

NEW EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2013/14

Welcome to the New Earswick Parish Council Annual Report.

Your Parish Councillors

The Parish Council is made up of ten Councillors and a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer who works part time.

The ten serving Councillors are:-

Cllr Don Crawford (Chairman)

Cllr Elizabeth Jefferson

Cllr Vic Atkins

Cllr Richard Revell (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Tony Baker

Cllr Carol Runciman

Cllr Lorraine Frankland

Cllr Martin Skilbeck

Cllr Sue Glenton

Cllr Audrey Steel

Financial

Our precept for 2013/14 was set at £19,000 the same amount as in the 2012/13 year. This sum was arrived at by looking at the expected expenditure for the forthcoming year and taking into account the reserves of the Council. Each year the accounts are examined at an independent internal audit and then passed to the external auditors. The accounts are available for inspection by prior arrangement with the Clerk. The Finance Committee of the Council meets regularly and ensures any recommendations made by the auditors are carried out.

Grants

During this financial year grants totalling £8150 have been offered to a number of organisations as follows:-

Two projects in conjunction with City of York Council (COYC) received grants:- £4000 towards pathway repairs to the walkway adjacent to the River Foss. £250 was to support a litter awareness project with the Junior School. We hope you have taken notice of the signs designed by the pupils at the school.

New Earswick Sharing Together (NEST) have now used their grant of £100 towards the planting schemes they are working on.

Kidz Klub based in New Earswick received £500 for a Young Leaders Scheme.

New Earswick Tennis Club have had two grants:- £250 towards replacement equipment and more recently £2000 to help with the urgent repairs required to the tennis courts.

£800 was awarded for the cost of organising the annual Christmas Party held at the Folk Hall.

In addition £250 was awarded to the Royal British Legion to support the work they undertake in the Parish.

If your organisation would like to be considered for financial support, please contact the Clerk for an application form.

Financial Agreement Forms are completed by the organisations, which specify that any unused funds (for the purpose for which they were donated) must be returned to this Council. Also, regular reports are requested by the Council on the progress of the projects.

Environment

Community Walkabouts take place with members from: New Earswick Parish Council, COYC, Ward Councillors, Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust (JRHT) and sometimes the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The group meet monthly and cover a designated area of the Parish each time. Any issues raised are then taken up by the specific organisation responsible and dealt with.

Unfortunately, the problem with dog fouling continues in New Earswick, as in many communities. Sadly, irresponsible dog owners do not clean up after their animals and complaints continue to be received by the Parish Council.

After COYC decided to remove a large number of grit bins throughout the City and neighbouring Parishes, New Earswick Parish Council funded the replacement of four green grit bins. These will be maintained on behalf of the Parish Council by Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust.

Maintenance has been undertaken at several of the footpaths that are situated in the Parish.

After being contacted by the Parish Council, British Telecom made a number of repairs and repainted their building on Park Terrace, which has made a big visual improvement.

Membership

We continue to be members of various local and national groups and societies that are relevant to the work of the Council including:-

Campaign to Protect Rural England	(CPRE)
River Foss Society	
Open Spaces Society	
Society of Local Council Clerks	(SLCC)
Yorkshire Local Councils Associations	(YLCA)

Members of the Parish Council attend meetings of these and other external organisations as required.

Policing

The Safer Neighbourhood Team regularly patrol on foot and visit the schools, local groups and organisations to integrate into the community. Crime figures are also sent to the Parish Council whenever possible by PCSO John Iemboli. To contact John please, telephone 101 followed by Option 2 and ask for 3534.

The Police have a number of active operations in the Parish including targeting anti-social behaviour, auto-crime and the theft of metal and scrap. The Police also offer crime prevention advice to residents and property marking schemes.

Consultation

The Parish Council is consulted by COYC on planning applications for properties within the Parish. The Parish Council also responds to COYC and other organisations regarding policies and proposals that concern the Parish. This has included responding to the consultation on the Local Plan Preferred Options.

Several Members of the Parish Council have been consulted about the future development of Red Lodge. JRHT are currently looking at initial proposals for a scheme, prior to detailed plans being drawn up.

Members of the Parish Council were pleased to be notified that Post Office services would be retained in the village following the retirement of the current sub postmistress. Members have, however, raised a number of concerns regarding the layout and operation of the new premises which are being addressed by the Post Office.

Meetings

Please do come along and contribute to our meetings. They are held every third Monday in the month (except December) at our office in the Folk Hall, commencing at 19.00 hours.

To contact any of the above Councillors please do so via the Clerk in the first instance:-

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Cllr Don Crawford (Chairman) 14 April, 2014

