

COPMANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

In this our first ever published Annual Report I would like to acquaint our electorate with what this parish council has been doing over this past year. A number of problems have arisen for our residents, and we have tried to help resolve these.

In January 2004 some residents of the Drome Road/Temple Garth area experienced problems with the sewerage system, following extraordinarily heavy rainfall. It became apparent, at a meeting with representatives of Yorkshire Water, that a number of elements coming together had caused this problem, and they promised to take steps to resolve matters. We have had progress reports from them in April, July and November 2004, and January 2005, and we hope to hear from them again very soon to the effect that the problems have been solved. We are grateful to Councillor Glen Bradley for his involvement in this matter.

In the late summer of 2004, we were informed that the no.13 First York bus service would cease to travel around Flaxman Croft. Again, we invited representatives of First York to a meeting, which was extremely well attended by residents of that area, and in due course the bus service was restored.

In response to requests from residents of Temple Lane, a bus shelter was installed at the end of Temple Garth.

Sadly, due to the expense which would have been involved, we were unable to go forward with an extension to the A64 fence in the area of Pike Hills Mount.

For the immediate future, during the next few months we will be applying for accreditation as a Quality Parish Council. Our Clerk, Mrs Diane Greenwell, has now attained the Assessment and Qualification Alliance's Certificate in Local Council Administration. This is one of the main criteria for accreditation, others being the requirement for a mandate from the electorate, the adoption by councillors of a Code of Conduct, the production of an Annual Report and properly prepared and audited accounts. In addition, we must show that we communicate effectively with our electorate, hold at least bimonthly meetings which are open to the public, and give regular information on our activities.

In the coming year we will continue to develop our webpage which is now linked to a Copmanthorpe webpage run by Mr Chris Sharp. We hope to invite other village organisations to publish their activities alongside our own.

Finally, this summer we will again be sponsoring the Coronation Challenge Cup for the best kept garden in the village. The presentation will take place as part of the village Horticultural Show on 16 July.

On behalf of all residents I would like to thank my fellow parish councillors for their support over the past year, our Clerk Mrs Diane Greenwell, and our three Ward Councillors Glen Bradley, Quentin Macdonald and Mrs Janet Hopton.

Committee Reports

Roads and Footpaths

A great deal of time has been spent in recent months on the question of the build-out at the shops. This forms part of the 20 MPH Zone. This problem is as yet unresolved. The School Safety Zone has also been extended to cover the school end of Merchant Way. We wait to see how this works.

At our request, resurfacing of the badly pot-holed junction of Horseman Lane has been carried out by the City of York Council. We are aware that there are other areas in the village in need of attention, but funds are limited and CYC must prioritise.

Resurfacing work to the footpath between Reygate Grove and Low Green has been carried out, and we are constantly monitoring the condition of all our footpaths. CYC are also to clear the footpath between Pike Hills Mount and the A64 of litter, dead vegetation and any overhanging branches.

Litter and fly-tipping continue to cause problems, especially along Yorkfield Lane. The section between Farmers Way and Merchant Way has been cleared, but sadly more rubbish has appeared. If you have any information about this please telephone York Pride on 551551.

Planning

This year the Parish Council has considered approx. 80 planning applications. This represents an increase of almost a third over last year's particularly low figure, and is more typical of what we have come to expect in Copmanthorpe. Of this figure 9 are for new builds, 7 for works to trees, 13 for conservatories, 3 for garages, 1 for a telecommunications mast, 1 for change of use at the shops, 27 for various extensions to dwellings and 13 revisions of plans previously submitted. It must be borne in mind that some applications cover more than one type of development.

Finance

Financial Year 2003-04

Since the last meeting when additional spending of £2,750 over the Precept was reported, further additional expenditure was incurred for the following items, £2,500 for the provision of seats on the footpath to the new road and £920 for the refurbishment of some very old graves in the Burial Ground. Grants to village organisations amounted to £5,340.

Financial Year 2004-05

Additional items for this year are, £650 for trees on Manor Heath and £860 for the cost of consecrating the new area in the Burial Ground. Grants to village organisations totalled £6,050.

Financial Year 2005-04-13

The Precept for the coming year has been set at £17,065 which equates to £10.27 for a Band D property. Grants included in this amount total £3,665. When grants are excluded from the Precept there has been a reduction of 12.98% in the Precept from last year.

Accounts

The most recent set of audited accounts covers the period 1st April 2003 to 31st March 2004. A summary of Receipts and Payments for the year is shown below:

Balance brought forward April 2003	£	29,378.94
Add: Total Receipts		<u>26,083.08</u>
		55,462.02
Less: Total Payments		<u>30,540.33</u>
	£	24,921.69
These cumulative funds are represented by:		
Treasurer's Bank Account No. 82159880	£	523.34
Add: After date bankings		-
Business Money Manager Account		24,398.35
	£	<u>24,921.69</u>

Contact Details

Contact details of your parish councillors can be obtained from the Clerk, Mrs Diane Greenwell, by telephoning York 702844.

North Yorkshire Police

Copmanthorpe remains a relatively safe place in which to live. Crime is very low, although there are problems with nuisance youths in the village centre, particularly around the shops during the evenings. The police inform us that most thefts from homes or vehicles are committed by opportunist thieves taking advantage when residents and owners leave doors and windows open or unlocked.

Recreation Centre Report

The Recreation Centre is owned by a registered Charity, which is run by a management committee. Half of the members are elected annually at the AGM which is open to all residents of the village and the other half are appointed by village organisations such as the user clubs, the Churches and the Parish Council.

In the past year the drainage scheme for the sports field has been completed at a total cost of £22,000. Further work is needed to eradicate one or two wet spots between the lines of drainage pipes and hopefully, this will be carried out before the summer. The car park has been totally resurfaced for the first time in 30 years and it is hoped that this will last for another 30 years. Parking bays will be marked out to make the best use of the space.

The next project is to create a new storage unit alongside the sports hall, replacing the old dilapidated sheds and the various containers now standing on the car park. The cost of this will be in the region of £40,000. However the Football Club has now achieved charter status, which may give it access to government funding previously unavailable to the Recreation Centre. In the light of this, it has been proposed that we undertake a major development in conjunction with the Junior School involving an extension of the Sports Hall and an all weather multi user games area on the School field. The storage project has been put on hold while the larger scheme is explored.

Last year a scheme to develop young cricketers was initiated and this year the Recreation Centre is purchasing volleyball equipment for casual use by anyone in the village to complement the rounders equipment already provided by the Sports and Community Club. The Recreation Centre is grateful to both the Parish Council and the City of York Council for their financial support over the past year.