

PAUL CLOVER/MARGARET MAYBURY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR COCKFIELD PARISH MEETING 16TH MAY 2024.

With so many reports to be aired this evening, pragmatism dictates this to be a whistlestop tour of this year's events. And there is a lot to celebrate.

Small Village of the Year

Congratulations to the parish council and all residents in winning this very well deserved award which can only help cement the future for the village as a thriving community.

Jeffreys Green

We were very happy to support the CIL funding application for Cockfield open space. Jeffrey's Green, in conjunction with Earls Meadow and Bruffs Line, this countryside presents as a wonderfully landscaped open space for everyone to enjoy. It is an area that Rodney Williams particularly enjoyed and a fitting tribute to him and all the volunteers who have donated their time to make it such a special place.

Village Events

We have been delighted to be able to attend so many worthwhile village events this year: the Cockfield Art Show, the inaugural Norman Gregory Cycle ride, the Cockfield Village Fair, coffee mornings and, of course, the small village of the year celebrations.

Stone Pit/Crowbrook Place

Following various meetings and a considerable amount of lobbying we were able to resolve the issues surrounding the fly tipping problem at Stone Pit and the installation of new fencing in the adjacent area.

Locality Budget

As part of the refurbishment programme of the community shop it was a pleasure to be able to assist with the funding of a new air conditioning unit. In the coming year we hope to be able to help further with community projects.

Babergh Planning Liaison

Following certain planning issues, we arranged that a meeting be set up between the parish council and Babergh Planning Officers in order that both parties' positions could be better understood, particularly as the Joint Local Plan, part 1 has now been introduced.

Lavenham District Ward Tour

We initiated a ward tour with Babergh Director of Operations, Mark Emms and other Babergh Officers to discuss local maintenance and parking issues affecting these parishes.

Babergh budget forecast

In February we saw a budget deficit of £1.8m transform in a number of weeks to a £132k surplus. Over the next 4 years, the gap in finance is forecast at £6.7m and we will keep a close eye on these figures as more detail is revealed.

Thank you

It has been a pleasure to work with the parish council this year and we believe a lot has been achieved by working closely together. We look forward to continuing our efforts and thank you all for your support.