

NEW EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 2015/16

Welcome to the New Earswick Parish Council Annual Report.

Your Parish Councillors

The Parish Council comprises 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 Nik Milner
Cllr Fiona Crawford	Cllr David Moody
Cllr Lorraine Frankland	Cllr Carol Runciman
Cllr Sue Glenton (Vice Chairman)	Cllr Audrey Steel

Council elections took place in May 2015 and at that time Cllr Richard Revell, a long standing Member of the Council did not stand for re-election. Eight Members were returned uncontested and Cllrs Milner and Moody were co-opted to fill the remaining vacancies.

Finance

The precept for 2015/16 was set at £20,000. 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 £9695 were allocated to a number of organisations. These included New Earswick Sharing Together, We Are Theatre and the Open Art Club. Support was also provided for the Gardening Scheme, Christmas Events and the monthly Newsletter co-ordinated by Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust. Recently two projects based at All Saints' and St Andrew's Churches have been assisted.

If your organisation would like to be considered for financial support, please contact the Clerk for an application form or download one from our website.

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 progress reports are requested by the Council.

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. Sadly, dog fouling and fly tipping remains an ongoing problem.

Members have continued to request COYC to install a real time indicator at a bus stop in the Parish. This would enable passengers to follow the progress of buses travelling through New Earswick and show variations on the published schedule. A request has also been made that an additional zebra crossing be sited in the area close to the Folk Hall.

Over the Christmas period, parts of New Earswick were at risk from the River Foss flooding and emergency support services were involved. Members of the Parish Council regularly update their emergency plan and this was re-visited to ensure that lessons learnt from the flooding over the wider York area were taken into account.

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)
Yorkshire Local Councils Associations	(YLCA)
Open Spaces Society	
River Foss Society	
Society of Local Council Clerks	(SLCC)

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

Policing

The Safer Neighbourhood Team 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. The Police also offer crime prevention advice to residents and property marking schemes. To make contact:- Telephone 101 or 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.

COYC commenced a Community Governance Review for York late in 2014. 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 have so far not taken this matter further.

The Parish Council continues to be involved with discussions regarding the future development of Red Lodge. The formal planning application submission resulted in many comments and observations from residents and the scheme details are still being finalised. Proposals to re-locate the tennis courts have also been made, to ensure the facilities remain in the Parish.

The temporary closure of the Post Office in New Earswick has caused concern to everyone. It is hoped that a alternative location can be confirmed and services resumed by the summer.

Representatives from York St John University have kept Members informed on the development of the sports facilities at the Haxby Road site.

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. Agendas and minutes from meetings are displayed on the Parish notice boards and are available on our new web site which went live during 2015.

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

Office Telephone: 01904 758028
email: pcnewearswick@aol.com
www.newearswickparishcouncil.org.uk

Cllr Don Crawford (Chairman) 18 April 2016

