



### Chair's Introductory Report From: Cllr. Dennis Burns, Chair

Hello everyone – fellow councillors and residents. I'm genuinely honoured to have been elected as the new Chair of Darrington Parish Council. Thank you for your trust – I'll do my very best to serve our village with care, energy, and a good dose of common sense.

If we haven't met yet, you might know me better as the man who is daily herded around the village by three excitable Westies. My wife, stepson and I moved to Darrington in 2013, and it didn't take long for this place to feel like home.

I joined the council in late 2023, and it's been a real pleasure supporting village life ever since – from memorial events to summer fayres and everything in between.

I've spent much of my working life in quality management and business leadership, running large teams and working with people from all walks of life and corners of the world. Now, I'm looking forward to putting those skills to good use right here, where it matters most – in our community.

#### Reflections and acknowledgements

First, I want to thank outgoing Chair Linda Thompson for her dedication and thoughtful leadership. I'm very pleased that she's staying on as Vice-Chair – her guidance will be invaluable as I find my feet. I'd also like to thank John Cox, who's stepping down this year after making a huge contribution as Vice-Chair and through his work on planning and traffic matters. John will be missed, and we'll soon be advertising to fill the vacancy he leaves behind.

To every resident who's attended a meeting, shared an idea, raised a concern, or helped make an event happen – thank you. It's your involvement that keeps Darrington the welcoming, lively place it is.

#### My priorities

Looking ahead, here's what I'll be focusing on with the support of the council:

- Keeping our village safe and connected

We'll continue to push for progress on traffic and road safety, working closely with Wakefield Council, National Highways, & other partners – and making sure residents are kept in the loop.

- Improving local infrastructure

From signage to pavements, footpaths to green spaces – I'll support efforts to keep our village well maintained, accessible, and enjoyable for all.

- Championing local life

Whether it's community events, local groups or new ideas to bring people together, I'm here to help good things happen.

- Managing parish finances responsibly

Every penny counts. We'll make sure your money is used wisely and transparently, for the good of everyone in the village.

#### Final thoughts

I'm excited for what lies ahead – and am very aware that there's always more to learn. I'm here to listen, to get stuck in, and to work alongside our fantastic councillors and residents to keep Darrington thriving.

My door's always open (unless the dogs have blocked it), and I welcome any ideas, questions, or concerns you'd like to raise.

Thank you again for your support – let's make it a positive and productive year for our parish.

Warm regards,

Cllr. Dennis Burns Chair, Darrington Parish Council

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## Darrington Garden Club

Our Garden Club has been running since 2006 ( well, we're almost 100% sure about that ... Memories can be a tad mischievous at times!)

If you've lived in our Darrington Parish Newsletter area for more than a few years, you'll have read numerous ... probably hundreds ... of notices similar to this one! However, whilst it could be quite tempting to simply 'cut and paste' ( or 'copy' for anyone who's still a pen and paper person) paragraphs from some of the previous postings, please rest assured... I never do that!

That said, although the club still meets EVERY 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm for an hour in the Reading Room on Philips Lane, and although around 15 people ( sometimes a few less, sometimes more), and although we do tend to keep to a similar pattern for meetings ( some very current National and local Garden related news and updates, jobs for the month, queries about plants/growing strategies/best place to buy plugs (that could be the start of a 2 Ronnies' sketch!), we ALWAYS find that we've covered new ground ( see what I did there!) and end up, an hour later wondering how the hour has simply flown by!

Yes, we do have familiar faces turning up... but each familiar face was a 'newbie' once so we must be doing something right for newbies to decide to return. New 'newbies' will be very welcome. No pressure! Just an hour of your time, a cuppa ( OK, that'll be £1 but you may also get a biscuit!) and chances are you find you want to become a familiar face in future!

June 11th, July 9th, August 13th. 6pm to 7pm, Reading Room, Philips Lane, Darrington

## Smiley Sid

The Parish Council are looking into hiring a portable Smiley Sid from Sharlston Parish Council. This will record the speeds of passing vehicles and flash up the speed they are travelling at with a smiling face or a sad face.

As this is an expensive piece of equipment we do need to keep a close eye on it, so we will be asking for volunteers to supervise it.

It will only be used during daylight hours, if you think you can help us with this project or need more information please contact:

Dennis Burns on 07701289675 Vera Stones on 07854047721

Fiona Gray on 07713645999

Thank you



## NEWS UPDATES

Overhanging branches from gardens: The Parish Council often receive complaints regarding overhanging branches blocking the pavement, unfortunately we cannot do anything about this, if anyone has a concern or complaints about the overhanging branches they should contact W.M.D.C. on 03458506506 who will deal with it.

Parked cars on the pavements: Complaints have been received regarding parked cars blocking access for people, pavement parking can be "especially dangerous" for wheelchair users, people with pushchairs and young children, when they are unable to use the pavement due to a parked car, making it impossible to get past and it means they have to walk on the road where there is moving traffic. It would be appreciated if car owners could be a little more considerate when parking their cars

## Newspaper Deliveries

A company called "News Team" will deliver newspapers to Darrington at 65 pence per day for more information contact <https://www.newstemgroup.co.uk/>

The two paintings that have been put up in the Reading Room were kindly donated to the Parish Council by Judy Fisher who wanted them to be enjoyed by everyone.

### Litter Pick-up in the Village

A Litter Pick has been organised for **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

meeting at the Darrington Hotel at 9.30am to 12 noon

**ALL VOLUNTEERS WOULD BE MORE THAN WELCOME!**

Just bring your gloves and energy.

W.M.D.C. are providing litter picking grabbers and plastic bags

Hope to see you all there



### Darrington Village Field

It's been great to see so many of you enjoying the Field and thank you to Darrington Parish Council for organising the VE Celebration event in May.

I'm sure you will have noticed the recent improvements which include a hardcore path from the Denby road entrance to the play equipment (to improve pushchair and Wheelchair access) and supply and fitting new goalposts & gates. We are extremely grateful to National Highways and their principal contractor Octavius for supplying the equipment and resource to carry out the work free of charge as a good will gesture as we are all aware of the ongoing issues with traffic through the village due to the roadworks on the A1 at Wentbridge.

A big thanks to John Stebbing, Zohel Ali, & Kirtsy Hope from National Highways and Chris Roughly, Craig Donnan, Kunjinder Singh, Darren Taylor, Manny Singh, and the rest of the Octavius team for carrying out these improvements that will benefit all the field users, also Mark Ellis from HW Martin Traffic Management who have pledged some key people to help us with organising and delivering the Run at our Feast & Fayre event.

Talking of the Feast & Fayre which this year is on Saturday 21st June organising is full swing and we are once again looking forward to a great day, when I know many of you enjoy the family atmosphere and catching up with family, friends and neighbours on the Field. We are still looking for volunteers to help us with set up Friday afternoon/evening and on the day, even if you could help for just an hour that would be great, so please contact Richard on 07825 676174

Initial planning for the bonfire event is underway but we want to ensure we have engaged with key stakeholders and the event can be run safely before we confirm the date.

Our Website has recently been improved so please have a look at [www.darrington.org.uk](http://www.darrington.org.uk) for any updates plus our social media and village notice boards.

We must thank Peter & Kate and the team at Church Farm who continue to support us in numerous ways

Finally, it's so pleasing to see so many of you using the Field for recreation, exercise, play and family time. Please help us keep it as safe and tidy as possible and if you have any issues or concerns please get in touch

Regards

Richard Hirst

Chair

### Volunteers Needed

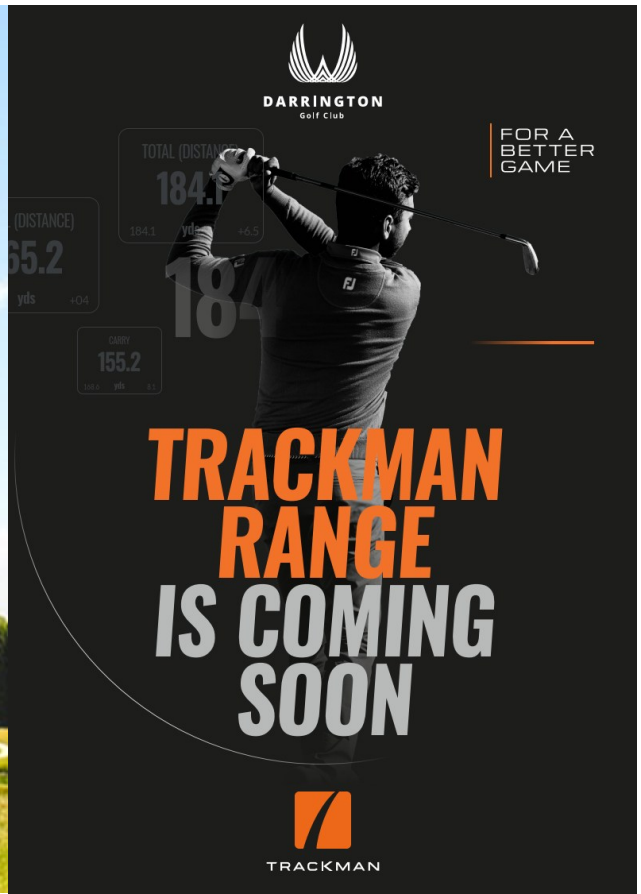
The Parish Council is hoping to set up a Volunteers Register and are looking for people to help with delivering Newsletters, flyers and with other tasks in and around the Village, we have a few volunteers already, but more would be better,

If you can help or would like more information please contact

Vera 01977 794794 or Karina 07789776383

Keep up to date with  
Darrington events at  
[www.darrington.org.uk](http://www.darrington.org.uk) and  
[www.darringtonvillagefield.org](http://www.darringtonvillagefield.org)

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



Darrington Golf Club, Havercroft Lane, Darrington, WF8 3BP  
 Club House: 01977 704522

**Darrington Parish Councillors**

Dennis Burns Chair	07701 289675
Linda Thompson Vice Chair	01977 700059
Fiona Gray Responsible Finance Officer	01977 793812
Vera Stones Proper Officer	01977 794794
Pete Batty	01977 706538
Trish Hirst	01977 707332
Karina Whalley	07789 776383
Laurie Dale	07753 926 419

**VILLAGE GROUP MEETINGS IN THE READING ROOM**

- Coffee Mornings = Monday mornings 9:30am to 11:30am  
 Contact Ruth 07951230334 or Vera 01977 794794
- Garden Club = 2nd Wednesday of the month 6:00pm to 7:00pm  
 Contact Andy 01977 704681
- Ladies Groups = 3rd Thursday of the month 2:00pm to 4:00pm  
 Contact Edith 0197773189
- Whist = Wednesday afternoon  
 Contact Peter 01977 791384
- Darrington Parish Council = 2nd Thursday of the month  
 7:00pm to 9:00pm

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. 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,