

Little Bentley 2021 Recorders Report (Laura Robinson)

Life in Little Bentley in 2021 was for the second year in a row greatly affected by the Covid pandemic with working patterns still involving working from home for many and with neighbours seeking to assist vulnerable villagers as required. As with 2020, the village Whatsapp group provided an important source of assistance and information on a daily basis to assist local residents with Covid-related issues as well as a host of other types of offers of help, local news, traffic reports, recommendations for services/trades, items seeking a new home, and the latest trending internet humour. The link served to help organize and publicise village events including :

- Regular church and churchyard cleaning sessions;
- A charity event on 21 August to raise money for cerebral palsy treatments in America for a village toddler, Angus Grocott
- Sound and light installation in Little Bentley wood and BBQ for Halloween
- Fireworks display and BBQ on Guy Fawkes night

In March, the Parish Council agreed to purchase a Tommy statue from the RBLI to be placed on the village green.

In September, the Parish Council agreed to submit a Community Initiative Fund grant to Tendring District Council to upgrade the Village Hall kitchen.

PC representatives met with Essex County Council Highways in the autumn to discuss options to address the problems arising from the constricted road through Ravens Green. ECC's position had softened, meaning that expressed willingness to explore the possibility of closing Ravens Green Lane in the middle, so it will no longer serve as a through route. All residents of Ravens Green Lane (and the lanes within it) will have to be consulted, before ECC will take this any further.

A new planning application was submitted in July for commercial development adjacent to Clip Hedge Farm, branded as Alder Park. The scheme followed a previous scheme approved on appeal in May 2020 for offices. The new scheme at 3,451 m² was twice as big as the 1,687 m² previous office proposal, with 116 car parking spaces in contrast to the 60 proposed before. The Parish Council submitted objections to the scheme on the basis of its speculative nature, its unsustainable location, and its much larger scale and impact than the previous scheme.