

Report for Thornton Dale Parish Council Meeting 7th June 2016

Responsible Councillor - Janet Sanderson

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Environment Agency Last summer the EA officer responsible for Thornton Beck attended your PC meeting and since this date, I have had a long battle to obtain information on the funding allocation with regard to maintenance, flood prevention and water quality. I have taken the issue of EA accountability up with Kevin Hollinrake and I will be meeting with him and an officer from EA on 22nd July to discuss the handling of this matter. In the meantime, the following information on funding may be useful in informing your agenda debate –

2011/12 – No information

Update - £14.2K

Walk through village 06/11

Weed removed by machine 06/11 – 07/11 (sewage works to Derwent)

2012/13 – £13k

Walkthrough carried out 09/12 (Village)

Weed Control by machine 12/12 – 01/13 (Sewage Works to Derwent)

2013/14 - £13k

Walkthrough carried out 29/07/13 – 07/08/13 (Village)

Weed Control by machine 01/04/13 – 03/04/13 (Sewage Works to Derwent)

Weed Control by boat 09/09/13 – 12/09/13 (Sewage Works to Derwent)

2014/15 - No Information

Update - £1.3K

Weed removal by hand 06/14 village

2015/16 - £8k

Walkthrough carried out 09/06/15 – 22/06/15 (Village)

Walkthrough carried out 29/07/15 – 31/07/15 (returned 2nd time to Mill)

Please note -

I am still awaiting information on the “No information” years which I understand has now been collected. (now updated in red after intervention by KH)

There are obvious issues raised by the funding, my main concerns are that –

1. The PC is having to carry out and pay for flood prevention work, and as an emergency response.
2. Persistent siltation is altering the course of the beck.
3. Weed control in late December / Early January seems a strange time to clear deciduous weed.

I am hoping that the forthcoming meeting with Kevin Hollinrake will throw some light on this situation.

**Beck Isle Wall
project**

This has grown from the work of the Thornton Beck Group and volunteers.



An application is being made to the NYMNP Community Grant and to the NYCC Locality Grant to save the Cherry Garth wall from further deterioration and to help restore the gaps. Nigel Copsey has examined the wall and suggested part of the restoration could be aimed at educating the community in the technique of dry stone walling. The area is of historic importance to the village as it used to be the Cherry Garden to The Hall and it is of great importance to residents and tourists alike because of the popular village walk along Beck Isle. The scheme would also tie in with the work being undertaken by the Thornton Beck Group.

Should the applications be successful, it would be helpful if the PC could act as a holding authority for the grant funding.

NYMNP Car Park

Residents from outside the NYMNP are now unable to buy yearly car parking permits and this has clearly had an impact on some of the residents in the villages within the Thornton Dale Ward as well as the possible impact to our village shops and amenities. I have made representation to the chairman of NYMNP as this appears to be an

unintended consequence of a policy change. I have also suggested that it might also be timely to have a “member” as opposed to “officer” review of parking policy in general.

**Third Energy
Planning
application**

I have received a very mixed response to the granting of permission to Hydraulically Fracture the KM 8 well at Kirby Misperton. I was present for the majority of the two days listening to the debate and the speakers and I also took the opportunity to speak to objectors and supporters both inside and outside of County Hall. There was clearly a lack of understanding of the remit of the planning committee and I think this was best expressed by our CEO in his weekly blog, part of which I have quoted below –

What was lost on many people was that actually their decision (Planning Committee) was a fairly narrow one.

They were not deciding if fracking was a permitted activity – national policy said it was.

They were not deciding if the process proposed was safe – the environment agency had already issued a permit to say it was.

The role of the committee was to say whether this industrial process was an appropriate use for the land in relation to a batch of local and national policies – it was also the case that a gas well existed on the site already and had been producing “conventional gas” for about 20 years.

We do understand the concerns from communities around fracking, around the proliferation of well sites and the safe regulation of the industry. We are in the process of developing more policies on fracking on how it should be controlled to provide a balanced environment for people to live in and tourism and agriculture to operate in, but also for the legal extraction of minerals and gas to take place for which we have a legal duty, like it or not.

Through my work with the Campaign for Protection of Rural England (CPRE) the objection group AGHAST! Opposing the sour gas processing plant in Thornton Dale and my past time on both RDC and NYCC planning committees, I have spent many years following the development of gas in the Ryedale area. I have always urged that our efforts should be directed towards building safeguards within the emerging Joint Minerals and Waste development policy. This way, the full democratic machine is given a chance to work. All Parish Councils have been given the opportunity to feed

into this policy along with many other interested stakeholders. Sadly, its value is often realised too late.

My own feeling is that we should continue to influence this emerging policy. We should also ensure that all associated agencies fulfil their role and that the promises given by the applicant are adhered to.

Janet Sanderson