



YORK OUTER RING ROAD SCHEME

Residents will have recently received a letter from City of York Council (CYC) outlining their proposal to construct a dual carriageway along the A1237 York Outer Ring Road between the A19 Shipton Road roundabout and Little Hopgrove junctions. The scheme includes for the provision of a new road bridge over the River Foss that together with the expanded carriageway will be constructed on the Earswick side of the existing road. The work will also include the construction of a cycle/pedestrian underpass from Earswick to Huntington. Work is scheduled to start in the summer of 2023.

In order to facilitate this work City of York Council are

looking to acquire around half of the land on which Diamond Jubilee Wood is located.

Diamond Jubilee Wood lies at the southern boundary of the village immediately adjacent to the A1237 Ring Road. In 2011 residents of the village planted some 700 trees on this land to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee providing not only a valuable natural amenity for the village but also an essential buffer against road noise and pollution from the Ring Road.

Acquisition of the land would result in the majority or even all the trees being removed.

A plan showing the general extent of land required to deliver the scheme is shown at the top of this page.

The red area is the part of Diamond Jubilee Wood that would be lost permanently whilst the area marked in yellow would be required during the construction works and would be returned to the Parish Council on completion of the project.

From an Earswick perspective whilst the provision of an underpass under the A1237 would be welcome the proposal will have a number of negative impacts on the village:

-Loss of a well-established rural amenity that we can all enjoy in our leisure time.

-Decrease in the amount and quality of diverse habitats for our wildlife.

-Reduction in air quality, with the woodland currently acting as a carbon sink absorbing some of the emissions produced by the traffic on the Ring Road.

-Increased delays to traffic from Strensall and Earswick wanting to cross the “new” roundabout and dual carriageway. Leading to longer queues and standing traffic on Strensall Road.

The Parish Council has held a number of meetings with representatives from the City of York Council and the project team. Our suggested alternatives of either moving the new two lane carriageway onto the Huntington side of the A1237 or splitting the carriageway so that one new lane is built either side of the existing road has been dismissed due to the existence of a major transmission water main on the Huntington side.

The Parish Council has also stressed the need for enhanced noise and pollution reduction measures to be incorporated into any new proposals and that consideration should be given to the installation of traffic lights on the roundabout for peak time operation.

Comments can be made via the CYC online survey form.

Coronavirus update.

Earswick is fortunate to have acres of open spaces to walk in during the pandemic restrictions, even as the weather becomes less inviting the footpaths give a good circular walk without usually getting muddy feet!

For those that are looking for home bound activity Cllr Offler has been distributing jigsaw puzzles and if anyone wants one or has some to donate get in touch with her. Unfortunately the monthly coffee mornings have been suspended - we know these have been sadly missed by the regular attendees but as soon as circumstances allow they will recommence.

Over the summer the tennis courts have been well used - the surface of the courts is all weather which means you can play tennis all year round. The courts are owned and managed by the Parish Council and there is a small annual fee per household to use them. Visit www.earswick.org for an application form and as the year runs from 1st April any household wanting to play from now until the membership renews can reduce the fee by £10 for the rest of the membership year.

The Village Hall is also owned and run by the Parish Council and has recently re- opened for regular bookings. At the moment no new bookings are being taken due to coronavirus restrictions. A lot of thought has gone into making the Hall Covid-19 secure and this seems to be appreciated by both hirers and users.

If anyone in the Village needs help with anything during this difficult time please get in touch with the Clerk or any Councillor and we will do our very best to assist.

Community Speed Watch

Since the end of Lockdown the number of speeding vehicles has become noticeable, certainly many are well in excess of 30 mph. The 40 limit from Strensall seems to continue through Earswick and the 60 mph seem to continue from the Ring Road. This can only get worse when the Ring Road is dualled. Hopefully some data gathering of hard evidence would be useful. The number of “near misses” on Earswick Chase mini roundabout is a daily occurrence. If anyone is willing to join a newly formed team to try and improve road safety in our area please get in touch with the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator; Kate Pace-kate.pace@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Councillors:

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

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

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

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

Cllr Andrew Bell - 3, Lock House Lane – Tel: 01904 764189

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

Mrs Joanne Fisher – Clerk, 24, Lock House Lane – Tel: 01904 758615
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There is a vacancy on the Parish Council, if you are interested in joining please contact the Clerk.

