

Darrington Parish Council Newsletter

OCTOBER
2023

Chairman's October Report 2023

This month is just a year since the Parish Council was co-opted. Within this year we have been involved in many issues including a Local Election which fortunately was not contested. Unfortunately we have lost one of our Councillors due to the Community Governance Review removing Wentbridge from our Parish. Councillor Martin Whiteley, who lives in Wentbridge, did not think he should have a seat on the Council now Wentbridge is no longer part of the Parish. This means we will soon be advertising for another Parish Councillor so if you have an interest in what goes on in the Parish and would like to be involved please think about joining us.

I would like to thank Martin for his contribution to the Council and wish him all the best for the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to address some of the issues raised by residents over the past few months.

Memorial Service to mark the 80th anniversary of the Darrington Aircraft Disaster

In August we received information about the forthcoming 80th anniversary of the Darrington Aircraft Disaster.

Due to the short timeframe to the date of this anniversary, 18th September, the Councillors decided they would not be able to mark it in the way it deserves, so we spoke to the Rev. Adrian Judd and he agreed to include it as part of the Remembrance Service. Information will be in the noticeboards, on the website and on social media as soon as the plans are finalised.

Grass Cutting

At the beginning of the year we looked at grass cutting throughout the Parish and would like to thank all the residents who contribute to the cutting of various areas around the Parish. The areas that seem to cause problems are those that are not cut by the Parish Council, mainly the slip roads to and from the A1. These roads are derestricted (70mph speed limit) and the responsibility of National Highways, who have an agreement with Wakefield MDC for verge cutting. All locally (adopted) roads belong to Wakefield MDC and they are responsible for the cutting of verges, particularly at junctions where the growth can cause a safety issue. We have a Service Level Agreement with Wakefield for the cutting of the Village Field.

Hedge Cutting

The Council is not responsible for the cutting of hedges that grow in resident's gardens. Where the hedge grows over the footpath/road it is the owner or tenant's responsibility to ensure the hedge is cut back. If residents report this problem to the Parish Council, we inform Wakefield Council who will write to the occupier of the property to request that the hedge is cut. If this is not carried out within a reasonable time then Wakefield Council will organise for this to happen and then charge the resident for the work.

Hedgerows along the roadside are usually cut by local farmers, however they are not supposed to cut them during the nesting season for birds, unless there is a health and safety issue. Also, any tree branches must be at least 2.3 metres above the footpath and 5.2 metres above the highway.

Planning

We've seen several applications in the last few months that have generated passionate debate and feedback from residents. The Council only has access to the same information as residents through the Wakefield Planning Portal, so where possible, Councillors will visit the site and discuss the application with residents and the property owner.

The Council's response to a planning application will take into account all feedback, but will be made in what the Council believes is in the best interest of as many people as possible and the Parish as a whole. Any comments we wish to make are submitted, however that doesn't influence or guarantee the outcome of any decision.

Due to the recent increase of planning applications, we now have a Councillor who has taken responsibility for overseeing plans that come in to the Council.

(Continued Overleaf)

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Chairman's October Report continued.

Website

At present we are overhauling our website and if you have used it recently you will see that some changes have already occurred. In future there will be more information available, so please keep checking over the coming weeks for more updates.

Contacting Darrington Parish Council

We want the DPC to benefit the village as much as possible. Should you have any feedback or concerns that you'd like to raise with us, you can come to the Parish Council Meeting in the Reading Room, Philips Lane, on the second Thursday of the month at 7p.m. The first fifteen minutes is for residents to speak on issues that concern them.

If you can't make the DPC meeting, you can find the details of all the Councillors in this newsletter and on our website, so please get in touch with me or any Councillor with your query.

Linda Thompson

Darrington Garden Club

2023 has been another good year for Darrington Garden Club (I think it's our 17th year!). In case you're new to Darrington - or maybe you've just forgotten - we meet every second Wednesday of each month at The Reading Room on Philips Lane, 6pm to 7pm (£1 subs and that includes a cuppa and usually something festive for our December meeting!).

Who's 'We'?

Well, ANYONE who has an interest in gardens (an interest... absolutely no expertise required!) and enjoys a good natter about pretty much everything that has some connection with gardens, the environment, Darrington, world events...hopefully you get the idea!

Of course, we do spend time on garden issues like 'which are the best local garden centres?', 'what's the best advice for dealing with black spot on roses?', "what are some remedies for a really dodgy lawn?" And we're lucky that *usually* someone has some knowledge or experience ... or knows someone who does!

Don't feel you have to come to every meeting. We're not that kind of club. You'll be very welcome whether you come every month or just every once in a while. No obligation. We're certainly not cliquey! (is that how it's spelt?)

We've started to invite some folk who really know their 'stuff' when it comes to gardens and flower-related topics. In the past we've had talks from both worm and bee experts, and more recently, we had a terrific presentation about Rhododendrons and Azaleas. The presenter - a Darrington resident - also opened his garden to show just how unexpectedly amazing these plants can be, even in Darrington - not renowned for having soil that's kind to the needs of such plants!

Another highlight was a wonderful demo of very clever but simple flower arranging ideas and we're repeating that on **November 8th** this year. Tickets will be £4 and include refreshments and they will be available from Linda Thompson tel: 01977 700059 and at the coffee morning on a Monday at the Reading Room.

On **February 14th 2024** Paul from First Impressions is coming and is going to talk about plants and gardening in general. This will be free to anyone who would like to come so bring a friend if you want to. First Impressions install all the flower baskets and boxes through Darrington each year.

Moira Mattingley Nunn from Wakefield Waste Management Facility is going to come to our **May 8th** meeting and talk about recycling.

So, big thanks to everyone who's attended meetings so far this year and a warm welcome to anyone who'd like to pop in or become a regular.

All the best. Andy Tagger

Darrington Village Field - News from the village field.

Volunteer: Noun. A person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task without being paid.

Within the Ukraine, ordinary people are taking on extraordinary tasks to ensure that their freedom, way of life, culture, language, currency and lands are not overrun by an external aggressor, who wants to change how they think and live. Some are volunteering to fight on the front line, others are working in the background helping to devise clever ways to beat the enemy, whilst others are working in a humanitarian role. Many have now made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their life defending their country.

I am sure there are not many people living there that just sit back and think others will sort out the problems and everything will turn out okay in the end.

On the field, whilst it isn't quite as catastrophic, we too cannot sit back and let things just happen. We are aware that things will have to change if we wish to continue using the area in the same way. Many of you will have noticed that over the last few years several of the pieces of the play equipment have been taken off the field as they became unsafe. Repairs have also been carried out to other pieces to try and extend their usable life span. However, we are not far away from the situation where 60 % of the equipment is deemed either unsafe, or does not comply with current design standards. Bearing this in mind we have started developing a replacement strategy for the bulk of the play equipment. This is estimated to be in the region of £90,000, a sum of money far greater than our current bank balance.

We have started discussions with play equipment designers, local councillors, and equipment suppliers to get an idea of how we should progress. Some public consultation has also been completed, either at the Feast and Fayre or online, to gauge public opinion.

There is still much more to do before the plan is finalised, so if you have skills in preparation of specifications, tenders, tender appraisal, design or have had success obtaining funding from third parties please let us know.

One of our fundraising initiatives is to hold a firework spectacular which will take place on the evening of 4th November. This will incorporate some of the lessons learnt from last year's successful evening of fireworks. The event will be ticket only and these are currently available from the village shop or the Monday Coffee Mornings in the Reading Room. So, get yours early to avoid disappointment. Further details of what will be happening on the night can be seen on the flyers, posters, and on social media.

Karina (tell 07789 776383) will require many volunteers to make the night a success. During the day people are required to erect the stalls, prepare the firework area, and set up the electrics and lighting. Manning is required to marshal the evening and the job everyone forgets about is the tidying and reinstatement of the field over the next few days. If you are sitting there thinking "I will wait to see how the weather is that day before offering to help", just ring Karina now and come prepared to get cold, wet and muddy as the show will go ahead regardless of the weather.

One day in the warm when you are asked what you did to help, you will be able to recall battling with the mud, wind and twisted electric cables, fuelled only with burgers and mulled wine but at least everyone enjoyed the evening.

Naturally, fireworks are loud and will incorporate bangs and lots of flashing lights, so please look after your pets and please, please, please don't bring dogs onto the field that evening.

See you on the 4th November.

John Hoyle

NEWSLETTERS

If you would like to receive your Parish Council Newsletter by e mail please contact clerk@darrington.org.uk With your email and home address

Keep up to date with
Darrington events at
www.darrington.org.uk and
www.darringtonvillagefield.org

Our thanks to Darrington Golf Club for sponsoring the production of this newsletter.



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Darrington Parish Council Members

Linda Thompson	01977
Chair	700059
John Cox	07836
Vice Chair	370714
Fiona Gray	01977
Responsible Finance Officer	793812
Vera Stones	01977
Proper Officer	794794
Pete Batty	01977
	706538
Trish Hirst	01977
	707332
Karina Whalley	07789
	776383
Laurie Dale	07753
	926419

Dog Waste Stations / Public Bins

We are pleased to tell you there will be two new dog waste stations on Back Lane - one at the Marlpit Lane end and the other at the A1 end, making five in total.

We want to thank all the responsible dog owners who do a fantastic job at 'picking up' after their pets. There is now very little dog waste in the village.

The dog waste stations are emptied and the bags replenished weekly by two Parish Councillors. The bags of dog waste are left in, or next to, the bin on Philips Lane, and then removed by WMDC when the public bins are emptied in the village. This should be weekly, however due to staff shortages, it is not always the case.

If you notice any of the bins on Estcourt Road and Valley Road are desperately in need of emptying please call WMDC Street Scene Castleford on 01977 722190. The staff there are very helpful and will get the bin emptied ASAP.

All the information given in this newsletter is provided in good faith. As such, the Parish Council disclaim all responsibility for any inaccuracies, irrespective of the reason or cause.

Newsletter created by Kelvin Wilkins and edited by Vera Stones

Darrington Parish Council are working on your behalf to improve and maintain the atmosphere and facilities of Darrington.

If you have any issues that you wish to raise or ideas to help the community please contact one of the Councillors above.

If you are interested in getting more involved contact the Chair or come to the next Parish Council meeting which is usually held on the second Thursday in the month at 7:00pm in the Reading Room, on Philips Lane,