

REPORTS FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2013

REPORT FROM CLLR. MARK ROBSON, CHAIRMAN OF SOWERBY PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SOWERBY, MARCH 14th 2013.

Cllr. Robson reported on a very busy year.

Events and Projects connected with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Celebrations: The Parish Council had replaced the Queen Victoria Jubilee Plaque and provided one for Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee in the Churchyard Wall and an official unveiling had been held, prior to the Jubilee Event held at the Parochial Hall. A commemorative oak tree was planted at World's End and a plaque will be provided in due course. Land purchased by the Parish Council for an extension to the Church graveyard will hopefully be handed over to the Church in 2013. The fence was completed in 2012 but there is a delay with the Diocese of York over leaving a section of the graveyard unconsecrated.

Olympic Torch Procession: This had been very well received by the residents.

Village Matters: Three lime trees had had to be removed for safety reasons but they have been replaced.

Improvements to the roads on the Greens had taken place and there was now work at the western end to complete and ongoing remedial work.

Extensive refurbishment in parts of the Play Area has been undertaken using £25,000.00 of Section 106 monies from new developments in the Parish.

The Parish Precept has been held for the last 3 years.

The Skate Park is up and running and very pleasingly has presented very little in the way of problems.

Planning. The Sowerby Gateway proposal was signed off at Christmas and work is due to start on Phase One for 107 dwellings and light industrial units on 1400 sq metres.

Various proposals for the former Buffer Depot have been refused and Persimmon has launched an appeal against the decision.

Sowerby Parish Council has drawn up a Recreational Plan to release funds from Section 106. This has to be in place to allow the monies to be released to fund various projects that the Parish Council has prioritised. House building in Hambleton has been very slow. Permission for 1900 dwellings has been given but very few are being built. There is a great need for affordable housing.

HDC had increased the number of Housing Officers in order to be proactive in readiness for the changes that are to come into effect on April 1st 2013.

Streetscene. New collection wagons had been purchased and double up as an advertising facility. The blue bags will be replaced with 60 litre weighted bags and more types of material would be able to be recycled. However it would not include brown corrugated cardboard.

Section 106. 95% of payments for community infrastructure from the proceeds of new building would soon come under the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), but the proposed levy may be too high.

Travellers. New Traveller Sites were needed and potential areas were being called for.

Cherrygarth. Plans to replace the old building were underway with completion of the first phase being proposed for Spring 2014. A new Public Library would be incorporated on the site, thereby securing the future of the Library.

Thanks. The Chairman expressed to the Vice Chairman, Clerk and Councillors and to County Councillor Huxtable who was also stepping down as Leader of Hambleton District Council.

CLLR. PETER BARDON HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the third year in succession there is no increase in the Council Tax for 2012/2103.

In accordance with an undertaking given following the last District Council elections, the Car Parking charges have been reviewed and small increases have been agreed.

As a District Councillor I have been active in supporting the Parish Council with regard to the Planning Application for the DEFRA Depot off Station Road/Melbourne Place.

Following a Scrutiny exercise during the year, it was decided to suspend District Area Forums in favour of the Market Towns & Villages Partnerships. The Council is still considering an alternative to the Area Forums, and introducing a Market Towns & Villages Partnership for Thirsk.

There was also a review undertaken with regard to all 'Workspaces' owned and run by Hambleton District Council. These included Springboard at Stokesley, Evolution Centre at Northallerton, Croft Yard at Bedale, Thirsk Industrial Park; to ensure that the Council was receiving good value for the funds invested.

The District Council is still awaiting the decision from the Boundary Commission regarding the proposal to reduce the number of District Councillors to 28.

Whilst not in our Parish, it is good to see that repairs are being carried out to the cobbled areas in Thirsk Market Place.

FLATTS PRESERVATION TRUST REPORT FOR SOWERBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING March 2013.

The Chairman, Councillor Robson was delighted to report that after 24 years the Football Club were managing the Changing Rooms and finally using self help to progress matters. Section 106 monies had been used to complete the work and a Grand Opening was planned for Spring.

REPORT for SOWERBY Parish Council AGM – THURSDAY, 14th March, 2013

Thirsk & Sowerby Town Hall Committee

One of the main decisions this year has been to discontinue paying the Con. Club for parking. It was considered no longer viable to pay the Con. Club £3,000 per annum for access to the rear car park, because of cost and difficulties in getting written responses and communicating with them.

This year the town hall will be 100 years old, and The Town Hall Committee, as well as a number of other organizations and groups, is in the process of preparing a programme for Sunday, 29th July, with a wide variety of activities for everyone, as well as preparations for welcoming and accommodating the 1,000 cyclists, who will be housed at the secondary school in Thirsk.

Yorkshire Local Council's Association (YLCA) Hambleton Branch

Cllr. Chapman and I have been unable to attend a number of meetings over the past year due to our having had various other commitments. We are, therefore, unable to comment on the content and outcome of the YLCA Agenda items discussed at the Branch meetings.

Thirsk & Sowerby Relief in Need Charity (TSRNC)

Another Grant of £100 has been agreed this year to give to Thirsk Clock. It has been agreed that the Clerk, Jim Titchmarch, approach Community Care regarding possible people in need of financial help, and who may also be reluctant to acknowledge or report their difficulties or approach any organization for help.

Sowerby Community Primary School

This school has been doing very well over the year, despite concerns over financing for some necessary improvements. The Head Teacher appears to be quite enterprising and is always open to new ideas. She appears to be looking forward to the new Sowerby Gateway development, but I think the school were hoping that some of the SGW money might go towards this school being improved and extended, rather than for a new school. All food for the children's school dinners is freshly made from raw ingredients, and fresh meat and poultry are all sourced in North Yorkshire. Solar screening has been installed in reception/year 1 classroom windows to cut down glare. Lots of planting has been done around the school with planters, hedging and trees, and the playground has been re-surfaced. The children are being encouraged to reduce waste, and have been given guidance on how to handle leftover foods.

Cllr. Ellen Storm,
Sowerby Parish Council (14th March, 2013)

Report to the 2013 Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting of Sowerby, concerning Thirsk Clock Youth Café and Community Centre.

1. I have represented Sowerby Parish Council on the Trustees of Thirsk Clock during 2012-2013 and have attended the Trustee meetings regularly.
2. A great deal of useful work continues to be undertaken by the staff and management of the charity with young people in Thirsk, Sowerby and District.
3. Additionally the Clock has been chosen this year to take on a wider responsibility for delivering certain youth services throughout several other areas of the County. As a result of the excellent reputation the organisation has built up in recent years, it has recently been successful in winning a further contract to manage the "Active Engagement with Young People Project" on behalf of North Yorkshire County Youth Support Services, not only in the whole of Hambleton/Richmondshire, but also in Harrogate, Selby and Scarborough and the Coast.
4. As well as being a Trustee I have also served on the charity's Publicity Committee, taking responsibility for raising the media profile of the Clock and ensuring that our activities continue to be reported upon for the information of the wider public.
5. General fundraising is, of course, a priority as is the need to apply to those various outside organisations that disburse funding for particular projects, such as working with young, unemployed adults or delivering skills training. The Trustees are hopeful that further funding streams will continue to be identified that will help to sustain the organisation's constantly uncertain finances.

6. Clearly if the Government's concept of the "Big Society" is to have any real meaning, it is organisations like Thirsk Clock that need to be targeted for more sustainable and continuous financial underpinning in order to be able to guarantee delivery on such issues as social cohesion and support for young people.

Councillor Steve Hoyland.

THIRSK8 PARK REPORT FOR SOWERBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MARCH 2013.

Having been elected to represent the Council on the Thirsk8 committee, I attended my first meeting on Tuesday 7th March 2013, having previously met with Lisa Wilson and visited the Park on several occasions.

- The Committee meets four times per year. Further meetings for the year are:- 5/6/13; 11/9/13 (AGM); 4/12/13.
- The charity is in receipt of a grant of £6,500 to assist with the landscaping and addition of seating and litter bins. Quotes have been received for additional pathway within the park and both Askham Bryan College and the Probationary service have been approached to carry out the landscaping. It is hoped these matters will be resolved before the next meeting.
- As with many activities within the Parish the charity is dependent upon the help of volunteers and the daily opening and closing of the park although successful is dependent upon three people. Two recent volunteers have agreed to litter pick on a regular basis.
- The park is working well and its regular users are enthusiastic and pleased with it. The clientele is mainly male although there are a few hardy female users (mostly girls tend to be spectators at the moment).
- Thirsk8 is hoping to further develop its connections with Thirsk Clock. I can only see this as mutually beneficial to the young people of our community.
- The annual running costs of the charity are predicted to be around £1200 pounds, (Third Party Liability insurance being a large proportion of this). Fund raising activities are planned, aiming at both raising needed funds, and awareness of parents hoping thus to attract extra volunteers.

On the occasions that I have visited the park, I have found the users communicative and enthusiastic about this facility. I feel it is a very worthwhile addition to our community and it will be interesting to see how it develops with its first full Spring and Summer season of use. The committee is led enthusiastically by its Committee, and in developing closer links with Thirsk Clock, and the Youth Service I see it going from strength to strength.

Cllr. Graham France.

Cllr Beadle's report on Community Care Association

During the last year the Community Care Association has had a difficult time due to a reduction in funding. The CCA has appointed a new chief officer called Ellen Cross who since her appointment has managed to secure some grants and retain some of our funding for a further year.

On June 24th 2013 we are holding a fundraising event in the town hall in celebration of 25 years of the carers support. We are working with North Yorkshire County Council in getting funding for a further year on certain projects which are proving to be a success and hope to continue in our attempts to secure more grants and funding from all other possible sources.

At the moment our current expected deficit for the year is approx. £7000. Once again the befriending service and volunteering services seem to continue well but Norby lunch club has come under threat.

ANNUAL REPORT

County Councillor Neville Huxtable

The debate is continuing over the design, size and position of education facilities in relation to the future development of Sowerby Gateway. Although the requirement for schooling is still some way off it is important that the education for children from Sowerby, Thirsk and the surrounding villages should be thoroughly discussed. I said at the various public meetings I was not satisfied with the provisions for education and my opposition will continue. The location of the new school is not for the developers to dictate. The final siting of the school may not be convenient to some but the needs of the children must come first. I will continue at every opportunity to put the case forward.

Although this winter turned out not to be as severe as the last two, our roads have still suffered, and with the repairs not yet completed from the two previous years, road surfaces are deteriorating throughout the County. The County Council has therefore allocated additional funds to bring roads up to standard. I will ensure that Sowerby roads are included in the programme.

Financing of the waste management project at Allerton Park Knaresborough has run into difficulties. The County Council has been working with DFRA since 2007 to provide this facility with PFI support. Suddenly without warning, a telephone call was received from DFRA saying funding had been withdrawn. This was later confirmed by letter. Planning permission has been granted and the Government has decided not to call an enquiry. Therefore, the only thing stopping the project is funding. The County Council with the Contractors are looking at the way forward.

7th March 2013.

THE LAMBERT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

LEAGUE OF FRIENDS

CLLR.PETER BARDON

The League of Friends continues to provide equipment for the benefit of patients and staff of the hospital.

During the year they have provided an E.C.G. machine; two light weight wheelchairs; blood pressure monitors; a digital television for one of the side wards.

The hanging baskets during the summer months are much appreciated as well as the daily newspapers and daily tea round(s).

We have received several donations from individuals and organisations in order to continue with the good works including a donation from Ann McIntosh M.P. via William Hill Bookmakers.

We were disappointed when it was announced that the full scheme to redevelop Cherry Garth, the Doctors Surgery and Lambert Hospital was not to proceed.

The League of Friends continues to provide a much needed and much appreciated support structure in our community.