

NEWSLETTER

TOCKWITH TOGETHER: HAPPY NEW YEAR

I am excited that the relationship developing between Tockwith Together and the Parish Council is going from strength to strength by collaboration, recognising and understanding our own distinct roles and respecting the challenges each has.

Tockwith Together has already produced an excellent Community Plan which was the result of a comprehensive survey of Parishioners and in the main most of the proposals identified have been actioned.

Together we have started a Parish Council led Neighbourhood Plan which relies on the involvement of Tockwith Together and the wider community to shape our future.

Having a strong relationship between the Parish Council and Tockwith Together and other organisations within the Parish such as the GP practice, school and local businesses can only benefit the community and I'm so pleased that the Parish Council and Tockwith Together are laying down strong foundations.

Arnold Warneken

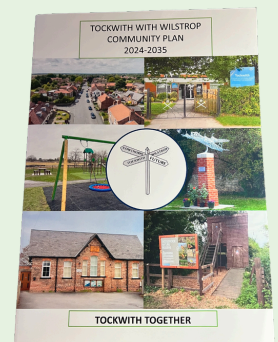
Tockwith and Wilstrop Parish Council (Chair)
North Yorkshire Councillor (Ouseburn Division)

YOU ASKED! WE GAVE!

From the questionnaire you completed a couple of years back, 56 actions were identified as needing to be done - in sections of **Infrastructure, Social Amenity, Environment and Young People**. 63% of these have been completed by the team and 33% ongoing. Two have yet to be started (if do-able). You can check these in the Action Plan. Tockwith Together are happy with the progress, yet it could be better, especially with the help of you, the residents. Please put your hand up...



If you missed it, the Action Plan is here.



LITTER - LET'S KEEP THE BALL ROLLING

In order to help support our small but committed band of lone litter pickers we have been trying to organise community litter picks. An opportunity for a social walk around carrying a bag and a litter picker and an easy give back to the community.

There has, up to now, been very small uptake but we're not giving up. We believe it's because the dates aren't routine enough so people forget - so we're making it easy to remember.



The Clean Up Club in amalgamation with Future Footprints cordially invite you to a

Community Litter Pick
Saturday 31st January
10.00
Meet at the
Village Hall Car Park

All equipment provided or bring your own if you prefer

Let's keep our parish litter free

The Clean Up Club
facebook.com/cleanupclub

Let's keep our parish litter free

COMMUNITY LITTER PICK DATES

31st January
28th February
28th March
25th April
30th May
27th June
25th July
29th August
26th September
28th November



Come and be part of the community Clean up Club on the last Saturday of each month to help us clear away the litter in and around Tockwith. It is a brilliant way to show you care about and for your community.

We meet at 10am in the car park of the village hall where we agree who goes where, we lend out high-vis jackets and pickers and we issue litter bags. You can help for as little as an hour - every bit helps.

Hope to see you there.

NEED HELP WITH TECH?

Do you need help using your phone, tablet, laptop or internet? Bring your digital device to one of our free and informal drop-in sessions in Tockwith Village Hall from 10am to noon on Tuesdays. We can help with all sorts of common computing tasks, such as accessing NHS services, online banking, setting up email accounts or getting to know your mobile phone or other computer devices.

For more information



tim@bcccharity.co.uk



01423 324 504.



'THE FUTURE IS LOCAL'

by

TOCKWITH COMMUNITY ENERGY

This group of volunteers, who share concerns for climate change, want to drive the reduction in carbon emissions in our community, with the added benefit of reduced energy costs. A situation currently being replicated in many communities throughout the UK.

We need to become a community benefit society (CBS) so that we can apply for capital funding. We are pleased to report that the North Yorkshire Stronger Communities Inspire Fund has granted us £790 to help us do just that. And we are very grateful to them.

By generating our own clean electricity we can cut energy bills, reduce our collective carbon footprint and build energy resilience. To make this happen we need your support !

EV CHARGERS AT THE VILLAGE HALL

Following years of the Parish Council trying to get providers to commit, and locations to commit to installing Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations, there are now 2 charging points live on the front wall of the Village Hall.

There have been some initial teething problems, but they are now sorted and the village has public EV charging capability.

The chargers can be used by anyone, a leaflet explaining how to get access to the discounted rate for local residents and how to use the Charging Points will be distributed to Parish households soon. In the meantime, there are now notices up explaining how to use the charging points, anyone with a credit/debit card can do so.

Also if you use this link (obviously doesn't work on paper!) <https://youtu.be/VVJXvrvXsUc> there is a useful youtube video made by the installers explaining how to use the EV chargers.

Note, profits from the use of the Village Hall Charging Points are cycled back to the Village Hall.



Which is why we are announcing the launch of our social media campaign, in collaboration with students from York University, to raise awareness of an exciting new community-owned and led solar energy project here in Tockwith.

If you would like to know more about our organisation, you have a question or you are interested in joining us, follow us on Facebook or Instagram pages or visit



www.tockwithcommunityenergy.com



PARISH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Tockwith Together volunteers in partnership with our Parish Council colleagues are delighted to report that progress has been made on the following initiatives and priorities identified in our Community Plan:

Marston Road Playground.

We hope by now that any readers of this newsletter with small children have seen and used the completely refurbished Play Park on Tockwith's Marston Road just across from the Stirling memorial. Regular inspections have suggested you have, given the muddy footprints all over some of the apparatus! If you haven't, please give it a try, it really is a step up from what was there previously!

Tockwith Together and the Parish Council have wanted to upgrade the Marston Road Play Park for some time, and the Parish Council seized the opportunity to get the York based company Playscheme, to complete the refurbishment after some careful negotiation with the North Yorkshire department that controls the use of funds, to use the remainder of money previously allocated to the North Yorkshire controlled Prince Rupert Drive green play park on the pressing need to refresh Marston Road.

The new equipment is made with responsibly sourced material and now has a small nature area right at the back of the park, with bird boxes, a bug hotel and wildlife recognition pictures.

Accessibility has been at the forefront of the design, with specific equipment for use by less able children, including a wheelchair accessible roundabout, and the nature area.

Mobile Library

Following a slightly unexpected approach from North Yorkshire council, the Parish Council has secured regular visits from the North Yorkshire Mobile Library to Tockwith for an hour on a monthly basis. The Mobile Library will be parked on Westfield Lane, just opposite the Village Hall, on a Monday between 13:45 and 14:45pm.

Dates so far are:

Mon 16 March	Mon 3 August
Mon 13 April	Mon 28 Sept
Mon 11 May	Mon 26 October
Mon 8 June	Mon 23 November
Mon 6 July	Mon 21 December



Pavement Resurfacing

The Parish Council are aware that there was a degree of upset when the well overdue work to resurface the pavements in Tockwith was announced and started at short notice. However, this work was well overdue and it was only possible to get this done, when a planned period of resurfacing in a different Parish had to be cancelled and a suitable equivalent task had to be found for the already booked contractors. Tockwith was chosen, mainly because the Parish Council and the North Yorkshire Ward councillors, regularly pestered the Highways department about the state of the paving and so the task was in the minds of Highways to get done. Who says nagging never works!

The work may not have rectified all the paving faults, but it has made a massive improvement for most of Tockwith and for only a short period of disruption. The Parish Council continue to report the remaining pavement, drainage and road surface issues to keep our problems in the eye of the Highways team, with the intent of getting further works completed.



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MOVES FORWARD

In previous newsletters, and at various community events, we have explained that the Parish Council, with the full support of Tockwith Together, wanted to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. This would be a statutory planning document, which would be the best way for the community to influence the type, amount and location of new development in the parish over the next decade.

The Neighbourhood Plan has to be prepared under the control of the Parish Council and it will be setting up a specific sub-committee, the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, to oversee the process which will also include non Parish Councillors. Tockwith Together will be involved and provide whatever help it can. The Parish Council has engaged a planning consultant from Sheffield based 'Design Yorkshire' to help it prepare the Plan. There are significant costs, but the Parish Council has now identified how it can cover these costs, in the absence of grant funding, and with no increase to the 'Precept', the Parish Council part of Council Tax.

The first stage is for North Yorkshire Council to confirm that the parish boundaries are an appropriate definition of the Neighbourhood Plan area. The Parish Council submitted their request to NYC some weeks ago and await a response. Once that has been received, there will be a community engagement event in the village hall in the Spring, at which the planning consultant and parish council representatives can seek the views of the residents about the future development of the parish.

It will be important that the views gathered at this event are representative of the parish as a whole and we urge all residents to look out for further details and participate in influencing what the parish will look like in the future.

We will also be needing help from the community to get this right, including volunteers with skills in planning, architecture, legal matters, infrastructure engineering, anything that can really bring the neighbourhood plan to life and make it as robust as possible.

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JOIN THE CAUSE!

Earlier In this newsletter we have described the progress that has been made on the Action Plan, which formed part of the 2024 Community Plan.

Going forward, in addition to continuing to help deliver the Action Plan objectives, we have agreed to support the Parish Council in preparing a Neighbourhood Plan, to enable us to plan for the types and location of development to meet our community's needs.

Even though a planning consultant will be appointed there will be a lot for the community to do. The Neighbourhood Plan process will require a further Residents survey and a referendum to approve the final version.

Tockwith Together was initially set up in late 2022, with representatives of 12 local groups, together with parish councillors and some residents with specific experience. For the next stage of our development, we would like to welcome some additional members.

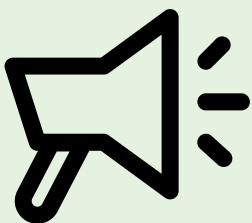


- people who are passionate about our community and who want to shape its future.
- people with experience of surveys, questionnaires and analytics
- people with skills in marketing, media and influence
- residents who have moved into the parish in recent years particularly onto one of the newer developments

We have c.10 meetings a year, usually on a Saturday morning at 10am in the Village Hall and the meetings last 1.5-2 hours.

If you think that you can spare the time to help influence how your community looks and develops in the future, please contact us at tockwithtogether@gmail.com.

It is not a time consuming commitment and you can always step back if circumstances change, so why not give it a go.



tockwithtogether@gmail.com

**Any questions? More info?
Sign up today!**



tockwithtogether@gmail.com



www.tockwithtogether.org