

Christmas 2013

Newsletter

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Rufforth with Knapton Parish Council

Wishes you all

A merry Christmas

And

A Happy New Year

Tim Haward, Anne Powell, Helen Butterworth, Colin Valentine
Keith Clarke, Paul Leadley-Yoward, Dick Syms, Stephanie Warden

In brief. Since going to press in spring of this year it has been relatively quiet. The City of York Local Plan caused a stir with its proposal for a showperson's site in Knapton and an allocation of future housing development in Rufforth. We understand that the next version of the Plan will be in spring of next year.

Yorwaste have made slow progress with their application to construct a Material Transfer Station and Waste Recycling Facility and we wait to see what changes materialise when CYC Planning Committee consider it next year.

The efforts to get the cycle track brought up to standard have stalled badly. We are waiting to see an estimate of the "cost to complete" from CYC following which we will see what can be done to move it on.

Knapton allotment association report another productive year thanks to our increasing skills and a good growing season. Every one of the allotment holders has worked hard and grown a large variety of fruit and vegetables from Artichokes to Zucchini (a glut of them)

In June we held an open afternoon for villagers who had not been to see the allotments. It was well attended and all who came seemed very impressed. Some people did not realise there are allotments in Knapton. Tea and cakes were served and some visitors went home with produce.

There are now 21 allotment holders (including partners) with 14 plots being worked (some are only half plots). Some of us find we can grow an adequate amount in just half a plot.

The allotments are for residents of Knapton and if anyone living in the village is interested in getting one there is a short waiting list. Please contact Lesley on 792850 or Joan on 791417

The Knapton and West York Greenbelt Action Group met several times to help provide an effective opposition to the proposed Showpeople Site. As well as submitting our own document to the City of York Council's Local Plan consultation we encouraged others to do likewise and mailed thousands of households with possible grounds for objection. The deadline for submissions passed at the end of July and although we don't yet know the precise feedback the council received from the Knapton area, we know huge numbers contributed. Pleasingly the landowner has actually withdrawn the field from the proposed use. Compiling grounds for objections, printing and designing leaflets and organising petitions and meetings all took time and money and we are hugely grateful to the way the community has pulled together to help us fight the proposed site. We continue to monitor the situation closely ahead of the next consultation which will be in the spring of 2014, to ensure the Greenbelt around Knapton is protected and will be fully recognised as Greenbelt in the Local Plan.

Knaptonwestyorkgreenbelt.org

Our Natural Burial Ground continues to attract attention, not only locally but from further afield also.

At present we have 15 reserved places along with the 11 already there. We have created a quiet and peaceful area which is exactly what we set out to do. The new Memorial Wall now has plaques installed in memory those we have welcomed into the Burial Ground. Sadly we have experienced some mindless vandalism with information leaflets having been removed from a waterproof holder and strewn around the ground.

We look forward to another year watching the natural scene develop and as we have planted many more spring bulbs this year lets hope that the rabbits and field mice decide to dine out on pastures new giving our plantings plenty of time to flower.

Snow Wardens Colin Valentine and David Nevins are prepared for another Rufforth winter. Knapton has no volunteers and Rufforth could do with with one or two at the York end of the village. If you want more details of how to join this worthwhile group ring Michal Czekajlo of CYC on 551832 or email Michel.ckekajlo@york.gov.uk

Medical Aid For those having difficulty in accessing a doctor's surgery the Parish Council is still sitting on some funds from a few years back which are there to help with transport costs. If you consider yourself eligible please contact the clerk on 738751

Avenue of Jubilee trees in Southfield Lane It seems that the utility companies have laid more services along the verges and thus made it too difficult to find space for the planned trees. Nice idea but.....!

Superfast Broadband We were advised at the recent Ward Residents Forum held in Askam Bryan that BT will complete their project to install superfast 25Mbps broadband to some areas of the ward by December 2014. The areas to benefit include both Rufforth and Knapton. No excuses for not visiting the Parish Council webpage then!

Planning matters We are pleased to see that Todds have withdrawn their application to convert part of the airfield into a compost heap. CYC have previously approved some 3 hectares for composting at Harewood Whin. CYC have advised us that yet more work is required of Yorwaste before the application to build the new Material Transfer Station and Waste Recycling Facility at Harewood Whin can come before the Planning committee next year.

Traffic in Rufforth. There have been several incidents of late which have highlighted the risk to pedestrians. The Parish Council has followed up individual's approaches to the Police and Highway Authorities without any positive measures being put forward with regard to enhanced traffic control. The Parish Council is engaged in correspondence with CYC insisting that that city of York enforces it's agreement with Yorwaste that they will prevent waste HGVs passing through the village en route to and from Harewood Whin. CYC's initial response was that the signed agreement was unenforceable! On the insistence of the Parish Council CYC have sought a second legal opinion. If Yorwaste were to adopt the spirit of the agreement it would reduce HGV movements through the village by some 50 per day which in itself would be no small contribution to reducing the risk of an accident. (If we have a legal professional in the parish who could help/advise us with these exchanges we would be extremely grateful).

Dog Fouling in Rufforth continues to be a scourge. In an attempt to eliminate it we are enclosing a City of York flier explaining how to do so. Please take heed, consider your neighbours and clear up behind your dogs.

Parish Council Vacancy Thanks to Paul Leadley-Yoward who has been coopted onto the Council to represent Rufforth ward. There is still one vacancy. Why not give the Parish Council the perfect Christmas gift by putting yourself forward to fill the role?

Cycle Track The multi-use track to Knapton and beyond has failed to materialise to the standard anticipated due in the main to a unilateral decision by CYC to change the specification thereby rendering the funds available insufficient to complete the tarmac over the tip corner. As a consequence the track is fit only for pedestrians, horses and off road cycles. The main objective of providing a safe route for all cyclists including children is still to be achieved and money to do so is hard to find. We are awaiting information from CYC as to how they intend to complete to the required standard for cyclists. We were hoping to have focused our current efforts on finding a way to connect Rufforth to the new track but that has been put on hold somewhat until we get positive signals from CYC about completion of the section over the tip.

Yorwaste We hoped to report on a liaison meeting which has just been put back into the New Year. On the agenda will be, progress with odour management, status of current planning applications, litter prevention, routing of waste HGVs and the incomplete cycle track. Any important developments will be reported on the Parish Council Website.(www.rufforthwithknapton-pc.co.uk)