

Next Steps for the Henbury Society

From early 2020 the Henbury Society was inactive due to the pandemic, apart from running the Henbury Online village website.

As Covid restrictions were relaxed, the committee met on 3rd August 2021 to consider the way forward. Bearing in mind the depleted committee, the fact that planning matters are now safely in the hands of the Parish Council, and that the recording of the parish history was completed with the book published in 2003, it was considered that the Society may now have served its useful purpose, and should be discontinued.

Prior to taking a decision on closure, on 10th August 2021, 98 Henbury Society member households were consulted via email, and other residents via the website, seeking views on whether to disband.

In addition, suggestions were sought regarding what initiatives or activities the Society should continue or take on (if people thought it should continue), and very importantly, whether people were prepared to get personally involved in such activities.

At a meeting on October 12th the committee considered the responses.

- 8 responses were received
- Only one offered personal involvement in the future
- None offered suggestions for new activities
- All wished to see Henbury Online continue
- Several praised the floral planters around the village, and the village clean-ups, and wanted them to continue
- Several praised and wished to see previous community activities continuing. None of these were run by the Henbury Society:
 - quizzes in the church hall (Events Committee)
 - the bonfire & fireworks (The Millennium Green Trust)
 - the broadband project (Parish Council)

One founder-member of the Henbury Society provided a succinct summary of the situation:

“At the time of the creation of the society, there was a need for scrutiny of planning applications and a general feeling that the social life of the village was not fully developed. This is now overcome. The Parish Council has taken a more active role in planning, and The Millennium Green Trust has, to some extent, helped with the social cohesion of the village. There is also a very active website.

I think it very unlikely that the society can fulfil any useful role in the near future and I see little point in continuing its existence. I therefore support the suggestion that the society should be discontinued.”

Conclusions:

The committee agreed that the Henbury Online village website, which is financed by Henbury Parish Council, must be retained. The two committee members who are currently involved in running the website, are willing to continue that work.

The committee agreed that the Henbury Society should be discontinued.

The committee agreed that the Parish Council should be approached, regarding the provision and ongoing maintenance of the floral planters.

Henbury Society Committee

October 2021