

## COUNCILLOR VACANCY

**We now have a vacancy due to the resignation of Cllr David Gluck.**

It was too good to be true that we were at full strength for just a few meetings. David did a large amount of work on the Master Plan and has agreed to finish the Village Design Statement and his contribution has been greatly valued.

Please get in touch with our Clerk or any Councillor if you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor. There will be no election; we are free to co-opt someone. Many Councillors

joined the PC in their 30s or 40s but all age groups would be really appreciated; we have no-one with children at the school for instance.

Why not come along to one or two meetings which are held the third Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm in the Chapel – everyone is welcome.

Additionally Cllr Ian Forster, who takes the lead on the Garforth end of the parish, has indicated that he will not continue after the next AGM which will be May next year. It would be good to have someone from that area.

## Our New Councillors

We welcomed two new Councillors just a couple of months ago – John Barber and Keith Downall.

John has lived in the village for several years and felt he was now able to give more time to helping in the community and Keith is a retired police officer who had lived in the village some years ago, then left and now returned. Both are really enthusiastic and want to take forward the topics of Traffic Management and creating a better looking streetscape through uniformity of signage and the like.

These topics will be ongoing as time allows, as they are both involved in the Neighbourhood Plan Sub Group and we have been concentrating on that, the Village Design Statement and Jubilee Field.

## Neighbourhood Plan

**We took a decision to do a Plan, in common with all the other Parish Councils in our Ward, as these will be taken into account by LCC Planners, after adoption.**

They are a new idea which came out of the Government's Localism Act. Plans will illustrate how a community wants to develop; what features are valued etc. Our Master Plan and Village Design Statement, plus the Conservation Area Plan which was completed earlier

this year, will all feed into the Neighbourhood Plan. Several residents are helping us on the Neighbourhood Plan Sub group and we hope everyone will take part in surveys, events and the like as the Plan moves forward.

We want it to be Your Plan and not Our Plan as it needs to be passed at a referendum before it can be adopted by LCC. The Village Design Statement is very nearly completed and residents will be invited to comment on the

final draft before it is submitted to LCC Planners for adoption.

The NP Sub Group will be asking residents about their skills in the hope that, if a particular skill is needed, then someone in the parish may volunteer just a little time to help on a particular topic. If we find that we need outside help from Consultants then we have secured a grant for this purpose from The Big Lottery Fund, Awards for All.

## STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AREA ASSESSMENT

**A part of the Neighbourhood Plan will be housing and we had to act quickly in the last few weeks to assess the sites which LCC had put forward under their SHLAA process.**

This was in order to fit in with their timescales as they move forward with their overall plans for housing throughout the

city. These sites, put forward by land owners and developers, were assessed by Councillors, who all have very good knowledge of the land all around and residents' views.

Much work on this topic had already been done when residents were consulted for our Master Plan. You can see the report we sent up to LCC and Ward Councillors on our website. No feedback from

LCC Planners is available as yet but we will keep you informed.

Keep looking at our website Minutes and Bullet Points. We do know that the co-operation of Parish Councils was really helpful to LCC and Ward Councillors and that all Parish Councils will fight to get housing where they want it and in numbers they feel are right for their community.

## Joint Neighbourhood Plan Village Design statement Event

The VDS is a 'spin off' document arising from the Master Plan and we need to consult with residents, amend or improve as necessary taking into account the feedback and then submit to LCC. It will then become an 'adopted' document with regard to development in the village into the future.

It has been decided to hold a joint Event so that residents can also see now the NP Sub Group is progressing. Please come along.

There may be questionnaires prepared by the NP Sub Group on things they want to seek your opinion about. There will be some light refreshments provided – please put Saturday January 9th in your diary – between 10am and 4pm – Village Hall.

## JUBILEE (SCHOOL) FIELD

**The legal documents have been completed – and there were many complicated issues which had to be resolved, delaying the refurbishment.**

The preferred contractor has been chosen and a grant of £39,500 has been obtained from Caird Bordon and a further grant of £7000 has been given from the LCC Well Being and via our Ward Councillors. A tennis court and Multi Use Games Court will be constructed together with seats/bins/signage and soft landscaping. There will still be the large open area for football and

similar sport. We are also investigating the inclusion of an Outside Green Gym, which will be suitable for all age groups within the current funding available for the present stage.

Ancillary works such as clearing the site and taking away all debris; removing a large hedge and replacing with a fence between the site and Bowling Club and creating a new dedicated pedestrian footpath from Parlington Drive have all added to the cost. The legal costs have also been large despite our friendly local Solicitor, Phil Brown of Hart Law in Wetherby, doing a great

deal of work pro bono. School will have priority use, during school times, and the children are all eager to see things taking shape.

A venerable old giant tree had to be removed as it was rotten, but a grant of tree saplings has been made by the Woodland Trust and the children will be involved in planting them. They will have a special dedicated footpath across the graveyard by kind consent of all involved and a locked gate will give access into Jubilee Field. You can see that many strands had to be brought together and this is why the project has taken so long.

## HOW TO GET 'NOTICED'

**If you want to advertise an Event, please don't attach leaflets to the heritage lampposts as they look untidy, might damage the paintwork we all paid for, and you will probably forget to remove them when your Event is over.**

It is difficult to get word out but the location of the Notice Boards which can be used are: on building to right of Village Hall, Village Hall board, to the front

ground of the Methodist Chapel, Pump Hill right hand side of board, on a house wall opposite Highfield Road, at St Johns via the Clerk if there is room.

You might get permission to display your notice from our friendly shop and pubs. Please consider leafleting residents – a small one would not cost much and might perhaps be produced on a home printer.

This really is the best way to reach everyone.

## Garforth End of our Parish

**Since the last Newsletter we arranged for the Street Cleaner to come resulting in a complete clean of the streets and paths together with the drains.**

We shall ask for another clean in view of the amount of fallen leaves etc and hopefully extend that down Briarlands Lane (the footpath between the Estates). We had some weeds with the drains and vegetation across the path, now streets with leaves, but the hedge has not been fully cut to allow the street lights to do their proper job – illuminate.

There has been plenty activity on North Newbold but no progress with building both the industrial units or the internal road system of the site, neither have the alterations to the A62 started including the roundabout. Because of this delay we have been unable to approach Highways about a Vehicle Activated Sign to try and reduce the speed on that road, in an attempt to ease the problem of getting out of Cedar Ridge. We know the Police now have a laser gun but they cannot deploy it fulltime on this stretch of the road.

We are at present arranging a meeting between Garforth Ward Councillors and ourselves following the production by the City Council of a list, under the title of Strategic Housing Land Area Assessment (SHLAA) which identifies possible housing building sites over the next 20 years and includes Stanton Grange (a site for 6000 Houses) which is in our Parish but the Garforth Ward and that obviously affects us all. Our position is that our Neighbourhood Plan will include the whole of the parish but we will be listening to what the Garforth Ward Councillors have to say to us about our end of it.

## Police Matters

**We are very lucky to be such a low crime parish. However we do get theft from insecure sheds and outhouses which often contain quite high value items. We also get theft of property from vehicles occasionally.**

Please lock them if you leave them even for a couple of minutes. Our farmers have to be very vigilant, as do residents in the outer areas against theft of fuel, high value machinery, metal and old stonework and poaching. As you go out and about in the parish then please be watchful. Cold callers may be what they seem but they may not and moving of old stone etc needs reporting just in case. Speed traps will operate from time to time.

We will be liaising with the police and Hunt over arrangements for the Boxing Day Hunt – we seem to have a good system in place to enable this Event to take place peacefully.

## If It SNOWS

**Most grit bins were quite full, just one required a top up.**

The grit salt will probably need to be broken up with a hammer before use as it tends to 'clump'.

Please use on the pavements and roadway as necessary but very sparsely sprinkle – a very

small amount goes a long way. Small bags for personal use can be bought readily – Pease of Garforth stock it as do such as B&Q.

LCC Highways will only do the main road so Mr Watson, our friendly local farmer, will go around the side roads if it becomes necessary.

## THE CLERK

**Finally, our Clerk wants to have more time for various projects of her own and has given early notice that she intends to leave at the end of the financial year in March 2013.**

Would you like the job? Do you know anyone who would? There is a small salary plus expenses of course and Mrs Piper will do everything possible to help the incoming person and ensure a smooth handover. She has no intention of stopping her involvement with the Parish Council and it may be that she will seek to be

co-opted as a Councillor should a vacancy arise next year.

If you are a good administrator and interested then why not have an informal chat with her.

Perhaps you would like a career in public administration – there are many opportunities to progress to larger local authorities or perhaps group together a number of parishes as vacancies arise.

Qualifications (Certificate in Local Council Administration) are not immediately necessary but you must be prepared to work towards them.

Help and training will be given.

## WETHERBY NEWS

**David Gluck is the village conduit for items of interest anyone wants to get into the Wetherby News.**

**If you want to publicise an Event etc then please let David know – his telephone number is 0113 2812522**

**or you can email him on davidgluck@ruralis.co.uk**

## The PC WEBSITE

**Do you look at it? With much going on like the Neighbourhood Plan, please do visit [www.aberfordonline.com](http://www.aberfordonline.com) where you can keep up to date with what we are doing.**

## Mobile Library Times

The mobile library bus visits on Sundays – Beckside/Village Hall 11.00 – 12.00, Around the Royal Oak 12.00 – 13.00, Arabian Horse 13.00 – 14.00, Beech View 14.00 – 15.00.

Cllr Jeffrey reports that more people are using this service which is good – please do try and give your support.

## Footpaths – Parlington Estate

**Please respect the footpath signs dotted about the Parlington Estate and keep to the paths.**

We have been asked to remind everyone that this is a managed 'shooting' estate and shoots take place every Saturday from October to February. Please do not wander about then, or at any

time, as you may disturb the game and be mistaken for someone up to no good! Grazing animals should not be approached and dogs should be on leads when animals are around.

We have a very good relationship with the Parlington Estate and want to keep it so that we can all enjoy the pleasant walks.