

# ABERFORD & DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2011

## TRAFFIC MAIN STREET

**This subject was high on the list for many residents within the Master Plan consultation.**

We will be looking at this problem in the medium term with LCC Highways to see if we can improve things. In the meantime we are getting vehicles being parked on dropped curbs. This has become a problem in the village at various road junctions. The curbs are to facilitate disabled persons movements.

Cars owners can be fined for parking on dropped curbs – please be aware of this as the PC could take action if vehicles are persistently parked on them. Additionally please respect both the area in front of the stone trough at Pump Hill and the yellow lines in Main Street – if everyone parked for ‘just 2 minutes to pop into the shop’ then there would be a queue waiting for a spot. Please be prepared to walk just 25 or 30 metres to ease congestion in this area.

## Police Matters

Many burglaries occur where the locks on uPVC and composite doors have been forced to gain entry. Old Eurolocks should be replaced with new more secure ones – you should check your locks have achieved the ‘Sold Secure Diamond Standard’ designation. A ‘Secure By Design’ reinforced door handle could also be fitted. More information can be obtained from our Local Police station on 0845 6060606 by asking to speak to the Crime Reduction Officer. You can have Free Home Security Checks with our PCSO Geoff Nottingham by ringing 0113 2855374 and leaving a message.

Geoff wants to try to revive a Neighbourhood Watch – this used to be active in the village a few years ago. He is going to hold an informal meeting in the Village Hall on **Monday 14th November at 7.45/8.45pm** to see what interest there is in reviving this. Geoff will tell you what such a Group does – how to run one – what a Co-ordinator does – registering to receive regular calls from the Police about any crime in your area – how often to hold meetings etc.

If you would be interested in getting it going again then please go along and speak to him.

## SCHOOL FIELD

This is now really moving forward with LCC approval to ‘hand over’ the site to the PC rather than opening it up to other parties. Agreements have been reached with ‘the Estate’ to lease a narrow stretch of woodland alongside the Bowling Club to create a permanent pedestrian access and for a temporary wider access across woodland to allow machinery onto the site.

We are working with LCC Officers to draw up a scheme focussing on the old tennis courts for Phase One, to initially provide a tennis court and a MUGA (multi use games area). It is our intention to fund Phase One, subject to obtaining the necessary planning consents, during early 2012.

Following this it is our hope to develop further Phases over the next few years, for which we will be looking towards obtaining grant funding. We would like to see some of the money raised from the LeedsFest ticket sales put towards a facility for youngsters. Check our website which will shortly have a sketch of the proposed Phase One. Let us know what you think.

## Other Master Plan Projects

Some projects arising from the Master Plan exercise are being taken forward – lots of you filled in the questionnaire about Broadband and you will be hearing more about that.

Other things such as increased use of the Village Hall are being taken forward by external groups. We will be working on the things you want to see over our term of office.

## LOTHERTON HALL

**We had to act quickly to make our views known on the proposed revamp and increased charges at the Hall.**

We were not consulted and knew no earlier than anyone else of the proposals. This was despite including Lotherton Hall in some aspects of our Master Plan so recently completed. We worked hard – arranging to publicise the changes to residents – meeting

with Ward Councillors and LCC Officers and submitting our comments. Now we have to wait to see what is decided. We all want to see this historic property, so generously given to LCC by our local Gascoigne family, prosper and be available to be enjoyed by everyone at an affordable cost.

We are continuing to press Highways to take measure to stop the illegal parking at the end of Lotherton Lane – we

hope our Ward Cllr Matthew Robinson can ‘shake the tree’ for us!

## Allotments/ Beech View

We are struggling to get an acceptable agreement with the City Council as we cannot allocate large sums of money to this project. There are quite a few obstacles to be overcome but we shall keep trying.

## FLY TIPPING KINGFISHER LANE

If anyone sees fly tipping happening anywhere then please report it. Try to get the licence plate of the vehicle. It is a recurring problem and all we can do is to ask LCC for a clearance from time to time. There does not seem to be a physical solution as the area is quiet, easily reached and nice and flat for dumping material!

## Sunbeams

This friendly baby and toddler group meet at the Chapel every Monday during term time from 9.30am to 11.30am and carers and their charges from babies to school starting age are all welcome. There is a modest charge of £2 per week and £1 for an additional child. This group has been running in one form or another for many years and helps carers to be in touch with others and little ones to get used to mixing before starting school.

Sunbeams have good contact with our school too and the little ones go along to events from time to time. Contact **Rowena Summers** at 1 Field Lane on **0113 3935352** if you want to join.

## DOG FOULING

Most owners are responsible these days in clearing up after their dogs. We still have a few who persist in allowing their dog to foul – especially in the area of the ‘parkland’ just beyond Beech View near the Bowling Green.

Some owners also seem to believe that fouling on the public footpaths doesn’t really count – but mess on public

footpaths is often harder to spot when there is vegetation underfoot.

There is further to carry the ‘little bag’ but mess should still be removed and deposited into a bin. Please report to us if you can identify any offending dog owner as there are measures we can take, including fining, and we will.

## WAR MEMORIAL

*There will be some refurbishment work shortly – some of the money raised from the LeedsFest tickets will be spent on it.*

*Further work will include cutting back the large trees to prevent both root damage and debris falling onto the Memorial. We hope it will be completed before Remembrance Day.*

## NEWS FROM CEDAR RIDGE AND BRIERLANDS END OF OUR PARISH

**An approach has been made to Garforth ‘in Bloom’ to attempt to improve/revive the entrance to Cedar Ridge Estate in 2012 and we will be considering a grant to facilitate the work.**

As to Brierlands Lane (which is the path between the two estates) we are extremely disappointed that LCC have failed to provide a team, promised earlier in the year, to deal with the shrubs and ground vegetation, and hopefully do a litter pick. To make matters worse we have lost Mrs McGill, our Local Environmental Officer,

to another LCC Department and to date we do not know about a replacement. A litter pick was done earlier in the year by Cllr Forster when all cans and bottles were removed, but now we are back to square one.

We cannot blame the football club for this nor may they be blamed for all the dog excrement on the path and the first field. PLEASE ensure you pick up after your dog as most of us do; let us make it 100%. A litter pick and a tidy up of the vegetation and hedge will hopefully be arranged

if we can see to the removal of the resultant items.

Finally - there are two vacancies on the Parish Council. We should, on the basis of the number of residents on both estates, have two councillors not one. Do not forget, those of you who have lived here for the last 7/8 years, that you voted to join ‘Aberford and District’ PC so we need to increase our voice for our part of the Parish. Speak to Cllr Forster/come to a meeting – give it a go!

## HEDGE CUTTING

If your garden adjoins a pavement or public footpath, we would appreciate your keeping overhanging vegetation cut back.

Apart from being unsightly, it is a potential hazard when the vegetation is at face height and/or face height for children. Our local landowners do co-operate in cutting back their boundary hedges at a time of the year when this is permitted.

## Bins, Bins, Bins

Erratic collections continue to be a source of frustration. Our Ward Councillor Matthew Robinson is just one of many trying to get a reliable service for the PCs in his Ward.

We do report breakdowns in collections and we will keep trying. A one off skip will be provided for residents to use on a weekend in October – we will arrange for this from time to time.

## Winter

As winter approaches we will be making sure the grit bins are filled and, if you need to use some, please remember to spread very thinly as per advice from LCC.

Not for use on private drives – pavements and roads please. Small bags of grit salt can be bought for personal use from Pease of Garforth and elsewhere, at a cost of around £5 a bag. Grit salt is effective at very low coverage. If you can clear the stretch of pavement in front of your own property it would be appreciated – we cannot expect any help from LCC for pavement clearing. Snow on estate/side roads will be tackled by our local farmer if it becomes necessary.

## DIAMOND JUBILEE EVENTS

*We know that the PTA are planning to have an Event to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee next year and we intend to act as ‘agent’ to draw together any other organisations in the village who also plan to celebrate. The first weekend in June is suggested for events and Cllrs Mrs Broadley has volunteered to be a contact/co-ordinating point so please get in touch with her or any Cllr and let us know what you are planning. Perhaps we can have various celebrations at different points through the village.*

## BITS AND PIECES

Since the last Newsletter we have worked to get an acceptable solution for a bus clearway in Main Street, helped a resident in Abbotts Close to get action on a blocked drain, commented on many planning applications, attended various extra meetings like the LCC NE Area Forum

meeting, attended training sessions on various subjects, responded to consultations on parking in Garforth and closure of older person’s facilities. Our Chairman had lunch with the Lord Mayor and others when he came to open the Horticultural Society Show – an easier ‘meeting’ for once!

## Village Hall

The AGM of the Hall Committee will be held on Thursday 20th October at 7.30pm in the Hall. The Committee would appreciate it if residents could go along and see what plans they have and give their thoughts. It is always good to get the views of residents on the future use of this important central building.

## Mobile Library Service – Sunday

*Please make use of this service if you can.*

*The Library bus visits now on Sundays. It is at the Royal Oak from 11am to 12.30am. around the Arabian Horse/Play Area from 12.30am to 2.00pm and at Beech View from 2.15pm to 3.00pm.*

*How about taking the children along for a different Library experience – combined with a visit to the Play Area perhaps? Reading is a really good habit to get children into and they will find it fun to climb into a bus to get a book.*

## And Finally...

Here is some useful information about organisations in and around our Parish. We will always help anyone wanting to contact a Council Service or a Ward Councillor.

Parish Council:	information and regular updates can be found on our website: <a href="http://www.aberfordonline.com">www.aberfordonline.com</a> .
Tuesday Club	Alvice – 0113 281 2192
Bowling Club	Paul Hancock on – 0113 2813518
Chapel Hire	Mrs Richardson – 0113 2813286
Oriel Room Hire	Mr Sutcliffe – 0113 2813460
Yorkshire Country Womens	Ann Dunning – 0113 2813417
Globe Youth Group	Louisa Street – 12 Becksides, off Main Street.
Village Hall	Harry Fisher – 0113 2812992
Aberford In Bloom	Maria Wild/Matthew Thompson – Elm Cottage, Main Street South
Garforth NET	(Neighbourhood Elders Team) This charity is a very good source of help and advice for older people. They are at 62c Main Street, Garforth 0113 2874784.