

Clerk - Feering Parish Council

From: Feering Parish Council <clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 January 2021 20:02
To: Clerk - Feering Parish Council
Subject: Happy New Year from Feering Parish Council



Happy New Year from Feering Parish Council January 2021

Happy New Year from all the team here at Feering Parish Council!

While we had hoped to start 2021 in a COVID-free way, it's clear that hasn't happened just yet. The country is now in a full lockdown and we know this is going to be an incredibly difficult few weeks for everyone. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. Vaccinations are being rolled out, and residents here in Feering in the top priority groups will start to hear from their GP surgeries over the next few weeks to arrange appointments.

Vaccinations for those registered with Kelvedon & Feering Health Centre will be taking place in Earls Colne. For many of us, this won't be a problem and we will be able to drive there. We'd like to reassure our most vulnerable residents who cannot drive that volunteer drivers are on standby and are ready and willing to drive you to your

appointment. Please ask your GP surgery for information when they contact you to book your appointment.

In the same way, we also have a team of volunteers lined up to assist with shopping and pharmacy trips for anyone isolating or shielding. Please contact Lisa Collins, Clerk to the Parish Council, on 01376 572882 or email clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information on the help available.

Kelvedon and Feering Coronavirus Support Group

The Kelvedon and Feering Coronavirus Support Group is still operating, with volunteers lined up to help others in their community with shopping and pharmacy trips. If you are isolating, shielding or have lost your usual support network due to COVID-19 please get in touch.

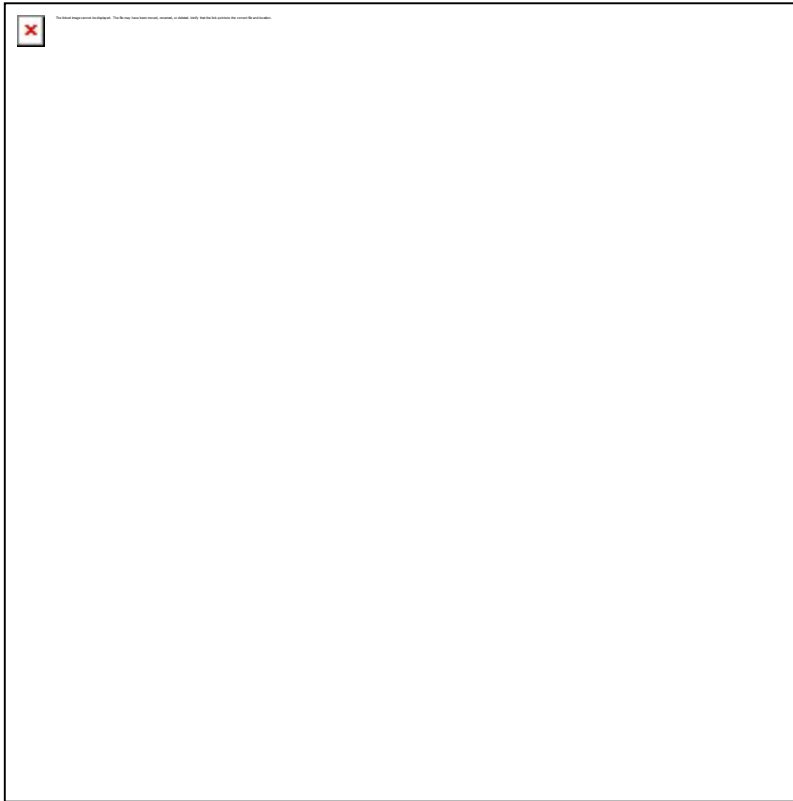
We also have a number of food parcels and small grants available to support residents who have been affected financially by the COVID-19 outbreak.

Please contact Lisa Collins, Clerk to the Parish Council, on 01376 572882 or email clerk@feeringparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information on the help available.

Best Christmas Decorated Street

After much deliberation among Councillors, an independent adjudicator awarded the title of Best Decorated Street to Packe Close. With over 80% of homes on Packe Close decorated, it was the clear winner.

Lot of houses around the village stood out and there were some really impressive displays. The displays have gone up a level this year. It was wonderful to see so much effort made all around the village. It has given the village a real feel of togetherness and it seems as though the everyone is coming together to make each other smile and happy.



Councillor Surgeries

In January 2020, the Parish Council started holding Councillor Surgeries in order to engage with the parish and enable member of the community to access councillors more easily, to raise issues, put forward suggestions or seek clarification on important local concerns. where members of the Parish could meet with Parish Councillors to raise any issues. These surgeries were well attended and successful with residents but unfortunately Lockdown meant that meetings face to face could no longer take place.

Whilst we are still in Lockdown and face to face meetings are still unable to take place, the Parish Council would like to resume the councillor surgeries held over Zoom video conference or via telephone conference. We are hoping to restart these on Saturday 30 January 2021 between 10.30 am and 12.00 pm.

If you would be interested in discussing any issues with the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk on 01376 572882 who will make arrangements for a call / video call.

Trees Planting Project

We hope you have seen and are enjoying the new trees which have been planted on the Playing Field. Congratulations go to the Parish Council's Environmental Working Group who successfully completed its first major project planting the new trees, on Sunday 6th December. Thanks go to the REco Store and Perrywoods for their generous donations towards the project, without which the project would not have happened. Thanks also goes to the Handyman, G G Adams who made the structures which are protecting the trees from damage.

In the coming months, the Environmental Group will be arranging for an information board about the project to be placed alongside the trees giving information about the tree species, the benefits to the community and the environment. The trees will also provide a home and shelter for wildlife.





Full Council virtual meeting held on 8 December at 7.30 pm

The Full Council meeting was held on Tuesday 8 December 2020 virtually via Zoom. Copies of the full minutes can be found on the Parish Council Website once they have been agreed at the following Full Council Meeting.

During the meeting, the following items were discussed:

- District Councillor updates – update was given by District Councillor Paul Thorogood regarding the scheme of delegation which has been approved by Braintree District Council regarding planning applications, which means from 1 January 2021 any application of 9 or less properties will not go to the Committee and if the Parish Council object to an application it will no longer automatically go to the Planning Committee, but will go to the Chairman or Vice-Chairman to decide whether it should go before committee. The Cala Homes application at Monks Farm will be brought to the Planning Committee on 14 December for consideration.
- County Councillor update – update was given by County Councillor Robert Mitchell to include update on the A12-A120 discussions which had been held. The repair to the Rafted Path which has been completed and the wilding project of County Council Land which will be discussed with the Environmental Group.
- Councillor Surgeries – It was noted that the Councillor Surgery on 5 December had not taken place as there were no residents wishing to raise items with the Parish Council, it

was possible that this was due to the Christmas period. It was agreed that the next surgery should take place on Saturday 30 January 2021 at 10.30 am.

- Parish Council Meeting Schedule – It was agreed that the schedule of meetings should be published for 2021.
- Christmas Lights – It was agreed that the decision on the Best Decorated Street should take place early week 14 December. Discussion was held around the displays and it was agreed that an independent judge should be asked to give the final decision.

Local Open Spaces Action Plan – This item was deferred to the next meeting to allow further time for review.

COVID-19 Community Testing

From (Wednesday 6th January 2021 COVID-19 community testing is available targeted at 11-18 year olds and their families without coronavirus symptoms, who live or work in the Braintree district.

This will help prevent and reduce transmission in the community through increasing the testing capacity and giving people who are asymptomatic (someone who doesn't have symptoms) an opportunity to be tested.

Around 1 in 3 people who have coronavirus have no symptoms so could be spreading the virus without knowing, so this testing is designed to identify these people and make sure they self-isolate.

Community testing means anyone can get a free test and play their part in keeping others safe. Even though the tests are aimed at 11-18 year olds and their families, others who live or work in the Braintree district will not be prevented from collecting tests.

The more people we can test, the better we can fight the virus in our local area.

Find out more: www.braintree.gov.uk/communitytesting

COVID-19 community testing



Star Count 2021

A dark starry sky is one of the most magical sights imaginable. But light pollution means that many of us can't see the stars.

Our annual Star Count is back, and the team behind it would like you to help us map of the nation's view of the night sky - this year, from home.

It's easy to be a part of Star Count: just look to the heavens between 6-14 February and count the number of stars you see in the constellation of Orion.

It's a safe, outside activity to do as a family or household, from your home, garden, balcony or even bedroom window, and everyone can take part.

As we're all asked to stay at home, please don't travel to do a Star Count.
Sign up below to register your interest here



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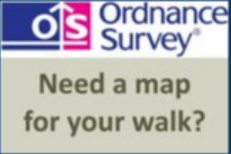
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If you know of further information or corrections which would improve the site.

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John Harris

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VOLUNTEER WITH US

Make a real difference in the fight against poverty

Braintree Area Foodbank provides a minimum of three days' emergency food and support to local people experiencing crisis.

We are currently looking for the following volunteers who will help play a crucial role in the running of the foodbank, from collecting and sorting donations to processing vouchers and helping to create a welcoming space for people in crisis:

Warehouse Assistants - happy to lift heavy weights and have an eye for detail

Drivers and Driver's mates - clean licence required and ability to lift heavy weights

Witham Foodbank Centre Helper - empathetic, team player & excellent communication skills

To find out more about how you can join us and for fuller role profile please

Phone: 01376 330694 or

Email: info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk

No previous volunteering experience required. We endeavour to reply to all volunteering applications within 5 days.

braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1148782 : Company No: 8183618 : Reg. in England & Wales



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