

# **COLLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

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Thank you to Jane Guest for last month's PC fleet article and in particular for introducing "Best Kept Village Competition" on which I will spend time visiting later in this article.

As we all are too well aware, summer has now passed, great memories of warm summer evenings on holiday, at BBQ's, time with family and friends not seen or visited for some time all seem to have faded. Kids are back at school and generally the weekly routine is now back in full swing. It's now a steady journey to half term with the festive break to follow that will no doubt bring further enjoyment in snug comfort of warm homes or indeed the fulfilment of outdoor pursuits. I am looking forward to it already, sparklers, trick or treat, bonfires, fire-works too much turkey and mince pies, the whole lot!

Our village community park has enjoyed great success this summer. AEB landscapes have made the use of the zip wire much easier for all and we would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks and gratitude in this regard. Grassed areas are now better established following the play park refurbishment, play equipment is proving robust whilst very well used and thoroughly enjoyed. I hold the view that we have the best play park in the county! To enjoy the play park in the months and years to come, I'm sure you will agree that we all need to do our bit to ensure that it is looked after, enjoyed fully, safely and responsibly with consideration for all park users.

My kids, aged 7, 5  $\frac{3}{4}$  and 18months (my middle child is particular about his age) have all had their bumps, falls, scrapes, tears and even trips to A&E whilst at the park. Through this though I see their confidence grow considerable and friendships blossoming. I have no doubt there will be more bumps, scrapes, tears, falls but hopefully no more trips to A&E. I hope you agree that it would be most upsetting if a trip to A&E was caused by others not enjoying all our great park has to offer, safely, responsibly and with full consideration to all park users.

As a Parish Council, we have discussed the safe enjoyment of the park at length with great views and points made across our diverse parish council from maintenance of grassed areas, safety and the avoidance of erosion to ensure our park is always presented in its best possible light. We do need to point out though that grassed mounds in the park are not designed for use as jumps or indeed "agility" tracks for bicycles and should not be used as such. We would be pleased and grateful if you could encourage anyone doing so to enjoy the park safely, responsibly and with consideration to others. It is not at all easy taking care of kids, especially when they are darting around the best play park in the county, but let's do our bit to keep them safe, even the ones we know are particular about their age (including me!) and want to grow up too quickly (not me!).

Jane very kindly introduced the best kept village competition and I would like to take time (now that we have the best park in the county) to introduce our thoughts on this. We would very much like our village to be consistently and formally recognised for its greatness and we think that entering and winning the best kept village competition is a fantastic way to do this.

We would like set up a committee/working group to move this initiative forward and are looking for a few volunteers initially to support the group and help formalise an approach whereby we can dig, plant, grow, blossom our way to winning the best kept village competition. In essence, emphasising what we have already got and be creative elsewhere, all to get that win our village deserves. I think we need to be realistic and look to achieve this in the next 3 to 5 years as I'm sure will take some great work, dedication and most importantly lots of fun! It would be great to hear from gardeners, landscape experts and those with a keen interest in presenting the village in the best possible way to win!

In addition to the above, please also keep a keen eye out for the many events occurring over the next few months in the village, all from the wide and varied selection of fantastic local groups we have that work so hard to make Collingham the great village that it is! Finally, thank you for taking time to read this article and we look forward to updating you with more great news next month!

*Lee Marshall*

*Collingham Parish Council meets on the fourth Thursday of every month and the second Thursday in December. The meeting in August may be cancelled if there is insufficient business. The meetings are held at the Youth and Community Centre on Low Street, except June which is at the Chapel in Brough and begin at 7:15pm. The general public are welcome at all meetings, though they have no rights to participate except at the beginning of the meeting or at the Chairman's discretion and with prior notice to the clerk. Once the meeting is under way the public are welcome and encouraged to stay and listen to the Council. There may be times because of the sensitive nature of the business being discussed that the public and the press are asked to leave though this happens very rarely.*