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| Contact: Parish Clerk 01482 632309  Email: clerk@swanlandparishcouncil.gov.uk  Swanland Parish Council,  6 Westerdale Swanland  HU14 3PY |

**Hedges and Overhanging Trees**

Swanland Parish Council asked some residents if they could cut back their hedges or overhanging branches due to concerns regarding hedges/overhanging branches encroaching onto paths and roads. Thank you to all residents who responded so readily when asked to do so.

Cutting back hedges and overhanging branches really helps the local community both in terms of making the area look neat and tidy as well as helping people make use of roads and footpaths more easily and safely.

Since overgrown hedges can help cause accidents, owners, by cutting back hedges to keep paths and roads clear, are also helping to protect themselves from potential legal action.

Once again, thank you to everyone who keeps their hedges/trees neat and tidy and helps keep Swanland’s roads and paths safer. Please be aware you should only proceed with cutting hedges/trees after checking you will not harm nesting birds by doing so.

**Bus Survey**

Thank you to all the residents who took time to fill out the recent survey which has been collated, along with North Ferriby, by our South Hunsley Ward Councillors. It will enable us to gather details of residents’ bus transport needs. Nearly 100 residents have let us know where they would like to be able to get to and when.

The completed forms have been sent to East Riding of Yorkshire Council where they will be analysed, and a possible pilot service formulated. Not all needs can be met but there are some consistent messages coming through which hopefully could give opportunities to Ferriby, Swanland and Melton residents.

Hopefully, a pilot service linking the two villages with Hessle would seem to be an appropriate way forward to test the reality of demand.

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| swanPCsmall | **NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021** |

**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN –**

As I write this towards the end of April, the Annual Meetings of the Parish Council are going to take place on Tuesday 4th May 21. For these I provide a report on the previous year and the first part of what follows is taken from there.

“The first four monthly meetings were cancelled, and the remainder have taken place on “Zoom” which has had a mixed impact. Some residents (and councillors) have found these easier to attend as this can be managed more easily around other responsibilities; others have found it more difficult to play an active part. Of course, the over-riding aim has been preventing the transmission of COVID between residents.

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 over £27,000 was paid off from the loan that was obtained for its conversion a decade ago; this is just over a third 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 under £15,500 was paid in rent to ERYC and in grants to the playing field committee to support the very good work going on there.

Work continues in and around the pond through the dedication of the pond partnership to carry out the regular maintenance it needs. The “Waters Edge” garden and extended seating area at the pond continues to be very well used, so many thanks to the gardening group for maintaining this valuable village asset.

Sadly, due to the restrictions arising from the Covid pandemic, we made the difficult decision to ask Father Christmas not to row across the pond just before Christmas. He will be available next year if the situation is “more normal”.

Work has continued to maintain, replace and add to what might be seen as the lower-level infrastructure around the village – such as the bus shelter, litter bins, streetlights, grit bins, benches, village signs and allotments.

The Council has been consulted about 32 planning and 12 tree applications (which is down from previous years due to the pandemic). Gladman appealed against the rejection by ERYC of their application for the controversial development which the Planning Inspector upheld. I understand that ERYC are seeking to have that decision overturned in the High Court.”

There are still two vacancies on the Parish Council which can be filled by co-option, so please consider if you could give some time to take part in this voluntary role. There are also opportunities to volunteer on the Playing Fields and its Committee. If you are interested in either of these, please get in touch initially with me or the Clerk (contact details are on the Parish Council website).

Let us hope that the lockdown continues to ease, so that we are able to make use of the approaching summer - whether that is by day trips, a UK holiday or even travelling abroad!

Derek Shepherd

**Obstructing Footpaths**

We have been asked to point out how difficult it is for residents with restricted mobility and visual impairment to negotiate around vehicles that are obstructing the footpaths. It is very difficult for people with frames, wheelchairs and prams/buggies to get down off the footpath and go into the middle of the road to get by. Your consideration when parking would be appreciated. Thank you.

**Dale Road Trod Path**

As many of you will be aware the trod path down Dale Road was funded by Swanland Parish Council with the help from East Riding Council with a condition that East Riding Council would maintain the path. Over recent months this path has become more and more popular which has resulted in the path being worn away. We contacted East Riding Council and this path has now had a top dressing on which hopefully will last for another 8 years!

**Fly Tipping**

Swanland along with other villages and towns in the East Riding has seen an increase in fly tipping. We along with many residents have reported many piles of illegal dumping of household or commercial waste on land which has no licence to accept waste, such as on a roadside or in a field. Due to the increase, it has sometimes taken longer than normal for the waste to be disposed of but ultimately has been removed. Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and prosecutions are brought under Section 33 and Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, with unlimited fines and/or imprisonment for those convicted of the offence. East Riding Council also issue fixed penalty notices of £400 for smaller fly-tipping offences under the 'Unauthorised Deposit of Waste (Fixed Penalties) Regulations 2016'.