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Kirklevington and Castle Levington Parish Newsletter

Welcome to your quarterly edition Parish Newsletter.

Firstly, thank-you to all those who have completed and returned their Parish Questionnaires from the last newsletter, if you have not done so yet, there is still time and no real deadline as we always welcome your feedback. If you no longer have the questionnaire but are happy to provide feedback, they can be downloaded from the website (there is a link on the home page) or email us on the address above and we can print one off for you. We will publish the results on the website in due course.

- Following on from the success last year, we will be running the 'Kirklevington Village Halloween Trail' again this year. We would strongly encourage as many people in the village as possible to take part as we are very keen to rekindle the community events that have dwindled as a result of Covid. Full details are on the website again but in short anyone taking part should decorate their houses/gardens as they would normally for Halloween; then share with us (and/or be added to the Halloween Trail WhatsApp group) their address and a key 'item' for people to 'spot' and tick off their treasure trail hunt list. We had some amazing displays last year; let's see if we can beat it this year! We already have a lot of people confirming their entries and to top it all this year we will be offering a prize for the best top three entries £25 for 1st place, £15 for 2nd place and £10 for 3rd place, closing date for entries is October 24th
- There are no real surprises in the Parish Questionnaire results but number one on the list of concerns was speeding traffic/inconsiderate parking and pedestrian safety, near the school. We have received LOTS of complaints about this and so we again ask everyone to PLEASE slow down on Forest Lane and park considerately near the school and around Pump Lane. We have been working closely with Story Homes and they have now voluntarily opened up the new car park on Pump Lane next to Squirrels Leap for us and we jointly welcome parents (& Village Hall users) to use this to alleviate the pressure outside of the school. Story's have also provided a path from the carpark to the school side gate so parking here should become the preferred location from now. We do not want any cars parking outside the school please, more so now because of the point below and that we have now provided an alternative.
- Kirklevington bus service – we are in discussion with Arriva and SBC regarding the proposed bus service which is to be provided for 5 years as a condition of the Story's development approval (section 106 to come in on or about the occupation of the 60th dwelling). The proposal is to request an additional Arriva number 7 bus service The half hourly service (daytime) would take in Kirklevington; stopping in a number of places around the village (TBC) but one of which will probably be immediately outside of the Primary School – any vehicles parked here would cause an obstruction to a provided bus service and could be subject to traffic enforcement action. The service would then return along via Green Lane to include the new Bellway/Barratt bus stop, then turn down Allerton Balk (possibly turning into Everingham Rd then around roundabout) to return to Allerton and down Worsall Rd. So, for clarity this bus will be able to be used for both Conyers and Yarm, be half hourly and run for five years minimum.
- Playpark improvements – You may have seen some 'building activity' in the playpark, this is the installation of some patterned concrete bases for use with the new seating areas. This was made possible in part because of a generous grant from the William Hall Trust. The new areas will provide a disabled access picnic bench, a larger

group table for 8 x people, new replacement box benches and a communal area of 3 x backed bench seats, all benefiting from level access from the existing path that will all be (re)coated in a non-slip paint. Please bear with us whilst these works are taking place and note that the old park benches have now been removed as they were rotten – you can still use the memorial bench and box seats in the meantime. Additional work to replace rotten roof boards on the central playhouse & introduce a more colourful replacement has been carried out by members of the Kirklevington Action Group.

- We are working with SBC on a number of bigger things currently, one of which is the public right of way around the south side of the school. We know how badly it floods and how unpassable it becomes and are working tirelessly to firstly resolve the root cause of the problem and secondly to aim for a new pathway to be installed. The request has the joint backing of our ward councillors, but the final decision and funds are with SBC – we know this path causes problems for an ever-increasing number of residents so we are intent in resolving it as best as we can even if its just a temporary measure for now.
- Similarly, we have asked to be considered for a grant for some additional planting schemes in the village (based on feedback from the questionnaire), as above it has our joint ward councillors support and will hopefully be a display on the greenspace on Pump Lane/Thirsk Road near the beck. As this road is heavily utilised by traffic leaving the village and potentially some leaving the Story site later – it would make for a nicer scenic exit route from the village.
- We welcome ideas for planting – any suggestions for areas that will benefit from some planting would be welcomed, please note the land must be owned by us or SBC and be subject to approval from them. We also now have in our possession many bags of daffodils that require planting so any help from the community with this would be welcomed. If interested, please send an email to the address above.
- Book swap – 64% of people who answered the questionnaire on this voted in favour of a facility, 20% against and 16% did not answer so we will look in to this further
- Following reports of a tree on the A67 blocking the view to/from the Story exit; we are pleased to say this has now been resolved and the tree has been cut back. Also we received similar concerns around the hedge of the playpark, this has also been addressed. We are doing all we can to keep the sight lines clear, but we still have to abide by the wildlife code as to when we can trim or cut hedgerows, this forbids us from doing so between 1 March and 31 August (inclusive).
- A gentle reminder please to all residents to keep your hedges trimmed back, particularly when they are overhanging our very narrow pavements, please consider sight lines for oncoming vehicles in particular.
- We continue to make representations to Stockton Planning & interested parties about the Taylor Wimpey proposed development at the west end of St Martins Way. SBC planning committee meetings are scheduled for 27th October, 24th November, & 22nd December. We hope that these may now be attended by residents, once we know what the agenda for these meetings is, we will post the details on our website. By means of 3-minute presentations members of the public have an opportunity to put their concerns directly to the councillors who decide on the outcome of the application.
- We have heard no more about the parish boundary changes as yet – its more likely to be an administrative change to reflect the number of seats a ward councillor is responsible for, but we will clarify this once we know more ourselves.
- Slightly outside our Parish but Yarm Bowling Club Morley Carr is presently being constructed by Taylor Wimpey and on completion (end spring 2022) will be gifted to Yarm Town Council. Any residents who are already players, interested in learning or just from a social perspective, please register your interest with the Clerk at Townclerk@yarmtc.org
- A Remembrance Sunday service will be held at the church on 14th November at 10.30 conducted by Kate Brown, this will be followed by a 2-minute silence and the laying of the wreaths. A group of village ladies have been knitting poppies for several months & displays will be put up for Remembrance Week at The Village Hall & also in the Church grounds.
- There is to be a five-day public inquiry held during November (exact dates TBC) into the Theakston application for 300 new homes by Yarm School fields (near the Shell garage). Following their earlier refusal from SBC they have appealed to the Planning Inspectorate to overturn the decision
- PLEASE report any lost or found property to us - there is a dedicated page on the website for this.