

HATFIELD PEVEREL PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

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Chairman's Report

Firstly, I would like to welcome Ian Howlett to the Parish Council as a co-opted member; I look forward to working with him in the coming year. I would also like to extend an invitation to any residents of Hatfield Peverel who would like to get involved with the Parish Council to contact the Parish Clerk and register your interest (parishclerk@hatfieldpeverelpc.com). As I write this report, there is one vacancy available.

Well, this has been an eventful year for us as a nation. With the Covid-19 virus lives have been turned upside down. For the Council, we had to learn new ways to meet, and we did this online through Microsoft Teams for our monthly council meetings which worked well. The Teams 'invite' was posted on our website so that members of the public could join us, which they did. Another thing that came out of these meetings is the saying "You're on mute" - must be the phrase of the year.

I would like to send my condolences to anyone who has lost loved ones to this dreadful disease - our thoughts are with you in such distressing times. I would also like to thank all our villagers who have helped their neighbours and friends in whatever way they can. Of course, there are a lot of people in the village who are on the frontline in hospitals and care homes; we thank you for your service and sacrifice.

Okay, what's been going on?

Community Park

Progress has been slow, but we are still working on the Community Park. There is some way to go until the public can use it.

NDP (Neighbourhood Development Plan)

Currently this document is going through a review period to ensure it reflects the village, so I'd like to thank the NDP team for all their hard work in keeping this document relevant.

Party in the Park

We are planning a Party in the Park event for 2022, but the date is to be confirmed as it is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year which we are hoping to celebrate as well. Plans are being made and an update will be released soon.

Community events

Because of Covid it was limited what the team could do, but we will be working on things for the community to enjoy.

Hatfelda Square Car Park

The Parish Council has taken over this car park from Braintree District Council and it is our intent to continue the 2-hour free parking to residents of the village. If the car park had remained under Braintree there was a good chance payment would have been introduced.

Hatfield Peverel Village Hall Charity

The Parish Council has become the Sole Trustee for the Charity and is working with a new management team looking to offer a community service to the village, as well as compliance with charity law and managing costs and income. We look forward to promoting this venture and involving the villagers in new and exciting projects for the future.

This is a short review from me. You will see more detailed information from the chairs of the working parties and committees in their reports that follow.

I would like to thank all the councillors who have given up their time for little reward. I am privileged to have their support and their wealth of knowledge and skills to help us make the right decisions on behalf of the parishioners of Hatfield Peverel.

A special thank you to Sarah Gaeta (Parish Clerk) for all her hard work over the last year.

I would like to thank Charley Dervish and David Bebb our District Councillors for their help and support over the last year. Sadly, David Bebb has moved out of the village and stood down as our District Councillor. His replacement is Darren White.

My thanks go out to Ken and Jackie Earney who produce the Hatfield Peverel Review and look forward to working with them on our communication strategy for the future.

I would also like to thank all the people who have worked on different projects and working parties - thank you for all your help and support.

Finally, if you would like to get involved by being a councillor, please contact our Clerk - the contact details are on the website, App and in the Review. Maybe you don't want to be a councillor, but would like to join a working party? If so, please again contact the clerk - we always need help and support.

Councillor Mark Weale - Chairman of the Hatfield Peverel Parish Council

Environment Advisory Group Report

The EAG is tasked to consider those environmental issues that affect us in Hatfield Peverel and Nounsley. We are a group of councillors, including an interested member of the public, who meet regularly to try and resolve these issues. As well as myself, we have Councillors Diane Wallace, David Broddle and Marel Elliston, and the people's representative, Leslie Moxhay. My thanks go to them all for volunteering their knowledge and services for the good of our parish. Unfortunately, one of the long-standing members, Peter Endersby, had to resign from the group as he was moving away from the village. He had been with the Council for many years, and was an ex-chairman of this group, so we all thank him for his efforts during this time. A thank you also to the Parish Paths Representative, Ken Earney, for all his efforts during the year.

The major project for the group this year has been the remedial work around the duck pond. Although the pond itself, and the land behind the fence, belongs to Braintree District Council, the area between the recreation ground and the pond is the responsibility of the Parish Council. Over the years, this patch of land has become progressively overgrown. It was decided to get the area cleared so that we could get an idea of what we could do with it. Work started last Autumn and was completed in Spring. A new path was laid from the rec to meet with the old path at the pond edge. Two benches have been installed. Flowers such as primroses, cowslips, snowdrops, alliums, aconites and bluebells were all planted. We should see the benefit of some of these next Spring. The upgrade of the area has attracted much positive response from the residents. However, it is a shame that there are certain people in the village that will try and vandalise the good work that has been done. This will not stop the Parish Council from trying to improve our environment.

We continue to tackle those day-to-day problems to ensure our village looks tidy and attractive. Areas covered during the year included:

- Attending to dangerous or dying trees and the cutting back/down of encroaching vegetation. Most of the work last year was fairly routine. Note that we can only deal with trees that are on Parish Council land! Can any owners who have hedges bordering on the footpaths within the village please ensure that surplus vegetation is kept trimmed back? This does not only apply to our country walks, but also to those hedges alongside our pavements.
- Refurbishing and renovation of the playground equipment at both the rec. and the Nounsley play area. This is an ongoing issue. Health and Safety must be paramount. Note that we had monies from the District Councillors to upgrade the swings at the rec. Our thanks go to them for this grant. We are pleased to announce that we received the following awards this year:

Class 1 Playfield Field serving a community with over 2,500 inhabitants:

Nounsley and Hatfield Peverel Strutt Memorial were both awarded Silver.

Class 2 The Gerald Snook Award for Children's Playgrounds:

Nounsley playground was awarded Silver.

Note that one of our tasks for this year is to place some more benches around the rec.

We have bought, and installed, three new litter bins (one at Hadfelda Square, two at the rec.) as well as four dog waste bins (Old School Court, Ulting Road, Sportsmans Lane and the Ford). We have had a problem with cars parking on the grass at both The Green and the rec. A 'No Parking' sign has been put on the former, and posts at the entrance to the latter.

Most of the above duties are carried out by our handymen, David and Damon Wallace. We must thank them for their hard work and dedication in keeping our parish looking so pleasant. I know that they often carry out work over and above what is expected of them. A mention should also go out to our litter pickers. Please make their jobs easier by either taking your litter home with you, or by using the litter bins provided.

Councillor Ted Munt

Traffic Advisory Group Report

The TAG has met four times during the past year, the reduced frequency resulting from the Covid situation and personal circumstances of various members of the group.

A second Vehicle Activated Sign (the one that flashes “30” at any vehicle exceeding that speed) has been purchased and now forms part of our speed reduction equipment, which is used at various sites around the village, being relocated approximately every three months. Each of the thirteen sites is covered once or twice each year. A new Speed Indicator Device has been budgeted for in 2021/22 as a replacement for an earlier, time-expired unit.

We have been involved in numerous traffic, speed and parking issues during the twelve-month period, particularly in relation to the various new housing developments. In the case of the latter, dialogues have taken place with developers and their site managers to mitigate the impact of the additional traffic created by building work. Applications have been submitted (or are imminent) to North Essex Parking Partnership and the Local Highways Panel in respect of the possible installation of “rumble strips” (or a suitable alternative) at the railway bridge in Station Road, a 20mph scheme in the vicinity of the schools in Church Road and some small extension of yellow line restrictions at dangerous junctions. We have also included Ulting Road in the “30mph” stickers scheme to be placed on black and green waste bins, although there are no plans to further extend the scheme.

An earlier application to the Local Highways Panel has resulted in the addition of a new “pedestrians in road” sign in Station Road. We have also arranged for the installation of some minor road safety measures at Letch’s Corner and, as a result of extensive negotiations by a member of the Group, have been responsible for the removal of extensive soil spills and overgrown verges along a considerable length of Maldon Road.

We continue to pursue Highways England and Essex Highways for a solution to the delays caused by the traffic lights at Latneys, and also continue to place pressure on ECC to deal with the problems of the road surface and flooding in Sportsmans Lane. We have also made numerous reports, to ECC and BDC, of potholes, defective streetlights, missing road signs and broken drain covers.

We have secured funding from BDC for an upgrade to the bus shelter at Nounsley.

The proposals to apply, through the Local Highways Panel scheme, for an upgrade to all three zebra crossings, and for “white gates” at various entry points to the village, have been deferred owing to a perceived lack of support from local residents.

Representation at meetings on ECC Highways’ Devolution of Services project, and on ECC’s Local Area Transport groups, has been suspended during the current pandemic.

Finally, the TAG has played, and will continue to play, a key role in discussions with Highways England and ECC on the proposals to widen the A12. This work includes protecting the interests

of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. This project will have a significant impact on the roads in and around Hatfield Peverel and Nounsley. A member of the TAG is also part of a small group specifically looking at the feasibility of a new link road to Maldon as an adjunct to the A12 project.

Thanks go to all members of the TAG over the past year, and those who have assisted with issues that have arisen. Their help and support have been invaluable and greatly appreciated.

John Cockell, Chairman of TAG

Community Land Advisory Group Report

Community Park

Over the last year it has proved difficult to progress registration of the site with the Land Registry. Steps have been taken to rectify this, and it is expected that once fully registered, work can commence to create a detailed action plan for the future of the site.

This will enable the Parish Council to make use of opportunities to create a long-term income stream and carry out projects leading to the safe opening of the area for enjoyment by members of the public.

A Lease has been agreed between the WASPS fishing club and the Parish Council formalising the use of two lakes on the site.

Clearance work has been completed by Essex County Council to open up the official route of footpath 29 around the northeast corner of the site. The Parish Council has done further work to make the path route clear and accessible. Uneven sections have been widened and graded, with a fence installed to make the public route more obvious. A group of volunteers has spread a supply of wood chippings along the cleared section to help even the path underfoot.

Thanks are due to all who have helped with these first steps.

Councillor Mike Renow

NDP Executive Committee Report

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) group have continued to monitor the implementation of the NDP throughout the year.

Representations to Braintree District Council (BDC) on behalf of the Parish Council have been drafted for submission on planning applications where comment has been felt appropriate.

These submissions have included, in particular, assessment of Reserved Matters Applications made by developers in respect of sites at the old Arla factory, land East of Gleneagles Way and land South of Stonepath Drive. Constructive discussions were held with these developers to ensure that as far as possible comments made by village residents and conditions imposed following a public inquiry were taken into account and acted on by BDC in their decision making on the proposals.

The group also drafted responses to a number of planning related consultations during the year. These included:

- Response to BDC on their proposals to change their criteria in their delegated decision-making procedure.
- Response to BDC on consultation on amendments suggested by Part 1 Local Plan examiner.
- Response to BDC on their Part 2 Local Plan submission consultation.
- Response to central government on 'Planning for the future' legislation proposals.
- Response to Longfield Solar Farms non statutory consultation.
- Response to Bradwell B Power Station consultation.

A watching brief has been maintained on Highways England's A12 widening proposals in an attempt to assess the impact of new traffic flows within the village in the present absence of any plans to provide a suitable solution, e.g. a Maldon link road bypassing the village.

Close monitoring of the progress of BDC Local Plan, proposed central government planning legislation changes and the effects of national health emergency restrictions have been ongoing as the group have assessed the viability of reviewing the NDP.

A decision has been made to carry out the following activity to review the current Plan:

- Conduct a local Housing Needs Assessment to establish what, if any, types of housing are not currently being provided in the area.
- Conduct a site options and assessment exercise to establish if any need identified can be provided through a site allocation.
- Commission a Design Code document to strengthen the Village Character Assessment document created for the original NDP.
- Conduct a review of the current development boundary.
- Replace the Green Wedge policy removed from the NDP at examination.

- An application for consultancy support has been submitted to the Rebuilding Heritage - lottery funded programme - to help strengthen the Heritage NDP policy.
- Early approaches have been made to Highways England's archaeological recording agents to establish if they are able to share results of digs either side of the A12 as it passes through the village.
- Consideration is being given as to how best to highlight air quality management issues around the village within the plan, such as introducing a new Health and Wellbeing policy.

The group are at present in discussion with Locality to establish the level of grant funding and technical assistance that might be available to complete these revisions.

Thanks are again due to all the members of the NDP group who have continued to produce valuable input sometimes at short notice and under difficult circumstances to such a wide range of often complex issues.

Councillor Mike Renow

Parish Paths Partnership representative (P3) report

1 Current status of the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) scheme

At the Parish Council meeting on 1st February, it was decided that we would no longer seek Essex County Council grant funding for the single annual cuts to Footpaths 18, 39 and 47 in the built-up areas of the village. The amount of administrative effort required at the beginning and end of each financial year to set up and then claim the extremely modest sum paid by ECC was considered no longer justified. This does not affect the annual cuts by ECC contractors of a number of outlying paths around the parish boundaries. These occur usually in late spring/early summer. Sections of two paths (FP29 by Latneys and FP27 west from its junction with Spring Lane) were added to the list for year 2021/2022. A number of other field headland paths are maintained by farmers John Upton and Richard Lewis (Mowden Hall Farm).

Non-scheduled issues regarding problems on any of our paths are reported on the Highways problem reporting pages of the ECC website, usually by the undersigned. The local footpath inspector reads the reports daily, visits the site to look at the issue, allocates priorities and arranges for them to be dealt with by an ECC contractor or occasionally a volunteer working party, such as the Friends of the Flich Way. A number have been reported online over the past 12 months, principally to do with structures and waymarking. However, this arrangement usually results in delays in getting attention due to ECC budgetary and priority constraints, so our volunteer group deals with certain of them in a timelier manner.

2 Volunteer working group

As reported last year, the volunteers did not wish to be subject to some of the more onerous ECC requirements when working formally within the P3 scheme, so they decided to restrict their activities to vegetation clearance. Work such as installing or repairing bridges, gates, waymarker posts etc has still to be referred to ECC for action.

This group, the Hatfield Peverel Footpath Irregulars, was very active during the time of peak growth season in 2020 since this coincided with the Covid-19 emergency. Vegetation work is mostly a solo activity, but the heavier jobs were tackled by our single household couples when the work requires more than one pair of hands. These activities will continue in the current year.

If any resident notices a problem that they think needs attention on any of our paths, then they can report them to the undersigned, Ken Earney - 381235, or to any of the volunteer group:

Adrian Coombs – amc0374@aol.com

Ron Elliston – 380827

Kevin Gallifant – 381850

David Goodey – digoodey50@gmail.com

Lesley Moxhay – lesleymoxhay@hotmail.com

Ted Munt – cllrmunt@hatfieldpeverelpc.com

Mike Renow – 380071

3 ECC issues

3.1 Path from The Street via Bennett Way, New Road to FP18 (Cutts Close to the Rec.)

The parish needs the entire length of this key village path to acquire permanent legal protection, and to ensure that it be maintainable at public expense by ECC. Currently only the length from The Street to the northern arm of the Bennett Way cul-de-sac has this status, appearing on the county Definitive Map as FP4.

Connected with this, the Council's Traffic Advisory Group (TAG) wants to improve accessibility for wheelchair users by having the kerbs lowered and realigned on both sides of New Road where it is crossed by the path, and also tactile pavement surfaces at these crossings. A recent meeting was held between John Cockell (TAG chair), Jim Bartley (ECC Highways PROW engineer) and the undersigned to explore these linked issues. Jim Bartley advised that, regarding the FP4 issue, a government-imposed deadline of midnight on 31 December 2025 is the end date for applications for path creations - both new routes and the recognition and 'rescue' of historic paths - to have been received by the relevant authority.

Regarding FP4, the first task is to establish ownership of the land over which both sections of the path run. John Cockell undertook to pursue this issue. (The undersigned has undertaken to do likewise for the path linking Stonepath Drive to the top end of Church Road, another of our key residential area paths.)

4 Path diversions

The waymarking of path diversions on four paths on Lord Rayleigh's Farms (LRF) land reported last year as apparently satisfactory was found not to be so, but has now been dealt with by LRF. The unevenness of a section of FP34 up beside the railway embankment has been the subject of one or two complaints and possible remedies will be investigated in the current year.

5 Stonepath Meadow – FP43

Preliminary development is now under way on the site and a boundary fence bordering the path has been erected. The original historic York flagstones were lifted by Bellway, the major site contractor, and stored off-site in the custody of the Parish Council. They will be relayed along the original line of the path at a later stage of the development.

6 Path flooding and boggy surfaces

Flooding affecting paths FP7 and FP39 is kept under review. From the time of last year's report, no significant flooding has been observed following that reported in 2020 on FP7. FP39 will be investigated once Covid-19 regulations are relaxed.

7 Maintenance of paths by local resident volunteers

Thanks to those residents who cut side growth and mow, strim or otherwise maintain path surfaces in their neighbourhood as the need arises throughout the year. Their efforts are much appreciated.

8 Nine Walks around Hatfield Peverel

The online version in PDF format of Catherine Voysey's booklet "Nine Walks around Hatfield Peverel" is now available on the Parish Council's website. It is subject to ongoing review so that it can be amended wherever inaccuracies come to light. Anyone finding anything misleading or inaccurate is asked to refer it to Councillor Ted Munt or the undersigned so that it can be corrected.

Ken Earney, Parish Paths Partnership (P3) representative, Hatfield Peverel

Heritage Report

Parish Council Meetings

- Attended Parish Council meetings as and when Heritage matters have arisen.
- Liaised with Parish Clerk and councillors in respect of Heritage matters.

Reference

- Acted as temporary keeper (for Parish Council) of local History resources previously held by Hatfield Peverel Library, ongoing.

Planning

- Served as co-opted member of Hatfield Peverel Neighbourhood Development Plan group, responsibility for Heritage, ongoing.
- Assisted NDP group with written responses to various planning applications.
- Liaised with developer to retain the historic York flagstones on Stonepath Meadow, in respect of reserved matters planning application 20/01906/REM.

Family History

- Answered requests from family members/interested parties seeking information about past parishioners of Hatfield Peverel.

Articles

- Freeman, M 'Fine historical pageant in Hatfield Peverel, 1924' in *Hatfield Peverel Review* (August 2020) p 11.
- Freeman, M 'A most jolly time was had by all, Christmas festivities at the village school, 1941' in *Hatfield Peverel Review* (December 2020) p 21.
- Quote by Freeman, M 'The York flagstones on Stonepath Meadow' in *Hatfield Peverel Review* (April 2021) p 9.

Engagement

- Attended 'Heritage Day' organised by the Heritage Alliance, 24th and 25th March 2021.

Acknowledgements

Sincere gratitude is expressed to Sarah Gaeta (Parish Clerk), Parish Councillors, editors of *The Review* and the NDP group. Special mention of thanks to parishioners who share their knowledge of Hatfield Peverel's treasured History.

Margaret Freeman, Heritage Warden

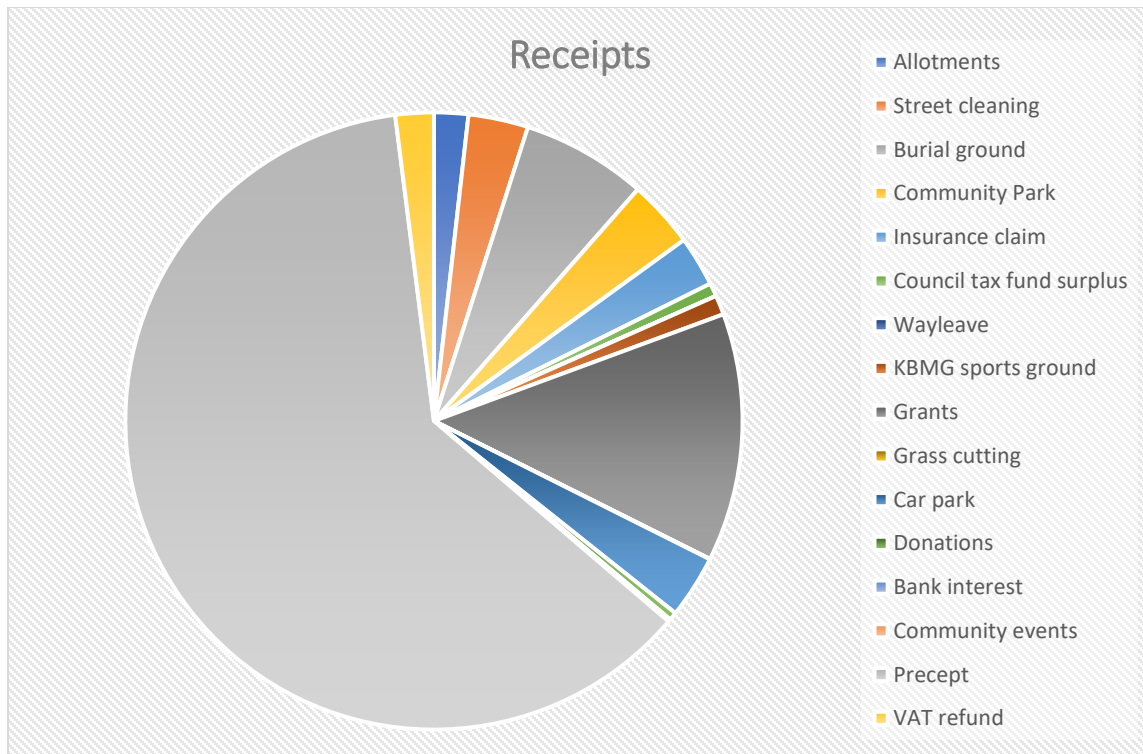
Financial Report

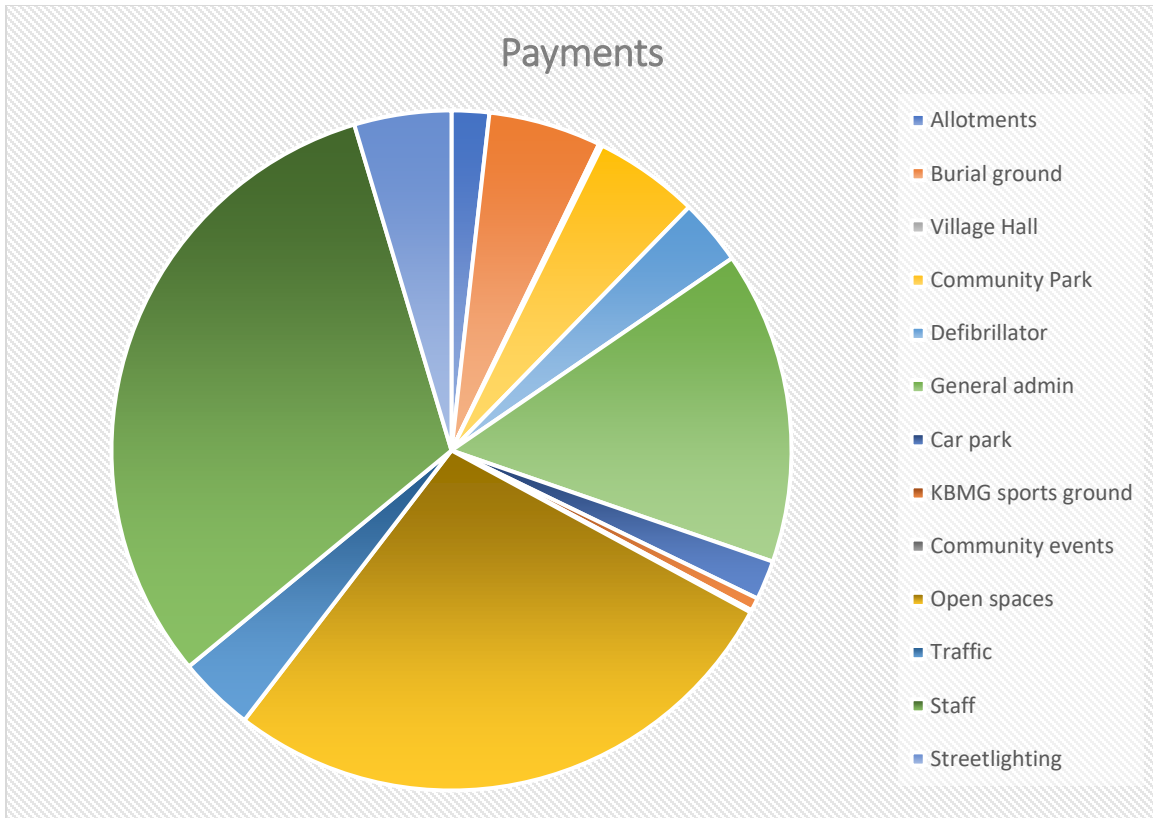
The financial year 2020/21 was a difficult year for many. The Parish Council office remained in operation throughout lockdown and the Council was fortunate to receive additional funding during the year through grants, which helped planned projects to go ahead.

During the 2020/21 financial year, the Parish Council received the following grant funding:

Source	Amount	Project
Essex County Councillor Local Fund	£2,800.00	Two community defibrillators – one is located at the village hall; the other location is to be confirmed
Essex County Councillor Local Fund	£1,121.09	Three benches for the newly refurbished duck pond area
Essex Association of Local Councils	£500.00	Planting for the newly refurbished duck pond area
Braintree District Councillor Community Grant	£400.00	Playground equipment refurbishment
Braintree District Councillor Community Grant	£500.00	Nounsley bus shelter refurbishment work
Braintree District Council – Small Business Rate Relief Grant	£10,000.00	Currently in general reserves – use to be decided

At 31st March 2021, the Parish Council carried over £173,113 into the new financial year, with receipts and payments apportioned as follows:





For further information, the **Annual Governance documents** submitted to the External Auditor can be viewed here:

[Finance - Hatfield Peverel Parish Council \(hatfieldpeverelpc.com\)](http://hatfieldpeverelpc.com)

Sarah Gaeta, Responsible Financial Officer

Braintree District Councillor Report

Annual Report 2020-21

COVID 19

During the year 2020-21, Braintree District Council provided a vital role in supporting the pandemic response and continues to support the wider resilience and recovery efforts.

In the early stages of lockdown in March 2020, BDC played an essential part in communicating the public safety messages and updating on service delivery, showing support to our NHS and key workers. We were pleased that apart from a short suspension of green waste collection, service disruption was kept to a minimum and our refuse teams appreciated the warm reception they received from residents in those early dark days. They seemed to be a welcome sign of some normality in the most abnormal of times!

Through the months that followed, BDC has also played an active role in the COVID testing process and offered support and advice as the COVID vaccination centres opened up.

The allocation of business support grants from central government to our business community has been a vital function and BDC's diligent team has processed millions of pounds of grants. The team remains on call to continue to process government support as restrictions continue to lift. For more information please contact: www.braintree.gov.uk/helpforbusinesses.

We have ensured our homeless have been looked after and worked with our villages and town centres to establish proper social distancing measures and help support reopening when restrictions were lifted. BDC continues to do so as we continue to come out of this period of lockdown.

We have worked with our leisure provider to keep leisure services running as smoothly as possible when relaxing of restrictions allowed.

Investing in our Town Centres

Despite the pandemic, long awaited improvements to Braintree Town Centre, including the pedestrianised High Street moved forward with planned completion in the Summer. The multi-million-pound Victoria Square development including: hotel, new bus interchange, new homes and a health facility has also moved forward at pace.

BDC has also committed to improvements in both Witham and Halstead Town Centre, with the purpose of improving the appearance and increasing footfall. Pandemic restrictions pending, it is hoped these physical improvements will be complemented by a programme of events and markets.

Investing in the Economy

The employment land development adjacent to Great Notley, known as Horizon 120 again continues to progress well, with considerable interest from companies wishing to grow into larger premises and companies moving to the area and creating new jobs. As part of the Government's 'Get Building Fund,' £7 million was secured in the Autumn for a new Enterprise Centre on that site.

In addition to this development, the Braintree District Council part funded 'I construct' development continues to be developed at speed at Springwood Industrial Estate. This is part of a wider programme to support the production of new products and services in the construction industry which will create new jobs and support COVID economic recovery.

BDC has also announced plans to bring forward a business case for a new Enterprise Development adjacent to Hatfield Road Witham.

Supporting our Communities

Our community team continues to support the work of local residents with our Community Transport function helping support the elderly receive their vaccinations. In the recent budget, funding has been secured to pay for this vital service in 2021-22 and a business case to support the Community Centre in Maltings Lane will be coming forward later this year.

The popular councillors' community grant scheme continues and if you know of a community initiative or charity that would benefit and be eligible for support, please do let me know. Each Councillor has £1500 plus any leftover sums from the previous years.

The Environment and Sustainable Transport

The Council has allocated £500,000 to support climate change initiatives directed by an Action Plan, to be developed, following a public engagement process on its 'Climate Change Strategy.' This engagement will be in tandem with the Council's Cycling Strategy and will run from May until the end of June.

Financial Management

There were many unforeseen demands on the Council's spending during the pandemic, but these were supported by funding from Central Government. Braintree District Council set a 0% tax increase for 2021-22 and continues to push ahead with an investment and commercialisation programme, to generate revenues to fund a high standard of services. The investment strategy seeks to focus on projects that give 'double value' to the taxpayer. Investment in initiatives that provide social and economic benefits to residents, whilst generating returns to fund front line services.

District Councillor Charley Dervish