

ANNUAL REPORT MARCH 2017

Once again the year has been a busy one for members. We have discussed many issues, including untidy land, condition of roads, potholes, blocked gullies, water ponding, speeding, overhanging trees/bushes and dog fouling, all at various locations throughout the parish.

However, the most pressing issues have been the need for crossings at Lidgett Crossroads and outside Hayfield School on Hurst Lane, particularly in view of the provision of the new College adjacent to the school site and the fact that a pupil was knocked down last year and had to be taken to hospital. We have been pursuing a crossing at Lidgett Crossroads for some time and about 18 months ago, due to an application for residential development on land at Mosham Road, we arranged a meeting with members of the Parish Council, the owner of the quarry and Planning Officers. We stressed the importance of a crossing at Lidgett and requested that, if the application for residential development were to be passed, then this must include a contribution towards this facility. However, subsequently the application was withdrawn but now the 2 areas of land are again for sale. We have already written to Planning and Highways asking them to factor in finance if the applications are granted. Lidgett Crossroads is an extremely busy area with traffic, some at speed, and pedestrians who have to cross at this junction.

In 2016, a request was made by a Highways Engineer to colleagues at DMBC who were dealing with the planning application for the new 6th form college, to consider a crossing facility at Hurst Lane, as part of the assessment of access arrangements for the development. The response was that issues included a specific assessment for the need for provision of a pedestrian crossing facility in relation to that development and existing pedestrian movements in the area. However, at that stage we were advised that we must await completion of the assessments which were underway and consider the need for further action.

Circa 1000 pupils attend Hayfield School and, when the new College is opened in September this year, this can cater for a further c1100 pupils. All this footfall means that many pupils have to cross the busy Hurst Lane to access the pavement when walking to various parts of the parish, and to neighbouring parishes as there is no footpath school side, and to access the bus stop on the opposite side of the road. There have been numerous near misses and last year one pupil was knocked down and taken to Hospital. Members have been with PCSOs when checks were carried out with the speed gun on Hayfield Lane, Hurst Lane and Main Street. As not able to issue fines, PCSOs arranged for letters to be sent to those who exceeded the limit. Members of the Parish Council also carried out a traffic assessment last year at Lidgett Crossroads and our findings were forwarded to DMBC Highways. However, we are to request that an official assessment by DMBC is expedited in the near future.

Members met with the Highways Engineer towards the end of last year and he saw for himself the high number of pupils needing to cross the road and also the volume of traffic, including HGVs and speeding by some motorists. Approaches have been made to DMBC regarding provision of monies from the various developments taking place in the Hurst Lane/Hayfield Lane area. However, we have been advised that such finance is mainly for recreational/open space provision.

We have already approached Derbyshire Environmental Trust at Matlock, RHA Community Fund and Award4All, the new College and Hayfield School for possible donations towards the crossing cost

which will be in the region of £30k. The parish council has initially set aside £5k from the precept for 2017/18. WREN was also contacted but the crossing provision was not covered in its criteria. Further efforts to other funding bodies are ongoing, together with approaches to Developers and businesses in the parish.

There have recently been concerns regarding a company carrying out surveying work at land near to our allotments on Common Lane but no application has yet been submitted to DMBC. An application has however been submitted for Equestrian Use and 3 Stables on the land off Mosham Road. Members will discuss the application in the Parish Council meeting to follow.

Last year a Planning Officer attended one of our meetings to discuss the Doncaster Local Plan and advised there would be 105 new homes in Auckley proposed. The Parish Council advised that better infrastructure, improvements to services and the need for an additional surgery in the Hayfield area of the parish were priorities.

For some time we have been endeavouring to ascertain information regarding a new surgery provision on the Hayfield area of our parish. We have written to the Clinical Commissioning Group and our MP, Caroline Flint. To date we don't seem to be getting very far but, with the large number of new builds taking place in the vicinity of the Hayfield Schools and the high number of residents who will be living in that area, we feel we should pursue such a requirement.

During the year we gave observations on 30 planning applications. We can only comment, we cannot give approval or otherwise. Any member of the public is able to comment also on any application. Although not in our parish we commented on an application relating to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park regarding live and recorded music – our views were that this would have an impact on residents.

Some members recently attended a day time meeting at the Civic Office to discuss the Hayfield Lane sports area and we are awaiting an update/feedback from the representative of Peel Holdings who was present at that meeting. This involves finance from Peel Holdings and agreement on the type of equipment to be installed.

Wildflower planting was carried out during the previous year at Riverside Park and some residents have expressed their appreciation. We constantly monitor facilities at Riverside Park and carry out repairs to the pavilion where necessary. Quotations have been sought for concreting around the pavilion and replacement manhole cover.

In this financial year we made donations of £1k to the Gala Committee; £25 to Cash for Kids – initiative at Hayfield Lane, £450 towards cost of Defibrillator; £100 to Royal British Legion (Remembrance Sunday). The Lions - £50 towards the Christmas Float in the parish.

There was a slight increase in our Precept for 2017/18 to take into account of funding towards the Crossing facility but this will only impact very slightly on current household rates, particularly with new properties being lived in.

During the year we received a bequest from a former resident of many years in Auckley and, to comply with his wishes, have arranged for an area at the car park on Ellers Lane, to be tidied and substantial flower tubs to be provided. The result will look much more aesthetically pleasing.

We were advised in January, by the Communities Officer that he has met with residents of Larch Avenue to engage with community projects, including a re-start of the youth club, possibly at the Adult Education Centre. .A welcome initiative.

Members take part in various committees and outside activities: Thanks to Gary Warrender– PROW; Ian Swainston – RHA; Parish Centre – Gary Warrender and Julia Staniforth, Charity Land Trustees – Ian Swainston, Sue Platts, Steve Featherstone, Geoff Payne and Dawn Fiddler.

I attend meetings of Igas/Community Liaison Group and YLCA Branch meetings. Members also attend training courses from time to time, where appropriate.

Thanks should be expressed to our Ward Members, to DMBC officers particularly to Stephen Racjan who attends meetings on a regular basis and is always on hand to take issues forward and report back. Stephen is very pro-active and we are extremely lucky to have him in our area. Thanks also to Area Manager, Dave Ridge and other officers from DMBC who attend our meetings where appropriate and PCSOs who have carried out speed checks in the parish. Recently two engineers came to advise on procedures to be undertaken at Hurst Lane as part of FARRRS Phase 2, to the Robin Hood Airport.

Thanks to the Gala Committee for their hard work every year, to the Garden & Allotments Society for maintaining tubs etc, to Jason Fletcher for kindly providing refreshments at the Christmas Carol Service at the Eagle & Child, to all user groups run in Auckley to facilitate needs of parishioners, and residents who care for the tubs on School Lane.

Our Handyman, Chris, works in all weathers and he is to be commended for his efforts.

I would like to thank Marjorie, our Clerk, for the work she does, often exceeding her paid hours, without complaint, and for dealing with correspondence promptly. She even works on Sundays. She doesn't claim for all expenditure incurred as she is entitled so to do. A big thank you Marjorie -

All members are committed to the work of the Parish Council and I thank you all for your sterling efforts. All busy people but nevertheless finding the time to make valued contributions. Auckley residents are extremely lucky to have such people on the Parish Council.

It is a pleasure and privilege to be chair of Auckley Parish Council

That concludes my report.

J Worthington

Chair

