

Pond and Community Garden: Many residents have commented how beautiful this area is looking, would you like to get involved to make sure this area continues to flourish. Please contact the Village Association on 634583 who will be thankful of any help.

Dog Fouling

Our parish council has been invited to enter into a dog control partnership with East Riding of Yorkshire Council. We know that dog fouling is of concern to residents and so we have decided to join the partnership.

The aim of the partnership with East Riding of Yorkshire Council is to build close links between their dog wardens and ourselves, to provide a better service in responding to fouling and to deter it from happening in the first place.

The training will provide councillors with the knowledge and appreciation of how to provide the evidence needed to prove an offence under the dog control orders. As residents of Swanland councillors will now be keeping an eye out for fouling problems and talking to dog walkers in our village. We will be carrying out joint patrols with the council's dog wardens over the next few months to learn first-hand how they deal with the problem.

The great majority of dog walkers do pick up after their dog and get really annoyed with the few who don't as they don't want to be "tarred with the same brush." There is no excuse for not picking up.

The only way to stop this happening is if you see them report them. <http://www2.eastriding.gov.uk/EasySiteWeb/GatewayLink.aspx?allid=101229>

Tel: (01482) 396301. Our dog wardens can then investigate.

Father Christmas round the Pond

You may think this not for another 6 months but organisation starts in September. If you have any ideas or would like to get involved please contact the Clerk who would love to hear your suggestions.



Contact: Parish Clerk 01482 632309

Email: clerk@swanlandparish.org

Swanland Parish Council,

6 Westerdale Swanland

HU14 3PY

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN –

You may have noticed that there was no change in the amount you will pay to the Parish Council as part of the Council Tax for 2017/18 although the Council increased its budget by just over 1%. This is a result of the increase in the number of houses in the village over the past year

The following is an extract from my annual report to the recent Meeting of Parishioners: -

"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 £31,000 was paid off from the loan that was obtained for its conversion a decade ago; this is 40% 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 £15,000 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 try and prevent water leaking out as well as 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 Mal Cracknell and the gardening group for this valuable village asset.

In advance of her retirement at the end of March following 10 years of dedicated service, Roz Jordan-Jackson handed over the reins as Clerk to the Parish Council to Michelle Hopton. We all wish her (and Colin) a long healthy and happy retirement.

The Council has been consulted about 71 planning and 22 tree applications (which is a significant increase (79%) from the previous year when these were 37 and 15 respectively). The most controversial of these applications has been for a development on West field farm (which is not one of those areas contained within the ERYC Local Plan) which is still pending. This and other development plans 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.”

As I write this letter (in the middle of May), we know that the application for the Westfield Farm development has been rejected by ERYC but are waiting to see if the developers appeal (even though their appeal about their South Cave development was rejected by the Planning Inspector).

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.

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, 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

Retirement of our Clerk

Parish Clerk Roz Jordan-Jackson retired from her duties at the end of March after 10 years of exceptional service to the village. Roz provided valuable service to both the Parish Councillors and the Village. On behalf of the Village we wish Roz a long and happy retirement.

Taking over the role will be Michelle Hopton. Michelle will be doing continuous training and will be taking her qualifications to enable her to provide valued service to the Councillors and the Village. E Mail will remain the same clerk@swanlandparish.org but the new telephone number is 01482 632309.

Your Council needs You

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.

Your Councillors

At our Annual Parish Council meeting the number of Councillors remained the same. All the Councillors are on the website and any of them would be happy to help or point you in the right direction.

Gardening

Hedges: Please don’t let your hedges obstruct the paths during the summer. Obstruction could cause someone to step into the road with oncoming vehicles or be injured by low hanging branches. If anyone notices any obstructions whilst out walking please let the Clerk know.

Allotments: Most of the plots are being kept in good order. We have 9 residents currently on the waiting list. We hope all our tenants have a good year.