



DENBY DALE PARISH COUNCIL Newsletter

Issue No. 58 Winter 2020

www.denbydale.com



Message from the Chair



The Parish Council continues to operate using remote conferencing technology; there have been several meetings since the last newsletter. I am happy to say that such remote meetings still allow for public participation, for example, we were pleased to hear the local voice regarding the government's proposed new Planning Regulations. Where matters have been raised by members of the public, action has been taken where possible and within our remit, or the issue has been passed to the relevant authority. Although the situation continues to change almost daily, we are still, we hope, a positive influence in and on the community. – *Cllr Neil Denby*

Grants



The Parish Council has decided to extend the deadline for small grants for this year due to the pandemic. Applications for up to £1,000 will therefore be accepted until the beginning of March 2021, in time for the last Finance meeting of the financial year.

Congratulations to Paul Jones MBE

The Council extends its congratulations to the Chief Officer of the Denby Dale Centre, Paul Jones MBE, who was recognised in this year's Queen's birthday honours list - as well as all of the staff and volunteers who work at the Centre. The Parish has been proud to support the fantastic work that the Denby Dale Centre has been doing to support residents during the pandemic. *Contact details overleaf.*

Eco-Schools Fund



As a Council, we are committed to supporting our local community, our schools and doing our bit in tackling the climate emergency. That is why we have established an **Eco-Schools Fund of £1,000** available for each local school each year, as proposed by our Climate Emergency Working Group.

This fund will support local schools to progress down the Green Flag pathway, delivering environmental improvements in our schools and communities, led by local pupils, and for schools to achieve accreditation with a nationally recognised scheme.

Plans for new country park in Skelmanthorpe

Cllrs Turner and Simpson are working with Kirklees parks and open spaces officers and our Parish Countryside Officer on an exciting landscape and biodiversity project on the old screens site in Skelmanthorpe. The 24-acre site at Parkgate has been left untouched since it was cleared back in the 1980s and has huge potential for improving ecology, biodiversity and carbon capture, whilst creating a green space for everyone to enjoy. A master plan for the site is currently being drawn up which, once complete, will be published and shared with residents to gather feedback and suggestions.

It is hoped that in November there will be an initial tree planting session with council officers and volunteers, (subject to current Covid-19 restrictions). Planting trees as a first step will help with climate change and make a start on increasing biodiversity, as the site is currently rather barren in many places.

The site has huge potential to be a fantastic facility for the residents of the Parish. It is very much a blank canvas, of sufficient size to allow many different and varied habitats to be created. There is also the opportunity to provide space for many community facilities, such as a picnic area, creative play spaces, and better footpaths.

The project team is looking forward to engaging with residents to get their thoughts and feedback on to how best to develop the site to benefit everyone in the local community in the near future.



COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER'S UPDATE

Despite difficult circumstances caused by the lockdown, individuals kept the community plot at Churchfield Allotments going and later in the summer were able to resume working in small groups. This culminated in supplying Denby Dale & Skelmanthorpe Community Centre with produce for use in cooked meals to deliver in the community, confirming the value in terms of local wellbeing, for all concerned.

10 Village volunteers monitored the newts in ponds alongside the Kirklees Light Railway, despite continued encroachment of house building, and kept on top of invasive non-native species (INNS) on the River Dearne and its tributaries. These are being monitored for pollution levels and a bid to Yorkshire Water's Biodiversity Fund by Friends of the Dearne, in partnership with the Parish Council and Riverlution, was successful for further improvements to this important stretch of water that runs through our parish.



Having flowered and set seed, the wildflower meadow at East Hill was scythed and at the same site a litter pick was undertaken, as part of Keep

Britain Tidy's Great September Clean. Scissett Volunteer Litter Pickers, who are out most Tuesdays, helped out Clayton West Millennium Green with a clean-up of their site as well. Volunteers at Cliffe Woods have also been hard at work keeping their site attractive to local people and wildlife, although they have had some vandalism recently.

Walkers Are Welcome have been active clearing paths, fixing stiles and developing new walks as people flock to the wonderful countryside in our parish in these unprecedented times. Also unprecedented is the number of 'dog gloves' and dispensers being provided by the Parish Council.

Denby Dale Ward Support 01484 860077

DELIVERY
SERVICE



EMERGENCY
FOOD FUND



CHATTER
BOX



Denby Dale
CENTRE

IN BRIEF

Libraries

A Covid-secure risk assessment has been adopted for the Skelmanthorpe Council Offices to allow the Library Service to operate a limited 'click and collect' service, whilst Denby Dale Library (www.ddcp.org) has re-opened with a limited 'safe browsing' service.

Jigsaws

A big thank you from Skelmanthorpe Methodist Church Activities and Community Outreach Network (ACORN) to all who donated jigsaws for our scheme to take them to those who were isolated or had children to look after during the pandemic. We have taken out over 150 jigsaws and boards to folk in our local villages. Our project continues so if you have jigsaws lying idle which you would like to donate we are happy to collect them. Leave details on 01484 864081. - *Cllr Stuart Merry (Chair of ACORN)*

Wildflower Meadows

Councillors with the help of volunteers are involved in the maintenance of new wildflower sites that flourished around the parish this summer. Over 70 other sites have been proposed so next spring should see an expansion of the scheme.

Lights

It is planned for the Denby Dale Christmas lights to go ahead, but with no launch event.

Denby Dale Pie Hall – bar to close

It is with great regret and sadness that the management team at Denby Dale Pie Hall have made the difficult decision to close the bar. Current restrictions and changes in how people socialise during the pandemic have made the bar unviable and as a charitable trust with no reserves it is the only sensible way forward. This is not the end of the Pie Hall as a community building, it will continue to operate for events, clubs and private bookings but without bar facilities. Despite the pandemic the hall is attracting new business with three new groups signed up: Rugbytots, Yoga and Kixx.

Sadly the closure of the bar will mean that the long-standing Pie Hall stewards, who have worked hard in serving its members and user groups, will be made redundant when the bar closes. Phil and Glynis have always been fully committed to the ethos of a community building for the benefit of the village and I am sure that we all wish them the best for the future and thank them for their time at the Pie Hall.

Many of us in Denby Dale and the surrounding villages will have fond memories of good times and entertaining evenings in the Pie Hall, be assured that this is not the end. Over the coming months the management team and trustees will be working on new ideas and ways to ensure the building's future is secure and that it will continue to be a community asset for all the residents of the area. - *Cllr Graham Turner*