

THE RESIDENT – SOUTH MILFORD & LUMBY PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE - APRIL 2024

Hello to everyone from the South Milford and Lumby Parish Council. The last few months in our parish have been some of the wettest since records began and looking at the fields around our villages this is very clear. Hopefully warmer and drier weather is around the corner, although i am writing this shortly after having to de-ice my car!

Firstly, an appeal to those of you reading this to consider joining our Parish Council. The commitment in terms of meetings is only one evening a month and you really can make a difference. Our remit is to make our area a great place to live - anyone who would like to contribute to this, please get in touch via our website www.southmilfordparishcouncil.co.uk or email our Clerk at annrowling@gmail.com

In March work started on the new raised bed sensory garden in the park. This will be a beautiful addition to the park and really enhance the walkway near the beck. This should be ready for you to enjoy by the time you read this article. We are also looking to make further developments in our recently created allotments, with the addition of toilets, a community shed, CCTV and an orchard. At our 23 April meeting we will be considering providing funding for improvements to parking at the allotments, which is much needed given the recent wet weather. The Parish Council would like to thank the Park Committee and Allotment Committee for all their work in these areas, including securing various grants to fund the projects.

One of the projects we have been working on for the last year is a sustainable solution for the kerb/wall at the bottom of Wain Gap. These have regularly been damaged by large vehicles turning, and these damages have a knock-on impact on the storm runoff into the culvert under High Street:

- These damages can impact access to the grate that protects the entry to the culvert - this is important as keeping this grate clear is crucial to reducing the risk of flooding in the village
- There is also the risk that an accident on this corner causes a blockage to the watercourse, creating a serious flood risk.

We have tried a number of different solutions to reduce the risk of damage occurring at this junction, the most recent being our brightly-dressed cut-out man with his bike to encourage drivers to give him a wide berth. Unfortunately this has failed and so, having liaised with the Highways authority, we need to put in heavy duty kerbs and potentially concrete bollards to protect the corner. This is a significant and costly project. We will be discussing the funding of this at our 23 April meeting, and are hopeful that funding from both North Yorkshire Council and the Parish Council will be in place soon after this meeting, so that work can commence as soon as possible.

At each Parish Council meeting we discuss planning requests in our Parish. To clarify our role: the Parish Council does not have authority to grant or withhold planning permission, we review and comment on these to North Yorkshire Council who are the decision maker. One

of the biggest current requests for planning within the village is the 8 property development on land between Well Lane and Woodlands Close (on the north side of High Street opposite the church hall). We are pleased that there has been lots of comments on this application on the planning portal from our parishioners. For any development to go ahead we aim to ensure that it will not negatively impact: trees and wildlife, amenities, parking/traffic and other residents' properties. With this in mind, the Parish Council have objected to both the original and revised planning applications for this development. We are currently awaiting a decision from North Yorkshire Council on the revised application.