

Update from the Parish Council – November 2021

It's been a while since our last update. We've now moved from virtual meetings back to face-to-face meetings. Thanks to those of you who attended our virtual meetings and if anyone would like to attend our face-to-face meetings going forward they take place at Grove House on Grove Crescent, with dates and times published on notices and our website in advance.

Earlier in the year we issued our 2021 newsletter – the councillors divided up the parish and all took charge of delivering to certain areas. Thanks for the feedback we got from certain residents. If you didn't receive a copy, please let us know so we can try and make sure you are included when we distribute our next newsletter, likely to be during 2022.

Here are the main areas that we covered in our recent meetings:

Park

The Parish Council funded tennis equipment which was put out during Wimbledon and proved popular. We plan on doing the same again next year, perhaps for a longer period. Thanks to Cllr Diamond (who also sits on the Park Committee) for making this happen.

Where resources (financial and otherwise) allow, we are keen to try and improve the park area where possible. One possible idea we have been looking in to is creating a disability and dementia friendly sensory garden, to broaden the park's appeal further. This is still in the early stages of consideration and would require formal planning permission. If the project moves forward the Parish Council would want to work closely with the park committee regarding this, and we acknowledge the initial concerns they have voiced about the proposal.

We were saddened to hear and see the arson and fire damage that had been done in the park in October. We all must work together and do all we can to stop this anti-social behaviour.

Finally the Parish Council would like to thank the Park Committee (and other volunteers) for all the hard work they put into the park, including some very productive "tidy up" sessions during recent months.

Football Club

We are very pleased that our local football club (based behind the Swan on Mill Lane) is going from strength to strength. We have provided support and funding for changing rooms which the club hopes will be installed in the near future.

Traffic

We are aware of various traffic related issues which have come up in recent months, including: parking causing issues on Low Street and High Street, potential speeding and large vehicles damaging the wall at the bottom of Wain Gap. There are no easy solutions to any of these, but we are actively considering what we (the Parish Council) could potential do to ease some of these issues, noting that the majority of the power and authority for highways issues lies with NYCC.

Development of Old Quarry area

The old quarry is the area of common land under the tree by the side of Westfield Lane on the way out of the village. We have agreed to utilise some Section 106 funds to improve this area if possible. Plans are at an early stage but will hopefully include: seating, paths, the promotion of wildlife and creating a family friendly area.

Selby and District Rail Users Group

The Parish Council is a member of the railway users group. During the COVID period we saw a significant reduction in services from South Milford. We have petitioned and lobbied for these to increase and are pleased to announce that this has been successful. The new timetable coming in from mid-December will include an increase in trains to and from Leeds, in particular filling the large gaps that exist currently in returning services from Leeds on an evening.

Sherburn Aero Club

This is regularly discussed item at our council meetings, and we continue to receive a small number of complaints from residents about overflying and associated noise disturbance. As we have said previously, we have very limited power to intervene with this, however we continue to work with the club to try and ensure their pilots keep to the agreed flight patterns. The agreed flight paths do not pass directly over the village, however they do pass close to the edge of the village. Therefore, given the aeroclub is used for training (which involves flying repeat circuits), without any aeroclub rules being breached, we can expect a significant number of planes flying close to the village on a regular basis.

Poppy Displays

The displays in and around our village look stunning and are something we are very proud to support and fund (the Parish Council funded the majority of the lamppost poppies). Thanks to all involved, and in particular to Ceri Loy for instigating and organising the displays.

Future Changes to Our Parish

Following recent government decisions Selby District Council will cease to exist and we will become part of the larger North Yorkshire County Council. As part of this, the structure for NYCC Councillor representatives is also changing with less Councillors and each Councillor representing a wider geography.

Local Support

We are keen to support local groups, activities and events. Recent examples of such support include: Incredible Edible, Sherburn Visiting Scheme, St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival, the village Christmas Lights & associated Switch-On event.

Allotments

We receive lots of enquiries about allotments. We understand there is a significant waiting list allotments at the current site (on the corner of Westfield Lane and School Lane) and we are also aware that the adjacent graveyard will ultimately be extended and the allotments removed. With this in mind, we are looking for possible suitable places in our parish to develop a future allotment area. If anyone has any suggestions or land they may be able to offer for this purpose, use please get in touch.