

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL

www.earswick.org.uk

October 2013 – NEWSLETTER

Dear Resident

We hope you have all enjoyed the lovely summer/autumn we have had this year and also found time to appreciate the local landscape around your village.

The combination of Mother Nature together with the work of our contractors, councillors, and residents/volunteers have all contributed towards making the Open Space such a pleasant area not only for leisure and recreation but also just for sheer visual delight. We hope we can continue to maintain or improve the area on your behalf.

Maintenance Contracts 2014-2017

The Parish Council is committed to controlling costs and we believe that this is being done effectively without compromising the level of service being provided. By far the largest area of expenditure is the upkeep of the public open spaces, grass and hedge cutting. Costs here have been controlled for the past 3 years by contract, however this is due for renewal at the end of April 2014. In order to obtain the best value for money and to help us with determining the level of next year's precept all maintenance work for the period 2014 – 2017 has recently been put out to competitive tender. As a result of this process our maintenance costs for this period will only increase by 1.5%.

Council Budget 2014 – 2015

Each year around October/November the Parish Council undertakes a budget process where we look at our projected expenditure for the forthcoming year, which includes the maintenance costs mentioned previously, and what our likely income will be. Using this information we are able to determine the amount of council tax precept that will be required. Part of this process includes evaluating any schemes suggested by residents which they would like funded by the Parish Council. The Parish Council would therefore like to hear from anyone who has any

suggestions as to how the amenities in the village could be improved to enhance the overall living experience.

Ward Funding

The Environment group has been awarded a grant of £300 by the Strensall Residents Forum (formerly the Ward Committee) towards the cost of replacing the Kissing gate leading from Stablers Walk to the Diamond Wood. A matching grant will be provided by the Parish Council to meet the remainder of the costs.

Residents Forum

Ward Committees are now known as Residents Forums and the intention is to invite more community groups to the meetings. **The next Forum for the Strensall Ward is on 21 October, at 7.30pm, in Earswick Village Hall.** Please come along and meet your local Ward councillors

Grit Bins

With the coming onset of winter the Parish Council would like to reassure everyone that the Grit Bins located in the village are provided by the Parish Council and not City of York Council and will continue to be refilled throughout the winter period. However we would like to remind residents NOT to use the grit for private driveways.

We Need Your Help!

The Parish Council is requesting help from the residents of Earswick to assist with the maintenance of some of the public open spaces not covered by the maintenance contract. By requesting volunteers to help we are able to save adding the cost of such occasional projects to the the annual precept. The work on this occasion will be to help in the Autumn Tidy/Litterpick of the village.

This will take place on

Sunday.....2013. Equipment and refuse bags will be provided. Children are very welcome to help but must bring a parent with them! **Meet at the Village Hall at 10.30am.**

Thank you in anticipation of your help and also to those residents that have helped to keep the village almost litter free throughout this year. It is only since City of York Council have (finally) cut the grass verges between Earswick and Strensall that litter is noticeable. The Parish Council would also be interested to hear from any residents who would be willing to help look after the village planters e.g watering, weeding etc ?

Coffee Mornings

Following feedback from residents the Parish Council is sponsoring a number of coffee mornings which will take place on the first Monday of every month in the Village Hall from 11am to 1pm. Anyone is welcome to come along for a drink, cake and a chit chat.

Dates confirmed so far are:

Monday 4th November

Monday 3rd February

Monday 2nd December

Monday 3rd March

Monday 6th January

Monday 7th April

Road Safety

Speeding within the village is still a bit of a problem and it's not always delivery vans! So remember an extra minute behind the wheel could save a life. Please slow down when driving in the village. If residents can't be bothered why should others. Children do play in the road and are not always aware of approaching vehicles. Cut your speed. 20mph is fine.

While speeding through the village along Strensall Road has reduced since the installation of the vehicle speed control sign opposite Garden village it still causes some problems to residents trying to exit from the mini roundabouts at The Village and Earswick Chase. After prolonged discussions with North Yorkshire Police we have been informed that the Police Speed Control Van will be used at some point in the near future to monitor traffic speeds along Strensall Road through Earswick. So residents you have been warned!!

Residents are reminded that parking cars on pavements is illegal.

Dog Fouling

The issue of dog fouling within our village is ongoing but with the help of a few residents and dog owners the village and public open spaces are much cleaner than a year ago. The message that all are welcome to exercise their dogs so long as they clean up seems to be filtering through to the majority of dog walkers. It is anti-social and against the law not to clean up after your dog so please if you own a dog and walk around Earswick be a "picker upper" and set an example.

Yorkshire In Bloom

Congratulations to the Scented Garden Committee for their recent success in the Yorkshire in Bloom competition where they achieved a RHS Thriving Award (Silver Gilt equivalent).

Anti-Social Behaviour

Should any resident see any anti-social behaviour taking place in the village they should report it to the Police by ringing 101.

Planning for the Future

Have you considered where you would like to be buried when the time comes? The village of Earswick is served by a cemetery run jointly by the Parish Councils of Earswick, Huntington and New Earswick situated in New Lane, Huntington. Residents of the three parishes benefit from preferential rates. Further details can be obtained from Mr L Southerington, Clerk to the Burial Authority, on York 638017.

Parish Council Elections 2015

By the time of the next parish council elections in May 2015 it is hoped that Earswick will be able to increase its number of Parish Councillors from 5 to 7. If you are thinking of becoming a councillor or would be interested in knowing more then come along to one of the next Parish Council meetings to see what is involved or contact the Parish Clerk or any of the Parish Councillors for more information.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Derek Jones – Chairman, 41 Earswick Chase – Tel: 01904 767767

Cllr Sian Wiseman – Vice Chairman, 10

Shilton Garth Close – Tel: 01904 761010

Cllr Pat Leveson – 9 Shilton Garth Close – Tel: 01904 764344

Cllr Kate Pace – 80 Earswick Chase – Tel: 01904 750719

Cllr Gill Offler – 26 Stablers Walk – Tel: 01904 760898

Mrs Joanne Fisher – Clerk, 24 Lock House Lane – Tel: 01904 758615

EARSWICK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES IN 2013-2014

Monday 11th November

Monday 9th December

Monday 13th January

Monday 10th February