**PAVILION REFURBISHMENT**

The SPFA are delighted to announce that after 18 -24 months of negotiations/discussions they have secured funds to upgrade and refurbish the pavilion at the Swanland Playing Fields. Whilst additional funding is still required to complete the full intended project specification a milestone has been reached whereby plans can now be drawn up for the new look pavilion.

The official opening of this building took place on April 29th 1993.

In the thirty plus years since its opening nothing structurally has happened with the building with only minor refurbishments taking place over the decades.

The building whilst functional is tired and dated and not really fit for purpose for the 21st century.

It has recently undergone much needed works with the complete overhaul of internal systems but the building itself desperately needs modernising and making fit for purpose for the people of Swanland, its service users and visitors.

The eventual specification will depend on the final total of funding achieved, aside from modern facilities for service users it is hoped to include an extended club room/bar/café area, separate toilet facilities for visitors and play park users and an external paved patio area with retractable awning.

The playing fields are run by Swanland Playing Fields Association on behalf of the Parish Council, relying upon volunteers, who do a fantastic job for the community so if you would like to help or are able to assist in fund raising ventures please contact the chairman of the SPFA, Alan Smith at [swanlandpfa@gmail.com](mailto:swanlandpfa@gmail.com).

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| swanPCsmall | **PARISH COUNCIL**  **NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023** |

# LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

# I write this at the start of October the weather is unseasonably humid – with the usual intermittent rain showers.

A big issue here, as in many villages, is the potential for the placing of telegraph poles by (currently) two different companies in order to provide internet from suppliers other than KCOM. There is a difference of opinion between KCOM and the other companies as to whether they have asked KCOM to use their infrastructure and/or whether KCOM have refused. The legal position is that placing such poles (on public land) requires no planning permission as this is now classed as “permitted development”. This was a recent change by the Government to allow for a more rapid expansion of internet access across the country. This means that the local planning authority (ERYC) cannot prevent such work (and, as always, neither can the Parish Council which has no decision making role in planning matters). There is a (voluntary) code of practice drawn up with the suppliers which cannot apparently be enforced by OFCOM. Of course another key factor is that these companies are unlikely to expand into areas unless residents have expressed interest in taking up contracts with related suppliers. As I write no such telegraph pole has been erected so it is unclear what the impact will be.

There is every intention from Father Christmas that he will be happy to be rowed across the pond in the run-up to Christmas. Detailed arrangements are yet to be made but it is likely that the Village Hall will be open – both for refreshments and also for the queue to see Father Christmas.

In my last letter (in February) I mentioned delays in introducing parking restrictions in the vicinity of the school, and sadly this is continuing. Hopefully there will be consultation about a new scheme in the very near future – I am not holding my breath! I hope that, in the interim, drivers will show patience and consideration to each other and to other road users.

Work has still not started, by the builder Crest Nicholson, on what many still refer to as the Gladman’s development. There are still a number of reports and investigations that they have to carry out or initiate before the work can start and it is not clear how long that will take. The Parish Council is endeavouring to ensure that all the mitigations that the Planning Inspector included in her decision are implemented; and is seeking improvements to some issues (such as why the emergency access from Westfield Lane/Sykes Close onto the estate could not be made a second access road – to reduce traffic on Sykes Close) . Another issue is around the access route for construction vehicles which is currently Swanland Dale, Dale Road and then along the chalk road to the farm. We have asked why they cannot construct (as Redrow did) a temporary road from Mill Road (before the allotments) direct to the development (which would miss out (narrow) Dale Road and avoid HGVs etc. passing close to houses for the 5-7 years construction will apparently take. I am not hopeful that either of these changes will happen.

Following a review of Parish Council areas and membership by ERYC (which happens periodically), minor changes to the boundary of Swanland Parish to remove historic anomalies are planned. In addition, no doubt because of the increase in our population, the number of Parish Councillors will increase from the current nine to twelve. This will mean there will then be four vacancies on the Council! If you are interested, please get in touch with me or the Clerk (contact details are on the Parish Council website).

Derek Shepherd

**PLAYING FIELDS UPDATE**

Swanland Playing Fields Association have been awarded £91,147.13 from East Riding of Yorkshire Council as part of Commuted Sums from local housing developments to refurbish the play area on the playing fields. Swanland Parish Council will also be contributing £9,873.60.

The awarding of the Commuted Sums means a huge upgrade to the play park with new rides and amenities bringing it up to the 21st century, a wonderful amenity for the people of Swanland and the surrounding areas.  The new equipment should be installed and ready for use in the Autumn.

The improvement works will include two Cradle Swings, two Flat Swings, an Adventure Trail, a Wheelchair Access Roundabout, an inclusive Springer, a Daffodil Roundabout, an Alpha Multi Play Unit with Two Towers, ladders, a fireman pole and a slide and a Tri-Box Multi Play Unit with climbing frames and a slide. New fencing will also be installed to separate the play area from the car park.

If you pop along to the playing fields you will also see that all the benches and seats have been refurbished and painted which was a project carried out by ERYC Community Payback Scheme and funded by Swanland Parish Council.

A picnic table in a park

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