

Chair: Nigel De Badgecoe
Clerk: Ruth Mazonas
Member: Jennie Beaumont
Member: Jenny Smith
Member: Pramada Deepak
Member: Becky Grainger
Member: Damian Hadfield
Member: Andy Alton



Date: April 2021

Kirkcommunity@gmail.com
www.kirkcommunity.co.uk

Kirklevington and Castle Leavington Parish Newsletter

It has been a long time since we last managed to get a Newsletter out to the community, largely due to covid but similarly due to workload as we have been very busy campaigning against the ever-increasing number of planning applications in the immediate area along with other issues that are placed upon us, more on this to follow.

As the parish now changes around us, so too do the demographics, the population is growing, families are getting younger, the schools are getting busier, and the parish is expanding. Whether we wish to embrace it or fight it, "change is inevitable" and we are seeing a lot of changes.... To that end it is with regret that Jennie Beaumont has decided to step down (for personal reasons) from the position of Chair of the Parish Council and also as Bookings Secretary of the Parish Hall committee. Following on from Jennie will be no easy task as Jennie has been an amazing ambassador not just for Kirklevington and Castle Leavington but for Yarm, Ingleby Barwick and beyond with a very impressive 42 years service in politics and Stockton Borough Council. We also say a big thank-you and good-bye to Graham Tebbs our vice Chair and James Simpson one of our Parish Councillors, a big thank-you from both the Parish Council and the residents for all your contributions.

I am very proud to have been offered the opportunity to chair the Parish Council moving forward with Ruth continuing as our Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer. We also welcome on-board a few new team members; to bring some fresh ideas and 'drive' to help continue making Kirklevington and Castle Leavington the place we all want it to be. I very much look forward to working with you all and welcome any further interest to join us. Should you be interested in joining the Parish Council please contact us on the email address above copying kirklevingtonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk also, and we will contact you if any vacancies arise.

- *Looking back at 2021 so far, we have been fiercely fighting a number of developments around the parish. Banks\Taylor Wimpey is our biggest threat currently as they won, at appeal, the right to build 90 houses to the west of St Martins Way (despite being refused by SBC) the main issue here is that their means of construction access is by bringing all the heavy goods vehicles in through the village, which obviously brings grave safety concerns; and to add insult to injury they have recently reapplied to increase the number of houses to 97 but within a smaller plot size – we have been fighting this hard but no decision has been taken on the new application by Taylor Wimpey [21/0156/FUL] yet. Whilst we cannot overturn the original application appeal decision, we can try to influence their 'imposed conditions' around their 'means of access'.*

- Outside the village on the land south of the Yarm School playing fields (off Kirklevington Hall Drive) we have Theakston's with an already approved planning application for 100 houses 20/0813/REM, again trying to increase the number on the plot to **300** - 18/0910/OUT, tripling the size of the original application – again we are vehemently fighting this. **DID YOU KNOW** that the traffic survey states that “300 dwellings can be satisfactorily mitigated by the updated improvements proposed at Leven Road” this ‘improvement’ is to make Leven Road 3 lanes wide between the junction of the Spital/Spitalfields/Thirsk Road and across to Hawthorne Grove? We are sure this will encourage rat-runs down Leven Road trying to avoid the Shell/Crossroads roundabout.
- Jomast\Story homes is well under way and you will all be aware of the problems we have faced with flooding and the Pump Lane roadworks debacle, again these were not of our doing but we were involved in trying to manage the issues, concerningly we are now having to fight the idea of turning Pump Lane **back to 2-way traffic** (in part) as it's thought a 2-way continuous loop around the new estate is a great idea. As I write, we have had the junction now fenced off to prevent an accident whilst we try to resolve this jointly with Story Homes who also don't want this ‘improvement’.
- On the subject of flooding, we have worked closely with SBC, Andrew Sherris and Story Homes to try and resolve the awful flooding of the back gardens on St Martins Way, thanks to some sterling work by Andy Alton amongst others we have now managed to have Story's dig a swale across the northern perimeter of the site to act a barrier for future flooding & provide a means of drainage for the “green corridor”. The work isn't complete as yet, but it is certainly well under-way.
- We are working with Story's to repair the flooded and damaged Public Right of Way around the southern perimeter of the school – it's been impassable for some time, but we have an assurance it should be fixed within the coming weeks.
- The road surfaces have taken an absolute beating over the winter period and are littered with potholes and leaking water mains, they have all been reported and will continue to be. The increase in rat-runs as people avoid Green Lane & the Crossroads roundabout is inevitable so the roads are getting busier and failing faster – even throughout the winter and the lockdown, in the last 3 weeks of February alone we saw over 23,000 vehicles using Forest Lane, most abiding to the speed limit but 295 who did not (1.26%)
- The stone wall ‘Kirklevington’ sign at the new Story's entrance is to be reduced in height after complaints that it obscures drivers' vision when trying to exit onto the A67.
- You may have noticed the village play park has undergone a fairly recent transformation with most of the older wooden equipment being removed and replaced with newer metal apparatus, there is more work to be done here - but keep an eye out on future newsletters.
- There has been an increase in the amount of fly tipping on Saltersgill lane – please be vigilant and let us know if you see any dubious activity or vans parked up.
- There has been an increase in littering and anti-social behaviour by Foxtan bridge on Weary bank – this is the road that passes behind the prison and on towards Hutton Rudby, Stokesley and beyond, as the lockdown is lifted, and the sun starts to appear we expect this to get worse.
- There have been a few reports of anti-social behaviour in the Parish Hall car park on an evening, the property is monitored by CCTV and we are looking to assist the police with their enquiries.

- *For the foreseeable may we remind people that access to Kirklevington Primary School is via the front entrance only, the side gates from St Martins and Pump Lane are to remain closed to maintain social distancing, this is a mandated government directive that we must enforce – sorry for the inconvenience.*
- *Green waste collections are set to re-start on April 13th.*
- *The parish website is undergoing a makeover and we will be merging the two sites together, so we have a single source of information, we are adding a few modern takes along the way with an on-line parish hall bookings calendar for viewing its availability.*
- *The website should become a real go-to place now as it is updated almost daily with anything from news, planning applications, to lost & found items, a discussion board and contacts. We welcome everyone to bookmark it but more importantly to contribute – share photos, news, events, classified items, businesses, and ideas. It will only be a success if people use it so, please do have a look, it is our intention to post regular content and keep improving the site. It would be fabulous if people would register using the log in button (it's not mandatory) so if we need to get urgent news or updates out for whatever reason we can contact you. It is NOT our intention to stop communicating in the usual fashion as we acknowledge not everyone has access to; or wishes to use a computer but it's a great resource for putting everything in one place.*

www.kirkcommunity.co.uk

Village Hall

Our Village Hall is a privately run Charitable Trust set up after WW2 with the prime objective being to provide a community facility for the benefit of Kirklevington & nearby residents.

In a historic village such as ours, a local church, pub, & village hall provide places where social activities can take place & help to provide focal gathering points that support & promote our village community & identity. As new large-scale developments around the village materialise it becomes even more important that these social centres continue to thrive & deliver benefits to residents. The aim of the present hall Trustees is to ensure that it will continue to be available for many years to come, to be used & enjoyed by yourself, your children, & your grandchildren. The current trustees are forward-looking & have now implemented a hall bookings calendar that will be available to view via the “www.kirkcommunity.co.uk” web site. This will enable prospective hirers to see which days/times/halls are available, and for residents to see when our varied village social groups meet & when other public events take place in our hall.

Our short-term objective, after a long period of Covid constraints, is to bring the hall back into full use at the earliest allowable opportunity. We currently have a number of vacancies for Trustees & we would like to welcome new members, particularly those who represent the younger generations. If you are interested &/or would like further information, please contact either:

Secretary - Grant Grieve - Tel: Home: 01642 782807 mob: 07809670951

Chairman - Andy Alton - Tel: Home: 01642 783624 mob: 07960755874

Final thoughts.

We as a council really want to help, we are very approachable and welcome your feedback and concerns, we have created a single email address kirkcommunity@gmail.com where you can contact us with anything – if you don't know who does what, or who is in charge of the church services or runs a club at the Parish hall, when the Parish Council meet, when are the green bag collections re-starting, whatever it is, just send an email and we can put you in touch with the right people. All our Parish council meeting minutes have always been displayed on the parish hall noticeboard and on the website along with the Agendas – so please free to familiarise yourself with them should they be of interest.

We will post regular updates on the website and try to increase the frequency of Parish newsletters; we aim to be much more visible in the work we are doing by sharing information readily. We are also considering publishing a questionnaire to all residents (similar to the community plan ran back in 2012) to capture people's thoughts and feedback given nearly 10yrs have passed since the last one. A lot has changed since then and we would like to see if there is anything under our control that we can improve upon – please remember we do not have the power to overturn planning applications, but we do get the opportunity to consult and object to them with well written and researched balanced arguments.

Please wherever possible support your parish, please try to make the best use of the facilities we have available such as the Village Hall, support local businesses and trades people (we have created a web page for local businesses – please get in touch if you would like to advertise on there, it is free). Everyone has suffered throughout this lockdown period but a “silver lining in the cloud” has been how we have come together in mutual support, e.g. striking up conversations with other residents that in some cases might have been many years overdue! As we emerge from Covid lockdown we have a great opportunity to “hold these gains” & strengthen our community & identity in what will quite possibly be challenging times ahead.

Also please get involved, contribute with ideas, think of a community event, join our fantastic team of litter pickers, or leaflet droppers (we would welcome volunteers from the various Tall Trees estates and Kirklevington Grange in particular) - it's a great way to meet your neighbours and exercise the dog at the same time. Did you know we also have a team of people, all volunteer helpers who have offered to help anyone in need, be it fetching shopping, collecting prescriptions etc, please just ask they are there, ready and waiting to help if you need them.

Despite all the changes we must remember that we were, still are, and always will be a community and It is our aim to make sure this continues. After lockdown, when the ‘new normal’ begins to return, we should celebrate and really appreciate what we have; and take pride in what we do, after all, it is a great place to live.