

ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Jubilee Field

The new facility has been very well used over the summer and the hard work – particularly by our Chairman David Howson – has been repaid in the favourable comments we have received.

Thanks are due especially to Mr Phil Watson who helped such a lot and to everyone who helped in the big push in the final couple of weeks before opening and at the opening ceremony. As the area had been derelict for so many years, it was not even known to many new residents and could not even be accessed. Members were disappointed to realise, after the official opening, that the Tennis Court was not of the correct size.

This error is being addressed and we are assessing the options. Any works required will be done in early 2014. For next year we are considering installing some 'park-like' benches for picnics and football nets on part of the grassed area.

Members Keith Dunwell and his wife, Ruth Reed and her husband, and David Howson planted up several hundred daffodil bulbs early November. Suggestions for other facilities are invited so please let us know your thoughts. We feel sure that Jubilee Field use will grow over the years and it will be a real asset to the community.

Jubilee Field Teething Problems

Some teething problems were experienced from people climbing over the 'school gate' access, but hopefully the proper access will be used now after stronger measures have been taken.

Additionally, there have been several incidents of rubbish not being put in the bins provided, and some dog walkers not clearing up after their dogs have fouled. We will not hesitate to bring in stronger 'orders' if this becomes necessary so if you are a dog owner then please keep everyone safe and clean by clearing up if you walk your

dog on this area, or anywhere else in the parish. Some children were making a habit of picking up small stones from the edge of the Bowling Green and hitting them with makeshift bats, either onto the court surfaces or onto the Bowling Green. The small stones present a hazard to players and a danger to the mowing machine on the Bowling Green, which could be wrecked by such stones. Please have a word with your children if they go to play on Jubilee Field as they probably do not realise the potential harm of hitting small stones around.

WINTER 2013



CHANGES IN MEMBERS

Tony Bebbington, who lives at the Garforth end of our Parish, has been co-opted onto the Council and will take the lead on matters to do with the Garforth end.

Following the resignation of Gil Broadley effective from our November meeting, we have two vacancies and would welcome some new members. Please do come along to one of our regular meetings – the third Tuesday in every month, at 7.30pm in the Methodist Chapel. We want to thank Mrs Broadley for her service and particularly for handling all the arrangements for the LeedsFest tickets and the Lotherton Hall student event tickets.

Arrangements for next year's tickets will be communicated via our website and the village notice boards early in 2014.

Who Does What

David Howson, Ruth Reed and Paul Hancock take the lead on planning matters.

Jacquie Jeffrey takes the lead on footpath matters.

Marolyn Piper is the liaison between the PC and the school and writes the Newsletter.

Ray Alderson is on the Village Hall Committee.

John Barker, David Howson and Marolyn Piper deal with traffic matters.

Keith Dunwell, John Barker and Ruth Reed are involved in the Neighbourhood Plan group.

Ray Alderson deals with Hanging Baskets.

Paul Hancock inspects the Play area and Jubilee Field regularly.

There are other tasks large and small and members attend outside meetings from time to time, such as Harewood Ward Forum meetings.

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.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Working Group has worked hard over the past year or so and the process continues. For every Parish, their NP has become extended in terms of time, so as to keep in step with LCC Core Strategy but it does not mean that Plans have ceased to be worked on.

However the number of active members has dwindled, for various reasons, and more helpers are needed if residents want a Neighbourhood Plan to be put in place. A decision was made at the November meeting to suspend work on the Plan until February/March for various reasons, including other commitments of some

members. A Neighbourhood Plan needs to come forward from the hopes, aspirations and input of residents for their community, to cover the lifetime of LCC strategy for the next 15 years or so. If you have skills you feel would benefit the Working Group – or if you want to help and can attend a monthly meeting and give a few hours a month – then please get in touch with our Clerk who will pass on your details. There is a great deal of information about such Plans on the internet and on our Parish website as to what has been happening with our own plan – please take a look.

Christmas Lights

These will only be on Pump Hill this year. The decision was taken to concentrate on Pump Hill as it was felt this would make more of a display in the central area. LCC Lights advised that our own sets had come to the end of their life and we decided to hire them each year as this made financial sense. Given the lifespan if sets were bought, the PC would have been faced with a large ongoing expenditure every 3 to 4 years. We will be arranging to have a planted Christmas tree after this year, to be installed next Spring, so that we no longer have to arrange the very hard work of erecting/dismantling a tree; another task taken on by our Chairman in recent years.

Thank You

Thanks to the Fawcett Estate for donating the Christmas Tree this year and thanks also to Mr Jack Rogers for litter picking at the north end of the village and Mr Norman Sutcliffe for doing the same at the south end.



Hook Moor Wind Farm

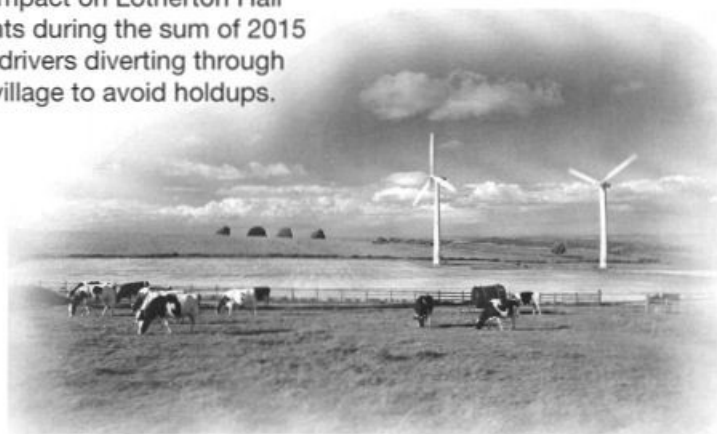
Banks Renewables have fulfilled all the planning conditions attached to the permission and are now moving ahead to put finance into place.

Some preliminary onsite works may take place during next year but the actual construction proper is not scheduled to commence until December 2014/January 2015.

A liaison committee has been set up to meet regularly as things progress and we will be represented on it, together with Micklefield PC and others. The road route will be from Junction 47 of the A1 along the B1217, under the motorway bridges and turning right into a farm track. We will be in continuous contact with Banks

during the build and they assure us they are aware of the importance of traffic movements, having carried out this type of installation before. The arrangements for the Hook Moor junction and keeping construction traffic out of the village are two concerns, as is the impact on Lotherton Hall Events during the sum of 2015 and drivers diverting through the village to avoid holdups.

If any resident wishes to take part in the Liaison Committee then please contact a Councillor or our Clerk as we are entitled to have a resident on the Committee. We now have a section on our website where you can see the Minutes of the last meeting.



New Footbridge

It was of interest to many residents to watch the various stages of removal and installation.

This bridge was designed and is owned by LCC Highways Department and not the PC and it will be Highways'

responsibility to maintain it. It is only very slightly different to the old bridge which everyone was very used to. If anyone has any observations/concerns about it then please address these to LCC Highways Department.

Notice Boards

We have ordered a new bigger board for Pump Hill which will have more provision for residents' notices and more space for PC notices.

The existing board will be moved to the south end of the village – in Main Street near to Parlington Lane. This means

that there will be three places where information can be posted and should better serve the wide spread of houses.



Village Hall

We will be meeting shortly with the Trustees and members of the Hall committee to explore a possible new proposal.

In the very early stages of discussion, this new proposal may give some alternative ways to move forward the rebuilding/refurbishment of the Hall. We will keep residents informed.



Parking Outside Priory Park

Several months ago we asked LCC Highways to alter the road markings to form a 'parking bay' on the left side of the main road, extending north from the entrance to Priory Park towards the Football Field.

We met with the management of Masternaut and stressed to them that cars should not be parked south of their entrance and told them of our proposal.

We tried to see if an arrangement could be made between the company and the

Football Club for parking during the working day but this could not be brought to fruition.

We also put Masternaut in contact with the Estate to see if an extra strip of land could be leased to extend the rear car park, but again this did not work out. The problem keeps on growing and Highways have yet to change the markings with the date for work arriving but no work being done.

Recently there has been some question raised as to whether

people were parking up and then car sharing for an onward journey! This needs to be investigated – perhaps by our local police team. We are as frustrated as residents that drivers continue to park on both sides of the entrance and the existing white lines remain meaningless due to that but, of course, there are no restrictions on parking as such. We will keep on grappling with this problem and see what further measures Highways can advise.

In Bloom Group

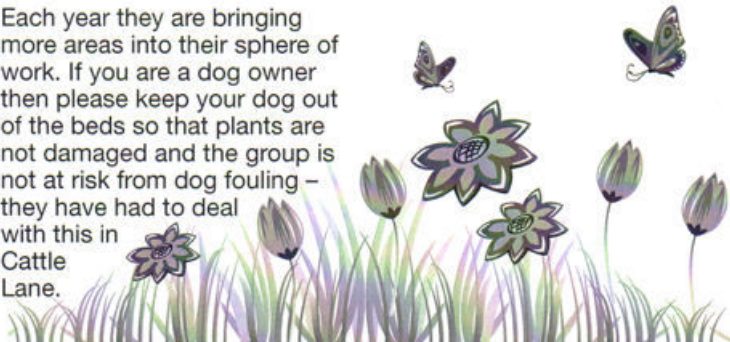
Dog Fouling

Thanks and congratulations are due to this hard working group of people for the lovely show of plants at the junction of Cattle Lane and Main Street.

Each year they are bringing more areas into their sphere of work. If you are a dog owner then please keep your dog out of the beds so that plants are not damaged and the group is not at risk from dog fouling – they have had to deal with this in Cattle Lane.



Generally dog owners are very good at clearing up but we have had complaints about fouling on the grassed areas at St Johns Garth in particular. Please give any names and addresses of culprits to us and we will investigate.



Grit Bins/ Snow Clearing

We will be arranging for grit bins to be topped up. ❄️

Everyone should be aware that the grit is for use on roads and pavements only and that only a fine sprinkling is needed. It is amazing how little is required so please use sparingly.

Bags for personal use are available from very many places – Pease of Garforth being one – and only cost around £5. ❄️

If we do have a bad spell of weather then the PC is able to ask Phil Watson out to help us with the side roads.

Let us all help each other; children in particular love to be on a snow clearing team! ❄️



And Finally...



A Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
From Your Parish Councillors