

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Jubilee Field

The facility was well used in that brief Spring! We hope improving summer weather will bring people back again. We are discussing obtaining a couple of picnic benches/seats and goal posts/nets and considering a simple 'BMX' track. We are looking at a type of multi-use track suitable for bikes, skateboards, scooters and the like. It was the most asked-for thing from young people. Additionally we are hoping to be included in a national, lottery-funded scheme called 'Ping' through which we will be given a Table Tennis table, bats and balls for an initial six week period. If this is well-used then the equipment may be kept free of

charge and could be added to if we feel residents would like this. We are trying to make Jubilee Field somewhere all ages can enjoy. Dog walkers need to be extra careful to clean up any mess – the large grassed section is great for people to run around and play and must not become a dog toilet! Chewing gum and small stones need to be kept off the Courts and sweet wrappers, empty cans and bottles need putting in the bins provided. Generally we are finding everyone is behaving in a civilised manner and the correct entrance/exit is being respected with the locked churchyard gate being kept for school use.

Councillor Vacancies

Tony Bebbington has had to resign from the PC as he is moving to Micklefield. He had only been serving for a short time but has given valuable input and represented the Garforth side of our Parish. He said that he had really enjoyed his time and that he was hoping to get involved in Micklefield in the same way. We are hoping to attract someone from the Garforth end, but basically the PC will now have three vacancies to fill. Our average age must be early 60s and it is hard to see what will happen to the PC over the next few years if people are not willing to serve. Anyone living within the Parish, aged from 18 years old can be a Councillor. Perhaps we should rename ourselves

'Parish Champions' 'Parish Crusaders' 'People Council'! Where are the younger people with vision as to how they want the Parish to develop? Have only the current Councillors got just a few hours a month to help get the best environment in every way for our Parish? Do you want to have a Parish Council? Are you content to be represented just by your Ward Councillors one day? Given that Aberford Parish is a rural village and Parish, do you think a local 'voice' is important? It feels so worthwhile when the PC manages to make small improvements (and occasional large ones!) in the life of everyone in the Parish. Come and join us and you can enjoy that feeling too.

SUMMER 2014



SPEED SIGNS

We are in protracted negotiations with our Insurers, LCC Highways/ street light supplier and the sign manufacturers, which is why it is taking so long to get signs up and working again.

Our Insurance Company required more information from the original suppliers as we were told initially that repair was not an option. We want to have signs powered from the nearest lamppost, as we believe the risk of the solar sections being stolen again is very high, and permission for this was taking some time, but has now been obtained from the street light supplier. Suppliers for the different type of sign may need to be sought. Agreement must then be obtained from our Insurers as to what they will pay towards the solution we want. We have never had any claim in Councillors' memory, but claims are not always easy to settle with any Insurance company. As with many things the PC does, results come slowly – but they will eventually come!

Defibrillator

There is an NHS initiative to place Defibrillator machines in communities, in a central place where they can be easily accessible. Andy and Sarah at the Arabian Horse have kindly offered to 'host' a machine at their shop. It will be mounted outside the shop and you will notice it shortly. The machine will be available to anyone to take and use and it is extremely simple, with full instructions coming with it.



CONTACT US

A reminder that our website address is

www.aberfordonline.com

and our Clerk is Ms Julie Sou who can be contacted by telephone on **07719 797072**

and by email at

jsou.aberford@outlook.com.

Traffic Management

LCC Highways have agreed, in principle, several matters. The first is to move the 30mph sign in Cattle Lane further back towards Barwick, where it was several years ago, but it somehow got moved nearer the village.

Yellow lines are to be extended over the narrow bridge in Main Street. Markings outside school are to be renewed. LCC Highways agreed that there is a safety issue at Priory Park and yellow lines will be painted to the south of the entrance/exit to stop parking on the south

side. There is plenty of unused space in the parking lane we recently provided, but a handful of drivers continue to park to the south. These actions will take a while to put in place as there has to be some consultation and LCC Highways will be making the orders as part of a City-wide consolidated order to keep costs down. However, slowly but surely we will achieve a safer road outside Priory Park. We believe that the ordinary work of Highways Dept has also been affected by the demands of 'Le Tour'.

Hanging Baskets/In Bloom Group Areas for Improvement

We have had a very good response, once again this year, from residents offering to sponsor a Basket. Our thanks are due to Cllr Ray Alderson who has organised everything, which is quite a large task. The efforts of the In Bloom Group continue around the village and the area around the Cattle Lane Bus Shelter has blossomed into a really attractive and eye-catching space, thanks to their hard work. We want to give some attention to the 'Bus Turnaround' area at the north end of the village which the PC owns in trust for the parish. The LCC N.E. Area Committee is looking at supplying Parish Councils in our Ward with some trees, bushes and bulbs and we have put an order in. We hope that we will get an allocation to improve the Bus Turnaround area and one or two other areas in the village.

Grass Cutting

As ever, we have been active in trying to get improvements. Everyone has seen how the long grass was left here and there, even though the daffodils/tulips had long died off. Pump Hill, in particular, has had two large areas left uncut. There are always 'reasons' from the cutting contractors employed by LCC, but we keep on trying to get the service we want. The B1217 junction (Hook Moor) is never cut back on the Lotherton side to the extent we need and, this year, our Chairman cut back behind the prominent lamppost in an effort to keep everyone safe! A small point is that, if a car is parked next to one of the wide grass verges, then the grass cutter will not cut close to it for risk of marking the vehicle (stones being thrown up etc). All the Parishes have complaints about grass cutting – maybe one to pursue at Ward level. Vehicles should not be parked on the grass verges which are 'conservation area features' and we hope residents will respect this and ensure vehicles are parked on the road where they belong. The weight of a vehicle on grass in wet weather, not to mention when the wheels are turned on driving on and off, means there is a big risk of damage to the old drovers' verges.





Bits & Bobs



Jobs Around the Village

In the past we have undertaken many small jobs ourselves. However, we feel that the time has come to employ, on as 'as-needed basis, someone to do groundwork jobs and someone for things like

seat/fence repairs. The true cost of such jobs will then be reflected in our accounts. The increase is not anticipated to be large and should be absorbed into our existing precept.

Notice Boards

A new larger Notice Board has been erected on Pump Hill with one side being for use by residents.

The old Board has been re-erected close to the entrance to the Beckside Estate. We now have three Boards spanning the village, together with several 'historic' Boards and the larger one outside the Village Hall. These should be sufficient to disseminate announcements, so please do not attach flyers



to our Heritage black lampposts which can cause paint to come off, look ugly and seem never to be removed by the person responsible! Some refurbishment of the Boards will take place shortly.

Dog Dirt

This issue continues to enrage many residents.

The area of St Johns Close/Garth in particular has had problems. It was very pleasing (not) to see two large piles of 'poo' right beneath our new Pump Hill Notice Board, which were only avoided by luck when notices were being inserted! It is commonsense and good neighbourliness, if a bin is full, for a dog owner to carry the parcel home and put it in their own bin. Four parcels were left beneath the bin on Pump Hill recently – it is not

known whether the cleansing operatives will actually pick up the parcels. Really, why should they? We are ready, willing and able to take action if anyone will let us have details, and preferably a photo of the culprit – so keep those mobiles handy.



Our School

Congratulations to Ms Philippa Boulding, the staff, Governors and children in raising the School to 'Good' at the Ofsted inspection.

Take a look at the website www.aberfordprimaryschool.co.uk to get an idea of the good things going on. The 300th anniversary of the school will be in 2016 so it is very pleasing that the school is at full capacity and growing in level of achievement. Two new Teachers join the school in September and one is a chap – so good at primary level. Volunteers are very welcome to help in school – a simple CRB check will be required for regular helpers.



Seeing the children improve, for instance in their reading, is very rewarding. The school annual Gala was a great success – opened and closed by our Chairman David Howson, it was attended by our MP Alec Shelbrooke. As the 300th anniversary approaches, you will hear more about how we can all celebrate the unique occasion. It will take some planning but it is something the whole village can be proud of when the time comes.

WW1 Centenary



We have decided that Aberford should make an extra effort this year to remember the young men who gave their lives for us; three families lost two sons.

We intend to have parts of the War Memorial, which have been soiled by overhanging trees, cleaned up and to have a special inscription added. The trees will be cut back and we will look towards maintaining them via a contractor as necessary. The inscription will be on one side

so as to allow for one on the other side at a future date (2039?). Wording is to be decided but it will be simple such as: '1914 – 2014 – We Will Remember Them'. Please do put the day in your diaries – it falls on a Tuesday this year. A good group of children from our school will be in attendance as usual and wreaths would be welcome if you wish. Imagine if 25 young men from our village were killed over the next 5 years! Mrs Piper will be adding to the

information she has about the men and hopes to have some leaflets available nearer the time if anyone is interested. If you have personal information about a relative, please contact her, as she would welcome your input.



Walks Around Aberford

If you're not familiar with our many footpaths then you can get a set of simple leaflets compiled by Mrs Piper. Ditch the devices in good weather – rest your thumbs – the world will keep on turning if

you switch off that mobile. Have a walk and take a picnic! Leaflets can be obtained, at £2 a set for school funds, from email: ruthpi1412@hotmail.com.



Access to Parlington Estate via Cattle Lane/ Parlington Drive



Please note that ALL access, both pedestrian and vehicular, via Cattle Lane will be suspended for a period of around two weeks from the beginning of September to allow resurfacing work to be done to the roadway. Notices will be put up at the entrance to 'the Estate' and must be respected. There are other paths crossing 'the Estate' land which may still be used.