

**Chairman's Report**  
**For**  
**The Annual Parish Meeting of Topcliffe Parish Council**  
**17<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

2021/2022 has been a year where the Parish Council has been very active on quite a number of fronts. It is interesting looking back to see exactly what has been achieved over and above the "normal" and then to look forward to see how much needs to be done.

A summary of the main projects/Activities is as follows

**Open Spaces**

1. Sheep Wash  
Funds allocated for weed clearing including Canadian Balsam, Tree planting, hedging, wild flower planting, benches ( yet to arrive) .  
Several working parties took place Ben Collard and Malcolm Morley have played a significant role in all this.  
The sheepwash is becoming a very pleasant place to be.
2. Waste Bins  
Roy Beckwith managed to get all the waste bins around the village replaced or renovated
3. Playing Field  
Mark Robson has been working towards the legal transfer of the playing field from Hambleton to Topcliffe PC. This will be completed in the next few weeks.
4. Village Tidy Days  
Ben Collard and Malcolm organised 2 working parties during the year the last at the weekend. An amazing amount of work was done by over 30 volunteers .

**Infrastructure**

1. Mill Bank  
Largely due to the efforts of Malcolm Morley NYCC Bridges Department agreed to repair the Mill Bank retaining wall which was in serious danger of collapse . Traffic, blocked drains, lack of maintenance and age were responsible. The project included repairing the footpath steps , took 6 weeks and cost circa £100K.
2. Drains in Front Street  
There has been a serious problem of sewage odour from the drains in Front Street. The responsibility lies with North Yorkshire Water and their lack of action on the old Mill pumping station. The PC was helped by Environmental Health Hambleton to put pressure on NYW to install suitable pumping and dosing equipment. They agreed and have stated the work will be done by the end of May 2022
3. Toll Booth and Jubilee Gardens Wall  
Both were repaired and repointed this year at a cost of £3000. Most people will be aware the Toll Booth is a listed building which is the village's responsibly to maintain.

## **Community Projects**

1. Seedlings Nursery  
The PC was able to supply financial support towards their fund raising for a new shed and other equipment.
2. Jubilee Celebrations  
Topcliffe PC provided full financial backing/security to the celebrations so that the organisers had a budget to work to.
3. Topcliffe Primary School Traffic Project  
The PC worked for several weeks with a class working on their concerns about traffic outside the school. They had access to hour by hour traffic reports from the speed sign. The project was sent to Highways who sadly have yet to respond in any meaningful way.
4. PC Website  
The website is a legal requirement for all Parish Councils and is relatively expensive to maintain. It is very much the public/ web face of Topcliffe PC and contains detailed information about the PC's activities. It is also available to community groups like the Village Hall. The usage has grown slowly over the year and now receives 150 -200 hits a month . This should continue to grow.
5. Sheep Wash and Old Mill Lifebuoys  
There was concern about water safety particularly at the mill. With funding help from NYCC we have been able to purchase to lifebuoys which will be installed shortly.

## **Village HGV Traffic**

A major concern for many residents of both Topcliffe and Asenby. The PC has put significant effort into seeking a reduction in lorries in the villages. There is a lot still to do to achieve our objectives but key points so far are

1. NYCC Highways and Trading Standards  
They accept there is a problem that needs resolving. They tell us they are working on solutions for new signage, enforcement and relocating the restriction zone so that it is fit for purpose. They have increased the visits by their enforcement team but it is a drop in the ocean. There has been an enormous amount of work by Tony Bruce and Roy Beckwith in this area. We are pushing this as hard as we can and have invited them to attend a meeting at Topcliffe later in the year. They have yet to respond.
2. Dalton 49 Industrial Estate Development.  
Although the development is outside our parish we were allowed to represent our concerns about the increase in HGV traffic to the planners and the planning committee. Our views were taken on board and to a large extent incorporated into the planning consent in the form of a legally binding document, Section 106. Included in this document was a requirement that the developer deposit £45,000 in an account to be used for HGV signage and enforcement of the current exclusion Zone including if necessary cameras. We now have to insist this is spent on our problem
3. IPN Development  
Like Dalton 49 we were able to make our views clear about our concerns with the increase in HGV movements to and from the site. This led to another legally binding section 106 which includes a commitment from IPN to route their own and 3<sup>rd</sup> party lorries away from Topcliffe and Asenby plus they have agreed to deposit £5000 towards signs and enforcement.

Finally it is important I acknowledge a number of people for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

The Parish Councillors, Malcolm Morley, Tony Bruce, Ben Collard and Roy Beckwith. They have all worked extremely hard for the village and we should all remember they are volunteers.

The volunteers who turned out for working parties and were more than prepared to get involved when asked.

Our District Councillors Mark Robson and Peter Barden and our North Yorkshire Councillor Bob Baker. These three work unbelievably hard for the large communities they represent and I know Mark and Peter in particular have never missed one of our meetings. Their support, advice and counsel has been invaluable.

Then last but not least by any means our Parish Clerk Alex Robson. Alex has always been there for us and kept us all in line with the PC guidelines and the law on many an occasion. The minutes are always on time and the finances clear and concise

Thank you all of you

Jamie Moores