

Update from the Parish Council – February 2022

It's been a busy time for the Parish Council, and it was really good to welcome many residents at our January meeting. Meetings are open to the public and all are welcome.

Highways

Traffic problems in the village is one of our residents' top concerns. We understand and share residents' frustrations at problems caused by heavy traffic and inconsiderate parking around the village. North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Highways are responsible for road rules and enforcement and, as a parish council, we are very limited in what changes we can make. We do raise our concerns with NYCC but, unfortunately, concerns have largely been dismissed due to low accident numbers.

The Parish Council is aware of the recent incident where a bus got stuck outside the Cumin Lounge due to parked cars, and we acknowledge this is not a one-off event. We have flagged these specific concerns and issues with NYCC Highways previously - but to no avail in terms of mitigating actions. We will discuss this again at our February meeting, with the likely outcome being further lobbying of NYCC to take some action.

We are aware that some residents are keen that the Parish Council should sign up to the 20s Plenty campaign, whose aims are to introduce 20mph default speed limits in all residential areas. We remain open-minded about the scheme but are seeking some further information from the 20s Plenty organisation as to exactly what signing up to the campaign entails. We do know it does not mean we could apply 20mph speed limits in our Parish, and very recently NYCC rejected the campaign's appeals to apply a default 20mph speed limit to all residential areas.

In more positive news, Cllr Grogan has been successful in acquiring funding which will cover the majority of the cost for a flashing speed sign which we hope to install on Low Street. These signs have been shown to reduce drivers' speeds, and we're hopeful that this will provide some improvement.

Footpaths

We have a team of residents from South Milford and Monk Fryston who have been undertaking work to lobby the footpaths team at NYCC to improve and rectify public footpaths across the parishes. The responses from NYCC have been slow and disappointing (in terms of actual actions taken) and the Parish Council are supporting this group in signing an open letter to executives at NYCC to voice these concerns. We also intend to share this with the media, our MP, relevant local and national government departments, and the Rambles and Open Spaces Society.

Community support

Lumby put on a fantastic nativity scene at Christmas, and are looking to do something similar for Easter. We clearly have some fantastically creative and artistic residents and we're excited to see what they come up with next! The Parish Council provided funding towards the Christmas display, and intends to support similar displays in the future.

We have agreed to fund a new electronic bingo machine for Grove House, and we hope they can get back to enjoying their bingo sessions very soon.

Also, during 2022, look out for some new features on the land in the Old Quarry (to the right on Westfield Lane when heading out of South Milford); a lovely spot for a pause on your

walk/cycle to take in the wildlife. We are using Section 106 funds to enhance this area, with some or all of the following: fencing, benches, paths, natural climbing features, birdboxes, hedgehog houses and bat houses.

Finally, we'd like to thank Steve Carrie of Mytums for donating and offering to install a recycled bench outside Grove House. We think it looks great, and we hope you do too!

Our next meeting is at 7:30pm at Grove House, on 22 February 2022. Please see our website for the agenda and lots of other useful information and updates.

www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk