

Little Bentley 2022 Report

Community events increased post-Covid, spearheaded by the Parish Council, the Church, and an Events Committee. The village WhatsApp group continued to serve as a key communication link for villagers and enabled organization of events including regular monthly gatherings of a book club, film club, summer Churchyard maintenance, and pub quiz night. Special events included:

-21 May and 29 October– Litter picks followed by coffee in the pub.

-4/5 June -Platinum Jubilee celebration – Villagers gathered on the Green on Saturday 4th June to celebrate with a BBQ and a band, followed by a pot luck lunch at the Church on the Sunday. The Parish Council purchased trees to commemorate the event which were subsequently planted near the A120 roundabout, as Highways wouldn't permit further trees on the Green.

4 November – Guy Fawkes Firework display and BBQ adjacent to the pub sponsored by the Parish Council.

December – The Parish Council arranged for a fir tree to be planted on the Green to be retained to display annual Christmas decorations and lights.

Two further applications were submitted to Tendring District Council for commercial development at Clip Hedge Farm over the course of 2022. The applicants were seeking to get a greater amount of commercial floorspace permitted on a site that had received permission on appeal in 2019 for a 2017 application to build 1,687m² of commercial development. In July, Tendring District Council refused one scheme for the site (application 21/01523/FUL) which differed from the earlier commercial proposal granted on appeal in its much larger scale and consequential greater impact on local character and traffic movements. The Parish Council objected on the grounds that at 3,451 m² it was twice as big as the previous office proposal, with 116 car parking spaces in contrast to the 60 proposed before. Following the July refusal, the applicants submitted a third scheme in December (Application 22/02049/FUL). Although at 2776 m² it was somewhat reduced in size from the second scheme, the Parish Council again submitted objections to the scheme due to its impact on the rural area.

The potential closure of Ravens Green as a through road remained on Essex County Council Highways Department's outstanding project list during 2022.

Please see <https://littlebentleypc.org.uk> for Parish Council minutes.