

Hovingham with Scackleton Parish Council

Chairman's Report – year ended 31st March 2017

The Hovingham and Scackleton Action Groups continue to complement those that the Parish Council can offer. Sign Cleaning, Litter Pick and Housekeeping teams, demonstrate the pride in the Village and are something again we can all be proud of. Both Action Groups achieve a “gold” standard of volunteering for both villages.

The Playground attracts more and more children, parents, grand-parents and great-grand parents; it continues to be well used. Thank you to David Richardson, Carol Battersby, Rosemary Stewart, Ann Chapman and the team of volunteers who continue to make this the success we can be proud of. This provides a valuable attraction to the whole area, a great advertisement for Hovingham.

The Village Market continues growing; we now have over 50 stalls and regularly attract 700-800 visitors, raising over £74,000 for Community Groups. Peter Stark and the team of volunteers have to be thanked. This year 20 new stalls have joined the Market and new Community Groups such as Yorkshire Archaeology and the Wildlife Trust have added some extra colour and diversity to the Market. Thank you also to residents, local businesses and visitors for supporting it. This next year we will celebrate our centenary Market.

The Village and Market websites have now been totally rewritten; they now attract three times the number of visitors and provide a sound foundation for improving communications in our Community. Thank you to NYCC Stronger Communities for their financial support. Together with the Newsletter, Village Diary, Market News and the Neighbourhood Watch we regularly communicate with over 300 residents sharing news, details of events and requests for help. Thank you to David Richardson, Caroline Davies, Ann Chapman, Margaret Bell, Eddie Lucas, Janice Wood and everyone else who has helped to make this all possible. We must continue to remember those without the internet who are unable to access these new fangled communications ! !

Thankfully this has been a quiet year regarding flooding; The bank has now been raised along the beck; reducing the risk of flooding and allowing the team of volunteers to concentrate on helping residents and businesses should it be needed. Thank you again to our volunteer team led by Mark Wilson and David Richardson. Later this year the diversion channel will be straightened and widened thanks to Hovingham Estate and the Parish Council. We also had virtually no snow this year however, the team were again ready to clear it when required.

This has been another challenging year. Pasture Lane, Traffic Speeding and Community Speedwatch are frustrating. The prospect of Fracking still haunts the whole area and is a stressful and divisive issue, diverting valuable resources away from where they are needed; the Parish Council continues its opposition to this imposition on us all.

Residents are getting used to the two-hourly service to Malton and no service to Helmsley. Although we must thank NYCC for providing some grants, it is very frustrating that they continue to pay for empty buses running when they not needed, and leave residents waiting for buses that never turn up or run so late they are next to useless.

With the help of residents and Police we can remain a low-crime area. Unfortunately we have experienced the intrusion of targetted crimes. Hovingham is now a “No Cold Calling Zone” and most unwanted callers moved on. Neighbourhood Watch needs the continued support of residents and all are encouraged to register on the website.

Financially we have been able to invest in the future of Hovingham and Scackleton, this is due partially to careful spending and the generosity of Sue, our hard-working Parish Clerk, who kindly forgoes her annual allowance allowing us to continue to provide a high standard of services to Hovingham and Scackleton. The grant from NYCC for cutting the grass will actually rise this year. Posts and railings are being refurbished and will soon be painted. Our budget for this year again breaks even however, this year we will be able to invest in restoring the village hall wall and other significant projects in both villages.

Margaret and Martin Bell have announced that they will be moving to York; thank you for your efforts with the Community Plan, Newsletter, Parish Council and the Market. Thank you also to Clare Wood, our County Councillor for many years, who has been a friend to our Council and helped us achieve so much in the villages. Caroline Goodrick has now been elected to take her place, a very tough act to follow.

Thank you to you, the Council. Thank you to our hard-working Parish Clerk; and everyone who continues doing their very best for the future of Hovingham and Scackleton.