

Hovingham with Scackleton Parish Council - Chairman's Report– year 2017 to 2018

The Communities of Hovingham & Scackleton, together with the Parish Council and Action Groups, identify needs and target resources where they are needed, much has been accomplished.

Snow clearing has been needed this year. A good supply of grit was acquired and the team of snow clearing volunteers have been busy and kept the key pavements clear for residents and visitors.

Flooding remains a continuing risk and the flood channel has been maintained and continues to do its job.

Roadways, verges and pavements are the responsibility of NYCC; several years of reduced spending and adverse weather conditions has led to the many potholes, cracks and other damage. It is essential problems are reported using the NYCC website. Unfortunately, there is considerable damage to the grass verges caused by HGVs, including Church Street and Brookside. The New Pasture Lane roadway and pavements have been finished; Thank You to the Councillors and residents who made this happen.

We fortunately live in a “low crime area” achieved by the communities working in partnership with the Police. Neighbourhood Watch promotes neighbours helping neighbours and residents can join via the village website. Speeding remains an issue; Community Speedwatch has been launched in Hovingham with a team of eight volunteers. The results are amazing; the number of law abiding motorists is a tribute to its effectiveness; the motorists need to now stick to the speed limit when the team are not there. Thank You to the volunteers and those slowing down. Anyone wanting to join should contact the Action Group.

Public Transport is an essential lifeline for many residents; it was bad news when *Stephensons* ceased to run the service in January; fortunately, due to the hard work of *NYCC Passenger Transport* and *Coastliner* that within a week the service was restored. Residents are encouraged to support this essential service.

The Car Park has received much attention this year. New signage resulted in a doubling of donations from users. Thanks to the AONB, our NYCC Councillor and the Village Hall who all contributed towards the rebuilding of the wall. Hopefully the other part of the wall will shortly get our attention.

The Village Hall Committee has a new constitution. They are currently working on fixing the leaking roof, redecorating the hall and also refurbishing the toilets. The village hall is a valuable asset for both villages.

This year we will remember the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice. Special events will be organised, including the planting of special trees in each village.

Thank you to the Action Groups, and their volunteers, who complement what the Council can provide. Some of their projects include:

The Playground is well used and attracts residents and visitors of all ages. Thank You to the Playground Team, plus all those volunteers who inspect and maintain it.

The Village Market continues growing; with 60 stalls and regularly attract 700-800 visitors, raising nearly £100,000 for Community Groups. In February they achieved the milestone of their 100th Market, unfortunately the March Market had to be cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions. This year 30 new stalls have joined the Market and new Community Groups such as *The Yorkshire Arboretum*, *Guide Dogs*, *Woodland Trust* and others have added some extra colour and diversity to the Market.

The Newsletter, Village Diary, Market News, Neighbourhood Watch and Websites continue to communicate to residents achieving very high levels of quality and usage. We do need to continue to remember those without access to the internet.

Other projects include litter picking, sign cleaning, bulb planting and clock winding.

Fracking still haunts us; remaining controversial and dividing communities; the Parish Council continue their opposition and imposition on all of us.

The Parish Council continues to invest in the future of Hovingham and Scackleton; this is a result of careful spending and the work of the team together with the hard-working Parish Clerk.

These many projects demonstrate pride in the Villages and are something again we can all be proud of. Both villages achieve a “gold” standard of volunteering. Over 100 volunteers make this possible.

THANK YOU to the Council and residents of both villages, plus our friends who have helped us.