

NEW EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2014/15

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 Fiona Crawford

Cllr Carol Runciman

Cllr Lorraine Frankland

Cllr Audrey Steel

Cllr Sue Glenton

During the year Cllr Martin Skilbeck resigned from the Council and Fiona Crawford was co-opted to the resulting vacancy. Cllr Tony Baker a long standing Member, recently resigned prior to the full Council elections which take place every four years for the whole Council.

Financial

Our precept for 2014/15 was set at £19,000 the same amount as in the 2013/14 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 £15969.62 were allocated to a number of organisations as follows:-

New Earswick Tennis Club was awarded £2000 to help with the urgent repairs required to the tennis courts.

Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust co-ordinate a number of activities which received financial support totalling £3939. This amount was towards the Gardening Scheme, Summer Scheme, Newsletter and the annual village Christmas Party. Unfortunately the Christmas Party attracted a much smaller number of senior residents this year.

All Saints and St Andrew's Church undertook a major refurbishment of the hall floor and floor coverings and received a grant of £3700. Many local people use the facilities including youth groups.

The clock on New Earswick Primary School is widely regarded as a landmark in the Parish. Access to the mechanism of the clock had a difficult entrance and for safety reasons it was felt appropriate to support upgrading to include an automatic winder. £4580.62 was awarded so that this work could be undertaken as quickly as possible.

The Toolbox Project received £1000 towards the mechanic workshop sessions it offers to young people.

The newly established Nellivision - Community Cinema initiative, received £500 to enable them to offer free membership to New Earswick residents over the coming months.

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 representatives from: New Earswick Parish Council, City of York Council (COYC), Ward Councillors and Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust (JRHT). 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.

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

Complaints were received regarding the noise levels from the new fleet of First Buses and action has now been taken by the company to improve the situation. Following discussions it is hoped that a real time indicator will be located at a suitable bus stop. This will enable passengers to follow the progress of buses travelling through New Earswick and show variations on the published schedule.

Information on how COYC co-ordinates Emergency Planning was notified to all Parish Councils and the existing New Earswick Plan will be brought into line with this.

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. These enable Members to be aware of incidents in the Parish and be kept up to date on active operations that may be taking place at any time.

The Police also offer crime prevention advice to residents and property marking schemes.

The current Safer Neighbourhood Team consists of:-

Sergeant 305, Colin Sutherland, PCSOs 5655 Laura Harper, 5520 Andy Smith, 6457 Marie Hampshire and 5458 Mark Jackson. To make contact:- Telephone 101 and ask for the Officer by name or collar number or alternatively you can email:- snayorknorth@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

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.

This included a proposal to potentially allow residential development on the area of the Old School Field, which Members strongly object to, due to this being a valued area of open space.

COYC commenced a Community Governance Review for York. This allows Parish Councils to have the opportunity to submit expressions of interest in changes to their electoral arrangements, boundaries and name merging. Following a notification from Haxby Town Council suggesting that the Parish boundary should be moved to the A1237 from the current position of the railway crossing, a survey to seek the views of

residents of the households in that area was carried out. COYC will respond and make recommendations over the next few months.

The Parish Council continues to be involved with discussions regarding the future development of Red Lodge. Concerns regarding the size of the scheme and the future of the tennis courts have been raised. The formal planning application has been delayed whilst detailed costs are finalised for the scheme.

Representatives from York St John University have kept Members informed on the progress of the sports facilities at the Haxby Road site, including the new sports hall with changing, teaching and social facilities. Concerns have been raised regarding possible traffic management issues relating to the new community stadium at Huntington and its potential impact on New Earswick.

Meetings

Local residents are welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council. They are held every third Monday in the month (except December) at the Folk Hall, commencing at 19.00 hours in the Parish Council office.

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

Sally Bruckshaw
c/o The Folk Hall
New Earswick
York
YO32 4AQ

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email: pcnewearswick@aol.com

Cllr Don Crawford (Chairman) 20 April 2015