

Hessay Parish Council

Chairman's Report May 2016

The past twelve months the Village of Hessay has been served by the councillors: Helen Candy, Roger Hildreth, Penny Taylor, Mike Lord, Ann Watson and Myself Mark Barratt, we have been assisted by our Clerk, James Mackman.

Our main priorities have been directed towards Broadband provision for the village and safer roads. After a long and frustrating time BT have agreed to Provide Hi Speed broadband, though have not committed to a firm timescale.

Road safety in the village is an on-going issue, we have requested a visit to the village from a City of York Council official to show them our issues and seek their advice on what is realistically achievable, whilst other issues such as repainting the road safety marking at the entrance points to the village have been passed to the relevant departments. We have arranged additional cutting of the roadside verges to keep our roads and junctions safer. We would encourage speeding vehicles and overweight vehicles to be reported to the police.

We note that recycling at Hessay industrial estate has ceased, Yorwaste having moved out. There have been fewer large goods vehicles passing through the village and a reduction of litter around the entrance to the industrial estate. We have made representation to remove Hessay industrial Estate from the long term waste management plan, and remain ever vigilant towards the use of the currently empty units.

The bus service through the village has been discussed a number of times, and the service has changed, we continue to fight to maintain or improve the bus service through the village.

We have looked to restore the Fingerpost at the Junction of New Road and Main street to its former glory, though the initial quotation (Circa £3,500) was deemed not to be a good use of Parish Council Money, if anyone knows of someone who could restore the aforementioned Signpost we would welcome your input.

We have looked into the extension of a level surfaced footpath along Wetherby Road at Rufforth as far as the footpath over the field so as to provide a safe link between Rufforth and Hessay, we were advised that due to utility services being routed under the verge the cost would be likely to exceed £60,000.

We have made representation to City of York Council re standing water in Shirbutt lane in the area of the electricity substation, reminding them of their responsibility regarding drainage. Planned work to clean out the vegetation, which grows over the footpath between the Methodist chapel and Fieldside House has been delayed due to the on going wet weather as has the continuation of work to Improve Willow Garth for Wildlife, we look to continue these tasks at the first opportunity.

The hedges planted at the the boundaries of Willow Garth and the allotments have both established well though needed a few new plants to fill in a few gaps, the Owl Boxes have been used though one needs re-siting. The Oak tree planted in willow garth in late 2012 has established well. We have maintained the Village pond, cutting the grass and the drainage ditch. The rabbit fence is keeping rabbits out of the allotments and there are currently 2 plots available on the allotment with space to add more, or we could look at alternative use of the remaining space.

The Parish Council lights were used throughout the Christmas period, we intend to buy more in time for Christmas 2016.

The Parish Council website (Hessay.org) is maintained as a means of communication and records of our activities over the last decade. We also circulate emails to residents whom have provided us with an email address. If you would like adding to this circulation please provide your name and email address

We welcome your direction and input for the coming year.

Mark Barratt
