

## REPORT for Thornton Dale Parish Council March 2014

**Responsible Councillor** Janet Sanderson

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### Highways

- I. **Alms Houses** – I received and reported a complaint about pedestrian access being illegally blocked during building work to the Alms Houses. Highways confirm that correct notification and procedure has been followed. I also received a complaint about hard core being tipped on to Brook Lane- for which a licence is required. The upgrade to the Alms Houses is being done under very difficult circumstances within a small working space and lots of dust. There is no doubt that the eventual outcome will be of great benefit to the village and with the proviso that a dangerous situation does not arise, your tolerance would be much appreciated.
- II. **Wilton Road** – I have received and reported over several months a drain in the A170 outside Nab Farm which constantly discharges water. In late January, I noticed raw sewage being discharged into the Highway and on to the footpath. This was also reported to Highways. After receiving feedback from Highways, I can confirm that the two drains are the responsibility of Yorkshire Water and not Highways. I can confirm that Highways have reported this to Yorkshire Water.
- III. **Pot Holes & general maintenance** – There are two systems for repair work, firstly an emergency repair and secondly one that is incorporated into the long term plan. I have received complaints about poor workmanship so thought it would be helpful to understand the relationship of the two systems. An emergency repair is a temporary fix to prevent an accident or damage occurring. This *should* be replaced as and when there is an accumulation of work which can then be efficiently carried out as a permanent job. We all recognise that our roads are suffering as a result of the present financial situation and this is not going to improve over night. Our leader has been in London this week discussing the situation at length with the transport minister along with possible upgrades to the A64.



**IV. Report self-service** – I have mentioned this in previous reports, no apologies for mentioning it again as it is an efficient self-service which bypasses administration to direct your report straight to the correct department – the “man with the shovel” not the man with the pen and paper. Below is a direct link where you can report items listed below

[https://onlineforms.northyorks.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Report\\_other\\_highways\\_iss](https://onlineforms.northyorks.gov.uk/citizenportal/form.aspx?form=Report_other_highways_iss)

- **Report a flooding incident here**
- **Report a pothole here**
- **Report a problem with the footway here**
- **Report a tree or hedge requiring maintenance here**
- **Request road markings here**

**Finally** – there will be a Highways display at the consultation meeting for the Parish Plan on 13<sup>th</sup> March. I hope that you will all take the opportunity to meet Sharon Fox who will be representing Highways Area 4. I have asked her to produce some report cards with details of citizen self-reporting for quick reference.

## **Council Tax**

Last week NYCC voted to increase the Council Tax by 1.9% a level just below the trigger point for a referendum. This was a difficult decision to make. After successive years of taking the government freeze grant, we have reduced the council budget in effect by some 34%. We have made cuts of £93.5 million but have a further £73.4 million to find and it's clear that front line services will come under fire. By taking the freeze grant, the base line budget has been eroded and services cut to the bone to compensate. North Yorkshire has an above average elderly population which is increasing. Delivering services to an aging population in a rural area is expensive and so it was generally felt that we could not take a further recurring cut to the budget base without a significant impact on care of the elderly.

## **Environment**

In August last year, The Parish Council addresses the issue of the weed and sand banks in the beck. This was an expensive task and one that we do not want to have to repeat on a regular basis. I have been working with the Environment Agency to address the siltation in Thornton Beck from above Dalby through Thornton Dale and beyond. The EA is putting in a request for funding to address this issue which they are looking at in three areas. 1. Above Thornton Dale. 2. Paper Mill Farm through Thornton Dale to the Railway Station. 3. Beyond the Railway Station.



There is always a risk of flooding when living near a river. In Thornton Dale, we have seen flooding caused by two different scenarios. 1. The stream not taking the capacity of water. 2. Surface water flooding which can appear very quickly and with terrible consequences. In both cases, prevention is always better than cure. I would urge anyone living near the river to look at preventative measure which hopefully you will not require. When you do need them – it's too late to act.

## Development Plans

There are three planning authorities covering Thornton Dale all with development plans in different stages of approval. If the development plan has not been revised since the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) then it is out of date and the NPPF takes priority. Local plans still have weight if they are in line with the NPPF.

- I. North Yorks Moors National Parks (NYMNP) is the planning authority for both minerals and waste and housing, but not all of Thornton Dale is in the NYMNP. Their plan is approved and current.
  
- II. Ryedale District Council (RDC) is the planning authority for Housing and industrial development including Wind Turbines. The Ryedale Plan LPS (Local Plan Strategy) has been approved by the planning inspector, but there is as yet no site development document. You can find a list of land that has been put forward for possible inclusion in this plan at <http://extranet.ryedale.gov.uk/pdf/Thornton-le-DaleWM.pdf> The PC should be aware of this document and be prepared to comment on the possible sites for development.
  
- III. North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) is the planning authority for minerals and waste. Their plan is out of date but their new plan which is joint with NYMNP and City of York is nearing completion and out for public consultation. You can see the document at [www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwconsult](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/mwconsult) The consultation will end on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014. This document will be used to determine any applications coming forward for oil and gas in Ryedale and we should be mindful that the government intend to issue new licences for exploration in 2014. The policies within the document will be used to safeguard our area and as such it would be useful for the PC to send in a response to this document. I am sure you are all aware that we have the Cauklands development at the eastern end of the village and plans approved for a gas processing plant down Hurrell Lane. Please note the Hurrell Lane application has been approved, but the likelihood of the plant being built is dwindling.

## School Governor Positions

I have vacancies within my division for school governors at the following schools –

- Rillington CP School
- Sherburn CE Primary School
- Weverthorpe CE Primary School

Being a school governor is a rewarding and interesting task, if anyone is interested in working within one of these schools as a school governor, please contact me for further information or give me a ring to chat it through.

As always, please feel that you have an open line of communication to me either directly or through your PC Clerk.

Janet Sanderson

**County Councillor Janet Sanderson**  
**Thornton Dale and The Wolds Division**  
**28<sup>th</sup> February 2014**