

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN/WINTER 2015

Breaking News

It has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council that proposals are being put forward for the construction of some three thousand new homes to the northwest of the village within Becca.

Should the necessary approvals be gained such a development would have a massive impact on our village and its environs.

This appears to be the result of a similar scheme for an even larger 'new town' at Headley Hall (between Bramham Cross Roads and Tadcaster) being shelved. The Parish council will work to keep residents fully informed.

Website

By the time you receive this Newsletter the Parish Council should have a new-look website up and running. Our volunteer-run website had been going for a few years and Steve Piper wanted to retire, plus we were advised that we should have a Government domain name to make it quite clear that we are a Parish Council.

The new domain name will be:

www.aberford-pc.gov.uk.

So please watch the current website for details of when it is up and running.

The current site: **www.aberfordonline.com** will run in parallel for several weeks in case anything needs ironing out on the new site. Many thanks to Steve for running the old site. You will see our faces, for better or worse, on the new site. At least one member was hoping to be Photoshopped!

AUTUMN/WINTER 2015



New Councillors

We have two new and - dare it be said - much younger Councillors who have joined us over the last few months. Andrew Hogg has lived in the village all his life and attended the school so he is very familiar with the whole Parish. Daniel Overend is a relative newcomer who moved with his partner to the village and has really settled in. Both are proving great additions to the PC and we hope these new faces will encourage younger people to get involved.

Meetings attended by Councillors

What have we been up to over the last months? Members have attended the following meetings: Outer N.E. Town and Council Forum, Hook Moor Wind Turbine Liaison, several LCC Site Allocation/Updates/ Landowner/Developers, Footpaths, Highways, Village Hall, School, Garforth Forum. The list is not exhaustive. Planning working group members make site visits and many members have individually tried to help residents with queries and problems.

Neighbourhood Plan

All the Parishes have faced an extended period of time which it has taken to move forward with their NPs. LCC have themselves been moving very slowly to finalise their Core Strategy in which NPs have to fit. In the case of our Ward, it was hoped that a huge development proposed for the Headley Hall (Bramham) area would take the pressure off our Parishes.

However we were told recently that Leeds University had withdrawn from putting their land forward so this has forced a rethink by the City Council regarding the shortfall on our side of the City, which the Parishes may be asked now to make up.

All Parishes face similar problems in coping with extra housing: Infrastructure of roads, sewage, shops and the like and particularly schools being full. We are waiting further information from LCC and will keep you informed.

Development Pressures

The ordinary pressure for development continues alongside the Neighbourhood Plan process. We have had approaches from two local landowners over recent months regarding development on different pieces of land close to the village. One of the landowners has indicated that plans will be submitted to LCC Planners.

Since all the land involved is Green Belt, our initial response was not favourable, but we recognise that your views must be canvassed so that we can truly reflect them in a response to LCC Planners.

We will keep you informed. At this time, the second landowner has not indicated that a formal application will be submitted. Again, should this change then we will canvass your views.

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.

Our School

In common with other Parishes in our Ward, our school is full at this time. Our latest information from Ms Boulding is that 2 children are waiting for places.



We know that many family houses in the village are in process of being sold and would expect children to come into the village as a result.

We do not know how LCC propose to deal with this problem, having been made aware by the Parishes and Ward Councillors. We do know that Barwick-in-Elmet school is having an extra classroom built.

Please let us know if this problem is affecting you as we will do all we can to see that a place is provided for 'our children' in our village school.



Loss of Facilities

There is now just one pub in our village and no shops. The tiny one attached to the pub shut at the end of October and although the stock was very limited, it was much appreciated.

On the bright side we do have: a mobile Fish and Chip van on Monday teatime, the mobile Library visits on Sunday mornings, our school is thriving, the Village Hall is working towards a big refurbishment and is used by many groups.

The village has the Bowling Club who always welcome new members particularly younger people.

(any interested parties please contact Paul Hancock on 0113 2813 518)

The sports and amenity facilities at Jubilee Field are brand new, the Play Area at Cock Beck is well used. There are many groups such as Sunbeams, Tuesday Club, Yorkshire Countrywomen's and Aberford in Bloom. Aberford is a thriving village when you look beneath the surface.

If anyone does obtain a suitable property to form a village shop then we feel sure residents would support it. We certainly would.

Footpaths



There are many Public Rights of Way in and around our Village which are maintained by both Leeds City Council and the Parish Council.

Although it is the responsibility of Leeds City Council to maintain the integrity of the footpaths, the Parish Council is responsible for cutting the grass and foliage on and around the footpaths and receives a budget from Leeds City Council in order to do so.

Recent times have seen cuts to this budget resulting in the Parish Council having to change its maintenance plans.

Plans for 2016 have already been arranged which will see the Public Rights of Way cut three times across the year.

The Parish Council urges all who can to make use of the walks we have on our doorstep and kindly asks all users to report any maintenance issues they come across back to the Parish Council - this will help to keep the footpaths easily accessible for all to use.

If you would like more information about the walks in and around our village please contact a member of the Public Rights of Way Working Group.



Christmas Celebrations



At 7 p.m. on Friday 4th December the Christmas lights on Pump Hill will be switched on. The pub will no doubt be putting on lots of food so please come along and help to make this a really good community event. Last year the children enjoyed racing around the Christmas Tree until they were dizzy. If anyone wants to decorate their windows then that would be appreciated. It is so nice to see decorations when residents and visitors are walking around the village at the festive time.

We will be having the Badsworth and Bramham Moor Hunt as usual on Boxing Day. The Hunt gathers in the field next to the Play Area mid morning and there are usually 40+ riders - sometimes more. The pub again usually put on food and old and new friends take the opportunity to exchange Seasons Greetings.



Highways Matters

Following parking restrictions being put in place outside Priory Park, we are pleased to see that these are being respected. Occasionally just one car is parked by the stone village name sign which is strange to see as the driver would have no further to walk if they parked in the lane provided! It took a very long time to get what we wanted from LCC Highways but patience was rewarded.

The reason for the narrower yellow lines over the bridge is because it is in the Conservation Area. Why the original lines remain wider is a mystery known only to LCC Highways Dept.

The parking restrictions renewed at Pump Hill are being respected for the most part. The 30mph sign on the Barwick Road approach is to be moved further towards Barwick eventually.



— SPEED — SPEED — SPEED —



A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A

PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL NEW

YEAR TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS



Miscellaneous

Dog Fouling



This seems to increase with dark mornings and evenings and if there should be a snowy winter. Watch out for the yellow markings which will prevent stepping into the mess.

Thank you to the majority of dog owners who act responsibly and some well-used bins are being replaced with closed top ones.



Grit Bins

These remain topped up as they were hardly used last winter. The grit, unfortunately, is not for private driveways but please use for roads and footpaths if necessary. Our friendly local farmer will assist with estate roads if we need to call on his services.



Notice Boards

There are 3 boards where information is displayed. The main one is on Pump Hill with smaller ones at Main Street/St Johns Garth and Main Street/Beckside. Comprehensive information can always be found on our website.

A thank you to the Aberford in Bloom team for the wonderful displays during the summer which were enhanced by the sponsored hanging baskets. Indeed a big thank you to all who contribute towards the upkeep of the village.