

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 12TH APRIL 2021

It is now two years since the Parish Meeting has been held, last year's meeting being cancelled due to the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, so my report will cover the intervening period. During the past year the Council has continued to fully carry out normal business, albeit remotely.

The Council re-elected me as Chair and Cllr Mrs. Powell as Vice Chairman, and we have continued to serve in those positions. In 2019 Cllr Helen Beeley stood down from the Council and Nick Murray was co-opted on to the Council representing Rufforth ward in her place.

Your council has been involved in considerable activity over the past two years.

- The extension of the cycle path in to Knapton has been completed resulting in a cycle and pedestrian link between the two villages which has proved to be a very well used asset particularly during the recent lockdowns.
- The telephone box in Rufforth has been refurbished and the Pinfold in Rufforth completely restored, the latter with the help of a Heritage Lottery grant. Sand Dykes was tidied up including some tree felling. All of these projects are part of our commitment to maintain and preserve the heritage of our Parish.
- At long last the promised changes to the site entrance to Harewood Whin have been completed, the result of constant pressure from your council, and this, along with the Yorwaste Operating Agreement delivers on the commitments made when approval for the Waste Transfer Station was granted. As a result of our regular Liaison Meetings, we have developed a much stronger working relationship with Yorwaste enabling any issues to be quickly resolved. Five years ago, we were faced with the possibility of industrial buildings in the field adjoining the B1224 and no restrictions on vehicle movements. By negotiation and developing a relationship with Yorwaste we have new buildings which can't be seen from the road, a landfill that is being reclaimed and agreements to prevent vehicles travelling through Rufforth except in pre agreed exceptional circumstances.

- A site for the new allotments in Rufforth has been agreed and CYC have now provided us with a timetable for completion of this project by the year end. This has taken an unacceptable length of time but is not for want of constant pressure from the Parish Council.
- Your Council has been in regular dialogue with CYC Highways on the issue of speeding traffic particularly through Rufforth and have furnished data from our Community Speed watch team. With a little help from a small grant the Parish Council have agreed to fund the installation of two Vehicle Activated signs and additional signage at the entrances to the village. We are currently engaged with CYC to finalise the installation of this equipment.
- Numerous planning applications have been considered and commented on by the Council, many of which have been for extensions. It is pleasing to note that planning officers have taken full account of the policies of our Neighbourhood Plan when determining applications. The Poultry Farm application went to appeal, at which Councillor Jane Wright spoke on behalf of the Council, and the decision to refuse was upheld. An application to build 60 affordable homes on land adjoining the A59 and to the west of Trenchard Road (not actually in the Parish But having a major effect on our residents in that area) was vigorously opposed by the Council and planning permission was refused. We have just learnt that this will go to appeal in July and the Parish Council will continue to strongly oppose this application.
- We have learnt that CYC have purchased land between Rufforth and Knapton for the development of the York Community Woodland. The Parish council are represented on the Stakeholder Advisory Group for this project, and we understand that proposals for the design of the Woodland will shortly go out to public consultation. In general, the Project appears to have been welcomed by residents and it does serve to protect the Green Belt which is so important to us all.
- The Parish council have recently submitted an application for a grant towards the creation of a childrens play area on Knapton recreation ground. should this be successful the project will require additional funding from the Parish Council.
- In January of this year, we launched our new Parish Council website which provides a hub for community news in addition to the normal

Parish Council information on minutes meetings etc. We hope that you find it useful and informative and will make full use of it.

- We continue to represent you on outside committees such as the YLCA.
- Parish Council meetings are normally held on the evening of the first Monday of the month and members of the public are very welcome. Alternatively, if you have any issues you wish to raise, please contact either the clerk or by using the contact form on our website.

Finally, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all my fellow councillors for their support and hard work, to our Ward Councillors and in particular Cllr Anne Hook for all their work on our behalf and to Stephanie Warden, our Clerk, for her commitment and efficiency. It is much appreciated.