amount.

The Clocktower project finally got underway and will look lovely once it is fully completed and the planting is established. Certainly the project will go a long way towards brightening up that area of the town and we would like to thank Cllr Philippa Winter for her hard work in firstly getting the project off the ground and secondly, for overseeing the actual work.

Philippa also needs heartfelt thanks for her work in organising and coordinating the planting of the 200 gifted cherry blossom trees from Japan. They already look amazing and they are the forerunner to our plans to implement a tree planting programme in Newmarket. This will be in conjunction with a general planting programme aimed at making our town a pretty and welcoming space for residents and visitors alike.

Discussions are ongoing with Flagship housing in relation to the garages around St Marys Square with the hope that this area can be improved.

The Committee is also in discussion with West Suffolk to ensure our Market thrives and grows.

Obviously we did not have any hanging baskets in 2020 but these are back on track for 2021 and should be in situ around the town very shortly.

Cemetery Matters continue to be carried out by West Suffolk. The Committee reviewed the regulations and fees and are content that these are now more robust and in line with the rest of West Suffolk.

The Memorial Garden and play equipment has reopened and is well used and appreciated by the residents. Ongoing inspections ensure that everything is safe and fit for purpose.

Whilst there were no events held this year, there are many plans in the pipeline to make 2021 and 2022 a busy time. These include a Platinum Jubilee street party, a Newmarket Bombing Event memorial and Christmas celebrations including new Christmas lights in town. A Maison-Lafitte virtual twinning event is planned for May 2021 and discussions are also ongoing for a virtual event with Newmarket in Canada.

Julie De'Ath

Cllr. Julie De'Ath,

Chair of NTC Community & Leisure Services Committee