

Barton in Fabis Parish Council



Newsletter JUNE 2020

Parish Council Elections / Annual Parish Meeting

Allan Kerr and Bill Harrison have been elected to remain as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. The Parish Council would like to thank both of them and Bev Angell (clerk to the Parish Council) for their hard work over the past year.

We have been forced to cancel the Annual Parish Meeting as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic, but provide the Chairman's report below. Details of the Parish Council's accounts will shortly be available on bartoninfabispc.org.uk

Chairman's Review

It seems a strange time to be reviewing the year as we all keep our heads down.

I would like to start by thanking the parish councillors for their time over the last year. As you know this is done entirely voluntarily and yet some of the issues that the councillors have dealt with will have a profound effect on the village and residents. Particular thanks go to Julian, with the able assistance of Roy Haines-Young, for their continuing opposition to the quarry near the village. I have absolutely no doubt that this quarry would have been passed and be operating were it not for their tireless opposition so thank you again.

Planning has always been a contentious issue and it is worth reflecting on the various proposals that have come forward this year. In the context of outline planning permission being given for the development of Top Yard Farm our judgement was that there were no planning grounds to object to the development at 9 Rectory Place. Unfortunately, we have ended up with a monstrosity of a house built one metre above normal ground level because the area is liable to flooding. This elevation is a requirement for new builds in the floodplain and the development of Top Yard Farm will carry the same characteristic. I am pretty certain the Planning Committee at Rushcliffe have little idea about the impact and we plan to raise this once 9 Rectory Place is completed to show the effect.

The development of Fairham Pastures is much slower than anticipated by Rushcliffe and the developers but it continues to proceed. The Parish Council will stay in contact with the developers to try to ensure the final outcome is better than the many housing estates built in Rushcliffe in recent years.

There was a proposal to convert one of the farm buildings in Olivers Yard into an office space but thankfully this was refused by Rushcliffe BC.

Finally on planning issues the Parish Council were invited to see the plans Neil Windross has for Barton Lodge which includes restoring it to its former glory. We wish him well. The Council has established a tree preservation order on the woodland around the Lodge which is not owned by Neil so we believe the area is well protected for the future.

It seems we suffered the ill effects of flooding for a long time this year. The Parish Council had planned to review this with the Environment Agency but the offices have been closed. We would hope to still carry out the review in the calmer summer months so if anyone has any thoughts on flood mitigation please contact any of the councillors.

Finally it is heartwarming to see many people helping elderly or vulnerable people in the village during the Covid crisis. I have had calls from Rushcliffe Council enquiring how we are coping and it would seem remarkably well. The Parish Council does have a small amount of money from a grant to provide financial support if anyone is affected over this time. If anyone wishes to apply for any of this please contact any of the councillors who will treat your enquiry with discretion and care.

Thank you

Allan Kerr

Chairman

Minerals Local Plan / Quarry Update

The Inquiry scheduled for the end of April has been postponed as a result of the current Covid 19 pandemic. The Programme Officer responsible for running the Inquiry has stated “At this time no discussions have yet taken place as to when the Hearings might be rescheduled for.”

We reported last time that the Inspector had issued what are called ‘Matters, Issues and Questions’ – that is the parts of the plan that he wishes to examine in detail. This included several aspects of the proposed quarry at Barton / Mill Hill.

Since then the Parish Council has made detailed ‘submissions’ in response to these questions on behalf of Barton, Thrumpton and residents of Clifton and Lark Hill impacted by the proposals. We have also received excellent support in the form of supporting submissions from Lilian Greenwood the MP for Clifton South.

We have clearly been able to raise the profile of the site, and the problems associated with it, in the Inspector’s mind and he has issued a further list of 58 (!) questions to be considered many of which relate to examining the reasons why the Barton / Mill Hill site has been selected.

This is an encouraging development and we will be making further submissions on these points.

Redevelopment of Ratcliffe on Soar

We repeat the information given in the last newsletter:

Uniper the company running Ratcliffe on Soar power station have recently announced that it will close in 2025 and as part of the redevelopment of the site a new incinerator is planned on the site to open in 2024 to burn household waste which would otherwise go to landfill. This will use similar technology to the Eastcroft incinerator in Nottingham. To get some idea of the scale, the new plant whilst significant will produce only about 3% of the power of the current power station. The company plan to attract high tech industries to the remainder of the site and there are no plans for housing or large warehouses – “no sheds, no beds” as they term it. Emissions are claimed to be strictly controlled and the additional lorry traffic along the A453 relatively insignificant.

However, the company has not yet submitted a formal planning application and we will keep you informed of future developments. (see also comment below from Rex Walker our Borough Councillor)

Footpath diversion

We are discouraging visiting walkers to avoid taking the footpath route along Chestnut Lane and between the houses at the end towards Clifton. Signs have been put up to

encourage walkers to use the footpath which goes to Clifton past the Old Forge and down Jackie's Lane by the bench as you enter the village.

Fly tipping

With the easing of lockdown, there has been a big increase in fly tipping across the county. There have been several instances around Barton and particularly in entrances to fields along the old A453 (Green Lane). We are working with Rushcliffe Borough Council to have these cleared and normally have great support from them via their Streetwise team. The Borough Council are only required to remove rubbish that is dumped on the verge and it is the landowner's responsibility to remove other fly tips – a significant burden on those landowners affected.

We are asking all villagers to keep their eyes open and see if we can't catch these fly tippers. Anybody can report fly tipping to the Borough Council on 9819911 or contact a Parish Councillor. (see also report from Rex walker our Borough Councillor below)

Village tidy up

We hope you will have seen that the opportunity has been taken during the current lockdown to refurbish/ repaint the various benches around the village, as well as the planters opposite the bus stop and the bus stop itself. We would like to thank all those involved in this work. If you see any areas that you think need tidying up, please contact a member of the Parish Council – or if you wish take action yourself!

Area at the Top of New Road (Barton Lodge)

The area continues to be mown by Neil from Barton Lodge and we thank him for his help. Areas will be marked off for the planting of wildflowers. The new finger post has been erected (thank you to all who helped).

Fairham development

You will probably recall that outline planning approval has been granted for this development of 3,000 houses, industrial units and a traveller site on land between Clifton and Gotham.

An exhibition took place in the Village Hall some time ago and a Growth Board which includes representatives from Parish Councils has been formed to input in to the development. Several villagers have expressed disappointment at the inadequate approach in the plans to environmental issues, particularly related to energy use and conservation, given the increased awareness of climate change issues. The Parish Council would like to thank Yasmin Holmes for a detailed paper which she has put together on this topic. We are working closely with Rex Walker (our Borough Councillor) to raise these issues and influence the developers to improve the approach to these issues.

Planning applications

There have been no new planning applications in the village. There have been several 'reserved matters' applications in connection with the Fairham development. These relate to the road network and drainage planned for the site. They can be viewed on the Rushcliffe Borough Council website under 'Find a planning application' and searching under 'Barton in Fabis'.

We have asked our County Councillor – Andrew Brown and Borough Councillor – Rex Walker to give us a report on their Councils for this and future newsletters

County Councillor Report – Andrew Brown

As County Hall like elsewhere across the UK is in lock down and closed, with staff working remotely. Meetings between staff held via Zoom. Some scheduled Council meetings are planned using Zoom. I myself have already had several zoom meetings in my role as Lead opposition member at the City of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Fire Authority.

I have though attended a Strategic Collaboration Board meeting at Fire HQ which included the PCC, Chief Fire officer and Chief Constable, social distancing was observed by all. I can also confirm that the new Joint Police & Fire HQ is still on schedule for completion in 2021.

For those people who have yet to download mynotts app, it is full of information from grass cutting, potholes education and much more and is very user friendly.

NCC Country Parks are now open again but are only accessible on foot as the car parks remain closed due to government ruling.

Working with care homes

You will have seen from the national news that care homes are being hit hard by this pandemic. We are working closely with providers in Nottinghamshire to help protect vulnerable residents. Colleagues in the Adult Social Care Quality and Market Management team are calling providers at least twice a week to understand their situation and provide advice and support. This has included working with them to secure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), identifying staff that could be deployed to support where there are shortages or increased demand, and working closely with providers to

understand the increased financial pressures they are facing and how we can help them manage additional costs.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

We recognise how important it is that everyone working for the Council and our providers has the equipment they need to safely carry out their duties. In common with every other upper tier council, pressure on the global supply chain has presented us with a huge challenge. That said, I am pleased to report that we have been able to meet the demand, so far.

Highways

Our Via and County Council highways teams have been continuing to deliver critical services. These include:

Bridge Inspections

Emergency response to incidents

Highway adoption and searches services

Maintenance and repair of vehicles

Network co-ordination

Winter maintenance

Highway inspections and fixes for category 1 potholes

Customer liaison by district teams – without face to face interactions

Rights of way inspections where safety issues arise

Traffic signal operation/fault management as required

Gully emptying

Grass cutting – this started mid-April with a focus on safety cuts at visibility splays on the network. We are planning to expand this to the whole of rural network by the end of May. Planning for urban grass cutting is well underway including sourcing additional vehicles and putting arrangements in place to limit staff numbers and maintain safe distancing for staff and the public.

Weed spraying will commence mid-May.

Borough Councillor Report – Rex Walker

Ratcliffe on Soar power station is due to close by 2025. Plans to establish a development corporation to drive the development of the site are being developed. The development corporation would also include the Airport and proposed HS2 station at Toton. Plans aim to deliver 4,500 homes and 40,000 jobs across the 3 sites. I welcome and support ambitious plans for a genuinely high quality development of this site.

The East Midlands does not currently have the ability to attract this kind of investment, compared to other areas in England with combined local authorities or regional Mayors. These plans therefore are a chance for Ratcliffe to be developed in a co-ordinated, employment-led way, striving for high-tech, well paid jobs rather than 'sheds.'

Development corporations, however operate outside the usual planning process and in effect make their own planning decisions. This inevitably leads to a loss of local accountability and representation into the planning decisions. As the development corporation proposals develop, I will continue to press for structures that make sure we can have genuine input into how Ratcliffe is developed.

Fly tipping around the Villages continues to be a real issue, and if anything is getting worse. I have been lobbying Officers and fellow Councillors for more preventative

measures. This has resulted in the issue being included for scrutiny at the next Communities committee. The Council's whole approach to the issue will be reviewed, new initiatives considered and improvements proposed. We can and should do more to prevent this scourge on our environment – this is one step along the way.

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