

COLLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Parish Clerk Caron Ballantyne

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Or visit in person in the library on Mondays 2-5 (during Library Opening Hours)

Our thanks to Tim Musson who has been Chair of the Parish Council for the past year. I have taken over as Chair with effect from Thursday 11 May for the next year.

After the disappointing weather last year, it was good to see the sun at this year's May Fair which was a great success. Estimates show more visitors than ever and the stalls did very well.

The Parish Council used this opportunity to see if there was sufficient interest in the Village to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Collingham. This is not a way to stop development in Collingham but will allow us to become properly involved with NSDC, developers and landowners. We were encouraged that several people signed up at the May Fair and they will be contacted shortly. If you would like to have some influence on planning, infrastructure, the types and density of housing, a Neighbourhood Plan, once completed, is envisaged to last for the next 20-25 years. The Parish Council is looking for 25-30 people from all walks of life and ages, to form a steering group that will oversee the vision for Collingham. This may take between 2 and 3 years to complete and will need a commitment of approximately one hour or so a week to begin with. A grant is available up to £9,000 from RCAN (Rural Communities Network). Once completed, the Neighbourhood Plan will eventually become a legal document and part of Newark & Sherwood's Local Development Plan, which must be consulted when looking at planning issues for Collingham.

If you would like to register an interest in being part of this group, please either complete the form in this edition of the Fleet or pick up a form from the Library/Parish Office. Alternatively an on-line form is available on the Parish website.

This will be an interesting project and, I hope to get this well under way during my tenure.

Judging for Best Kept Village round one will take place between Monday 5 June and Friday 23 June. The Scouts will be doing their bit by litter picking (in addition to our permanent volunteer, Rodney). Everyone's best efforts to show off our Village for the gem it is would be much appreciated. Hedge trimming and weeding are areas which have let us down in the past. If you require further information, please contact Parish Councillor Lee Marshall.

Consultations are ongoing for improvements to the Community Park to upgrade the skatepark area.

Maureen Dobson's initiative to stop most lorries travelling through the Village between 7pm and 7am has proved to be popular with many residents, especially those living on the High Street.

The Parish Council welcomes enquiries and comments from parishioners. We have received several letters recently which have no contact address or telephone number. Please ensure these are included so that we can respond to you directly.

With best wishes for the summer and let's hope it's a good one!

Michael

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.