

# COLLINGHAM *Parish Council*

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

This is the first article to be written by Rosemary Fabian and Mike Lloyd, two of your new Parish Councillors. So, what does the Parish Council do? A question we both asked ourselves before committing to the role. The Council provides facilities and services for the community. We are elected, or co-opted, individuals who want to represent the interests of our community, improve our quality of life and care for the local environment. Although our responsibilities are at local level, we do keep an eye on the services provided by other authorities and organisations such as Newark & Sherwood District Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and the Police. We are involved with a wide range of topics including community safety, housing, street lighting, cemeteries, playing fields, community centres, litter, war memorials, seats and shelters, rights of way and footpaths together with some aspects of planning and highways. A key area is to effectively manage the finances of the parish to ensure value is obtained and any spending is in the interests of the village. A daunting task you might think but we have had good training and we are being helped along the way by our colleagues to understand the strict protocols and processes that we must adhere to.

We have joined a great team and it has just been announced that Collingham Parish Council has been awarded the Quality award level as part of the Local Council Award Scheme. This award recognises that the council meets the high standards set by the parish council sector, as assessed by its peers and achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement.

Those of you who visited us at the recent Collingham Show will have seen for yourselves the work that the council has been doing and why this award is so rightly deserved. It was also an opportunity to share ideas for future projects. If you have any suggestions for improving our village environment or amenities and did not see us at the show then please get in touch by email, telephone or by coming along to the next Parish Council meeting.

Maintaining and improving the village public areas and open spaces is an ongoing task and Collingham is entered into the Best Kept Village Awards each year. We are in the largest village category, a hotly contested group. The Judges selected Farndon, Farnsfield, Lowdham and Radcliffe on Trent to go through to the next round but unfortunately Collingham did not make it. We are obviously disappointed, but we will try again next year. Should you be interested in lending a hand to maintain our public and open spaces then please contact us, we will really appreciate it.

All members of the Parish Council have become "Station Adopters" which means that we have committed to keeping the station looking at its best and working with the rail company on operational matters so as to provide a safe, welcoming environment for all station users. Our tasks include working on keeping the station and its environs litter and graffiti free and most importantly reporting any faults or damage to the Duty Control Manager promptly so that remedial action can be taken as soon as possible.

We end this article with a reminder, as mentioned last month we are looking for more volunteers to help run the library. If you are interested, please come along to one of the meetings in the Memorial Hall arranged for:

**Wednesday 2nd October at 2pm or Saturday 5th October at 10.30am**

Thank you *Rosemary and Mike*

*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 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.*