

Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council

NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2009 ISSUE No12

www.rufforthwithknapton-pc.gov.uk

News in Brief

It's been a fairly quiet time since our last Newsletter in July. We have been following up the actions identified in the Parish Plan and have been lobbying hard with City of York Council to control the expanding composting activities at Harewood Whin to reduce vehicle movement through the village. An exercise to archive all the documentation kept in the Institute has been started. The rotting seat near the letter box in Rufforth was replaced and a bench planter acquired from CYC now adorns the burial ground. Repeated requests to repair the faulty speed sign in Rufforth have fallen on deaf ears but signs and "gates" are springing up in the verges.

Land Registry Cllr Hildreth reports

Having been made aware by the Land Registry that much of the parish land was unregistered, an exercise has begun to understand the implications of registering these sites for the benefit of the parish. Areas to be registered are Knapton Pinfold, Rufforth Village Garden, Rufforth Village Pond and Sandyke Nature Reserve. As many of these sites have no formal proof of ownership they will have to be registered by adverse possession. Therefore proof of management and occupancy over the past 12 years needs to be demonstrated.

The cost of registration for each site is greater than we had originally been lead to believe. A fee of up to £130 to register each site could be charged depending on the requirement for site visits.

The parish council now has to decide whether it is worthwhile to register some or all of the sites in question

Parish Plan issues Jane Wright reports

To keep everyone updated on the Parish Plan actions, here are some issues that have been addressed over the last few months -----

The Village Institute has been completely refurbished. Thanks to the efforts of Margaret Lee and Malcolm Coward funds were obtained to install a new kitchen, hardwire the fire alarm system, paint the hall throughout and re roof the building. New tables and chairs have also arrived.

There has been an improvement in litter collection around Harewood Whin and Yorwaste have placed a sign at the site exit requesting traffic respects our village environment and turns left towards the ring road. This is a small gesture on the way to cutting down the numbers of HGV on the B1224.

A copy of the Parish Plan has been sent to all members of City of York Planning Committee to alert them to the feelings in the parish and support objections to recent planning applications for Harewood Whin.

The parish planners met with the Playing Fields Committee to discover that the new play equipment will soon be functioning. Residents have had flyers promoting the special amenity that the playing fields provide. There is now a

junior football team playing regularly. The village bonfire is happening again for the community to enjoy and provide valuable funds. Congratulations to the organizers for a magnificent firework display.

To ensure our outreach Post Office continues, fundraisers have been at work --- a coffee morning at Willow House in the summer and the ceilidh on Oct.9th raised £600.00 to keep the Post Office in the Chapel.

The Plan's main action point, traffic concerns, is gaining momentum

Parish Council representatives met with the Police to talk about the volume and speed of traffic through the villages. This was followed by a visit from Sgt Andy Haigh to address the November meeting when he advised that permission was being sought to carry out speed checks and that he would try to raise the police presence near the chicanes. It is hoped that the Parish will be able to arrange our own traffic survey in the near future to support arguments with CYC and Yorwaste.

We hope that the actions being taken as a result of the Parish Plan will improve the quality of life in the villages.

Village Signs Cllr Williams reports

Foundations have been laid for both signs on the Wetherby Road and we are hopeful that given good weather new signs will appear before Christmas.

Harewood Whin Update.... From site manager Steve Worsley

Traffic

White lines at site entrance have been renewed, "HGV's turn left".

Extra signage has been placed opposite the entrance to remind drivers to avoid Rufforth village.

Inputs from Wetherby skips have reduced by around 50%.

A director has contacted Leeds, Harrogate & York Councils asking they redirect wagons away from Rufforth.

A letter is being re sent to all customers that use Harewood Whin, requesting that they avoid Rufforth exit and enter the site via the A1237.

Yorwaste conducted its own traffic survey of HGV's travelling through Rufforth. Over a 2 day period around 80% of the HGV's using the B1224 did not enter Harewood Whin.

Customers from Tockwith & Wetherby would use the B1224 even if they used an alternative disposal site. However to reinforce the situation I personally met with the Biffa Manager from Tockwith and he told me that they have no other viable option but to use the B1224. However whenever possible they will try to direct wagons on the A59 / ring road.

Litter

Yorwaste has invested money in another 100m of Anti-litter fencing along the site boundary.

Yorwaste continue to monitor & pick the litter on the B1224 (site entrance to lay by & into village)

Yorwaste continue to inform CYC when litter needs picking along the B1224 & Ring road.

Odours / Gas

In August 7 extra gas wells were drilled and the gas sent to the generation plant which now generates 1.6 MW .

In November 2009 another 8 deep gas wells will be drilled along the newly restored area in phase 10. This means an extra 500-700 m3 of gas/hour will be captured and sent to the generation plant.

In December 2009 a new 1MW engine will be delivered which will increase generation output to over 2MW.

These 15 wells will continue to improve odour control from the site.

Archiving

Thanks to Martin Comber Evans and Rae Mould for taking on this onerous task. There is a lot of material which has been painstakingly assembled over past years recording the history of the village and it is important that this is well documented and easily accessible.

Communication Cllr Haward reports

We are striving to inform you of what we are doing. We have set up the website and whilst we acknowledge this is not fully functional you can now google it. As soon as we acquire a more powerful computer for the Clerk we will make the site more interesting and informative. We are now well served by notice boards with two in Rufforth and one each in Knapton and Boroughbridge Road and we hope that this newsletter gives you at least an idea of what we are engaged upon. The Parish Council meetings are of course the best source of consultation and we invite members of the public to come along and participate at Rufforth society. Minutes are posted on the notice boards and displayed on the web site.

Planning Cllr Haward reports

Since the last Newsletter in July we have dealt with 10 new planning applications details of which can be found on the CYC website “Do it on line”>“View Planning Applications”>“Application Search”> “Parish of Rufforth with Knapton”.

We have spent a considerable amount of time contesting Yorwaste’s extended compost slab on the grounds that insufficient attention is being given to the Environmental Impact of composting which reached almost 60 thousand tonnes last year. Yorwaste’s application was approved by CYC with conditions imposed relating to odour management and improved processing. No limit was set on the quantity of green waste to be handled and we hope that the permit to be issued by the Environment Agency will stipulate a maximum throughput.

All quiet on the Knapton Front

We are looking to plant more bulbs and a hedge at the rear of the Green .

For your Diary

Next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 4th January 7.30 Rufforth Institute

Parish Council

Tim Haward(Rufforth)....Chairman.....	737544
Anne Powell(Knapton) Vice Chairman.....	795059
Roger Lee(Rufforth).....	738447
Helen Butterworth(Rufforth).....	738592
Martin ComberEvans(Rufforth).....	737917
DavidHildreth(Rufforth).....	738392
Deborah Smitten(Knapton).....	794558
Peter Williams(Knapton).....	737083
Stephanie Warden Clerk to the Council.....	738751

