

HGV traffic continues to be the biggest single issue we face in Topcliffe and Asenby.

### **IPN Development Plan**

Topcliffe Parish council met with IPN directors and Hambleton Planning to discuss the implications of their proposed development. All have taken on board our serious concern about increased HGV traffic through Topcliffe and Asenby. They have agreed to planning conditions written into the approval which should help reduce any impact. Conditions include a £5000 bond for use by the council ( us) for enforcement and monitoring; Haulage contracts for IPN will over time be re written to include a clause excluding the lorries from Topcliffe and Asenby. IPN have also agreed to take action on offending HGV's and provided us with a contact director who we can contact with evidence of breaches.

### **Potters Plant Hire**

Potters submitted an application to access their site in the evenings and weekends. We asked that this only be granted with conditions that excluded them coming through Topcliffe and Asenby at these times. This was agreed by both the planners and Potters.

### **Amendment of the Weight Restriction Zone.**

It is now almost a year since we started discussing this with Highways. We asked for 3 simple things;

- 1 The weight restriction sign at the Busby Stoop be moved to Topcliffe boundary
- 2 Better signage to warn HGV drivers.
- 3 That Highways and trading Standards upheld and enforced the law by prosecuting illegal lorries.

We feel strongly that they are dragging their feet being reluctant to take action or say no to us and it is frankly not good enough.

We are considering various ways to escalate our case and at some point may ask you to write letters of complaint/support.

## Illegal HGV enforcement

For more than a year now the parish council has been actively participating in various local authority schemes and programmes for the prevention of illegal HGV traffic passing through our village streets.

In summary:

Trading Standards Lorry Watch Scheme – we submitted reports of almost 1,000 HGV sightings in the village. But not a single prosecution resulted prosecution.

Police operation Spartan – we spent many hours making video recordings of HGVs passing through the village and reported around a dozen totally illegal passages - but this resulted in just one fixed penalty fine. The program then changed to Police Operation Snap which no longer pursues weight restriction violations!

Trading Standards Tracking - this involves TS officers physically monitoring Lorries entering and leaving the weight restricted zone. This has been a little more success with 3 offenders being identified last October but legal proceedings have still not been completed. A further day of tracking is being carried out at the time of writing. TS cite lack of physical resources for the limited number of tracking days and we have offered support from Parish Councillors to run extra tracking days.

Police Road Safety Team – more recently, we have been referred to this new scheme, and met with the Police coordinator before Christmas and we will continue to work with them - but we have not seen any results to date.

So, despite all these efforts, villagers will have observed that there has been no noticeable decrease in HGV passage through Topcliffe. And like us are becoming increasingly frustrates by the lack of serious progress via any of these official schemes.

## **Village Projects**

A number of projects have been proposed and will be actioned as finance allows;

Work has started on the Sheep Wash led by Malcolm Morley and Ben Collard.

We have purchased life buoys to be placed at the Mill and the Sheep Wash.

A number of fences and gates, which are our responsibility, need repairing or replacing this year.

We have outline proposals for revitalising the Jubilee Gardens. Mandi Labuschagne has prepared outline plans/suggestions which are being costed.

Some of the playing field equipment needs replacing