

## **Askham Bryan Parish Council – Annual Meeting 17th May 2018**

### **Chairmans Report**

The full Parish Council met on 6 occasions during the year and the following is a brief summary of the principal issues discussed and actioned.

### **Planning**

All planning documents are now only available on line. The absence of plans on paper has made scrutiny more difficult but all members participate in reaching consensus conclusions. The majority of applications are related to the treatment of trees in the conservation area. Trees are such an important element of the character of the village that they should only be removed as a last resort.

Consultation on the draft Local Plan has been completed and we are now waiting the Public Inquiry. There are no issues adversely affecting the village which is protected from inappropriate development as a conservation area washed over by the Green Belt.

### **Askham Bryan College**

We have maintained regular liaison with the college and our principal concerns remain traffic generation, road congestion and excessive noise during the increasingly frequent large events.

A group of local residents have fought a long running battle to reopen a right of way on the route of the old Askham Fields Lane .

### **Play Area**

The Play Area team of volunteers do an excellent job of enhancing the facilities and keeping the site in good order

We failed to persuade the college to accept our offer to buy the site but they have given an undertaking that they will give us a long term tenancy arrangement. This assurance has enabled the group to claim a substantial grant for the renovation and upgrading of the facilities

### **Village Pride**

The wide grass verges are an important part of the character of the village. Building work on two sites has severely damaged large sections of the verges and notice has been served on the owners that they have responsibility for restoration. Indiscriminate parking on verges must be discouraged and printed polite requests are available to place under offenders windscreens. Occasional litter picks have helped tidy the approaches to the village but suggestions for a regular programme lacks someone to organise the volunteers.

### **Natural Environment Group**

A recommendation in our Parish Plan to form a group has not been implemented because of the lack of an organiser. A proposal from Darryn Mitchell will be circulated for general discussion at the annual meeting.

### **Broadband**

Julian Sturdy MP has been pressurising BT to deliver their promises to get faster broadband into the village. A dated plan for implementation is now available and it seems probable that new cabinets with fibre connections will be provided in 2018 – three years later than promised.

### **Crime**

Our regular liaison with the community police continues and fortunately we have had no significant criminal activity during the year. Up to date intelligence about criminal activity is now available to all through the North Yorkshire Community Messaging service.

### **Health & Safety**

A defibrillator is now available and prominently displayed on the front wall of the village hall. Our principal concern continues to be the incidence of cars speeding through the village and coaches to and from the college coming through the village.

The PC has submitted a formal request to CYC to :-

- Implement a 40mph restriction on Askham Bryan Lane from the A1237 roundabout to the north end of the village
- Implement a 30mph restriction on Askham Fields Lane from the A64 roundabout passed the entrance to the college to the south entrance to the village
- Implement vehicle weight restriction limits on Askham Bryan Lane at the A1237 roundabout and on Askham Fields Lane at the A64/A1237 roundabout

### **Charity**

The Parish Council, as trustee of the charity, would welcome applications from groups or individuals to fund projects for the general benefits of the inhabitants of the Parish of Askham Bryan

### **Acknowledgements**

Ward Councillors Ian Gillies and Chris Steward have been unfailingly helpful during the year and have used their knowledge and contacts within the City of York Council to get things done. Julian Sturdy, MP has been particularly supportive on Broadband.

We are extremely fortunate to have a group of parish councillors who have no political attachments and are motivated solely by their wish to do what they think is right for the parishioners and the village. Paul Rose has decided to step down as a parish councillor after four years and I'm delighted to welcome Darryn Mitchell, who initiated the Village Hall Christmas tree last year, to the team. We are a good team, get on well together and I appreciate their interest and involvement. Thank you colleagues.

Frank Paterson  
Chairman  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2018