



Easingwold Town Council

2016

Autumn Newsletter



A Message from Council Chairman Peter Nottage

In May I became this year's Mayor and Chairman of Easingwold Town Council with Richard Tanfield as our Vice-Chairman. Together we're dedicated to helping our town and its citizens thrive and prosper.

Each year brings challenges and opportunities for our Town. We've been working with Hambleton District Council on a new Local Plan for the District. This will set out the policies by which planning applications for new developments will be considered and also identify land suitable for housing, employment, mixed use and recreation up to 2035. We are ensuring the needs of Easingwold are understood and reflected in the plan (e.g. taking into account the recent level of housing developments in the town). Alongside this we are developing a vision for the future of Easingwold as part of our own Neighbourhood Plan.

We also have an ambitious program of improvement activities and some of these are outlined in this newsletter. More generally we are working hard, alongside a range of community groups, to enhance and improve our existing facilities and infrastructure whilst protecting the special character of our lovely town. Such groups play an important role in the life of our Town and I am delighted that we have recently seen the formation of an Easingwold Business Forum and a Green Spaces Group. We wish them every success and are keen to support their endeavours. We are also challenging some pernicious anti-social behaviour in the town alongside the local police. We hope that all our citizens will join us in decrying these destructive activities, which have no part in our town.

On a lighter note we have enjoyed and supported a number of major events. I need only mention the Queens 90th Birthday beacon and afternoon tea to bring back fond memories to many of you. Add to that the musical delights of Rockin' all over the Wold and many of you will have been engaged in the entertainment our Town Centre can offer. We would like to see many more such events take place and would be happy to support those seeking to organise them.

I wish you all a successful autumn and look forward to talking to you all again in our next newsletter.



2016 Winner – Best Garden
11 West Avenue



2016 Winner – Best Commercial Flowers
Tee-Hee!

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EASINGWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

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Easingwold Car Parking Survey



As a Town Council, we've been aware for some time of concerns being expressed by our citizens and visitors about Car Parking and Traffic Management within Easingwold. We've established a working group on the subject to examine the situation and they have carried out a survey of the Town Centre itself, the Long Street area, and some of the surrounding streets to establish the facts. Their report from this survey summarises the results and presents the situation as found. It shows:

- Parking in Easingwold varies considerably throughout the week and throughout the day.
- Overnight parking is lower in the town centre (circa 15%) than in the surrounding streets (circa 35%), but is much higher on Long Street taking up over 50% of the available parking spaces. (This reflects the relative amount of nightly resident parking in the different areas).
- The Town Centre area is subject to the greatest levels of parking pressure, which intensify during the day and reached a peak with over 95% of parking spaces filled during the Friday market.
- This peak left the town centre with only 15 spaces (out of 318) free at one point.
- At that time, market stalls blocked 45 spaces; with 97% of the remaining spaces being filled by longer-stay parking (over 3 hours).
- This left the central parking possibilities for visitors to the market, central retailers or hostellers extremely limited, and these mostly in the rear of the Galtres Centre.
- As a result parking was displaced into the surrounding streets, especially Tanpit Lane, Back Lane, Crabmill Lane, Park Close, Manor Road and to some extent Long Street.
- Apart from Friday during the market, some parking was usually available within the central town area; albeit limited during peaks, and requiring searching for as some parking areas were full for short periods.
- There was almost always some parking available in the car park to the rear of the Galtres Centre.
- It was noted that some spaces on the Market Place car park were not being fully utilised because of difficulties in accessing to them due to parking on the road edge from Tanpit Lane to Windross Square, which also caused a narrowing of the road to single file traffic.
- Long Street has its own high levels of on-going parking; with over 50% of its spaces taken by long term parking at any given time; this increasing to over 70% at some points during the week. None-the-less, parking can generally be found somewhere along Long Street – albeit possibly not in direct proximity to the desired destination.
- Some of the streets surrounding the town centre have their own parking pressure on a daily basis.
- One major congestion point is the combination of Manor Road and its link to the bottom of Bonnycroft Lane, which is used partly for top up parking for the town centre (access is via the two public footpaths) and for Springhill Court, which lacks sufficient parking for its needs.
- Another is Church Avenue, which serves the needs of the local residents but also those of the NHS Renal Unit at Tanpit Lodge, which is accessed from this street.
- Uppleby should be mentioned because of its high level of overnight residential parking.
- None of this parking pressure seems to affect the car park at Millfields, which has a low overall utilisation, mostly as a top-up for the Millfields Health Centre car park next door, and for the park's users.

Based on these results, the Council Working Group are drawing conclusions and looking at improvement possibilities with experts in parking and traffic management at Hambleton District Council, North Yorkshire County Council and their Enforcement Agency. There are several areas where improvements to help safety and traffic flows are under discussion, as well as variations in our parking arrangements. None of these will envisage making any parking charges in Easingwold. They may, however, consider some restrictions of the current freedom parking arrangements that might offer a fairer balance of parking time for all the town centre's users. Once it becomes clearer what possibilities exist to help the parking situation in town, then we will be holding public consultations before any changes. However, we would welcome any comments about parking you may have now, please send them to the Town Clerk.

A Vision for Millfields



Easingwold Town Council view Millfields as a jewel in the town and has created a strong vision for its future. We are progressively investing in its environs to enhance its role in community life. Whilst the park has served us well over the years, the Town Council feel it can be an even better facility and plan a series of major projects and investments to increase its role in the town's social, recreational and environmental lives.

Broadly if you enter the area from alongside the Millfields Surgery end, on the right runs a large recreational space and to the left an even bigger swathe of wetlands, scrubland and woods; all bisected by a footpath and a part of the White Rose cycle route leading north. Each of these areas is part of our plans – each building on its current role and offering a greater chance for our citizens to enjoy its resources. What does the vision consist of?

- An enhanced and impactful entrance with improved car parking from the Church Hill end to encourage and facilitate increasing use of the facility by the townspeople and visitors.
- Maintenance of the main footpath and cycle way, with improved seating and social use facilities. Better integration with the Claypenney play park and picnic area.
- A full drainage scheme for the recreational area to deliver more year-round usability and the possibility to use the area for town events.
- The continued provision of an informal, grassed parkland area for general recreational use – kite flying, ball games, exercising, relaxing, reading, social gatherings etc.
- The on-going provision of informal rugby and football pitches with goal posts.
- The complete replacement of the current skate park with a state-of-the-art facility with integrated seating for users and visitors
- The continued provision of an informal dog-walking track along the periphery of the recreational area.
- The installation of a 500 metre long and two metre wide, all-weather jogging track around the area, including low-level lighting so that it can be used throughout the year; especially giving joggers a safe place to practice in the winter.
- Alongside the jogging track a multi-station fitness facility with a series of all-weather exercise locations to support outdoor fitness regimes.
- Greater management and control of the woodland and scrubland area to enhance its usability for cycling, walking and viewing wildlife.
- The provision of separated walking and bike trails through the woodland and scrubland areas.
- Examining the potential to insert a controlled path through parts of the wetland areas, so that safe public access can be provided to enable the townspeople and schools to visit the ponds and this large and interesting parkland space

How could this be done? The Town Council already has funds in place for significant parts of the work. Some will be supported from Council reserves and from Hambleton District Council development funds arising from current extensive building around the town. For other parts groups are working to identify funders and grants that can enable these investments to happen. This means that some investments will come in to place over the coming eighteen months or so, whilst other parts will take longer to realise. Funds are already in place for the maintenance, drainage, skate park, trim-trail and cycle track. A grant from Tesco has been won to help investigate opening up the wetland areas. A working group involving the local running club is looking at funding for the jogging track.

As part of our consultation, your comments and insights on Millfields should be sent to the Town Clerk. Anyone wishing to help the Council see through this wonderful improvement programme will be welcome to join in. The recreational parts will be under the auspices of the Recreational Committee. Whereas those projects that are in the informal side of the park will be handled by the Open Spaces Committee.

Town Council



The Queen's 90th Birthday Afternoon Tea



Dementia information for Easingwold



John Pearce is thanked for his 25 years of service to Easingwold

- For the Queen's 90th birthday we held a Beacon and Fireworks at the Claypenny Recreation Area on April 21st and an Afternoon Tea at the Galtres Centre on the 12th June.
- The Town Council has become increasingly concerned about anti-social behaviour in Easingwold with instances youthful boisterousness, adult disturbances and dog fouling. We are working with North Yorkshire Police and Hambleton District Council officers to help bring the situation back to good order.
- Work has recommenced on the Neighbourhood Plan following a short hiatus caused by difficulties with the Hambleton DC Local Development Framework (LDF). Hambleton are now working on a new Local Plan, Easingwold will provide the local perspective to this as it emerges. Alongside this we will build on the earlier work by adding visionary elements with a view to reaching fruition in 2017/18.
- Progress on Town Council working groups on the Millfields future and car parking in town are presented above.

Open Spaces Committee

- Dog fouling is a repeated concern for the Committee and we are working with the HDC Dog Warden to ensure citizens look after their pet's waste responsibly. An additional dog waste bin and a general waste bin have been added to the Chase Garth Park; and the bin at the Thirsk Road roundabout moved closer to the Primary School to improve its usability. We have received a supply of soiling flags and will be using them around the town to highlight irresponsible behaviour. We would like to remind people that within areas having a 30 mph speed limit, just because grass is long does not mean it is free for dog fouling. Please imagine being a council contractor having to strim through your pet's mess! So please clear up after them yourselves!
- We are continuing with our programme of flower planting, verge cutting and tree maintenance to keep Easingwold looking good. This includes work in the Mallison Hill woods and an arboricultural report on the well-being of our veteran oak tree in Chase Garth Park
- We are dedicated to keeping Easingwold's open spaces accessible and available for our citizens to enjoy so please report any issues to the Town Clerk for action.

Recreation Committee

- The play equipment in each of our recreation areas receives a regular professional examination to ensure that they are safe for our children to use. Whenever we become aware of corrective action being needed then this is undertaken, and as a matter of urgency if needed. Recently Image Playgrounds have completed a series of corrective actions in the Memorial Park play area to keep this in good condition.
- Using Police advice we plan to upgrade the CCTV monitoring of the Memorial Park to help with the control of any anti-social behaviour there.
- We have noted a strong use of the picnic tables we have installed in several of our recreational areas and would encourage all our citizens to continue to use them as we hopefully enjoy clement autumn weather.
- The work to replace the skate park facility with a new, state-of-the-art version has begun.

Town Centre Committee

- The Friday Market changed recently when John Pearce retired and was thanked for his 25 years of excellent service. A new contractor now deals with the installation and dismantling of the stalls on Fridays. Many of the existing stalls are being refurbished and new ones have been bought along with new awnings to enhance the shopping experience.
- A contract has been awarded for the refurbishment of our Public Toilets and we look forward to getting them improved as quickly as possible.
- Our War Memorial has received a grant from the War Memorials Trust to help keep this important local landmark in tip-top condition for generations to come.
- Once again the annual Easingwold-in-Bloom competition has been held throughout the town and many, well deserved prizes were awarded. We are especially grateful to people who entered – it's great to have Easingwold looking good all year round.