

UPPER POPPLETON PARISH COUNCIL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
MONDAY 14th APRIL 2014

Can I begin by thanking my fellow councillors for their support over the past year. For the first time in a while, we have had a full complement of 9 councillors for most of the year and we are also ending the year with a full complement having recently co-opted Councillor Roper Langford to the Council.

Most of the time, your Parish Council works away unnoticed but it is a fact of life that, if we didn't exist, someone would have to invent us because, whenever something crops up which affects everyone in the village, it is this Parish Council, and our equivalent in Nether Poppleton, that people look to deal with it.

Some of the items we have dealt with over the past year are:-

The Elm Tree on the Green – This had to be cut down due to Dutch Elm Disease and we looked for suggestions as to how we might deal with it in our newsletter last year. We did get some suggestions, which we were grateful for, but there was nothing which seemed to have any degree of overwhelming support so we opted to play safe for the time being and cut it back to the trunk and branch stumps which you now see. The Parish Council remains open to suggestions for the long term.

Kerbing near the Pharmacy – Large lorries had been riding over the kerb at the Pharmacy end of the car park and were chewing up the grass. This area is actually part of the Green which the Parish Council is responsible for so we paid to have a higher double kerb installed and that seems to have worked to a large extent. We do have contact with the Co-op regarding deliveries by their own lorries as well as those of other suppliers and their transport manager has taken steps to minimise the problems including re-routing their own delivery lorries down Millfield Lane and via Nether Poppleton so that they approach the entrance at the best angle.

Park & Ride – Representatives of both parish councils have had regular meetings with the people responsible for the Park & Ride development and we continue to do so. This led to the introduction of the white fences on Hodgson Lane to try and emphasise the fact that vehicles are entering a 30 mph zone.

Village in Bloom – The Parish Council is grateful to Mike Walker and others as well as Councillor Stuart Robson for their involvement in this competition. The village won Silver Gilt again in 2013 and will be entering the competition again this year.

Planning Applications – Although parish Councils have no direct control over planning applications, we are a statutory consultee which means we have to be provided with details of all applications and we also get the opportunity to submit our views on proposed developments.

York Local Plan – One particular area of planning came to the fore in the middle of last year when City of York Council submitted its Draft Local Plan for consultation. A small group was formed comprising councillors from Upper & Nether Poppleton Parish Councils in order to submit views on behalf of residents and the group prepared a leaflet which went to every

house seeking comments to be fed into their response. The group had to work fast because the consultation period was quite short and I congratulate them on the job they did.

Precept – Finally, the bit residents may be most interested in because every year the Parish Council raises a Precept to generate the funds which are needed to enable the Council to do its work. This money is collected as part of the annual Council Tax and it also includes amounts which the Parish Council disperses in the form of grants to local organisations.

I'm pleased to say that the Precept was kept at the same level this year as it was last year and we supported a number of organisations including The Millennium Green Trust, Poppleton Youth Action Group, Poppleton Community Trust, The Railway Nursery and Poppleton Under Fives.

Peter Hawkins, Chairman