**Binham Parish Council**

**Chairman’s report 10th January 2021**

**5.3: SAMS**

The SAM has been out of action since November. The SAM has been in constant use since 2014,. Unfortunately, it has been delivering some spurious data which promoted it being return to the company for a look and see. It has now been serviced, battery check and the monitor screen replaced. It will be returned in the next week or so and then assembled on the Hindringham Road entry to the village. The cost amounting to approximately £200. This is an unexpected cost which should be included in the annual budget. Therefore, there is no data to report, but plenty of anecdotal evidence that traffic passing through the village seems to have become even busier.

On two related notes, many have commented on how the large tractors, fully laden lorries, delivery lorries and vans are encroaching on and undermining the integrity of the waterlogged verges. Because of this and especially where building is undertaken in the village, the PC routinely ask NNDC Planning that certain conditions regarding traffic management to allow free flowing traffic and prevent encroachment onto pathways and verges are applied as planning permission is granted.

NCC Highways have recently been busy in the village. Their work sheets have included replacement of rotting and unsafe road furniture, unblocking drains in Warham Road, Langham Road and Filed Dalling Road. The later created road closures before Christmas after a deluge of complaints that the stretch of road was dangerous and worsening due to heavy rain and vehicles passing along the road. A series of drains were unblocked, six drain inlets repaired, and associated stretches of road resurfaced .

**5.4 -COVID**

North Norfolk was designated **Tier 4 – STAY AT HOME** from Boxing Day and **National Lockdown** on 5th January. The regulations will apply until at least until mid-February and probably longer.

Notices have been posted on all the villages notice boards including the Memorial Hall and The Chequers Inn, Binham PCC (https://binhampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk) and Memorial Hall (<https://www.binhamvillagehall.co.uk>) websites .

No letters have been delivered to individual households since 2nd November, mainly because of the rapidly changing situation. Essentially my message on behalf of the PC is exactly the same as the government’s –  . The guidance has changed to rules, many of which are enforceable by law.

The R rate in North Norfolk has increased and is similar to the rest of England of 1.1-1.3 (09.01.21), our hospitals are stretched and reaching capacity. The vaccination programme has not fully rolled out in NN but is expected to do so in the coming week according to the priority listing. We must be mindful that some of our vulnerable residents, may not have transport to their designated ‘vaccination centre’ and may need help – hopefully as a PC we can assist any such individuals where we feel able to do so.

The chair maintains a watchful eye on the Gov.UK site, to try and circumvent any untoward events within the village and communicate to the village accordingly.

**7.1 Dog waste bins**

Careful negotiation with interested parties not least English Heritage and North Norfolk Archaeological Trust is nearing completion. Agreement has been reached that a Green Dog Poo bin will be purchased for around £150 and NNDC collection of waste at a cost of £3.50 per collection monthly and fortnightly during the winter and summer months respectively (total £63.00). English Heritage has been asked to contribute to these costs and awaiting an answer. The bin will be positioned on a fence post to the left of the entry to the Priory Ruins.

**7.2 Additional waste bin**

In Parish Council cemetery to be put on hold although the PCC treasurer has indicated they could contribute to this purchase.

LYNX Feb/March PC report

# Binham Parish Council

First of all, we wish you all a successful and calmer 2021. This wish will depend on controlling the virus from getting the upper hand within North Norfolk, and indeed elsewhere in the country.

The COVID increased infection rate and variant has meant changes at short notice to the guidelines and restrictions such as those imposed in November, alterations to our Christmas activities, moving from Tier 2 to 4 restrictions and the third National Lockdown which commenced on January 6th. The dos and don’ts are clearly outlined on the government website ([www.gov.uk/guidedance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home](http://www.gov.uk/guidedance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home)). There is a notable difference in the tone from guidance to rules which will be enforced by law. Therefore, we would be advised to think carefully about what it is we must do and take responsibility to ensure that we can as individuals contribute to controlling the virus, to protect the NHS and save lives. The virus is only spread by human interaction hence a third Lockdown to reduce unnecessary contacts between people. However, the decision-making process is compounded by the variant’s escalating spread around the UK and here in North Norfolk. So, vigilance remains uppermost to curtail the virus spreading further. We must take responsibility and follow the rules by **staying at home** and not leave or be outside our homes except where necessary. The lockdown is likely to be in force until March.

The wonderful news is of course two vaccines have been approved for use in the UK. The vaccination programme is being offered in hospitals and local vaccination centres according to those most at risk from coronavirus. One very clear message is that we must wait to be contacted by the NHS to let us know when it’s our turn to have the vaccine and important not to contact the NHS for a vaccination before then ([www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19)). Sarah Bütikofer, Leader, NNDC has confirmed that arrangements for vaccinations are in place and will have been be rolled out as this Lynx edition is published

Binham Parish Council has settled into an imposed way of working since the outbreak of COVID last March, we now meet via ZOOM on the second Monday of the month bi-monthly starting in January. The challenge for the chair is to keep the meetings focused and include all who attend the meetings. The meeting agenda and draft minutes can be found on <https://www.binhampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk> and the village notice boards.

Since November we have been busy bringing various matters and projects to a close. Many thanks go to our Locum Parish Clerk Mrs Sarah Hayden who has guided us through some awkward PC bureaucracy, and I am very pleased to say she has agreed to take us on permanently.

Traffic passing through the village seems to have become even busier. The SAMS is out of action and will be back very soon fully serviced and systems updated. On a related note, many have commented on how the large tractors, fully laden lorries, delivery lorries and vans are encroaching on and undermining the integrity of the waterlogged verges. Because of this and especially where building is undertaken in the village, the PC routinely ask NNDC Planning that certain conditions regarding traffic management to allow free flowing traffic and prevent encroachment onto pathways and verges are applied as planning permission is granted.

NCC Highways have recently been busy in the village. Their work sheets have included replacement of rotting and unsafe road furniture, unblocking drains in Warham Road, Langham Road and Filed Dalling Road. The later created road closures before Christmas after a deluge of complaints that the stretch of road was dangerous and worsening due to heavy rain and vehicles passing along the road. A series of drains were unblocked, six drain inlets repaired, and associated stretches of road resurfaced to everyone’s satisfaction.

The 2020 annual asset safety check has been completed. A number of jobs identified including the need to repair the Village sign. Warren Trett designer has agreed to refurbish it off site during the winter months. This work has been very generously supported by the Binham Local History Group for which the PC is very grateful, thank you.

Careful negotiation with interested parties not least English Heritage and North Norfolk Archaeological Trust is nearing completion. Agreement has been reached that a Green Dog Poo bin will be purchased and positioned on the fence to the left of the entry to the Priory Ruins. I do hope this will persuade dog owners to please make sure their dogs are supervised, and their poo is collected in poo bags and disposed of in the bin and not left on the ground as a hazard to other visitors to the site.

The Parish Council will consider at its January meeting whether or not we should develop a Flood Plan. Weather patterns are shifting mainly associated with global warming as demonstrated in recent years by changing rain and wind patterns. The flooding we have seen in recent months on the surrounding roads for instance may well also be associated with poor management of the drains and run offs. We will consider this and agree a way forward for the parish. If anyone feels that they can contribute to this debate, please be good enough to contact either myself or the PC clerk.

May I say a huge thank you on behalf of the villages to all those individuals and services who have contributed to keeping the villages safe, well, supplied with the necessities of life such as provisions, friendship, support and encouragement and especially the keyworkers who live and work amongst us.

I wish everyone a peaceful and prosperous 2021. Let’s hope that as we receive our vaccinations in the coming months the spread of the virus will be under control and we can return to some sort of normal by the summer.

Elizabeth S Brady, Chair Binham PC