

## Chair's Report March 2025

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The Parish Council had their usual monthly meeting in February at which we discussed :-  
Highways Help.

We have been contacted by National Highways to see if there is any support they can provide to the community while delivering the scheme on the A1 at Wentbridge Viaduct. We were asked to send them some ideas of how they could help Darrington, which we have done and some of the Councillors met on 31<sup>st</sup>. January to discuss them.

### 137 Grant.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 section 137, Darrington Parish Council sets aside a sum of money each year which can be applied for by local organisations for projects which will be of benefit to residents within the parish of Darrington.

There is not a large amount of money available but it may help groups in the Village if they are struggling with a project. The Policy is on our website or I can send you a copy just get in touch with me.

### Website

We are updating our website due to the old one not meeting the new Government Legislations. The website is still accessible whilst this is happening.

### Dog Waste Removal.

Our Responsible Financial Officer has just completed our Proposed Budget for 2025-2026. I would highlight the amount of money we are spending on the bags for dog waste. Whilst we do feel the Dog Waste Station have reduced this problem the bags, which are paid for out of our precept, are costing the council £669.18 so far this year and we are forecasting £900.00 for the coming financial year. To reduce this expense please do not take more than 1 bag.

### A Date For Your Diary,

We are hoping to arrange a picnic celebration for the 80th VE Day in May, more details will be posted on the web page and the Notice Boards

Linda Thompson

## TRAFFIC THROUGH THE VILLAGE

The Parish Council is painfully aware of the adverse effect of seemingly ever- increasing traffic through the village. Of course, the situation is greatly exacerbated buy the ongoing roadworks on the A1, which are thankfully due for completion in the late summer,

While this should offer some welcome relief regarding traffic volumes, and possibly average speeds, the Council is well aware that we must continually bring pressure to bear to try and improve the situation. To this end we set up a working party last year to liaise with residents, Wakefield Council, and any other responsible bodies to try to bring about improvements.

While the Council itself cannot make decisions on such matters as signage, speed limits, weight limits etc, we can certainly encourage the responsible parties to look more closely at our concerns and bring about improvements.

To this end through our regular meetings we have been able to make progress on the following:-

- the presentation and discussion of a residents petition on many aspects of traffic through the village.
- monitoring of the A1 roadworks, with specific reference to the abuses of the Darrington slip road, signage, and speed of vehicles.
- requests for greater presence of 'speed vans' in the village.

*Continued overleaf*

*Traffic through the Village continued*

- monitoring of the A1 roadworks, with specific reference to the abuses of the Darrington slip road, signage, and speed of vehicles.
  - requests for greater presence of 'speed vans' in the village.
  - successful lobbying for improved signage at the entrances to the village. We are advised that additional 30mph signs through the village are not appropriate, as the presence of lampposts already define the national speed limit.
  - pressing for greater police enforcement of weight restrictions and speed limits on Valley Road.
  - pressing for the implementation of planned improved signage at the junction of Havercroft Lane and Valley Road.
  - investigating the possibility of a new zebra crossing on Estcourt Road, and possibly Valley Road (there is insufficient footfall to warrant a pelican crossing).
  - investigating the possibility of acquiring a 'Smiley Sid' active road sign, at least on a part time basis to increase awareness. Cost issues influence this idea.
  - we have also raised other issues such as speed bumps/chicanes/rubber pillows/20mph limits etc, but these have been ruled out by Wakefield Council on cost/maintenance/enforcement grounds.
- There are many other aspects of the subject which have been raised, too numerous to summarise here. Any input from residents on specific issues would be welcome, as we are always looking at potential ways to improve the quality of life in the village.

John Cox

February 2025 Vice Chair

**Village Footpaths**

As many of our parish's walkers and dog walkers will be well aware of, there is a distinct lack of footpaths in our village, with only 2 listed as public rights of way on the current Definitive Map. When the 1st Definitive Map was published in the early 1950's, at least 8 historic footpaths within our parish, that were present on previously published OS maps, were not captured on the 1st Definitive Map. This was mainly as a result of footpath surveys that were conducted on the instruction of the then Government. The outcome of at least 6 of these surveys was the conclusion (rightly or wrongly) that the footpaths has not been walked for 40 years ("uninterrupted user by public for over 40 years"). After discussion with District Council Footpath Officers, it also appears that at least 2 other footpaths may just have been omitted in the capturing process.

In view of the above, in an attempt to promote improved walking opportunities, your Parish Council has agreed on an action to try to identify new potential footpaths, and if possible, to recover lost historic footpaths by working with land-owners and district council footpath officers. Any suggestions, ideas, or information from our parishioners would be gratefully received. An update on any progress made will be provided in future Newsletters.

Dennis Burns

NEWS UPDATES

Darrington Bonfire Saturday 9th November 2024

Wow what an amazing turn out we had this year. It was great to see the field so full again and we sold out of everything. A big thank you to everyone that helped out at this event especially the people who don't live in Darrington but gave up their time to volunteer . A profit of £4.127 was raised

If you would like to volunteer for this year's Bonfire which will be on Saturday 8th November please message Karina on tel: 07789776383 we are always looking for volunteers thank you.

Santa to Darrington Saturday 21st December 2024

Thank you so much to everyone that came out on the very cold evening to see Santa with his elves and support the Prince of Wales Hospice charity. We collected a great sum of £361.45 Which was given to Prince of Wales hospice on 23rd December 2024

## Darrington Village Field

A big thanks to all the people who helped to deliver a fantastic bonfire event last November and also Santa touring the village in December. Both events were well received, and it was great that the team raised £361.45 for the Prince of Wales Hospice. Thank you very much attending our events and your kind donations.

This year our annual **Feast and Fayre is on Saturday 21st June** and planning and preparation is in full swing. Please could you consider helping in any way possible but especially on the day. We are so proud that the Feast & Fayre is known throughout the district as a family friendly fun day out, and your support is essential to keep this event going. Please call Richard on 07825 676174 if you want to get involved in any way.

On the Field we have recently completed some repair and improvement work at the Philip's Lane entrance and plan further work on the other entrances later in the year. We must thank Andrew from Barkers Fencing for the donation of new gates and posts to be fitted later in the year.

An on-going concern is that we are still seeing some dog poo on the Field and it goes without saying that this is not acceptable. It's obvious as the only recreational open space in the village the Field is popular with people who want to exercise their dogs, and we acknowledge the fact that most dog owners are very responsible, however there is a small minority that are not maintaining this standard. If you do use the Field to exercise your dog,

please be vigilant and ensure that the Field is a suitable area for all users to enjoy.

Thanks for your continued Support

Richard Hirst

Chair

## Darrington Garden Club

Here's hoping you're still managing to keep some of your New year Resolutions. If not, there's still time to consider 'spending' just an hour every second Wednesday in the Philips Lane Reading room for a Darrington Garden Club meeting.

Yes, we are a garden club, but perhaps not as you'd expect! A typical meeting will see us having a good old natter about the price of compost, why bamboo is becoming the new Japanese knotweed, which brand of beer is best for slugs and snails, how long we'll have to wait for the A1 repairs to be completed, which local Stately Home has the best snowdrop trail, which garden centre serves the best value, tastiest, toasted teacakes ....

We also have guest speakers .. this year we've already booked Paul from 'First Impressions' who supply the flower basket and container plantings throughout Darrington. He's our March speaker ( so he may well have visited before you read this!) with a theme of Vegetables. Later in the year, October, we're looking forward to a fun meeting about funghi. Last year we had talks about rhododendrons and azaleas, dried flower displays and previously we've heard beneficial factoids about bees and wonderful details about worms!

Just make a resolution to attend just one of the meetings and see whether it's for you. And 'you' can be any age - one of our members who made a massive impact was a hugely imaginative, skilled teenager who designed the herb garden that helped season many of the meals at The Kyte for many years!

So, make that resolution: 6pm, every second Wednesday, Philips Lane Reading room.

### NEWSLETTERS

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

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.



# SUNDAY ROAST

## 1 COURSE

Three meat Sunday roast.  
 Slow-roasted Beef. £12.95  
 Pork Loin.  
 Sliced Gammon.  
 Yorkshire Puddings & all the trimmings.

## 2 COURSE

Hot chocolate fudge cake £17.00  
 Sticky toffee pudding  
 Apple crumble  
 All served with ice cream or custard

Rhubarb & goats cheese crumble & all the trimmings.  
*Suitable for vegetarians* £12.95  
 Vegan Sausages  
 & all the trimmings

*Suitable for vegans & vegetarians*

**SUNDAY 12:00 - 4:00 PM**

Prebooking is advised  
 01977 704522



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

### Darrington Parish Councillors

Linda Thompson Chair	01977 700059
John Cox Vice Chair	07836 370714
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
Dennis Burns	07701 289675

### 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,