
Bellerby Parish Council Newsletter

31st January 2012

FOOTPATH/CYCLEWAY UPDATE

Following the public meeting in July 2011, attended by over 70 people, and with 160 votes cast to decide the need and the preferred route, for a footpath/cycleway to Leyburn. The overwhelming response of 87.5% FOR (140 votes) 12% AGAINST (19 votes) and 1 ABSTENTION (0.5%), gave the Parish Council authority to continue with this task.

The preferred route being on the East side of the A6108, as this would minimise the number of road crossings for pedestrians. The Project Team met again with North Yorkshire County Council and the charity Sustrans to pursue this option, and progress the proposal. Despite verbal indications from the landowners, that permission would be given if village support was demonstrated, and assurances to them by the Parish Council and Sustrans, regarding leaseholds, fencing, gateways, maintenance and compensation arrangements, the landowners have decided that they will not give permission for the footpath to proceed over their land.

Unfortunately this has delayed the project, but the Project Team are eager to get the scheme back on track, apply for the necessary funding streams, and progress this as quickly as possible. A potential funding grant has been identified, and the Parish Council have again met with North Yorkshire County Council, and now aim to progress a route to the West side of the road, where the first 2 landowners are very supportive.

Open Gardens and Events Group

The Open Gardens and Events Group have now had their first meeting of the year and aim to collaborate with other village groups in organising a number of events in 2012. The proposed dates for diaries (to book tickets or to get away for the weekend) are –

Ceilidh (Memorial Hall)	Saturday 31st March
Diamond Jubilee celebrations	Tuesday 5th June
Open Gardens	Sunday 8th July

In addition the Church are proposing a number of events which will also be supported

Easter Egg Hunt	9th April
Beating of the Bounds of the Village	6th May
Scavenger Hunt	26th May
Afternoon Tea	27th July
Open Air Harvest Festival	16th September
Bulb Planting	12th – 14th October
Wine and Cheese	13th November
Carol Singing	22nd December

As always, volunteers to help are very welcome, particularly for practical jobs leading up to an event and on the day. The group's AGM will be held in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday Eve 6th March at 6.30 pm for anyone to attend. If you would like to discuss anything before then please contact **David Jameson (3 The Old Wynd) on 622905** or **John Hutchinson (Hall Garth) on 623663**

Anyone who would like to reserve advertising space or sponsor the Open Gardens brochure please contact John on the details above.

Moving Village Signage

As mentioned in previous newsletters, one way the police recommend calming speeding traffic is to extend the 'maintained appearance' of the verges beyond the village boundary.

We have already extended grass cutting beyond the Bellerby sign on Runs Bank, and will do the same at the Leyburn entrance when the footpath design is finalized. With the above in mind the Parish Council will be re-locating the 'Bellerby' village signage by approx 100m in each direction. Simple stone plinth designs are being drawn up, and any local contractor interested in tendering for the work can contact the Clerk to register an interest.

Snow Clearance/Gritting

So far this winter we have been fortunate, but as a precautionary measure the Parish Council has investigated ways of improving gritting and snow clearance on Moor Road and Church Street. They have therefore approached the Highways department to see if this can be undertaken and what cost, if any, would be charged.

The response being that it must comply with current Highways policy for the whole of North Yorkshire, and is dependent on traffic and safety issues to increase priority levels. The Parish Council would not be allowed to employ their own contractor to complete the work, as County must approve them. Further discussions are ongoing – please watch this space.

Bellerby Village Website

The village website needs to be kept up to date with news items, photographs, club news and local reports, to make it useful to villagers people wanting to visit Bellerby, use holiday cottages or check out local events.

Eric Daniels is very happy to update information on the website if you can submit it to him on 01969 625 828
Mobile 07801267958 webmaster@bellerbyvillage.co.uk
or email eric@epdaniels.co.uk

Precept

At the Parish Council Meeting on 13th December the budget provision for 2012 was discussed. The Parish Council had not increased the precept for last year, but unfortunately a number of recent and anticipated costs mean that the budget is under severe pressures. This being mainly due to Memorial Hall costs now being charged for PC meetings, increases in grass-cutting charges, and various other responsibilities being passed to the PC from the Local Authority. Limited reserves and no previous inflationary increases, mean that the precept will have to be raised. This will appear as a percentage increase on Richmondshire Council tax correspondence and roughly equates to a £5 per household rise per year.

Parish Council Minutes Agendas & Speaking Time

There has been a recent enquiry from a member of the public as to how agenda items can be raised for Parish Council Meetings.

Minutes, which include date of next meeting dates, are posted on the Memorial Hall and Village Green Notice boards. Ideally the Council would like to set these 3 months in advance but venue constraints often preclude this.

Any parishioner can attend, and 10 minutes at the beginning of each meetings is allocated for members of the public to speak or raise issues if they wish.

Any relevant item can be placed on the next meeting agenda by discussing it with any one of the Parish Councillors (details below) and asking them to raise the matter.

Next Meetings dates are provisionally –

Tues 20 March

Tues 01 May (Annual Parish Meeting followed immediately by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)

Tues 19 June

Parish Council Contact Details

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To include any items in future newsletters please contact John Hutchinson on the above number.
