

Chairman's Report 2021

It has been an unusual and challenging year for Hesketh Bank, and indeed the world. Restrictions put in place due to the pandemic, firstly led to no council meetings and then virtual council meetings, with the inevitable issues those bring. However, it is a positive step we are taking today being back together meeting in person and we hope that this is a turning point, not only for the Parish Council but for the world.

Despite events, much has happened over these twelve months: we have started the 'Henry Alty Way' Linear Park and are pleased to return to Hesketh Bank Community Centre for our meetings in its brand new, purpose built building - both projects benefitting from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies.

The Glen Park Drive play area has had a makeover, the CCTV has been overhauled and the Northern Parishes have joined together to tackle drainage and resultant flooding issues.

The Council also gave financial support to Helping Hands, an action group set up to reach out to those struggling through the Covid-19 situation, a lifeline for many in Tarleton and Hesketh Bank. We thank those people involved for their efforts and to everyone who has done their bit to keep our village safe and supported - many of these people were recognised in our Love Hesketh Bank award winners announced in February. In addition to this, it is great to see that estate agents are now listing our Best Kept Street accolades in their advertisements.

Unfortunately, the Parish Champion initiative has ground to a halt, and even before the pandemic had seemingly run its course, but we now have more police presence in the area and welcome from the new Rural Task Force.

We are still very much supported by our dedicated Lengthsman, who makes sure we are spick and span, but we recognise that despite our best efforts and regular cleaning from West Lancashire Borough Council services, we still have 'grot spots' and continue to suffer from building and road works around the village.

There is much still to do and our community continues to grow, but it is heartening to see our businesses re-opening, new businesses opening, and life getting back to what will be a new normal for Hesketh Bank.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ian Cropper for his time as clerk and welcome Diane Earles into the role, and finally to welcome the new and old members following the recent election to serve on the council for the next four years.