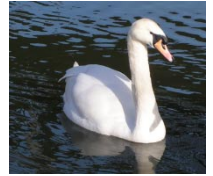


SWANLAND PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2008



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

There are a number of issues which residents have been bringing to the parish council meetings over the last few months. Once again it has to be traffic which is top of the list, either the speed of the vehicles on the village roads, or the lack of parking particularly for people wanting to access the services in the village, at the Post Office, the Doctor's or the shops.

Much of the trade at the village store is passing through with visitors to the village or residents on their way to work. Everyone seems to be in such a hurry that they have to park as near as possible to the shop and then block driveways and entrances causing much inconvenience to the residents who have to put up with this all day. Even though you may only popping in to the shop for an item, you can easily be held up in a queue and at the same time, a householder may want to leave their property. There is no legislation which can cover thoughtlessness but please be aware of the effect on your fellow residents of the village who are asking for the same consideration that you enjoy if you live on one of the quieter roads in the village.

A number of requests have come in for something to be done about the narrow part of Dale Road. The road is too narrow and the houses in that part of the village have no drives to be able to park vehicles off the road. A number of suggestions have been made for improvements to the situation but all of them will cause problems for some of the other residents of this part of the village. Mums with prams and disabled scooter users have been unable to get past the parked cars recently because residents have been parking on the pavement to ease the flow of traffic. Unfortunately this cannot continue because the footpath has to be kept clear. Double yellow lines would push the parking problems further up the street and a one way system would exacerbate the rat runs through the estates. The problem is being looked at by the local police team and the highways department at the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. We will have to see if they can come up with any further ideas.

The school safety zone is nearly finished, but again, I would urge parents to follow the road markings and not park on the double yellow lines, which have been put down to keep junctions clear of parked cars and to make it safer to cross the road. It is not alright as one parent said to me, "to park on the yellow lines because everyone ignores them". Hopefully, we will have more time from the local traffic warden to enforce the new system.

Finally we have a number of new parish councillors who are settling into their new role and have completed their first year as your representatives.

It shows that we have a healthy and vibrant community when people are prepared to give of their time to support the village. There is a great deal of activity in the many organisations and volunteers are always needed to keep them going. Younger members are needed to manage the village hall as members of the Village Hall Management Committee and the Playing Fields with their extensive range of facilities for young and older people, also need more support. I know that more gardeners are needed and the Wildlife Group is trying to set up a management committee for the pond improvements. If you feel that you could spare a small amount of time to get involved, your efforts would be much appreciated and provide that base of experience which will guarantee the continuation of these activities into the future.

Geoff Chapman, Chairman.

HEDGEROWS AND HIGHWAYS

Several areas in the village have hedges close to the path and as summer progresses they take on abundant growth and encroach onto the pathways, making passing difficult for pedestrians. The Parish Council would be grateful if home owners would please have a look at your hedgerows and cut back those that could cause a problem for passers-by.

Highways land extends from the edge of the highway to the hedge boundaries of properties and it is technically illegal to plant in this area. Therefore it is in everyone's interest to keep pathways and verges clear. When footpath repairs are required, the contractors will cut back hedges to the back of the foot path as they have in a number of instances recently. If the hedge is of conifers for example, this may be a problem as the trees do not regenerate and you will be left with bare patches. It is better to shape your hedge and keep it trimmed back so that this is not a problem in the future. Residents should also be aware that after the streetscene inspection of works, we have been informed that obstructions such as posts and stones left by householders on verges can cause obstructions and will be removed by highways contractors. MB

PLAYING FIELD ASSOCIATION

One of your councillors represents the Parish Council with the Playing Field Association and invites you to attend the SUMMER GALA on July 20th. As usual volunteers are needed, even if only for a couple of hours. Contact No. 633141.

Please look out for advertising posters for details. JR

ALLOTMENTS

There has been a vast improvement in the condition of the allotments in the last year. The Parish Council has formed a better off road parking area for plot holders and has plans to form another smaller one at the west end of the allotment area. There are periodical inspections in order to make sure that the agreements are kept and any problems are dealt with if and when they occur. Plot holders have worked hard and are beginning to experience good returns. The waiting list is also growing and a recent decision of the Parish council has been to give priority to Swanland residents on the waiting list. It could still take a long time for people to get to the top of the list for vacant plots.

RJJ

SWANLAND FESTIVAL

The Parish Council is contributing to the Festival in the form of a Boundary Walk organised by one of your councillors, who has approached local landowners and received their kind permission for access onto their land. It will be an interesting walk, taking in approximately 10 miles round the edge of the village. The walk will be on field boundaries where there are no footpaths and so you should be prepared for rough ground with suitable footwear and clothing.

MM

TREES

Do you have trees in your garden? If you live in Swanland then the likelihood is that you do. Our village is renowned for the boundary of trees and we are pleased to play our part in keeping it this way. Many of the trees are covered by Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) which means you cannot cut back or fell without obtaining prior permission. This also includes those within the central conservation area. People move into a house in the village with trees in the garden and then decide to fell them to give more light, space or various other aesthetic reasons. Please think hard before you make this decision.

We hear and read much about Global Warming and Carbon Footprints. For the future of our planet plus our own descendants, every person must play their part.

Humans breathe in oxygen and breathe out carbon dioxide. Trees take in carbon dioxide and give out oxygen. WE ALL NEED TREES.

YD

PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council deals with almost a hundred planning applications a year. Most of these are not contentious but some are crucial to the future appearance of the village. In order to promote the building of houses on land which has been used for another purpose, called brownfield land, the government has drawn in to the net gardens as well as the sites of factories and redundant buildings in towns and cities. This means that in Swanland, where there are large houses standing on substantial plots of land, all of them are classified as brownfield land and can be designated for development. The current estate at West End is a classic example. The Parish Council has resisted the use of this type of land because we wish to retain the character of the village and not see these gardens being turned into mini-estates. However, two planning applications have recently been the cause of concern.

The area of Tranby Lane, Kemp Road and West Leys Road is designated as an "Area of Common Character" which signifies that there is something special about the type and appearance of the land and buildings on these roads. We were therefore very disappointed when planning officers and councillors at the East Riding Council allowed two large houses to be built on the garden of a bungalow on Kemp Road, thus undermining the definition and protection afforded by common character. The other application, for which the Parish Council is trying to get a resolution, is the development at Ashford on North Drive. The East Riding have supported us so far and turned down the proposal for four blocks of twelve flats but we await the next development. Garden grabbing and plot splitting will become more prevalent as the village becomes more popular and is something the Parish Council with your support, is keeping under constant watch.

Another characteristic of the village of Swanland is the number and size of its trees. The Parish Council are constantly vigilant in making sure that trees are protected and where houses have been built close to existing trees, will resist any attempt to fell or prune the tree so that it can be preserved into the future. A great deal of notice is taken of the Village Design Statement, in determining our policies on landscape and the retention of hedges and a rural feel to the village. The feed back the Parish Council gets at our meetings supports this view and we hope to be able to retain these important characteristics for the longer term. GC

There will be no Parish Council meeting in August. The next meeting will be held on Monday 1st September 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. Please feel welcome to attend.

