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Kirkleavington Village Newsletter

We have been in conversations with SBC (Stockton Borough Council) as we are concerned about the speed of traffic on the A67 around the area of the Crown. The Parish Council are looking to install some speed and traffic counters very soon to gain metrics to highlight the real gravity of the situation and also investing all new signage (courtesy of our local ward councillor Elsi Hampton's ward transport budget). We are working with SBC to see what measures we can put in place to make the road (and crossing it) much safer for all.

You may have noticed a number of road signs have gone up along Pump Lane to promote the use of the Story's car park. We have received so many complaints about poor parking and vehicles blocking the road for emergency vehicles and bin wagons etc. that action had to be taken. Ultimately there will be double yellow lines painted the length of Pump Lane which should also help alleviate the problems in the future.

Dates for your diaries

30th September Messy Church will be on in the Church at 3.30–5pm (ish) (revkatebrown@outlook.com)

1st October Harvest Festival at 10am in church. A short family service with refreshments afterwards. Produce can be brought to church on Sunday am. The collection will be in aid of the Mind Charity and the produce will go to Butterwick Hospice and the Foodbank.

31st October the annual Halloween trail (see below)

12th November Remembrance Day service starting at 10.15 in church. Refreshments in the Village Hall after the laying of wreaths.

1st December - the Church Christmas Concert at 7pm Further details to follow.

10th December (PM) Christmas carols in the playpark followed by refreshments and grotto in the Village Hall – an invitation has also been sent to Santa and we hope he will be able to join us too.

19th December Christmas Carol Service

24th December Christmas Eve Crib Service at 3.30pm.

The hugely popular Halloween trail will be repeated again this year on Tuesday 31st October, as before there will prizes on offer for the best decorated houses (£25 - 1st, £15 - 2nd, £10 - 3rd) full details are on the website, each year the event grows in popularity and attracts interest even from outside the village, as our Parish grows in size; so does the competition - so get your thinking caps (or witches hats) on and start thinking about your display. Our residents will be the judges again as it is by far the fairest way of judging.

The idea is the entrants (To enter please email Kirkcommunity@gmail.com or text 07785 226030) decorate their houses and windows as spookily as possible and give the display a name - a list of the entrants addresses, display names and a trail map can be downloaded nearer the time from the Parish website <https://www.kirkcommunity.co.uk/halloween>, printed versions can be collected from the village hall on the night. The children then go on a treasure hunt around the village using the trail map looking at the various displays. Everyone is free to judge and vote for the best decorated house\display and return their votes to the village hall entrance (white post-box) for counting - winners will be notified on the 1st of November.

Closing date for entries is 23rd Oct. **Even if you do not wish to enter the competition; we still encourage everyone to join in this amazing event.** Residents are welcomed to leave treats out for kids to avoid being disturbed by door knocking. Previous photos are on the website for some inspiration.

Everyone is very much aware of how we have been plagued with vast numbers of tankers over the wet periods of late – in short this was down to the Taylor Wimpey SuDS 'pond' not being connected to the main drainage system in St Martins Way resulting in it overflowing or putting nearby houses at risk. This is now resolved as they have been waiting on the installation of a permanent pump that will effectively pump the stored water onwards in a controlled flow rate out of the suds water into the nearby existing infrastructure.

On the topic of drains etc we had a positive meeting with Northumbrian Water regarding the Sewerage treatment works at the end of Ash Grove that are already end of life and struggling to cope with the increase in new houses. A decision has been made to rework the existing site and it will cease to be a treatment works and instead adopt a role of a pump station where it will merely move the effluence towards another pump station in Worsall Road for onwards treatment elsewhere. This should result in a reduction of vehicular movements down Ash Grove once the work is complete. We have asked what will become of the land it occupies and rest assured it will not be considered for additional housing instead we hope to work with them in 'giving it back to nature.' Some storage will likely remain at the site so in the event of extreme rain it could be stored and pumped in a controlled manner to the connection at Conyers.

The latest update from Story's is that they are currently on with building the last 32 houses with roofs expected to be fitted by Feb 2024 – You will see that work has begun on the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) and infant play area on their green and they will also soon begin to build the final house on the site that is currently the show home car park.

To all the volunteers that usually help deliver leaflets, we have had a young resident (Ethan Kirk) doing his D of E award and as part of his volunteering work he has been helping by delivering the leaflets and sanding\painting the wooden benches etc. We would like to thank him for his hard work. We always welcome new volunteers to help deliver the newsletters and would particularly welcome more living on the Story Estate or the west end of the village should anyone wish to help? email kirkcommunity@gmail.com

Owing to the recent price increases in Royal Mail stamps, it is becoming cost prohibitive to continue posting Newsletters outside of the of the main village (i.e. west of the railway bridge, Long Lane, Thirsk Road, Fieldhouse Lane, Castle Levington and beyond) please can such residents contact us by email (kirklevingtonparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk) if you would be happy to receive future Newsletters electronically, otherwise you may need to refer to the website (www.kirkcommunity.co.uk) in future to read publications.

Can we thank all our resident dog walkers who pick up after their dogs and deposit in the bins. This is appreciated by all residents. It is great to see the new bin installed on St Martins Green getting well used.

We are delighted to see so many people using the Arriva bus. It has proved to be a success for students attending conyers as a mean of accessing school without the need for parents driving them to and from school. We are also pleased to notice that students attending Egglescliffe academy are also using the bus successfully. The more that residents continue to use this service the more likely it is that it will continue to be provided in the future.

New councillors and contact details available on notice board and also on the community web site.

Should anyone be interested in joining the new bowling club at Morley Carr, please contact townclerk@ytc.org