

Bilbrough Parish Council Chair's Report 2018.

As we look forward to Summer and warmer weather the council would like to thank residents for all the work they do in keeping the village looking so good all year round. The hard work that goes in to cutting hedges and clearing the pavements outside properties, as well as keeping front gardens looking good, all goes towards making Bilbrough a lovely place to live. We are hoping to develop this theme with looking at the possibility of entering the village for Village in Bloom at some stage in the future or organise an open garden day. Residents' views on this would be welcome

Back Lane has increasingly become a matter of concern and communication has been made with Highways to see what can be done. There has been some attempt to fill in potholes and jet the drains but the results are totally inadequate. Back Lane in Bilbrough is becoming something of a nightmare for residents. The surface has deteriorated badly over the last two years, there are dangerous potholes, there is a problem with surface water and drainage, gardens and verges are being eroded by heavy traffic (particularly when the A64 is closed and traffic is diverted through Bilbrough which seems to happen at least once a month). Indeed, some homeowners are reporting significant damage to their lawns on Back Lane. We are pursuing this issue with the help of Richard Musgrave.

Work has been done on maintaining the Playing Fields. Bardsley Tree Services came over the winter to trim the hedges and trees, repairs have been made to the fencing, new bark has been purchased for the play area, arrangements have been made for the regular cutting of the grass and the benches will be cleaned and repainted shortly. The long term ambition of the Council is to take over ownership of the land. In addition, the council has arranged for the verges on the entrances to the village to be cut over the summer months which will enhance the aspect of the village on its approaches.

Concern was expressed about the piece of land at the end of Redhill Field Lane by the A64 where the potato shed is situated becoming derelict and a place where rubbish was being dumped. As a result of intervention by Richard Musgrave through Selby Council, the site has been tidied up. However, it was also part of the Additional Sites Consultation in March and was proposed as a site to be redesignated as a site for employment. The Parish Council has put in a strong objection to this as it could lead the way for further development on our side of the A64. Other issues relating to this part of the Parish are reported by Cllr Musgrave. The roadway to the services is privately owned and is now under new management. Highways have also agreed to improve the signage to the services. He also reported Hunters for parking cars on the land to the former OK diner site as they do not have permission to do so and if the use goes unchallenged then they would be able to obtain planning.

Other proposals the council is pursuing include the 20 is Plenty campaign to reduce speeds of vehicles passing through the village, community speeding camera for use by residents, fund raising for hard standing for the bench on Cat Lane, and renewed appeals to residents not to park on grass or pavements and to cut hedges so that they do not over hang onto pavements.

This year has seen a big increase in planning applications including Village Farm, Nairn's site, Cat Lane, Norman's Farm (bungalow). These have all been addressed by the Planning sub-committee and relevant representation made. It is known that Piggy Lane (which belongs to the Nairn family) will be sold with the two houses planned for Piggy Lane.