

## **Burntbroom Residents' Association Chair's Report 2020/2021**

Firstly, on behalf of the residents, I want to take this opportunity to thank the long-standing committee members of the Association who took the decision to stand down last year for their many years of service and the high standards maintained on the estate – Thank you!

Secondly, I want to thank the new Committee members for volunteering to get involved and their commitment to getting ourselves set up last year (there have been a number of virtual Zoom Meetings and lots of discussion on our Whats App group!). As you are aware, without their involvement, there would be no Association and the annual cost of maintaining our estate would be significantly more for all residents. A specific mention for our Treasurer, Julie Morrison (for her effort in getting us set up with necessary delegations to manage the Association bank account), our Secretary, Anne Mullen (for her note taking/minutes and work with our gardener and other service providers), Cat Barr (for setting up our Face Book Group and regularly sharing local interest stories and association updates) and finally, Steven Morrison (for taking on the task of maintaining and updating our website).

### **2020 in Summary**

1. New Committee established following the resignation of all previous committee members. A smooth transition was completed between office bearers, with new office bearers now set up with necessary delegations to manage Association bank accounts to facilitate contractor payments and green fees collection. Committee Meetings have taken place virtually.
2. Waiver of Green Fees for period 2020/2021 - in light of the COVID lockdown which commenced in March 2020 and the financial reserve available, the committee took the decision to waive the annual green fees for the period 2020/2021. This has reduced the financial reserves of the Association. Green Fees for 2021/2022 have been reviewed and will go some way to re-building this financial reserve and enable the ongoing proactive management programme.
3. A significant programme of work was undertaken to trim many trees and to remove a few throughout the estate. It is planned that another review will take place in 2021.
4. Setting up an Association Face Book Group – Launched in December 2020, we now have a number of members, who are provided with updates from the Association and links to local interest stories. Residents are encouraged to join this group for regular/relevant updates.
5. The Association website has been updated. The website is primarily used as a repository for residents to access AGM/Committee meeting minutes and details of Green Fees. Use of the website has been limited since it was launched. We will continue to review website content and traffic.
6. Faster Payments (internet banking) option established for collection of 2021/2022 green fees – this will remove cash/cheque handling and provide a quicker and easier payment process for all residents. Residents without access to internet banking are able to make payments at either their own bank or any Bank of Scotland.

The major item of expenditure for the Association continues to be the gardener's fees for maintenance of the common green areas of the estate. Ownership of our garden contractor changed hands in 2020 and we were fortunate that the new owner maintained the fees charged to the Association and their level of service for period 2020/2021. The contractor has confirmed current fees and service level will be maintained for period 2021/2022. Notwithstanding this, it has been necessary to review the annual green fees for the forthcoming financial year. The committee have agreed that fees should be increased by £15 (on 2019/2020 fee) to £90 for 2021/2022. This should go some way to rebuilding the financial reserves and ensure the long-term stability of the Association. This will also allow a continuation of the proactive approach to management of the estate.

Finally, I would like to invite residents to 'Join our Committee' and get involved! Having moved onto the estate at the start of 2018, I joined the Committee last summer. I've met some residents walking my wee dog (Riley) in the park over the last couple of years, but through involvement in the Committee, I've met so many more - it's nice to walk down the street and know so many more neighbours! Whilst the committee is responsible for the maintenance of the common green areas of the estate, it's really what we want to make it and as we start to return to some kind of normality, the committee members are keen to start thinking about what more we can do to make our estate more of a community – so get in touch, share your ideas, get involved and help make our estate a great place to live.

Trina Norquay, Chairperson, 05.05.2021