

SUTTON-IN-CRAVEN PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE ON THE 6th March 2017

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Firstly, I would like to welcome everyone present and thank you for attending the Annual Parish meeting.

In February 2017 Cllr. Margaret Marchant resigned from her position. We would like to thank Cllr. Marchant for the contribution she has made to the Council and the community of Sutton over her term in office and we wish her well for the future.

The Parish Council strives to improve amenities of the Village where it is in our remit.

Planning Applications

As we are aware Craven District Council's Local Plan is not yet complete and once again Sutton has and is facing planning applications for large developments.

Land off Main Street/Sutton Lane resulted in an appeal by the appellant which was determined by the Inspectorate. His decision was to dismiss the appeal on the grounds that the harm to the character and appearance of the area arising from the appeal would be substantial. As such it would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of the proposed development when assessed against the policies in the Framework when taken as a whole. It would not therefore amount to a sustainable form of development.

Land off Holme Lane, Outline Application with Some Matters Reserved for the Erection of Circa 32 No. Dwellings with Means of Access from Holme Lane and Associated Works.

This also has resulted in the application being subject to an appeal for non-determination as a deemed refusal.

The matter will now be decided by the Inspectorate this could be in the form of a hearing or written representation.

The Parish Council are pragmatic in accepting that some small additional housing development in Sutton is inevitable. The issue is the site must be correct in terms of the sustainability objectives set out in the Framework and the tests for soundness set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

Flooding Defences

The South Craven Flood Group formed in 2016 and made up of representatives from Parish Councils, District and County Councils, Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water are making progress in working to address the problems of flooding in the South Craven, Skipton Area.

Short-term and long-term preventative measures are being discussed and where possible actioned.

A section 19 report is being produced this will include information on the source/s of flooding, what happened, responsibilities, and activities. The information from this report will be used to support the development of solutions, assessment of their feasibility, along with the costs and benefits assessment required to build a strong business case for funding of works.

Footpaths

Ravenstone footpath this is still awaiting the Secretary of States determination.

North Yorkshire County Council are now consulting on a proposal to change the way the management and maintenance of public rights of way within North Yorkshire are prioritised.

The proposals include a suggestion that Parish Councils should play a formal role in the prioritisation of the network of paths.

The Parish Council have serious concerns over this proposal (prioritising is a management tool used to say which job gets attention first) and North Yorkshire County Council cannot expect Parish Councils with limited resources to undertake work previously done by consultants. All they can expect is that Parish Councils MIGHT be mindful to assist.

Allotments

The Parish Council is aware that we have a waiting list for allotments. In a bid to acquire land the council has previously wrote to landowners enquiring if they have any land to relinquish, unfortunately the response has been negative. Craven District Council have been made aware of numbers on the waiting list and the shortage of allotment plots.

The Park

The park acts as a strong focal point for the community and the space makes an important contribution to the character of Sutton.

Following successful applications for funding a new all-inclusive roundabout is to be installed in the Park in March/April this year. A need has been identified for a roundabout which can be easily accessible by all. The spinmee roundabout has been specially designed

following consultation with specialists who work with disabled children and their families. Developed with an optimised design to make the roundabout inclusive for users of different abilities.

The Bowling Club sort permission for the installation of floodlights for the bowling green and these are also to be installed shortly. The project is being funded by the club.

The bowling green is the only one in Craven that does not have floodlighting putting it at a disadvantage to the bowling club and teams that play at the site. With the aging population in Craven, the sport of bowling has and is increasing.

At the beginning and end of the season the fading light is inadequate for bowling and floodlights would help finish matches fairly. The lights may also attract more players to join and play thus maintaining the sustainability of the club.

All works undertaken are being adhered to Parish Council requirements.

Finance

The Parish Council have not increased its precept. The amount requested for 2017/18 is £75,320.

The precept is to meet the running costs of the Parish including maintenance of the Park, Lodge, Lumb Clough, Lunds Tower, Crag Nook Delph, the running of the Pavilion Jubilee Tea Room and other recreational areas, the allotments, insurance, machinery, street lamps, benches, bins, consultants, salaries, audits and administration and more.

I would also like to thank Cllr. Philip Barrett, North Yorkshire County Councillor, representing South Craven. Craven District Ward Councillor Stephen Place who all work hard using their experience and knowledge to represent and protect our local communities.

Finally it just remains for me to say a further big thank you to Members, the Clerk, Park Keeper, Pavilion Staff, and the local groups and organisations who work hard to keep Sutton-in-Craven a place to be proud off.