# DARRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Oct 2026


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## Chair's Report - October 2026

### Traffic Working Group

We met with the WDC Highways team on 30th July (apologies were received from Pontefract South Cllr Philip Booth). As advised in my last report, there had been no progress on any of the issues raised to date. I made this the first topic of discussion and requested an annual review meeting be arranged on a yearly basis, and to include the Senior Highways Manager. This was agreed, and our next meeting in November (date tbc) will be the first annual review.

As a further measure to increase visibility, I will be copying in the Leader of Wakefield County Council in future, when our meeting minutes are issued. The lack of progress was explained as being due to the incoming Reform Council freezing all expenditure until reviews of all projects had been undertaken. I was advised that these reviews are now complete, and that the issues we have raised and our numerous request improvement actions will be completed by the end of the current financial year.

### New Councillor

I am pleased to report that a new councillor has been co-opted, filling the vacancy left by the passing of our dear friend and former colleague, Cllr Vera Stones. Our new councillor is Patrick Mitchell of Valley Gardens, who has lived in the village for 8 years. We look forward to Patrick's support and contribution.

### Evening of Entertainment

Our Evening of Entertainment was held on Saturday 10 October and, by all accounts, it was a success, with a total of 61 tickets sold. A total of £20 (from 3 CD sales and cash donations) was raised for the Prince William Hospice. Unfortunately, a collection box that had been dropped off for the event was it mislaid, and only located after the event, otherwise the total raised may have been higher.

### Looking Forward

Our next village litter pick will be held on Sunday 15 November. Volunteers are very welcome. We will meet by the Darrington Hotel at 9am. High-vis jackets, collection bags and grabber tools will be provided.

Finally, our annual Christmas tree lights turn-on will be held on Saturday 28 November at 5pm, with food and music provided by the Darrington Hotel. Your Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone, a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, and healthy New Year.

Cllr Dennis Burns
Chair, Darrington Parish Council

## Darrington Garden Club

Well, we're diving deep into Autumn!
I'm writing this Darrington Garden Club report shortly after the declaration that there's draught in Yorkshire!
A Draught announced in October!
And the Environment Agency informs us that our region needs 120 % of the long term average rainfall over the next seven months (into Spring 2027!)

*Continued...*

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Draught - and its impact on our gardens as well as on our food supplies - has been one of the many topics we consider at our monthly Garden Club Meetings.
You'll have gathered (hopefully!) from my reports in the many previous newsletters that everyone attending thoroughly enjoys (I know this 'cos they tell me!) the meetings, the atmosphere, and the company!

Every so often we welcome a guest who's happy to share their garden/environment expertise, experiences and enthusiasms.

We're delighted to be welcoming Pete Batty next month - **November 11, 6pm -** to share some of the experiences, challenges and joys of Farming. As many will know, Pete and his family and business have been amazing friends of Darrington over so many years. And it's not just helping with Christmas trees, straw bales and Tractors to be pulled … there's so much more that you may well not be aware of so it's a great opportunity to join us next month to listen to him.

Remember - 2nd Wednesday EVERY Month.. Darrington Garden Club 6pm-7pm

Chairman Andy Tagger, Secretary and Treasurer - Linda Thompson

**Dry Summer! Dry Autumn!**

After my last report in June, in which I proclaimed the perfect spring weather, it then never rained again!!!!!

As a result the cereal harvest was unbelievably early again. Cereal yields were down on the 5 year average but were marginally better than the results from the 2025 drought.

Our potato crop has been the real victim of the summer drought. Having shown such promise up to June, the crop struggled to withstand the temperatures and lack of moisture. We are able to irrigate around 50% of the area at Church Farm, which obviously helped considerably, but in unirrigated crops some yields will be down as low 8t/acre (20t/ha). Our contracts are based on anywhere from 16-19t/acre (40-47t/ha), so, for the second drought year in a row, this will have a huge impact on margins.

This year the drought has been Europe wide and as a result there will be shortages of potatoes meaning you might notice higher prices in the supermarkets, grocers and Fish and Chip shop!!!!
One positive of the dry season has been the efficiency of sowing the autumn crops. Next year's winter wheat, barley and rye has all been sown quickly and efficiently into good conditions and is now beginning to get a bit of rain to get it growing!

We delivered straw to Darrington School reception last week for their pumpkin patch, meaning the Autumn celebrations must be upon us!! We are really looking forward to helping at the village bonfire event on Saturday 7th November which is one of the highlights on the village calendar. Let's hope for some clear skies!!!

We're also looking forward to assisting putting the village Christmas tree up for the village lights switch on event on Saturday 28th November. I believe Santa will be arriving by tractor again for the evening!!!!
It would seem time flies when it never rains!!!!

Hope to see you at the bonfire or round the Christmas tree!!!

All the best
Pete, Kate and everyone at Church Farm

**Darrington Village Field Trust update for the PC magazine Autumn 2026**

Thank you to all the residents who use the Field responsibly and with respect, I know the vast majority use the litter bins and a few of you go the extra mile and litter pick both the Field and Phillip's lane, we are very grateful for that**.**

Unfortunately, we have a lingering problem with people climbing on our storage containers, we have re-applied Anti climb paint, put up warning signs and posted on our social media, we are also discussing other measures with residents who live adjacent to the Field. We urge residents or any member of the public to report any antisocial behaviour to the Police.

Also, we are still picking up dog poo, especially disappointing when it is near the children's play area. I had the unpleasant task of cleaning the wheels of the push chair we use for our grandchildren after a recent visit to the Field. It just shouldn't be happening**.**

The Long summer dry spell has taken its toll on a new hedge planting adjacent to the fence with the Paddock so this will be re-planted. We are pleased however that people have enjoyed using the nets on our goal posts without them being damaged, we will be removing the nets before the bonfire event then re-fitting them in spring next year. The equipment and assets in the Field are routinely inspected with any maintenance and repairs carried out and recorded. Also, our grounds maintenance contractor will give our hedges a trim in mid-October

As stated in the summer newsletter our only source of revenue for the upkeep and maintenance of the Field and purchase of new equipment are our events so the £6,385 raised by the Feast and Fayre is very welcome, along with the £435.22 which was raised by the Santa sleigh event last year. Great outcomes and a massive thanks to all residents who have contributed, we do hope you continue to support our events in the future**.**

Planning for the bonfire event is well underway and we are looking forward to another safe and successful evening. This year the price of tickets has had to increase due to the increased cost of fireworks, however we are working hard to ensure that catering costs remain low and we have instructed our other vendors keep their prices low in line with ours to make this an affordable event for families and residents.

Great that we have some new volunteers joining the group, but we could always welcome more. If anyone wants to discuss any Field issues or how you could get more involved, please contact me on hirst507@gmail.com or mobile 07825 676174

Keep an eye out for Santa who will be touring the Village on 19th December on his Sleigh

With kind regards to all of you
Richard Hirst

**Darrington Christmas Tree Lights turn on &**
**Santa to Darrington**

**Saturday 28th November starts at 5pm**
**Live singer in Darrington pub car park from 5pm**
**Christmas Tree lights will be turned on at 6pm by Santa**
**Stalls and Refreshments available outside**









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

## Darrington Parish Councillors

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|---|---|
| Dennis Burns<br>Chair | 07701 289675 |
| Linda Thompson<br>Vice Chair | 01977 700059 |
| Fiona Gray<br>Responsible Finance Officer | 07713645999 |
| Pete Batty | 07714155021 |
| Trish Hirst | 01977 707332 |
| Karina Whalley | 07789 776383 |
| Laurie Dale | 07753 926 419 |
| Wayne Pickup | 07958 717099 |

**Keep up to date with Darrington events at www.darrington-pc.gov.uk and www.darringtonvillagefield.org**

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 Karina Whalley & Jonathan Stones

## WhatsApp Groups

There are two WhatsApp groups now for Darrington. There is a **Darrington Alert** group which is for any crime or suspicious behaviour in Darrington. Then there is another WhatsApp group called **Darrington** which is for any other things related to Darrington, but not crime or suspicious behaviour. Please can I ask that everyone respect each other when putting posts on either of the groups or responding to posts, thank you.

If you would like to be added to both or any of the what's app groups please can you send me a message with your full name to Tel: 07789776383 - Karina

## 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 Karina 07789776383

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,