



# One Voice

## Kirkburton Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 20

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### Council Freezes the Precept

The Parish Council has recognised that the economic climate has brought financial problems and job worries to many of our residents. For this reason we have decided not to increase the precept this year. It will remain at £127,000 which means a Council Taxpayer in Band D will pay £14.15 per year to the Parish Council, which is slightly less than last year.

However, the level of service to the public is not expected to decline. Council has already agreed just over £14,000 in small grants to 60 organisations – an increase of £2,300 on last year. It has also budgetted for £20,000 for community project grants, and the Environment Committee budget remains at £15,000, some of which will be awarded in environment grants and the rest spent on projects of benefit to the community across the Parish. The Council is continuing its maintenance programme at Shelley Village Hall, where a number of projects are due to take place over the next two years.

Chairman Cllr Geof Hickey, said “I’m very pleased that we have been able to support the residents at this difficult time by freezing the precept and at the same time, maintaining the financial help to the many community organisations in this area.”

Further details can be obtained from the Council’s website, or on request from the Clerk.

### YOUNG PEOPLE IN KIRKHEATON

For the last five years public meetings have been held in Kirkheaton following complaints about anti-social behaviour in the village. Many of those looking for a solution to the problem made the familiar comment “there is not enough for young people to do”.

This was not altogether true as Kirkheaton had, for many years, and still has, several uniformed organisations and junior football teams which are supported by Parish Council grants each year. It was recognised though that there were older young people with other interests which could not be met by more traditional youth clubs. While youth groups run by the churches in the village provided, and continue to provide weekly sessions for young people up to the age of 14 it was clear that something was needed for those in the 14 to 19 age range.

These developments led to the setting up of a community group made up of ward councillors, parish councillors, local residents and young people with support from the police and the churches to explore possibilities. In due course the ward councillors were able to obtain funding from the local Kirklees Area Committee in order to help Kirklees Young Peoples Service to set up the youth club which has met weekly for the past two years in the old school building, attached to the Kirkheaton Parish Church.

Orval Smith, the Club Leader, and colleagues cater for 20 young people on Monday evenings with a wide range of activities including sports and computer games but also discussions with club members on issues such as health, work, drugs and alcohol which impact heavily on young people today. Orval says, “These young people are no trouble at all and it’s a pleasure to get to know them and work with them”.

While five years ago there were often complaints about youth behaviour these are now much more rare, showing that young people when provided with good facilities by concerned and committed youth leaders can develop towards adulthood in a healthier way. This activity is also a powerful antidote to the “bad news” stories which circulate on our media and in communities which usually reflect the behaviour of a very small minority of young people.

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## News from the Environment Committee

### Future Plans – What are your Views?

The Committee has been looking more closely at its work and is currently laying out a strategy for the future, which fall within 5 categories: **Biodiversity, Heritage, Projects, Climate Change and Appearance.**



Councillors would very much like to receive views from the public on the subject, and have sent out copies of its Plan to many of the community organisations within the Parish. If you haven't seen one, please contact the office or download one from the website and let us have your views on what you would like to see in the future. All comments submitted will be considered and may be included in the Plan.

## Giant Sunflower Competition

The Environment Committee is launching the Giant Sunflower Competition in March for all Year 3 classes in local primary schools. The aim of the competition is to give young people a taste of

what it's like to grow plants from a seed, how to look after them and the enjoyment of watching their sunflower grow. We would like pupils to look into the foods that the sunflower provides and how nutritious and useful the seeds are. The sunflowers will be judged in September for the widest head and the winner from each school will be awarded

£20 of vouchers of their choice. All participants will receive a prize.

**Environment Grants:** £1,960 has been awarded to Highburton First School, who are planning to do some work on an old pond bringing it in line with current Health & Safety requirements, and are also going to create a new garden in what is currently an overgrown play area. We wish them well with this project and look forward to seeing the results.

**Public Session:** A 15-minute session has been introduced before Environment meetings, when members of the public are welcome to come and voice any opinions or make suggestions to the Committee.

### Parish Council Review

As reported in an earlier issue, Kirklees is in the process of reviewing all the Parish/Town Councils. Options have been published based on the responses to the first consultation. A second consultation period is now underway, which runs until 8<sup>th</sup> May. MP's, MEP's, community organisations and residents are all invited to consider the 5 options and put forward their views on the questionnaires provided by Kirklees. For further information Tel: 01484 414825 or visit: [www.kirklees.gov.uk/parishreview](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/parishreview)

### Meeting Dates

**Parish Council** on 5<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

**Planning/GP** on 19<sup>th</sup> March (at 8.30 pm) and 16<sup>th</sup> April.

**Environment Committee** 19<sup>th</sup> March.

**Annual Parish Council** on 7<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm. **Annual Parish Meeting** on 7<sup>th</sup> May at 9.00 pm.

All meetings are at Highburton at 7.30 pm

## Shock over Tesco Decision

The Parish Council was aghast at the Planning Inspectorate's decision to overturn Kirklees' refusal for the Tesco Express store in Kirkburton. This store will cause more highways and parking problems, which the village has suffered from for years, and threaten the livelihood of the smaller stores already there.

There has been a problem of insufficient and inadequate parking in this village for several years, and having an additional supermarket with just 9 parking spaces will only serve to add to the difficulties, not to mention having to accommodate the large vehicles generally used to stock the stores on a daily basis.

Chairman Cllr Geof Hickey, said "I was extremely pleased when the Kirklees Councillors for Kirkburton agreed with the concerns of the Parish Council and turned down this application. The general concern of the local people is that this store and the proposed location is totally unsuitable for the village. North Road is not a wide road and cannot accommodate the kinds of delivery vehicles that would arrive on a daily basis at the store."



Photograph courtesy of Huddersfield Examiner ©

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### Office Opening Hours:

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