

Weeley History Recorder's Report 2023

January

St Andrew's Church is still in Interregnum. The Parish Council open a "warm hub" in the Village Hall on Thursday afternoons with transport provided.

Weeley in Bloom hold a "thank you" Coffee Morning at Hilltop Garden Centre Coffee Shop for all the helpers.

Weeley Residents Association also hold a monthly Coffee Morning at Hilltop Garden Centre. Many social events planned for the year.

Planning applications submitted for:

- Detached house at 70, The Street.
- Proposed construction of nine detached bungalows at Rainbow Nursery, Colchester Road.

Approval of Memorial Bench in Second Avenue in memory of Colin Crane.

February

Coronation Party in the Park preparations are well advanced.

Fundraising for a new play area for the children is being processed.

Planning application submitted for the demolition of two existing dwellings at The Oaks and replace with ten dwellings with garages.

Weeley in Bloom re-wilding project at Second Avenue gets underway.

March

Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm Project notification of stage two consultation which will include in area for drop-in events.

Weeley in Bloom create a new area at the entrance to The Street, to be known as Queen Corner, with a bench and rose bushes.

Planning application submitted for a replacement dwelling at Oak Dene, Wenlock Road.

Appeal for planning application on land to the rear of The Gables and The Towers, Weeley Heath has been dismissed.

April

Planning application submitted for change of use of land known as The Spinney (land adjacent to Heath Fields in Weeley Heath) for creation of a Gypsy/Traveller site. This land was to be a housing estate (Grosvenor Estate) in around 1930 but the Second World War stopped the development.

Several local people still have plots of land which is a concern for Parish Council.

Proposed map showing walks, footpaths and places of interest around Weeley will cost £1000.00 for printing. This is to be paid for by the Parish Council.

Speed-Watching in the early morning proves very successful around the village with many speeding cars logged.

May

Councillor Peter Harris reports that Essex Highways are to focus on repairing some pavements. All pavements are in a poor state and those in Bentley Road are being damaged by lorry drivers constantly mounting the kerb as the road is very narrow with no room to pass.

King's Coronation Celebrations took place. Weeley in Bloom decorated the village for the occasion with bunting and planters containing red, white and blue flowers. A concert was held in St Andrew's Church, also decorated with red, white and blue flowers. The planned Party in the Park had to be cancelled due to the recent heavy rain on the field making car parking impossible.

Litter-picking around the village continues.

June

After all the rain in May, June was very dry.

The Memorial Bench was installed in Second Avenue overlooking the 1803 Barrack Fields. The History of the Barracks Information Board is still awaiting funding, as is the wooden statue of the Highlander.

July

Judging for Weeley In Bloom took place on 7th July.

The Information Board was erected at Loop Green.

Outline planning application submitted for five detached houses on the land at the rear of The Gables, Weeley Heath. Also planning application submitted for the erection of a single storey extension to the side and rear of Selbourne in Clacton Road.

August

St Andrew's Church continues to hold a monthly Cake Stall at Rainbow Nursery.

Weeley in Bloom hold a Community Yard Sale around the village.

Weeley Residents Association enjoy an outing to Woodbridge and a boat trip on the River Deben.

Planning application submitted for replacement dwelling following demolition of existing bungalow at Oak Dene in Wenlock Road.

September

Weeley in Bloom and Weeley and Little Clacton Scout Group hold a very successful "Fest4All" on the village playing field. Ann Place was appointed President at the AGM. Awards were presented to contributors of Weeley in Bloom around the village. Also, a Gold Award from Anglia in Bloom in the Large Village category.

Part of fence removed and ditch filled-in in Gutteridge Hall Lane to create vehicle access. This is a concern for Parish Council and planning enforcement officer informed.

Kevin Millar to replace Mike Brown on Weeley Parish Council.

October

Planning applications submitted for:

- Demolition of The Oaks, Weeley Heath and replace with two-storey Care Home. Parish Council object and request that this application be called in.
- Dwelling on corner of Church Lane – Council object. Several applications for this area have been refused over the years.

The Petanque Group, that has a purpose-built rink on the playing field, report another very successful year with several new members.

November

Fencing at the Breaker's yard at the Railway Station has been relocated giving room to access the Station building which remains for sale.

Councillor Green will plant ten large trees along the perimeter of the playing field at a cost of £2500.00.

Local farmers and land owners have taken advantage of the Government Scheme to plant new hedging for the wildlife in the countryside. Weeley has many new hedges and also a wildlife corner from Weeley Woods to the Railway line, also new hedging around the Parish Church.

December

The Parish News published by St Andrew's Church provides information from organisations in Weeley who contribute news on their monthly activities. Over five hundred copies are distributed around the village. They are also on sale at Hilltop Garden Centre, Weeley Post Office and Homestead Caravan Centre Coffee Shop.

Pearl Byford
History Recorder