

# ELSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - MAY 2018

As another year in the Parish Council calendar draws to close it is time to reflect once again on the events and achievements during the year. As always none of which would be possible without the continued hard work and support of my fellow Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk, Deb Hotson; my grateful thanks to them all. Many thanks also goes to NLC Leader, Rob Waltham, and Councillors Nigel and Carl Sherwood for all their help and continued guidance throughout the year.

### Year Highlights

After a long wait we were finally able to welcome in June 2017 a new vicar to the Parish, the **Reverend Lee Gabel**; we wish him well for the future. The monthly coffee mornings in the village hall continue to be popular and helpful in contributing to the Church funds; thanks to Dawn Enser for organizing.

Early September saw the peloton of the **Tour of Britain** pass the village by Anglian Water at Elsham top crossroads; a number residents and enthusiasts turned out to watch and cheer the riders on.

For the first time in over 20 years we were able to provide a **Christmas tree** on the Village Hall green. A big thank you to Mr & Mrs Philip Dunn for kindly donating the tree and to everyone especially Chris and Christine Busby who helped me erect, light and eventually dispose of the tree. The Reverend Gabel switched on the lights and blessed the tree and lead the Carol Service which was attended by 70/80 residents. A big thank you to all those who provided the mince pies and mulled wine which raised £82.25 for the Church funds. I hope this will become an annual event.

### Elsham Play Park

The park has been greatly enjoyed by the children of the village and some from other villages. Apart from one minor issue with paint there have thankfully been no other vandalism issues. A big thank you goes to all the volunteers who diligently unlock and lock the park on a daily basis and to my wife, Jane, for organizing the rota. We still have a drainage problem during the Winter months and after heavy rain but we now have quotes and are seeking funding for putting in drainage before next winter.

### Planning

There was an increase in planning applications this year evenly split between commercial and residential.

Commercial: Redevelopment of Barnetby Top filling station, Various extensions on the Elsham Industrial Estate, & a mobile mast and signage on Wootton Road.

Residential: Three extensions (all approved), Two new builds (both approved), Two barn conversions (subsequently withdrawn),  
Development on Woodland Drive (subsequently withdrawn),  
Development at the Old Smithy, Barnetby Lane (still awaiting decision)

### Highways

Unfortunately after this year's severe winter the roads have suffered badly both locally and nationally. NLC are aware of the repairs that need attention in the village and we will continue to chase and monitor progress.

### Crime and Neighbourhood Watch

Thankfully there have been no significant incidents this year in terms of thefts or break-ins. However, we continue to suffer from fly tipping, cold callers and occasionally suspicious vans driving slowly past property. Again, I would ask all residents to be vigilant and should they see anything suspicious to report it immediately to the Police using the non-emergency number **101**.

Fly tipping should be reported to NLC on 01724 297000.

### Elsham Nature Reserve (The Old Quarry)

The management agreement with NLC, mentioned in my report last year, is now in place and we will be working with NLC on improving all aspects of the Nature Reserve to enhance everyone's enjoyment. We received £2,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme, which will go towards improving the pathways, thanks again to Cllr Sandra Rawlin for her work in submitting the application.

I am afraid that it is not all good news as there has been some evidence of poaching in the quarry, which is a criminal offence, and also of cyclists ignoring the 'No Cycling' signs. Again, I urge everyone to report any incidents or suspicious behaviour.

### **Best Kept Village 2017 Competition**

Finally, after much effort and dedication by Cllr Lorraine Guest, the 'Elsham Elves' and many residents' efforts in their gardens, Elsham was rewarded with First Place in last year's competition. So a big well done and thank you to all and good luck again for this year.

Many thanks to Cllr Christine Busby for organizing the Village **Litter Pick** on the 17 April 2018 and to those who helped. Cllr Rawlin, Di and Andy Horner, and Jane and Graham Ousby. They collected an unbelievable 23 bags of mostly food and drink-related rubbish, as well as 11 motorbike tyres, a boat buoy, a large cooking pot and a 5ft length of flue pipe! Well done to all.

### **Dog Fouling**

This is becoming an increasing problem again and I would earnestly ask all dog owners to please be courteous to other residents and clean up after your pets and use the numerous dog bins provided.

### **The Elsham 'Leader'**

After many years of editing our Village newspaper, Cllr Lorraine Guest has decided to stand down. Thanks must go to Lorraine for all her hard work in putting the paper together. Cllrs Christine Busby and Sandra Rawlin have now taken on the task and we wish them well in producing future issues. They will be pleased to receive contributions for inclusion.

### **Current projects and future events**

The **Bus Shelter** is still to be installed. At the present time we are at odds with NLC on the type of shelter that can be provided. Hopefully, a resolution will be reached before too long.

We have now adopted the village **telephone kiosk** and this will be cleaned up and refurbished in the near future by willing volunteers, Vee Harness and Helen Farrow. Suggestions as to its usage will be gratefully received.

This year is the **centenary of the ending of the First World War** and as part of the celebrations it is planned to have **beacons** lit across the country in November. The PC is looking to be part of this celebration by having a beacon; more information will follow in the Leader.

As part of the **NLC in Bloom** project the PC have commissioned a steel model of a **Lancaster bomber**. This will be positioned in the flower bed outside the Village Hall. Hopefully, this will help boost our chances of securing First place again in the Best Kept Village competition by securing an extra point, as we did with the new Play Park last year which got a special mention.

**A Flower Festival** will be held in the Church, with a theme of 'Peace', on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018, with refreshments and craft stalls in the Village Hall. This is being kindly organized by Mr Melvyn Welton, with monies raised going towards Church Funds. Further details will be published shortly in 'The Leader'.

### **Parish Council Personnel**

We have had three changes on the PC this year: Christine Busby joined the council in October and has already made a significant contribution to the village. Vee Harness regretfully decided to leave the PC during the summer but we were pleased to welcome her husband, Dave Harness, to the council in November. Congratulations and best wishes to Christine and Dave; we now have a full complement of Councillors.

### **Past and Present Residents**

Sadly, during this year a number of our dear residents and past residents have passed away. Our thoughts and sincere condolences go to the family and friends of Mrs Judith Richardson, Mrs Sue Palmer, Mr David Nundy, Mr Michael Goodwin and Mrs Lila Roberts.

Graham Evison  
Chairman, Elsham Parish Council May 2018