

ELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT
MAY 2019

This report marks the end of another Parish Council year. My sincere thanks to my fellow Parish Councillors and our Parish Clerk, Deb Hotson, for their continued dedication, hard work and support in serving the residents of Elsham. My thanks also to NLC Leader, Rob Waltham, and Ward Councillors Nigel and Carl Sherwood for all their help and continued guidance throughout the year.

Year in Brief:

The fantastic model Lancaster with poppies falling from the bomb bay was installed at the village hall, as mentioned in last years report.

In mid July residents enjoyed a BBQ at the village hall, which raised £80 for the Church, a big thank you to Cllr Sandra Van Oosterhout for organizing.

A new bench was installed on Astley Corner.

The Beacon lighting on the evening of the 11 November to mark 100 years since the end of the First World War went well and was attended by 70/80 residents who also enjoyed fish and chips at the village hall beforehand.

Thank you once again to Mr & Mrs Philip Dunn for donating the Christmas tree, the reverend Lee Gabel blessed the tree and switched on the lights. I think all those who attended enjoyed the mince pies and mulled wine.

March this year finally saw the installation of the long awaited Bus Shelter on New Street.

Elsham Play Park

The drainage was installed in October last year and appears to be working well.

Thank you once again to all the volunteers for unlocking and locking the park throughout the year, despite the mindless act of some moron who stole the lock, which then had to be replaced.

Planning

There were sixteen applications and approvals during the year, eleven were a mix of industrial and farming and five residential as follows:

The Old Smithy Barnetby Lane – Outline planning approved for nine dwellings.

Land off Woodland Drive for eight dwellings – Awaiting decision.

Land next to Play Park for ten dwellings – Outline planning and full planning refused.

Application for tree pruning on Maltkin Lane.

Roof extension, Front Street – Approved.

Highways

We continue to press NLC Highways to repair potholes and maintain our roads to a proper standard, in particular we have asked for the resurfacing of Barnetby Lane and New Street to be brought forward from the current schedule of 2020/2021.

White lines at junctions and on entering the village have been repainted and we have requested Highways to improve speed awareness, they are looking at introducing new

speed signs and moving at our request the 30 mph sign on Front Street further up the hill.

On a negative note parking on pavements is becoming a problem causing a dangerous hazard to pedestrians, wheelchairs and parents with pushchairs. This is an offence and the PC will report offenders to the Police and NLC Enforcement team for appropriate action.

Crime and Neighbourhood Watch

You will have read in the Elsham Leader of a new Neighbourhood Watch initiative and requests for a Co-ordinator, this is a vital service encouraging all residents to be vigilant and report anything suspicious. Once set up I would encourage all residents to join the scheme to hopefully prevent the kind of incidents reported this year. Vandalism at the Kiosk and Post Box, theft of the gate at the 'Quarry' entrance on Middlegate Lane and an audacious burglary at a property on Church Street just after Christmas.

The community PCSO's are now listed on the village noticeboard and regular drop-in sessions are being held at Brigg Police Station.

Reporting numbers:

Police using the non-emergency number **101**.
Fly tipping should be reported to NLC on 01724 297000.

Elsham Nature Reserve (The Old Quarry)

During the year improvements have been made to some of the pathways by laying tonnes of stone, a number of bat and bird boxes have been placed around the area.

Thank you to Scott Gilchrist for repainting the benches and to Chris Busby for replacing the stolen gate mentioned above.

I'm afraid that there are still some irresponsible individuals that continue to ignore and have also removed the 'No Cycles' signs. They are not only a danger to themselves but more importantly to all the regular walkers. Please report any incidents to the Parish Council and we will take action.

Best Kept Small Village 2018 Competition

As you all may know we did not quite reach the dizzy heights of 2017 but we still managed a very credible third place in what was a very tight competition. Thank you once again to Cllr Lorraine Guest and the 'Elsham Elves' for all their hard work, best of luck for this year's competition.

A big thank you to Cllr Christine Busby and Cllr Andrew Horner and his wife Di, who do a fantastic job all year litter picking, and everyone who took part in the litter pick on the 28 April. The rubbish collected amounted to 20 bags, 12 tyres and a metal cover from a boiler all dumped by inconsiderate members of the public.

Dog Fouling

Unfortunately, this continues to be a problem, it is a pity that a minority of pet owners cannot clean up after their pets.

To combat the problem we have asked for the NLC Dog Warden to make spot visits, in addition you will have seen some new very colourful posters designed by our younger residents encouraging owners to clean up after their pets, I hope owners will take notice.

BT Kiosk

Following adoption of the kiosk has been cleaned and the ground cleared around it, we are hopeful that one resident will take on the maintenance of the kiosk, however any other volunteers would be more than welcome along with suggestions for future use.

Current projects and future events

The creation of a Heritage Trail has been mentioned in the Leader and will hopefully be in place later this year.

We are monitoring progress of the Community Speed Watch Project, which is designed to curb speeding through rural villages, further updates will be published in PC minutes and through the Leader.

We would also welcome any suggestions for any improvements, new amenities or social events that you may like to see in the village.

Parish Council Personnel

We have again seen changes to the Council personnel this year. In September Sophie Dunn left the Council and December saw David Harness leave to take up residence in Broughton. Thank you to both Sophie and David for being valued and supportive members of the Parish Council.

At the January meeting we welcomed Andrew Horner onto the Parish Council, congratulations Andrew.

We still have one vacancy on the Parish Council, so if any resident is interested in joining then please contact the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor, we look forward to seeing you.

Past and Present Residents

Sadly, Mr Bob Andrews one of our past residents passed away suddenly last year. Before moving to Barton Bob had been a supportive member and past Vice Chair of the Parish Council for several years and a regular participant in the Village Golf competition.

Thank you

Graham Evison
Chairman, Elsham Parish Council
May 2019