

# COLLINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Michael Davies	01636 892911	Jane Guest	01636 893682
Rik Hatton	01636 892865	Lee Marshall	01636 892567
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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)**

Thank you to Lee Marshall for last month's Parish Council writings. This year is flying past and already the Collingham Show has been and gone but as usual, it was visited by many people undeterred by the weather. Jane Guest had good feedback from Collingham youngsters on how to improve the Community Park skateboarding area and once they understood that closing it was not an option, suddenly became real experts about layout and equipment and had lots of good ideas. Village Care had put up a map of Collingham and supplied pins for people to show their preferences for new areas to plant more spring bulbs. I think a few strayed into front gardens but nevertheless some good ideas. Rosie Scott saw plenty of interest in the Youth and Community Hall and took some bookings. Since its refurbishment, this is a real asset to the village and is widely used by a variety of groups.

The Parish Council received a report from Best Kept Village Competition organisers. Properties and shops were well maintained and gardens were tidy. Other good things mentioned were the Grey Horse Inn adorned with flowers, the new Co-op and Village centre planting and the village centre footpath map. However weeds growing along road gutters and some litter on one or two paths were the main problem for BKVC. Overall it shows that despite having a main road running through its centre, Collingham can present a tidy well-kept village!! Very well done and our thanks to all the volunteers who work hard for our village. We are up against some stiff competition and villages with paid workers to keep them tidy.

Some people believe that the Parish Council is not always helpful with planning decisions. Please be assured that potential planning sites are always visited and given much discussion at Parish Council meetings. We are bound by planning rules and have to work within this criteria. All comments, etc. go back to Newark and Sherwood District Council for a final decision, which sometimes goes against the Parish Council's recommendation.

Although it seems a long way ahead, we are starting to think how November 2018 should be commemorated. If your group wishes to commemorate the 100 year anniversary and the end of WW1, please contact Rosie Scott who will liaise with groups. Should grants or sponsorship be needed, this will give groups time to identify awarding bodies and donors and make applications. We anticipate holding a meeting in January or February 2017 for anyone interested. Contact Rosie Scott [rosie.scott@collingham-notts.org.uk](mailto:rosie.scott@collingham-notts.org.uk)

You may have seen the speed gun in operation at various locations around the village. The aim is not only to catch speeding motorists, but to identify hand held mobile phones being used whilst driving, those not using seatbelts and we also count the number of vehicles travelling through the village. The last two outings logged 550 vehicle movements in 2½ hours. Unfortunately, the speed gun is in the hospital but will return soon!

Lastly, I have to bang my own drum for the Collingham Village Care Transport Scheme. We are a registered charity, run entirely by volunteers. Many people say that they would be unable to attend appointments without our help. Buses are infrequent and taxis too expensive for most people. So, again a big thank you to the residents of Collingham and surrounding villages for their help and support to ensure this valuable service continues. I find driving and being involved with Village Care very rewarding. New drivers are always welcome, even a few hours a week ensures we do not turn people away.

Caron Ballantyne, our Parish Clerk is now available at no. 71 High Street on Mondays 2-5pm, the Library opening hours, but always contactable via the Parish website at [Collingham-Notts.org.uk](http://Collingham-Notts.org.uk)

*Michael Davies*

*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.*