

Elsham Leader



Summer 2026



On Saturday the 6th of June the parish council held an afternoon tea event on national Big Lunch day in the village hall to bring residents together over food. We had a wonderful donation of cakes as you can see and those who attended had a very enjoyable afternoon. The volunteers who prepared the hall and food did a great job and we would like to thank everyone involved. Holme Farm residents also benefitted from the leftover cake!

We hope to organise something similar each year for the Big Lunch event as we feel that bringing together the community is part of our role. This year we have been thinking about what the parish council's aims really are, and together we have written the following **Mission Statement**:

Elsham Parish Council's mission is to manage our resources responsibly, to represent Elsham and its residents, to protect our natural environment and wildlife, and to build a strong sense of community.

Thanks go to Louise our clerk for the new parish council logo, which features the quarry as the largest asset that we own and manage.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE RESULTS 2026

Elsham was scored third out of the seven small villages that entered, with 196/200 points. Low Burnham won with a very high 199 points, and East Lound was second with 197 points. Below are the judges' detailed comments.

This is a very attractive village, where community planting is a strength, with good quality plants used to good effect. This is particularly evident in the excellent planting displays below the very smart street signs. There was equally good planting around the Village Hall and in and around the old telephone box on New Street.

On the grass triangle, at the junction of Front Street and Barnetby Lane, there is a good planting display, including the village name in pebbles. There is also a well-filled wheelbarrow and 3 planters. On the other side of the road, at the junction of New Street and Hall Lane, there is a large wooden planter under the direction sign, and a plough with colourful planting around. Further along New Street there is good planting at the telephone kiosk.

Some of the best planting was found at the Village Hall on Chapel Lane. The Hall has a range of colourful displays in tubs and fence planters, as well as a herb garden. The grassed area in front includes a lovely shrub and flower bed, with a Lancaster bomber replica and ceramic poppies. There is also a planted bank to the side of the Hall with a bug hotel.

There are many attractive gardens throughout the village, with particularly attractive floral displays found at a number of properties. Good examples were found at Astley Corner, especially number 7, at 11, 24, 29 and Meadoway on Church Street, 11 Chapel Lane, 15, 16, 18, 21 and 30 New Street and 1 Doll Lane, where there was a very attractive and colourful display on the gravel outside the house.

Hedges around the village are neat and tidy, as are the footpaths. In keeping with the care and attention exhibited by residents, there was no litter found in the village.

The play and fitness park has a very welcoming entrance, with attractive fence planters on the railings. There is a good range of wooden play equipment and some adult exercise equipment. The grass was well-cut and the hedge to the south of the site was reasonably well cut.



Speed Sign Data

Below is a summary of the data recorded by the speed sign from 30 March to 11 August. It includes every vehicle passing through the village in both directions.

The device recorded 87,576 vehicles travelling in the incoming direction and 74,313 outgoing — a total of nearly 162,000 vehicles. The maximum outgoing speed recorded in the recent sample was 65 mph — more than double the 30 mph limit.

Speed — incoming (87,576 vehicles)	Speed — outgoing (74,313 vehicles)
≤30 mph: 80,423 (91.8%)	≤30 mph: 60,652 (81.6%)
31–35 mph: 5,961 (6.8%)	31–35 mph: 10,729 (14.4%)
36–40 mph: 1,010 (1.2%)	36–40 mph: 2,405 (3.2%)
41–45 mph: 154 (0.2%)	41–45 mph: 377 (0.5%)
46–65+ mph: 28 (0.03%)	46–65+ mph: 150 (0.2%)

The figures point to a consistent pattern: traffic entering the village is generally well controlled, while traffic leaving tends to pick up speed more readily. Nearly one in five outgoing vehicles exceeds 30 mph, compared to roughly one in twelve incoming vehicles — and the gap widens further up the speed range, with outgoing vehicles roughly five times more likely to be travelling above 40 mph than incoming ones.

The overall picture is good, and although we perceive vehicles coming down the hill as going faster than those leaving the village, the data show that it is actually the other way round. Vehicles are accelerating when they are still in the 30 mph zone, in preparation for leaving the village and getting up the hill. The parish council will continue to collect data from the speed sound while it is in the village, and these figures can be used in any future discussions with highways.

Elsham Parish Council Annual Chairman's Report

April 2026

As always, I start the year's report by thanking everyone who has given up their time, in whatever way, to help the parish council over the last year. We have recently recruited new volunteers and look forward to working with them in the coming year. Volunteers make a big difference to what we can achieve around the village, and this is very much appreciated. Below is a summary of the main actions we have been involved in over the last 12 months. This is my last report as Chair; after 6 years of fulfilling that role I will be standing down as Chair in May but will remain on the council and continue to work with my fantastic colleagues to support Elsham and its residents.

Year Highlights

Nature Reserve

As winters seem to continue getting milder, each year the first of everything is occurring a few weeks earlier than the year before. This spring has seen wonderful displays of snowdrops, violets, blackthorn blossom and cowslips – on the plateau next to the entrance on Middlegate Lane, which was cleared of trees a few years ago to let wildflowers grow, cowslips have put on a fantastic show and are definitely spreading across the area. Those in the basin are also establishing well and we are starting to see new clumps down there. Last year we installed a new bench in that location and it is a great place to sit and take in the view. The picnic table in the basin has been repaired, and fortunately no other damage has been caused in the last year. Unfortunately, the very hot and dry conditions last year did not suit the orchids or oxeye daisies and they were much less numerous than usual.

We had some trees fall in strong winds, and these were cleared by either NLC, Cllr Lilley or village residents, depending on their size.

We continue to work on collecting the last of the plastic tree protectors that were put around the trees when they were planted over 20 years ago. A team from Anglian Water came out in March for a day to help collect the last of the tubes and at the end of April, another team of volunteers from Nelipak on the industrial estate will be coming for a day to separate the collected tubes from cable ties and wooden posts and bag them up ready for recycling. Many thanks to Jane Ewen who has played a large part in the tube collecting, and to Phil Dunn for offering to take the tubes to be recycled.

Play Park

Many thanks to Cllr Mick Percy for carrying out inspections of the equipment and highlighting issues. The wet winter meant that the back part of the park was very boggy. This spring we have replaced the main post on one of the pieces of gym equipment that was rotting and will be repairing a bench. We are also looking to give the equipment a thorough clean.

Highways

The work done last spring on new road channels on Church Street and the new gullies and catch pits on Barnetby Lane was effective to begin with. Unfortunately, over the year and especially in the autumn, the gullies became blocked with leaves and debris. Despite numerous requests, the street sweeper has not cleared them for us which has resulted in water still running down the road outside of the gullies. It seems that these will only be cleared if we go out there with shovels and do it ourselves.

Accidents have continued to occur on Barnetby Hill at the junction with Newland Hill, and we again requested NLC to look at moving the 30mph sign further up the hill, but the request was refused because the site does not fit the criteria for a 30mph zone. We are therefore liaising with Highways to see if any other measures could be introduced to help prevent these accidents.

We have also worked closely with Elsham Hall to try and resolve the issue of vehicles turning down Hall Lane to access the hall and then damaging verges as they realise they cannot get through and need to turn around. Elsham Hall have installed a new brown tourist sign on the finger post at the end of Hall Lane and we will be monitoring any difference that this makes. We thank Elsham Hall for sending out their gritter on several occasions in the winter to do smaller roads in the village that are not part of NLC's gritter route. Elsham Golf Club lowered their car park spotlights to make them less blinding for cars passing in the direction of Wrawby, after requests from the Parish Council.

Planning

The main planning applications in the village considered since last May have been PA/2025/643 for a data centre park next to the industrial estate, and PA/2025/1054 for a Paragraph 84 dwelling off Front Street. The data centre was granted outline planning permission, and the paragraph 84 dwelling was approved with conditions. PA/2026/130 for a detached dwelling on the orchard at the top of Front Street is under consideration.

Crime and Neighbourhood Watch

There have been no serious incidents in the village. Our litter picks have been well attended and the environment much improved by the work of the volunteers who attend these, and also by those who go litter picking round the village on a regular basis. Big thanks to all of you. The main issues have been cars leaving the road at the Newland Hill junction, often damaging our salt bin and street sign, and lorries ignoring the weight restrictions. The photos taken by one resident led to a driver being fined, so please if you see lorries passing through and not obviously delivering, take a photo and send it to us if you can.

Community Involvement

We are very grateful to everyone who has volunteered this year. In March 2026 a team from Anglian Water volunteered in the quarry, still collecting up the plastic tree protectors (are they breeding in there?!) and Nelipak are sending a team at the end of April to sort them ready for recycling. Andrew and I prepared a volunteering form to go out in the spring Leader and were delighted with the response – you will no doubt see the new volunteers out and about in the village. We also had a record turnout for our spring litter pick, a sign of the community pride and spirit that is still alive in Elsham despite the pressures of modern life.

Best Kept Village/ East Midlands in Bloom

In the Best Kept Village competition, marks were very close again, and we came second, with just one mark between Elsham (198) and Low Burnham (199). The judges commented on the community planting as a real strength, and described Elsham as a most attractive and well-cared for village. The many very impressive gardens were also noted. It was a difficult year because of the very hot and dry weather, but everybody had to cope with the same conditions.

We entered East Midlands in Bloom for the second time, hoping to improve on the silver that we were awarded last year, and we were delighted to be awarded a silver gilt. Both of these results are a reflection of the work done by our volunteers, led by Andrew and Di Horner; this coming year with our new gardening group, the load will be shared among more shoulders, but the displays we enjoy would not be possible without sustained work throughout the year, and we are very grateful for this.

Ian Bowmer has done a fantastic job for several years as our village handyman (it seems that we are forever asking him to reinstate and paint the white posts that turning vehicles keep knocking over!). Ian and his wife are looking to move house so while we will greatly miss his skills, we wish them the best in their new location.

Stevenson and Julian Charity Trust Fund

The parish council continues to contribute £500 a year to this fund and to help promote its use to Elsham residents.

Current Projects

Our focus this summer will be on maintaining the village community areas with the help of our new volunteers, and improvements have already begun at the Hall Lane finger post bed and the Village Hall. Di and Andrew Horner lead this work and are extremely active in renewing displays, planting and maintaining displays, and coordinating volunteers. We owe them many thanks for the amount of time they give to this.

This year when we considered our budget, there was a £2000 overspend on what had been predicted, so after many years of not increasing the precept (which was a reduction in real terms) we had to increase the precept from £8000 to £10000 in order to continue delivering the same level of service. Our accounts are openly available on our website for anyone who wishes to look at them.

Council members

In May 2025 Mark Lilley and Mick Percy were co-opted onto the Parish Council. Cllr Damary Thompson and Cllr Ewen resigned in September 2025, and we thank them greatly for their work over the years, especially Jane's contribution to the play park and quarry, and Deborah's time inspecting the play park. Sue Everett was co-opted in January 2026, leaving us with one current vacancy (now filled).

Sandra van Oosterhout, Elsham Parish Council Chairman, April 2026

InternetTY

A representative from InternetTY came to the parish council meeting in June to let us know that they would be coming to Elsham this year to install full-fibre broadband using existing cable trenches so there would be a minimum of digging. Unfortunately since then they have lost some government funding and really need to know how much demand there is in Elsham to put forward a business case for coming here. If you wish to register your interest for their services, you can do so at this webpage by putting in your postcode: <https://join-us.internetty.uk/> with no obligation to take their package.

This information is being shared by the parish council and does not constitute an endorsement of InternetTY.

Role of the parish council

After eight years on the Parish Council, I took over as Chair of the Council in May. Talking to residents, I realise that it can be difficult to differentiate between what the Parish Council and North Lincs Council are responsible for, so I thought it would be helpful to explain.

To start with, parish councillors represent the local community, help make decisions on local services, and work to improve the quality of life in their parish. They are elected and unpaid. This means that parish councillors represent the views and interests of residents in their parish. We act as a point of contact for community concerns and liaise with local authorities, service providers, and other organisations to address issues affecting residents. In Elsham we have close liaison with our North Lincolnshire Ward Councillors (who attend our council meetings) and with the local police.

Parish councillors regularly participate in council meetings to decide on local policies, services, and spending priorities. This includes managing budgets, planning local projects and village events, and commenting on planning applications. We also ensure that council decisions are implemented effectively and that services meet the community's needs, and we monitor the performance of local initiatives and projects to maintain accountability and efficiency. Alongside this, we actively engage with residents through meetings and consultations. We listen to local concerns, gather feedback, and communicate council activities and decisions to the community.

In practice then, what do we actually do? Although public services such as bin collections, and highways issues like potholes, street sweeping, drainage and street lighting are dealt with by North Lincs Council, the Parish Council is responsible for some local services. These include the play park, the Nature Reserve and the bus shelter. Some years ago, we took over the arrangements for grass verge cutting and with the recent closure of the churchyard, we have taken over grass cutting there too. We also organise regular litter picks to keep areas around the village clean.

We continue to press North Lincolnshire Highways to improve road safety by moving the 30 mph limit up Barnetby Lane hill. Despite the number of crashes near the junction with Newland Hill, they have so far refused, but we continue to make the case, and we are monitoring the data from the speed sign (see the separate article on this on p4). Over many years we pressed for improvements to the drainage on Church Street and Barnetby Lane hill, resulting in major improvements last year. We have worked with Elsham Hall to get improved signage at the Hall Lane junction and with Elsham Golf Club to lower their car

park floodlights to make them less blinding for cars passing in the direction of Wrawby. As a result of pressure from the Parish Council, Highways have recently agreed to set up quarterly meetings with us to discuss issues like drainage, street sweeping and speed.

We have installed new benches in the Nature Reserve and count ourselves as very lucky to have such a beautiful leisure space in our village. The Parish Council funds our village planting and our entry in the Best Kept Village competition, and with the help of volunteers, we have worked hard to make the village as attractive as possible with our floral planting. This year we have installed a new wooden planter at the crossroads and a renovated wheelbarrow at the phone box and were successful in obtaining an In Bloom Community grant from NLC that will allow us to further improve the public areas of the village.

If you have any suggestions or concerns that you would like help with, please contact a Parish Councillor or the Clerk – their names and details are on [pX](#).

Andrew Horner



Autumn Litter Pick 27th September – Volunteers Welcome!

We'll be holding our autumn litter pick on 27th September and would love as many volunteers as possible to join us. All equipment will be provided — you just need to bring your own gloves. The focus will again be on Barnetby Lane, which continues to be one of the areas most in need of attention.

It's always fantastic to see our regular volunteers, and we warmly welcome anyone new who'd like to get involved. Every helping hand really does make a difference to how the village looks and feels — and the more volunteers we have, the more areas we can cover.

Reminders will be shared via the village WhatsApp group, Facebook page, and the village hall noticeboard. We hope you can join us!

New volunteers

In the last edition we asked for volunteers to come forward to help with gardening jobs, general maintenance, and caring for planting throughout the summer. We had a good response to the questionnaire and now have two volunteer groups, one for gardening and one for maintenance jobs – thank you so much everyone, in the summer we are having we would not have been able to keep plants alive without this extra help. Additional help with watering is always appreciated, so if you live near to one of the planted-up tubs or flower beds and will be able to help water it next year, please let us know.

With thanks from your Parish Councillors

Village Hall Updates

Dee Taylor has joined the village hall committee (and now also the parish council), so we welcome her and thank her for volunteering in these roles. That means there are now two of us looking after the hall and bookings, but we would still welcome new volunteers, as two is still not really enough, and we do not officially have a treasurer.

The village hall committee was established as a charity when the hall was built and its remit is to look after the hall and maintain it for the users. It is completely separate from the parish council, the two are not connected, but often as now, the people volunteering for the village hall also volunteer for the parish council.

We are refurbishing the kitchen and a new floor is to be fitted soon. There will be a burgundy recycling bin delivered and we will be asking users to put recycling materials in a separate bin in the kitchen, and to put food waste in a food caddy that should be emptied every time the hall is used – this is to prevent the build-up of odours in this hot weather.

For those new to the village, the village hall can be booked for parties and events – see p14 for contact details and times of regular club meetings, with newcomers always welcome. We keep costs as low as possible, with a weekend birthday party costing around £50, and regular morning or afternoon clubs £20. The hall is big enough for an inside bouncy castle, the kitchen is equipped with a fridge, microwave and hob, and there are disabled toilets. Dee or myself will gladly show anyone around if you haven't been inside the hall before, it really is a lovely space for a gathering.

How quickly the seasons of the year progress and pass by – you sometimes have to stop and really notice the abundance of growth around you to appreciate the beauty, fullness and splendour of spring and the English summer.

Not long ago we were waiting for buds to burst open, blossom to display its colours and lawns to need regular mowing! This year has changed for a lot of those looking after their gardens – the weather has turned uncharacteristically hot. Things are not so healthy in the garden beds, and lawns look as though they will never grow again.

This noticing of nature and the seasons reminds me how gardeners and growers often have the dual focus of planting and pruning – nurturing and watering as well as clearing, tidying and weeding. The trouble is, with the time some of us have available we only seem to get round to the latter! Sometimes, as in our case, a garden is getting overgrown and a tiny bit neglected in places, that a great deal of cutting back and preparing the ground has to be done first before any new designs or plans can be put in place and new plants put in.

In spiritual terms, these ideas are very prevalent in the bible.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. John 15:1-2”

For our churches, my prayer is always that God would bring about and do the new thing. I am so keen to spot new shoots and signs of growth as faith stirs and hearts are drawn to respond to the call and love of God in Jesus, His Son.

I also realise there are times when God disciplines those He loves, and may call us to stop doing something or to change direction if it is not pleasing to Him, part of His good plan for us or the life of His church. Maybe these ideas point us to ask the question ‘What new thing is God wanting to say to me or do in my life? What things should I stop, reduce or get rid of?’

Sometimes these are not easy things to ponder and tackle, but knowing and trusting our Creator God loves us and wants the best for us, just like a master gardener, helps us to yield ourselves to His purposes as we open up to His gentle leading.

God’s richest blessing,
DAWN ENSER
Focal Minister and Lay Minister, All Saints Church, Elsham

We have received this letter from the Archdeacon and we pass it on keep villagers informed, but please note that the parish council plays no role in the church or its business – questions about how to volunteer for the church and become involved must be addressed to the Parochial Church Council or at this meeting next month.



Dear Residents of Elsham

I am writing to invite you to a meeting on Tuesday 22nd September at 7pm at Elsham Village Hall to discuss the future of All Saint's Church Elsham.

As you may or may not know, each Church is an individual charity which requires trustees, through its Parochial Church Council and also is funded by the donations of others. Currently, Elsham Church is struggling to find enough volunteers to continue to meet governance responsibilities. This therefore means that there is a possibility that the church may have to begin to explore the option of closure.

During this meeting I will be presenting options for the future, and it would be really helpful if as many people as possible from the village could attend. I will be there to answer questions about the future of the church.

I look forward to meeting you on Tuesday 22nd September. With best wishes

The Venerable Eleanor Robertshaw
Archdeacon of Stow & Lindsey

CLUBS AND EVENTS TAKING PLACE IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Monday	Bowls Club	6.30 – 8.30pm
Tuesday	New Age Kurling	10.00am – 12.00pm
	Wine Club (to be confirmed)	8.00 – 10.00pm
Parish Council	Monthly on the 3rd Tuesday, (except August and December).	7.00 – 9.00pm
Wednesday	Bowls Club	6.30 – 8.30pm (except May to August)
Thursday	Upholstery	10am – 4pm
	Line Dancing	7.00 – 9.00pm
Friday	Bowls Club	2.00 – 4pm

Contact details re keys/booking etc. for Elsham Village Hall

Sandra van Oosterhout
17 Church Street, Elsham
Tel:- 01652 327012; 0781 7530705

Parish Council WhatsApp Group

Newcomers to the village may not be aware that the parish council has a WhatsApp group that only parish council members can post in, so there are no contentious comments or arguments, just useful information and notification of events. Simply scan the QR code shown here with your phone's camera, or ask a neighbour who is already a member to invite you to the group.



Elsham Parish Council

Elsham Parish Council forthcoming meeting dates are:

15th September 20th October 17th November **from 7 pm until 9 pm**

Your Parish Councillors are:

Andrew Horner (**Chair**) – 07940 468404,
cllr.ahorner@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sandra van Oosterhout (**Vice Chair**) – 0781 7530705,
cllr.svanoosterhout@elshamparish.gov.uk

Steve Moir – cllr.moir@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mick Percy – cllr.michaelpercy@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Mark Lilly – cllr.marklilley@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Sue Everett – cllr.meverett@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Dee Taylor – cllr.dtaylor@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk – Louise Price

Tel: 07830 427169 Email: clerk@elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk
Correspondence Address: 106 Appleby Lane, Broughton DN20 0BE

Website: www.elshamparishcouncil.gov.uk

Martin Vickers MP

Our MP (Immingham and Brigg constituency) is Martin Vickers.

His constituency office contact details, should you wish to contact him about anything, are:

2 Morley's Yard, Brigg, DN20 8JD
Tel 01469 572777
<https://www.martinvickers.org.uk/>