

ROAD SURFACE DRESSING 2018

We have been advised by East Riding Council that Manor Road has been identified for treatment as part of its annual surface dressing programme. As the work is weather dependant they cannot give a firm start date for Manor Road, but we have been advised that works take place from 8th May and it is anticipated that the whole programme will be completed by September 2018. If you require any guidance on this subject, please call highways customer care line 01482 393939 or visit www.roadworks.org

PROFILES OF PARISH COUNCILLORS

As you are aware we have had vacancies on the Council recently and I am pleased to advise you that these vacancies have now been filled. We would like to welcome Councillor Jackie Phillips and Councillor Christopher Chinn. Over the next few newsletters, the Parish Council are going to introduce the profile of the Councillors in order that you may become more familiar with the people who represent you.

CONTACTS

If you are concerned about anything that affects our Village, please let us know. We would love to see you at one of our Parish Council Meetings all the dates are published on the Website <http://www.swanlandparish.org/>

This website aims to allow the Council to communicate more effectively with residents and to provide ways to allow them to contact both the Parish Council and the East Riding of Yorkshire County Council. It will be kept fully updated with items of local concern including access to current planning applications and how you can make your views.

FATHER CHRISTMAS ROUND THE POND

You may be thinking this is a long way off, but organisation usually starts in September. This year the event will be on the August's agenda so if you would like to get involved or have any ideas please contact the clerk who would love to hear your suggestions.

Contact: Parish Clerk 01482 632309

Email: clerk@swanlandparish.org

Swanland Parish Council,
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NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2018

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN –

At the very start of this letter, I wanted to mention the very sad news, of which many will be aware, that Geoff Chapman passed away early in April. Geoff was the previous and very experienced chair of the Parish Council and, even after he stood down as a councillor, he continued to provide valuable advice and guidance to the Council (and to me) especially regarding planning issues. On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to offer his whole family our sincere condolences at their sudden and very sad loss.

You may have noticed that there was a slight decrease in the amount you will pay to the Parish Council as part of the Council Tax for 2018/19. This is despite the Council having increased its budget by just over 1% as it did the previous year. This is a result of the continuing increase in the number of houses in the village.

As I write this in the middle of April, the Annual Meeting of Parishioners is due to take place at the beginning of May and the following is an extract from my annual report to that meeting: -

“The two biggest financial outlays the council continues to make in supporting the village infrastructure are on the village hall and the playing field. With the village hall, just under £30,000 was paid off from the loan that was obtained for its conversion a decade ago; this is just over 38% of the precept. The loan will not be repaid until 2029 and is a significant investment of public money in a building that is owned by the Parish Council. Just over £14,500 was paid in rent to ERYC and in grants to the playing field committee to support the very good work going on there.

Father Christmas came to the pond just before Christmas and this was again a great success.

The Council has been consulted about 63 planning and 18 tree applications (which is slightly down from the previous year when these were 71 and 18 respectively, but still over 50% higher than the year before that). The most controversial of the applications had been for a development on West Field Farm (which is not one of those areas contained within the ERYC Local Plan) which was rejected by ERYC. The developers decided not to go to appeal as a similar application in another village had been rejected by the Planning Inspector. This and other development issues have led to several very well attended Council meetings.

There are many individuals and groups who play an important part in ensuring we have a great village, so can I just say thank you to them all – and please may they continue.”

Like most people, until I joined the Parish Council I did not really understand how planning ‘worked’. The building of houses continues to be a major political issue and recent years have seen central government relaxing the criteria that used to restrict where new housing could take place. More recently it has considered what steps could be taken to ‘encourage’ developers to build actual houses where planning permission has been granted.

I think there is a widespread misapprehension about the ERYC Local Plan with the assumption that ERYC (and the Parish Council) have produced this Plan because they actively support building 10%+ more houses in the village. The opposite is the case.

First of all, without a Local Plan there would be nothing to stop housing developments in any area in or around the village; it would have been ‘open season’ with no limit!

In addition to ‘encouraging’ the production of local plans in this way, government also specified that there should be a housing increase of 10% in every local authority area.

ERYC (with the support of Parish Councils) tried to restrict this to 5% in small villages such as Swanland but this was overthrown by a Planning Inspector, when developers appealed against this limit, and 10% imposed. Even with this increase some developers have still then applied to develop additional areas outside of the Local Plan.

The Parish Council do not approve and are not able to reject planning applications (this is the role of ERYC) but can only comment on them – as can every resident. ERYC do reject applications but anyone can appeal to the Planning Inspectorate who make decisions based on national policy, set by central government.

So my plea would be – blame the Parish Council and ERYC for things they can control but not those they can’t!

Derek Shepherd

HEDGEROWS AND HIGHWAYS

Several areas in the village have hedges close to the path and as summer progresses they take on abundant growth and encroach onto the pathways, making passing difficult for pedestrians. The Parish Council would be grateful if home owners would please have a look at your hedgerows and cut back those that could cause a problem for passers-by.

Highways land extends from the edge of the highway to the hedge boundaries of properties and it is technically illegal to plant in this area. Therefore, it is in everyone’s interest to keep pathways and verges clear.

We would like to remind you that between March 1st and September 30th bird’s nests should not be disturbed, and that birds and their nests MUST not be harmed or interfered with during the breeding season [Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981]