EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Earswick Parish Council, held in Earswick Village Hall on Monday 16th June 2014.

Councillors Present: D Jones

S Wiseman

K Pace

P Leveson G Offler

Parish Clerk: J Fisher

Members of the Public Present:- B A Woodward, I Jones, C Lister, P Lister, S Strong, B O'Connor, H Davey, K Beamish, S Brown, F Jones.

1. Apologies for Absence

None.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes for the Parish Council (PC) Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, both held on 12th May 2014, were approved as accurate records by the Councillors and signed.

4. Members of the Public.

Members of the public made the following points:

 Some shrubs and hedges were looking overgrown. The PC agreed the Clerk would draw this to Mr Hill's attention.

Action: JF

- It was felt previous minutes did not reflect all that was discussed at the meeting. The Chairman pointed out that the minutes are not recorded verbatim and are primarily for use by the Parish Council (PC). Correspondence received by the Clerk is generally circulated to the PC prior to, or at, meetings, and receipt is acknowledged under 'correspondence received'.
- If anyone wants to find out about bees, they can contact Mr Strong.

5. Ward Councillor's Report

Regarding Le Tour de France, there is to be a Grand Party on Friday 4th July in York Stadium. Details of Le Tour in York and details of the Party are to be placed on the noticeboards. **Action: JF**

There is a Neighbourhood Forum meeting in July which will include discussion on ward funding aims and forms. PCs are unable to apply for ward funding but Community Groups can apply. The Local Plan is also on the agenda. The second stage consultation finishes in July. The Local Planning Officer, Martin Grainger, is inspecting the Local Plan on 30th June.

In late June/early July York Council Cabinet will be considering the need to change wards (eg the river access land passing from Huntington to Earswick) and the need for extra Councillors.

6. Clerk's Report

- a. The ongoing action tracker was reviewed and the following points were made:-
- i. Zurich Municipal had confirmed that £53.01 of the £998.70 covers the Village Hall contents. The Clerk will inform Mrs J Cook of the PC's proposal to charge the 'actual' amount rather than the current percentage figure. Also, she will confirm whether the current value of Village Hall contents covered is sufficient. Action: JF
 - If the PC was to include the Scented Garden arbours and lawn mower under its insurance policy, it would increase the insurance policy by £53 per annum, which could be charged to the SG Committee (SGC). The Clerk will discuss the option of insuring the SG assets for approximately £1,000 with Mr Tate from the SGC. **Action: JF**
- ii. On 16/6/14 Dave Meigh, Operations Manager at City of York Council (CYC), emailed the Clerk to say the CYC finance department still hadn't confirmed the situation regarding the section 106 money (£4,008), but he would pursue. The Clerk will follow up.

Action JF

- iii. An attachment to Mr Hill's maintenance contract had been prepared to include the additional grass cuts to Diamond Wood in June, July and August. Despite ringing Mr Hill again on 12/6, the Clerk is still awaiting his insurance documents and will pursue again. **Action: JF**
- iv. Mike Harland has forwarded the wrong insurance documentation to the PC so the Clerk will pursue his public liability insurance papers.

Action: JF

- v. The Clerk has contacted the PC website provider yet again requesting the ability to enter updates under the 'Neighbourhood Watch' heading on the home page (rather than under 'Document Archive'), and requesting that they remove the 'Village Hall Events' heading as the events are shown under a sub-heading within the 'Village Hall' heading on the home page. Cllrs Wiseman and Leveson will compare our website with ones for York Against Cancer, and Strensall Community, Youth and Sports Association, and report back at the next meeting. Clerk to include on the next agenda.

 Action:SW/PL/JF
- vi. The issues of Diamond Wood Drainage, and proposed footpath through the meadow to Diamond Wood, were discussed. Cllr

Wiseman reported that the drainage matter is on the Foss Internal Drainage Board (FIDB) list for review. Because of the presence of a spring, and subsequent poor drainage at the river end of Diamond Wood, a footpath was considered unfeasible.

- vii. A Volunteer from the Woodland Trust had visited Earswick and looked at the trees at the back of the former BMX track. He felt they would be safe if some of the lower branches could be taken down, logged and left.
- viii. The Clerk had contacted CYC to see if there was an alternative method for cutting the grass in Shilton Garth. Unfortunately, CYC had said there was not and they could not collect grass cuttings. The Clerk had informed Mr Bright of the response and he informed the Clerk he has invited CYC to come and look at the situation.
- ix. The paving slabs donated by Cllr Wiseman to the PC, to place around the dog bin at the end of The Village, were discussed and the PC decided they will be used as and when felt necessary.
- x. The PC decided not to progress with the installation of CCTV cameras on the Village Hall
- xi. A date for implementing the change to Standing Order 30b (ie formal tender process) from £10,000 to £1,000 will be discussed at the next meeting.

 Action: JF
- xii. The PC agreed in principle to acquiring a chainsaw at up to £300 plus VAT. The PC require statutory guidance on policy, terms, conditions, rules, regulations, training and equipment. It was agreed Cllr Offler will look into this matter.

 Action:GO

Other information/correspondence issues raised by the Clerk:

The annual accounts were sent to the external auditors on 21st May 2014.

A letter had been received from Mr Yeowart regarding the proposed removal of the protected walnut tree in The Village, given at appendix A. Another resident had emailed the Clerk to object against the removal of the same tree.

b. The following pre authorised payments have been made since the last Parish Council meeting:-

- Mrs Fisher's salary for May;
- £24 to British Gas for May;
- £84 to A Hill for weed killing footpaths;
- £72 to A Hill for strimming pond area;
- £48 to A Hill for cutting river footpath;
- £780 to A Hill for grass cutting;
- £11.95 to J Fisher for stationery;

- £3.47 to J Fisher for stationery
- £180 to A Hill for part &full cut to the EOS
- £120 to A Hill for cutting Diamond Wood
- £998.70 to Zurich Municipal
- £30 to R Warriner for grass treatment in SG
- £31.99 to M Whittaker for a new tennis lock.

The following payments were authorised:

- £7.29 to Yorkshire Water
- £8.50 to J Fisher for stationery
- £2.03 to J Fisher for postage
- £22.71 to J Fisher for stationery

£45.50 interest had been received from the Royal Bank of Scotland. This amount did not agree with a certificate issued by RBS and this discrepancy was under investigation by the bank.

£12 rent from the Scented Garden Committee had been received.

7. Planning Applications

The Clerk had circulated an objection from a resident on application: - 14/01217/TPO High Garth House, The Village YO32 9SL (fell walnut protected by Tree Preservation Order CYC 155) prior to the meeting, and read out a letter from Mr Yeowart (given at appendix A), as requested by him, regarding the same application. The PC discussed this application and voted 4 to 1 for 'no objection'. It was agreed though that the comments of the one Councillor who objected would also be sent to CYC. Action: JF While discussing the tree preservation orders in the Village, it was revealed that tree T1 was probably removed around 2003/4. The Clerk was asked to contact Mike Slater, Chief Planning Officer at CYC, to see if he is able to supply copy of the plans for the High Garth development, any information on why T1 was removed, and details of any action taken. Action:JF

The following planning application was also considered by the PC with no objection:

- application 14/01055/FUL 1 Ilford Close YO32 9LP (single storey rear extension with balcony);

8. Monthly Equipment Check

There was no action required on play equipment except the goal posts and tennis courts.

The cost of two goal posts from Mark Harrod had increased to £568.80, which the PC approved. £70 plus VAT had been approved at the previous meeting to Mr A Hill for their installation. **Action:JF**

The tennis nets had become damaged since the last meeting but a resident has managed to repair them.

The PC ratified an emergency payment of £525 paid to York Pressure Cleaning to clean and moss kill the tennis courts which had become very slippery and considered a health and safety issue by the PC.

LJD Construction had been asked for a quote to repair/replace the concrete on the tennis courts. This item will be included on the next agenda.

Action: JF

9. Play Equipment for the Sports Field

Cllr Pace attended a very informative training course on playscheme areas. ST Danby Ltd who supply play equipment will do a free design service. WREN and YORVENTURE are two organisations who will fund play areas using tax money from land fill sites, but they do like applicants to contribute to the funding. It was felt the best way forward is to get local children involved, maybe writing letters describing what they would like in a play area.

ST Danby will be invited to Earswick to give some ideas. Cllr Pace will liaise with parents and children. Action: KP

The Community Covenant will be examined. Action: SW

10. <u>City of York Council's (CYC) proposal to 'safeguard' land in</u> Earswick for Development

There was reportedly a good turnout for the meeting with Julian Sturdy on 12th June who came to talk to residents about the issue. An Action Group was formed with Mr John Williams volunteering to lead it. Cllr Leveson agreed to be the PC representative on the Action Group and she will email Mr Williams.

Action: PL

The PC urged residents to write to CYC to record their objections to the latest Local Plan proposals. It was noted that Chancellor George Osborne has recently issued an urban planning resolution to protect greenbelt land and encourage use of brown field sites.

The PC agreed a letter to CYC Cllr James Alexander, raising its objections to the proposed safeguarded land, given at appendix B. The PC wanted to minute their thanks to Cllr Jones for his hard work in preparing this letter. The Clerk will send the letter to Mr Alexander and place a copy on all notice boards as soon as possible. **Action: JF**

The possibility of PC funding towards the Action Group will be placed on the next agenda. The PC also wondered if local businessmen might want to sponsor the Action Group.

Action: JF

11. Additional Payment to Adrian Bury Associates

The PC authorised £50+VAT to Adrian Bury Associates for the significant level of changes which had been made to the RFS Board prior to production. The issue of peeling paint on the Board had been resolved.

12. Replacing the Village Hall Boiler

The PC had obtained four quotes from British Gas, M Wilbourne, Reynolds Plumbing & Heating, and Sleep Safe, to replace the boiler. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Fleming from Sleep Safe to see if his quote include magnetic filters and flushing the heating system. Also, the PC wanted him to quote for an annual check. The PC approved up to £1,900 plus VAT for a new boiler. **Action: JF**

13. Defibrillator for the Village Hall

The PC agreed Cllr Wiseman should invite someone from the Ambulance Service to come and talk to the PC and the public about defibrillators just prior to the next PC meeting.

Action: SW

14. Woodland Trust Commemorative Tree Pack

Parish Councillors met Derek Utley from the Woodland Trust who looked at Diamond Wood. He recommended leaving the tree guards on and removing dock and nettle from around the trees by strimming. The Community Payback team was booked to strim this area on 8/7/14. The Team have strimmers and Cllr Pace has cord and oil. Mr Buckley recommended an information board for Diamond Wood. The PC agreed to place this on the next agenda.

Action: JF

Mr Utley also looked at the Enclosed Open Space (EOS). The Woodland Trust are giving away free Commemorative World War I tree packs for planting in November. He recommended small copses in the EOS to encourage wildlife and felt a wetland or wildlife pack of approximately 105 trees would be suitable. It was also felt a copse could be planted in the pond area in the flower meadow. The PC agreed to apply for a pack and talk to residents that will be affected.

Action:KP/GO

It was noted that any planting must ensure ease of maintenance of the ditch, and grounds by Mr Hill.

15. Grass Cutting Prior to Huntington School Sponsored Walk

The children will walk from Huntington School to Strensall along the River Foss. The Clerk will remind Mr Hill to cut the river footpath before the 30th June.

Action: JF

Cllr Wiseman is to ask the FIDB to ensure their section of the river footpath is clear enough for walkers.

Action: SW

16. Cleaning the Village Hall Guttering

The Clerk had asked Mr Whittaker for a quote to clean the Village Hall guttering. He had quoted up to £40 to do this work and chose to clear

the guttering prior to the meeting. The PC authorised a reimbursement of £30 (actual cost) to Mr Whittaker for this work. While clearing the guttering Mr Whittaker discovered that all the cement holding the roof tiles had deteriorated and was coming away. He considered this needed urgent attention and was contributing to the blocked guttering. The PC agreed the cement under the ridge tiles and gulleys needed renewing. The Clerk was asked to contact JP Roofing, Haxby Builders and Mike Slater to quote on repairs. Cllr Jones agreed to send the Clerk a job specification.

Action: DJ/JF

17. Printing of Leaflets to Residents regarding the Local Plan

A leaflet drop had been made to every house in Earswick, telling residents of CYC's plans and informing them of an open meeting with Julian Sturdy MP, PC and Ward Councillors on Thursday 12th June.

The PC ratified a reimbursement of £12.47 to Cllr Jones for ink and stationery costs for producing these leaflets.

18. Oxygenation of the Village Pond

The PC approved Mr Hill's verbal quote of £30 plus VAT to put three barley bales in the pond to help with oxygenation. **Action: JF**

19. Designing Play Spaces Training

The PC authorised £25 to YLCA for Cllr Pace's training on 'Design for Play' on 12th June.

20. 'Drive slowly, Children playing' sign for Garden Village

The Highways Dept will not allow signs on highways, roads, lamp posts, etc. Cllr Wiseman will contact the Highways Dept to see if Garden Village is an adopted road and to see if a sign can be placed there.

Action: SW

21. Bench for Garden Village Green

Resident Carol Lister agreed to investigate who owns Garden Village Green. The Clerk gave Ms Lister an application form for Ward Grants for possible funding of a bench.

22. Expenditure for Staple Gun, Plants for Le Tour display & Shear Sharpening

The PC approved up to £40 (plus VAT) for purchase of a staple gun and staples.

Action: KP

The PC approved £5.98 to Cllr Ofler for plants for Le Tour de France display.

The PC approved up to £10 (plus VAT) to Cllr Offler for sharpening of her shears used in Diamond Wood.

23. Items for Information

Two bee hives in the EOS have been taped off and warning signs erected. Any concerns should be directed to Cllr Pace.

The PC agreed a resident could sell home-made cards at the next coffee morning on 7th July (Irene Jones and Scented Garden Committee (SGC) running this one), with all proceeds going to Marie Curie.

The PC agreed to invite 'Home Instead' to do a 20 minute talk at a later coffee morning. Cllr Offler will contact them.

Action: GO

The SGC has said they are interested in erecting an information board in the SG, aimed at children. It was suggested the SGC could apply for funding from 106 monies due to the PC. Cllr Wiseman agreed to look at the ST Danby website to see if they made any suitable boards.

Action: SW

The SGC has a plant sale on 12/13th July in the Village Hall from 10am to 1pm.

The PC offered its thanks to William Dean for litter picking and helping the Environment Group.

The Clerk had erected signs for a Himilayan Balsam and litter pick on 19th June at 9.30am, organised by the River Foss Society, meeting in the Flag & Whistle car park.

The meeting closed at 9.18 pm	
Joanne Fisher	
Parish Clerk	
Signed	
Date	

Appendix A.

Mrs Joanne Fisher Clerk to the Parish Council 24 Lock House Lane Earswick YORK YO32 9FT

16 June 2014

Dear Mrs. Fisher.

Ref: Planning application 14/01217/TPO

I am writing in respect of the above planning application. I would normally attend the Council Meeting but am away in London at a long standing retirement event for a colleague.

Initially I would point out that we have followed the correct process, as we have done previously when work has been undertaken on this tree.

The actual wording of the TPO (as provided to me by the City of York Council) refers to a number of trees on the site (T1 - T5) of Corner Garth, 2 The Village, and states:

Reasons for making the Tree Preservation Order:

The trees create a visual amenity feature to the area. They give scale, character and setting to the area. They are visible from the highway and form an attractive landmark on a main road corridor.

It is considered appropriate to make a Tree Preservation Order to ensure that the trees are retained and safeguarded, and their shape, form, character and welfare are taken into consideration prior to, during and after development of the site.

It is clear that the order is not for a specific tree, and was instead for the cluster of 5 trees covered by the order which was made in 2003. During the intervening years the properties were completed at High Garth, with much additional planting so the area is now itself mature, with many flourishing trees and hedges. The vista now from the main road corridor is of a mature development and the reasons for the order would hardly apply today.

It is also a fact that one tree, T1 from the order, no longer exists, and so its removal has set a precedent. I can trace no reference to the 'loss' of this tree, and the trees that remain are still numbered from T2-T5. Tree T1 would have occupied land on Corner Garth, very close to the new garage built for the then occupants. I understand

it was the occupants at the time who were instrumental in the placing of TPO CYC155. It would appear T1 was removed sometime before 2006.

Since we moved into High Garth House we have planted eight trees in the rear garden (not counting the numerous walnuts planted by visiting squirrels) and three more trees in the front garden. We are also trying to save the two blossom trees in the front garden, but many trees that existed before the buildings went up were neglected and in a poor state. The last time we had work undertaken on our walnut tree the arborist advised me it was 'not a great specimen', and that is clear from any close inspection. No one could argue we have maintained the tree properly, but it dominates the front of the house and markedly reduces the light and sunlight levels. Despite what some have stated it is not a tree of special significance (as attested by the TPO), nor is it rare or difficult to grow.

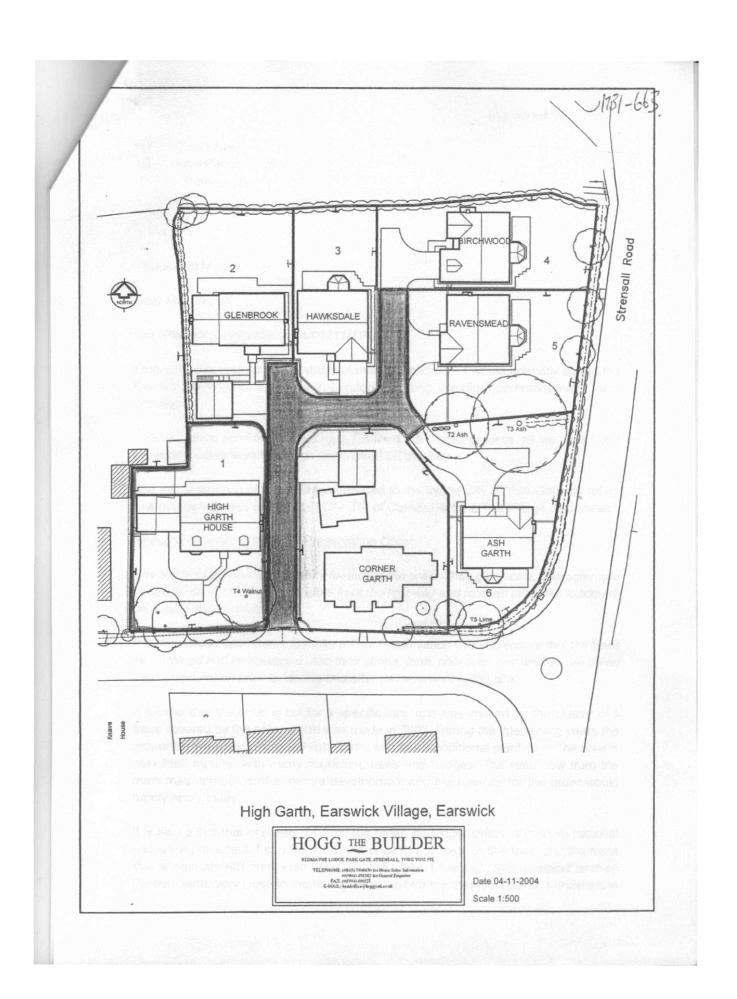
It is worth noting that Earswick Village has over 30 acres of public open space on which there are hundreds of mature trees of varying kinds. In addition the Village also has a thriving environment group that, together with the community, recently planted a newly created wood of over 700 trees in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Access to the open space and the wood are available all the time to the general public and both can be accessed easily and quickly from anywhere in the Village. I also understand there are plans to consider a proposal by the Woodland Trust to plant a Community Pack of a further 410 wildlife trees in more public open space.

Recent proposals put forward by City of York Council to remove huge areas of the Village from the Greenbelt show quite clearly that things change. One of the trees under the order has already gone, the planting at Fosslands, on the main road and within High Garth and the Garden Village is now maturing, and I believe the reasoning behind the placing of TPO would no longer be applicable.

I would ask the Parish Council not to object to our application.

Yours sincerely

Ian Yeowart - High Garth House, The Village, YORK, YO32 9SL





Appendix B

Earswick Parish Council c/o 24 Lock House Lane Earswick,

York

YO32 9FT

Tel: 01904 758615

June 2014

Cllr James Alexander Local Plan Freepost RTEG-TYYU-KLTZ City of York Council West Offices Station Rise York YO1 6GA

Dear Cllr Alexander

Re: York's Draft Local Plan Further Sites Document

Earswick Parish Council has several concerns regarding the Local Plan Further Sites document and in particular Site ref. 810 – Earswick and the proposal to develop 88 hectares of greenbelt land to the east of the existing village.

Whilst the Parish Council is very supportive of growing our local economy and building new homes to meet the need, it is fundamentally opposed to the scale of development put forward by the Council for this particular area of land.

Our objections to the proposal is based on the following criteria:

- **1.** The failure of City of York Council to work with the local community and Parish Council when designing their development vision.
- 2. City of York Council has failed to take into account the village's own Parish Plan which was published in March 2012 following a detailed Village Survey which had been distributed to all households listed in the Register of Electors. A total of 201 questionnaires were returned, a response rate of around 60%. The Survey results showed that most residents had firm views on the subject of possible further development with almost two thirds of respondents being against any further housing development. The main reasons being:
- Village already overpopulated
- Reduction in green spaces
- Increase in traffic pollution
- Infrastructure already at capacity

Residents did however indicate that some localised development might be acceptable on part of the proposed development area.

To include:

- Village Store
- Church
- Public House/Restaurant
- Community Centre
- **3.** The assumptions in the Local Plan regarding the growth of jobs and the requirement for 22,000 new homes is extremely optimistic and would bring into question the need to remove this area of land from the greenbelt and "safeguard" it for future development.
- **4.** The document is misleading in that it recommends, "to include this site as safeguarded land within the Local Plan" but then indicates that the land could be developed within years 1-15 of the Plan.
- 5. In May 2014 the Planning Minister, Nick Boles, commented that: "safeguarding is not a requirement for every local authority with greenbelt land. It is something that it can choose to do, but only if necessary." The Parish Council would argue that in this instance removal of the greenbelt from this particular area of land is not necessary.
- **6.** The scale of development proposed by the Council is completely unsustainable and entirely inappropriate for a small community such as Earswick.
- 7. The village of Earswick was formed in Anglo-Saxon times and despite being so close to the city of York the village still provides an attractive rural environment in which to live. All the land outside the present built area is currently designated greenbelt. Removal of the majority of the greenbelt together with the potential building of between 2000-3000 houses would change the character of the village irrevocably.
- **8.** The village currently consists of some 350 homes and the scale of the proposed development at nearly ten times that existing would completely dwarf it.
- **9.** The Council itself recognises that there are problems associated with this site with regard to "access and the creation of a sustainable neighbourhood."
- 10. The existing village lies predominantly to the west of the Strensall road whereas under the proposal the new homes would be built entirely on greenbelt land situated to the east of Strensall Road. In effect the Council is proposing the building of an entirely new village/small town not integrated or connected in anyway with the existing village thereby making the concept of a sustainable, integrated neighbourhood highly unlikely and contradicting the Council's own conditions for allowing the development to proceed.
- 11. Access into and from the site would be restricted from either Strensall Road or the A1237 Outer Ring Road. Development of Site 810 together with other sites identified in the Local Plan for Strensall; 143 new homes on sites H30, H32 and H27 on 16 acres of greenbelt and 29 acres safeguarded, SF1, will have a hugely detrimental impact for traffic on Strensall Road, which is already an extremely busy road with traffic queuing to the outer ring road at peak times.
- 12. With 4,020 homes planned for Clifton Moor, ST14, and 1,569 homes on site ST8 at Monks Cross, the addition of a further 3,000 homes on Site 810 in Earswick will produce unprecedented levels of traffic on the already heavily congested A1237 outer ring road leading to motorists seeking alternative routes through residential areas. Gridlock on York's road network will only serve to stifle the economy not enhance it.
- **13.** Taking into account points 11 and 12 above, the increase in traffic pollution and noise would have a major impact on the health and quality of life for existing residents within Earswick.
- **14.** The proposal put forward by the Council is completely lacking in any detail as to how the problems of infrastructure for this development can be overcome nor does it state how basic requirements such as drains, sewage treatment, roads, cycle paths etc. are to be funded
- **15.** It is already becoming almost impossible and dangerous to cross the A1237 trunk road from Earswick to Huntington by foot or bicycle. Additional development in

- Earswick on the scale proposed would only exacerbate the situation. No mention in the Local Plan Further Sites document of the provision and cost of providing an underpass.
- 16. The Parish Council are not against modest extensions to the village and in July 2013 supported an application by the owners of Fossbank Farm (Site ref. 569) to have their property lifted from greenbelt restrictions. This would have allowed a reasonable number of new homes to be built (around 20-25), similar to the adjacent Garden Village development built in 2008.
- 17. The Council state that the Local Plan Further Sites document has been issued as a result of landowners identifying additional land for potential development. Why then hasn't the site at Fossbanks Farm been included? Rather than unnecessarily removing large plots of greenbelt land for future potential, unsustainable, development the Council should be supporting and encouraging more modest, sustainable, extensions to the village that can be easily integrated into the existing community.
- 18. In his annual Mansion House speech to the Corporation of the City of London recently the Chancellor promised an "urban planning revolution" to protect the greenbelt and promote house-building on brownfield sites. Councils will be required to put local development orders on over 90% of brownfield sites that are suitable for housing. This will mean that in effect development on these sites will be pre-approved local authorities will be able to specify the type of housing, not whether there is housing while at the same time protecting our green spaces. The proposals contained within the Council's Local Plan and Local Plan Further Sites document are therefore contradictory to national guidelines.

It is apparent that by including Site 810 in Earswick in the Local Plan Further Sites document City of York Council has given no thought or consideration to the infrastructure required to support a development of this scale, no thought as to how funding is to be provided, no thought as to the impact on the quality of life of the existing village, no thought as to access to the site, no thought as to how to create a sustainable neighbourhood as a result of building a "new town" up to ten times the size of the existing community and by ignoring the village's own Parish Plan, no thought as to the views of the existing community.

What is apparent however is that the proposal to remove Site 810 from the greenbelt and safeguard it for future development is completely unnecessary, goes against the advice of the Planning Minister for Councils not to set aside too much protected land for development, will destroy the largest swathe of greenbelt land in Earswick and will turn what is now an ancient and traditional semi-rural village into just another commuter belt for York and Leeds.

Earswick Parish Council does not support the inclusion of Site 810 in the Local Plan Further Sites document for the reasons listed above and would request that City of York Council remove it from the draft Plan.

Yours sincerely

Earswick Parish Council

Chairman: Cllr D Jones Deputy: Cllr S Wiseman Cllr P Leveson Cllr G Offler Cllr K Pace