

Topcliffe Parish Council

August Update

Dalton Industrial Estate Expansion

The plans for the proposed expansion of Dalton Industrial Estate did not go before the scheduled planning committee meeting in July. They are likely to be delayed until at least September. The Parish Council has already had ongoing discussions and made numerous submissions to the planners and relevant North Yorkshire authorities. We will be given time at the planning meeting to present our concerns and ensure that these will be accommodated in the final plan.

We had a meeting with the Director of Hambleton Planning and Highways in July to discuss the issues of increased HGV traffic in the village and surrounding area. The developers have indicated a willingness to assist including provision of better signage directing HGV and other traffic away from the village when travelling to and from the proposed site.

We are also asking that Highways actually enforce the 7.5 tonne exclusion that is in place in the village.

However as yet we have had no firm proposals or indeed any action that would start to mitigate our concerns. We will continue to press for restrictions and would urge people in the area (Topcliffe Asenby and Dalton) to write to the planners putting their point of view forward.

HGV Traffic

We have had several meetings with Highways and Trading Standards with 2 objectives in mind.

Firstly, we asked for the 7.5tonne restriction zone to be moved closer to Topcliffe. We are waiting to hear the outcome of this.

Secondly, we are asking that they enforce the law which to date they have not done.

Weight restricted Zone enforcement

We are pursuing this on two fronts:

Operation Spartan – this is a police programme whereby we can video HGV's entering and leaving the restricted zone without stopping, then submitting the same for police follow up. This is an ongoing programme which we hope will result in offenders being prosecuted – a powerful deterrent for other potential offenders.

Trading Standards Tracking – Trading Standards have their own system for tracking illegal HGV passages. Despite their limited resources they set up two days of tracking in June and captured two illegal passages. Unfortunately, due to a technicality, they were unable to prosecute but did contact and give warnings to the offending companies and their drivers. The technicality has now been resolved and they will carry out further tracking which will, hopefully, result in prosecutions.

Although these activities are aimed at current HGV traffic, a successful outcome will also act as a strong deterrent to any new HGV traffic resulting from the Dalton Industrial Estate development when it finally comes into play.

Toll Booth and Jubilee Gardens wall

Northern Walls have almost completed the work on the Toll Booth and the wall for Jubilee Gardens. The work was necessary to repoint much of the stonework and replace a number of stones. Both had suffered significant salt damage from the passing traffic.

Sheep Wash

Malcolm Morley and Ben Collard led a working party to tidy the Sheep Wash and remove most of the Himalayan Balsam weeds which were threatening to overrun the site and significantly reduce the usable area.

The area is now significantly improved and a very pleasant village amenity. In addition we are investigating the possibility of adding increased seating to further enhance and encourage the use of this attractive asset for villagers and visitors.

Other activities in the pipeline

Rogue sheep – over the course of the next few weeks we will be adding additional security to the fencing along the entrance path to the playing field to prevent the ongoing problem of sheep escaping into the playing field and other village areas area.

Cemetery Shelter – likewise we will be repairing the broken widow and replacing the some of the rotting wood members to enhance this place of quiet reflection for visitors.

Finally, we welcome two new members to the Parish Council – Tony Bruce and Ben Collard – both of whom are already actively involved in progressing various Council projects.