

COPMANTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

Chairman's Overview

Since our last Annual Report we have lost three valued members of our Council - our Vice-Chairman Mike Rawnsley, Edwin Knighton, who had served as Chairman of our Planning Committee, and Mrs Judith Harrison, who was our Police Liaison Representative. Their hard work and commitment over several years has been very much appreciated. We have been pleased to co-opt two new councillors, Mr David Kirkham and Mrs Megan Taylor. The lead planning role has been taken on by the Reverend Maurice Staton, whilst Greg Waite is now our main contact with the police. Mrs Diane Greenwell remains as Clerk and we have also been encouraged in our work by the support and advice of our three Ward Councillors Quentin Macdonald, Glen Bradley and Lord Mayor Elect Mrs Janet Hopton. We also have a new team of police officers responsible for our village.

After much hard work by our Clerk we this year received our accreditation as a Quality Parish Council. This should enable us to do more to serve our residents, and acknowledges that we are a properly managed council which communicates effectively with its electorate.

During the year we have tried to tackle the problem of litter in the centre of the village by working with the City of York Council and also reminding certain of the retail outlets of their responsibilities, but anti-social behaviour of this and other kinds continues to be a difficulty for us and for the police. We continue to monitor the situation and to help the police to do their job for the benefit of us all.

We have also been pleased to play our small part in helping the Fairtrade Steering Group in obtaining Fair Trade Status for Copmanthorpe. This group, together with all the other village organisations and societies, enhance the quality of life in our village, and we are happy to support all of these in any way we can.

Occasionally we have had differences of opinion with the City of York Council, primarily in the fields of Planning and Highways and Traffic. We are concerned that our Village Design Statement is not given sufficient weight by officers and councillors of CYC when planning applications are being considered, but we have given a detailed response to the current consultative document, the "Statement of Community Involvement".

Committee Reports

Planning

During this year the Parish Council has considered a total of 69 planning applications, a reduction on last year's figure of 82, but more typical of what we are accustomed to in Copmanthorpe over a twelve month period. Of these, 9 were for new builds (including one application for 3 dwellings at 25 Station Road – originally 4 dwellings – and one for 2 dwellings to the rear of the old post office).

The remainder included 26 for domestic extensions of varying kinds, 4 for works to trees, 8 for conservatories, 2 for garages, 1 for a new agricultural building, 1 for the conversion of one property into two, 1 for the erection of a chimney stack, 1 for the installation of floodlights at the Recreation Centre's tennis courts, 1 for a private road at Copmanthorpe Grange, and 2 in relation to the demolition and rebuilding of a wall.

Roads and Footpaths

During the year we have been trying to find a solution to the ongoing problem of the build-out at the shopping centre car park. Our proposal was considered by the CYC Planning and Transport Committee in February, but rejected in favour of a plan submitted by their officers. As a result the width of the build-out will in due course be reduced by 1.8m, the bollards relocated and road markings renewed.

Improvements to street lighting have been made in Rutland Close and Low Green, but unfortunately the work planned for Main Street will not now take place until at least 2007- 2008 as CYC is negotiating new agreements with its contractors.

Litter continues to be a problem and we are looking at ways of tackling this. We are also concerned about the number of hedgerows needing maintenance, but it is sometimes difficult to prove ownership. However work has been done along the A64/Pike Hills Mount, where landscaping has also been carried out along the fence, and the sections of Yorkfield Lane by Gardeners Close and Ploughmans Close have also been cut back. An application has been made to the CYC Public Rights of Way office to have Yorkfield Lane included in the Definitive Map of bridleways and footpaths, but this will take some considerable time.

Bulbs were planted in the autumn, and we are looking at areas to plant new trees to replace those being lost through building development or disease.

Speeding traffic continues to be a worry and we have applied for funding for Vehicle Activated Flashing Signs to be placed on the entrance roads to the village. CYC are also formulating a plan to improve road safety at the Colton Lane crossroads on Manor Heath.

We have been offered two new bus shelters, one for Flaxman Croft and one for Top Lane/Hallcroft Lane, and a replacement for the dog bin at Colton Lane crossroads will soon be in place. Two further dog bins have been agreed for Tadcaster Road.

The footpath between Low Green and Reygate Close has been resurfaced and proposals for the improvement of the footpath from Low Green to Wheelwright Close are awaited. We try to maintain these paths in a useable and safe condition, but without them becoming too urbanised.

Finance

Total receipts for the year 2004-05 as shown below include a grant from the CYC for landscaping, and burial ground receipts of £4,500. During 2005-06 there have been no additional expenditure items and the Receipts and Payments Summary is expected to balance.

The Precept for 2006-07 has been set at £20,000. The Band D equivalent for this amount is £12 p.c. The Precept includes grants to village organisations totalling £4,575 and a sum of £2,000 for tree planting. Expenditure under recurring heads has been budgeted to remain as last year.

Garden Competition

After the record number of entries in last year's adults' competition, when the Coronation Cup was taken home by Mrs Heather Lloyd, we are hoping to have more entries this year in the children's section. Judging will take place in June, and prizes presented at the Horticultural Show in the Methodist Church Hall on 15th July.

Residents' Association

Parish Council representatives and Ward Councillor Mrs Janet Hopton continue to attend monthly meetings of this Association which gives residents living in Council or Housing Association property an opportunity to discuss any problems in relation to their home and surroundings. There is annual funding of £1,000 for improvements to the area, as well as money for necessary repairs. Guest speakers at meetings have included PC Paul Fenwick, and it is hoped to have a Fire Officer and Pest Control Officer to speak at future meetings. Our grateful thanks to Councillor Mrs Hopton for all her help and advice.

Accounts

The most recent set of audited accounts covers the period 1st April 2004 to 31st March 2005. The Receipts and Payments Summary for the year is shown below.

Balance brought forward April 2004	£	24,560.44
Add: Total Receipts		28,671.66

		53,232.10
Less: Total Payments		21,430.97

	£	31,801.13

These cumulative funds are represented by:		
Treasurer's Account No. 82159880	£	6,946.07
Less unrepresented cheques		105.84

	£	6,840.23
Business Money Manager Account No. 82159872		24,960.90

	£	31,801.13
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Contact details

Your parish councillors' telephone contact details are as follows

Mr Mike Irwin	Chairman	707391
Mr Derek Bowen	Vice Chairman	700846
The Reverend Maurice Staton	Planning Chairman, and PC News	705634
Mrs Marjorie Stones	Roads and Footpaths Chairman and PC News	778087
Mr Doug Parker	Finance Chairman	707271
Mrs Megan Taylor	IT Advisor	707894
Mr David Kirkham	IT Advisor	708601
Mr Greg Waite	Police Liaison and Recreation Centre	704752
Mrs Ann Winter	Residents' Association	702569
Mrs Diane Greenwell	Clerk to the Parish Council	702844