

Parish Council NEWS



Update – November 5th, 2019

Meet the Parish Council, November 2nd, 2019

The Parish Council would like to thank residents for the time they committed to the Parish Council's first open meeting, particularly as England was a finalist in the World Cup.

It was very helpful to gather in-depth input from residents as we begin the process of building the budget so that the precept can be set for 2020-2021.

Key points arising from the discussions last Saturday were:

- There is very strong support for a safe cycle route to link the village with York's existing cycle routes. This project may be eligible for a grant from the Cycle England fund for which applications are presently being accepted. Collaboration with City of York Council is essential. There is support for the Parish Council contributing financially to a feasibility study. Next step is to engage with Christian Vassie, our Ward Councillor and City of York Council. Several residents said they would be willing to contribute time to realising this priority scheme.
- Replacement of the 'centrepiece' in the under-fives' section of the playpark is supported as is the focus on interactive play and the idea that parents with children using this section of the playpark can contribute to the evaluation of proposals. The provision of an email address dedicated to playpark issues was seen as a quick win. Also, the idea for a playpark warden to respond to issues as they arise was supported. Next steps are to implement the playpark email address to which Councillors will respond. Meanwhile the possible provision of a playpark warden will be evaluated. The tender documentation to solicit interest in providing a replacement 'centrepiece' for the under-fives' area will be progressed
- Speeding through the village is seen as a serious and significant issue with a need for action before someone is seriously injured or killed. Those attending were advised of progress towards having a Community Speedwatch capability with several saying they would be pleased to assist with delivery of this initiative. Over and above this, the consensus was that the Parish Council should explore how traffic calming and an advisory twenty's plenty limit might be progressed in conjunction with City of York Council as it is the highways' authority.
- Sandholes Wood is the only designated open space within the Parish and therefore any action necessary to make it safe should be progressed once the nature and scale of the issues to be addressed have been established. In the first instance the

Parish Council, as custodian of this area of common land, is placing a warning sign at the entrance to this land which was for some years' used as an informal waste disposal site. As to the future use of the site, there was a strongly expressed view that it should be as a nature reserve. Next steps are to establish what needs to be done. Discussion with the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust in the first instance will be pursued.

- Planning issues were of general interest with the possibility of a large number of houses on the former railway land and the field between this land and Back Lane South seen as the major issue. In particular, residents strongly voiced concern that the primary school and village infrastructure were already stretched and significant investment will be needed by the prospective house-builder before any houses are sold.
- Bus services were discussed with a view that the current spend has to be justified to demonstrate that the funding of the evening services is the best use of budget given possible greater value alternatives to make the day-time bus service fit better around journeys to and from work in York.
- The idea of providing service to support the elderly living in the village was supported although there is a need to ask this population what they bring forward ideas for consideration. It was also suggested that maybe the best way ahead is to partner with voluntary organisations already active which can apply for grants, rather than the Parish Council provide a service directly.
- No one attending the open morning expressed a view that the Parish precept should be reduced. Rather, the view was that the Parish Council should progress projects that add value to the village. Also, it was seen as desirable that village organisations eligible to apply for grant funding should primarily do so as part of the budget building process.
- The first issue of Parish Council NEWS distributed in October attracted favourable comments as did the planters being placed around the village. Indeed, several locations for additional planters were provided. The Parish Council's intent to repeat the cycle of Parish Council NEWS in March and an open morning in April 2020 was positively received.

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