



EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

www.earswick.org

Council Tax – Annual Parish Precept

The precept for this coming financial year will increase slightly to £17,242 (average £50 per house). This is due in the main to the low level of interest generated by the Section 106 investment and an increase in the cost of the maintenance contract. Most of the precept is spent on maintaining the fabric of Earswick, this includes grass cutting, maintenance of the play area and 30 acres of public open spaces as well as the general upkeep and repair of Council property such as bus shelters, litter and grit bins and seats.

Ward Funding

The village has been successful in obtaining ward funding towards the cost of replacement of two of the village noticeboards that have badly deteriorated over recent years, the one on Stablers Walk, and the one on the walkway leading from Strensall Road to Northlands (opposite Willow Grove). The new noticeboards will be aluminium and hopefully much more user-friendly.

We hope to apply for ward funding in 2017/18 towards the cost of improving the acoustics in the Village Hall for the benefit of all users of the Hall.

Standards Committee

Congratulations to Councillor Sian Wiseman on her appointment as the YLCA Parish representative on the City of York Standards Committee.

Tennis Courts

Following on from the deep clean of the tennis courts last year after the winter flooding 2015/16, the net posts and benches in the courts have been re-painted and new nets fitted.

Membership fees for the year April 2017 – March 2018 will remain at £25 for residents and £50 for non-residents.

Childrens Playground

The equipment in the childrens' playground has been repainted.

Coffee Mornings

Are you sometimes at a loose end on Monday mornings?? If so, then do come along to our monthly Coffee Mornings that are held on the first Monday of the month in the Village Hall between 10.30-12.00. There is always lively banter amongst the group of around 25-30 residents who regularly attend. Newcomers are always welcome and this is a good opportunity to meet your neighbours. We will be

pleased to see you whether you come occasionally or regularly! All ages are welcome.

If you would like a lift please don't hesitate to contact one of the Councillors as this can easily be arranged.

We are very grateful to the residents who help to organise/host them, usually on a rota basis.

There is always a selection of lovely hand- made greetings cards, and a number of pre- owned books to choose from. Donations go towards various charities – normally local ones. Recent recipients of £100 have been Many Tears Animal Rescue, and Applefields School

Since the last newsletter the Coffee Morning group has enjoyed two events a little out of the ordinary. On Yorkshire Day (1/8/16) we celebrated by having strawberries and cream!

At the February (2017) meeting, we met at lunchtime instead and enjoyed a meal together. Tickets cost £10 and included a 2-course lunch, a raffle ticket, coffee and entertainment.

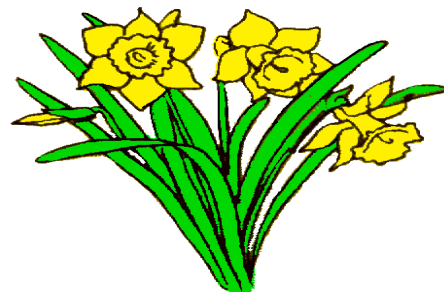
The lunch was provided "in house" this time and afterwards we were entertained by The Library Theatre Touring Company who performed "Bed among the Lentils" – by Alan Bennett.

Everyone seemed to have a good time and it helped to banish the winter blues for a while.

Forthcoming dates are-
3 April
1 May (Bank Holiday)
5 June



Public Open Space



Our contractors continue to provide a reliable service to keep our public open spaces cut, hedges trimmed and paths weed free. Volunteers are always welcome to help improve the area further.

For the first time, during the summer months this year, a path will be mown along the edge of the Flower Meadow from the footbridge edge of the meadow along to Diamond Wood where an informal path is mown around the wood.

Once the river bank by the footbridge has dried out, it is hoped that this will create a more pleasant walk from Lock House Lane /Sports Field along the river up to Diamond Wood and either return the same way or cross the stile at the end of Diamond Wood to return along Strensall Road.

Neighbourhood Plan

It may seem to some that Earswick's Neighbourhood Plan (ENP) has been talked about forever without any obvious signs that the end is in sight. At last, however, a significant milestone has been reached. The Parish Council and Working Party have taken the Plan as far as we can for now.

Following the six-week consultation earlier this year amendments have been made to the Neighbourhood Plan and these were approved at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13th February 2017. The Plan has now been submitted to City of York Council (CYC) together with supporting documents. CYC will publish the Plan for a further six weeks. The timing of that consultation will be published on CYC's website and Earswick Parish Council's website together with all relevant documentation.

If all goes smoothly, a referendum could be held in the village in late summer/autumn this year and if accepted the ENP will be adopted by the end of the year.

We can appreciate that people may have forgotten all about the NP. With that in mind a campaign will be launched in early summer to rekindle interest and keep everyone up to date with developments. Any relevant information will also be put on the Parish Council Website. This has been a long and often frustrating process but, though it may still seem some way off, the end is near.

Dogs



If you are out walking a dog, thank you for taking your part in helping to keep the area clean by clearing up after it.

Please keep it under close control on the Open Space especially if there are others about who may be fearful of dogs – particularly small children.

Last but not least please always keep your dog on a lead when walking along public pavements/footpaths for their own safety as well as the safety of other pedestrians.

Strensall Army Camp

The Ministry of Defence has recently announced plans to close the Strensall Army camp in 2020 with proposals to build around 800 homes on the redundant site. Whilst the camp is located outside the Parish, on its northern boundary, the proposal would inevitably lead to a considerable increase in the volume of traffic passing through the village. The Parish Council, together with the Ward Councillors, will work closely with the City of York Council to identify measures to mitigate against any potential increased traffic flows along the Strensall Road through Earswick.

Plant Sale

The Scented Garden Committee are holding a Plant Sale in the Village Hall on Sunday 9th April 2017 from 10am to 3.00pm to raise funds for the upkeep of this RHS award winning Garden.

Lock House Lane Car Park

New gates are due to be installed in April to replace the barrier that was damaged. This will further increase the security of the area at night time for near-by residents in line with the security already provided by the gates at the Village Hall.

Neighbourhood Watch



Earswick continues to be a safe village in which to live, with a very low level of crime. There is an active Neighbourhood Watch scheme operating throughout most of the village however local co-ordinators are still required to cover the even number houses on Strensall Road from the Ring Road to Willow Grove.

If you are able to help out in this area please contact the village Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, Bill Gambold on 01904 765024.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Derek Jones – Chairman, 41 Earswick Chase – Tel: 01904 767767

Cllr Sian Wiseman – Vice Chairman, 10 Shilton Garth Close – Tel: 01904 761010

Cllr Pat Leveson – 9 Shilton Garth Close – Tel: 01904 764344

Cllr Gill Offler – 26 Stablers Walk – Tel: 01904 760898

Cllr Barry O'Connor – 36, The Village – Tel: 01904 766024

Mrs Joanne Fisher – Clerk, 24 Lock House Lane – Tel: 01904 758615

Parish Council Meeting Dates in 2017

All Council meetings take place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm and are open to the public.

A public participation session also takes place between 7.15 - 7.30pm when members of the public can make representations and give evidence to councillors on any issues that they wish to raise including items included on the agenda.

Meetings will take place on: 22nd May, 19th June, 17th July, 11th September, 9th October, 13th November.

Parish Council Vacancy

There are two vacancies on the Parish Council so if you are interested in joining please contact either the Parish Clerk or any of the councillors.