

Ovingham Parish Council - Village Appraisal Quarterly Summary Report

The following have been followed up:

Completion of the Chalet Path.

The BT and Electric service cables have been re-laid to the correct depth ready for completion of the footpath. Discussions are to be held with NCC Highways and our Local Councillor later this month (March) to discuss the total cost to complete and how this will be funded.

Provision of Extra Waste Bins

A plan showing all present waste bins in place in the village was completed. Suggested sites for placement of extra waste bins were discussed with NCC but none of these were recommended to be taken forward. The opening panel on the large bin at the shop and bottom of Horsley Road were broken and have since been repaired saving large renewal costs. An extra waste bin is being installed on the Playing Fields near the play area at a cost of £262 plus Vat and a fortnightly emptying fee of £2.83.

To hold discussions with NCC Highways to find solutions to the problem of speeding and the issues raised by residents.

The Parish Council are seeking advice from NCC on practical ways of reducing speeding in the Village. Information has been received from NCC Highways and this will be discussed at the March Parish Council Meeting.

To continue to follow up with Home Group the parking issue on the grassed area at entrance to Bewick lane

Home Group (who own and are responsible for the grassed areas) are aware of the parking problems for their residents. They have submitted plans for increased parking to NCC Highways for their advice. The plans are on hold for the time being as funding needs to be secured.

To follow up the resurfacing of pavements in Bewick Lane

This was placed on our Local Transport Plan last year and will be considered when funding is available.

To continue to follow up resurfacing of the roads in the areas of Windsor Crescent, Tyne Gardens and west of the church to the Schools.

The Parish Council originally submitted a request for resurfacing of these roads in 2018 and submitted the same request in the Local Transport Plan 2020-2021 and again in 2022 – 2023. Pothole repairs are reported on a regular basis. Latest repairs being carried on main roads - Ovingham to Wylam 01.03.23

To continue to investigate a solution to the parking issue at the Schools.

Bollards were put in place on the grass verge to stop parking and double yellow lines were also put in place on the North side of the School road.

Letters to parents to try and encourage parking in the Middle School are issued on a regular basis. Further action includes the investigation of an increased parking area in the Middle School and to encourage more walking and cycling to the Schools.

To do further research into the needs of the youngsters in the village in relation to provision of Youth Club and organised activities.

Possible use of the Pavilion is being considered, with activities being organised and supervised by volunteers. In the Reading Room a Disco for youngsters has been organised. Also, football activity and keep fit for youngsters is up and running at the Reading Room.

To discuss further the requests made for more organised activities for adults and in particular the elderly.

Quiz nights take place in the Reading Room organised by volunteers. Coffee mornings are to be held in the Pavilion during March and may continue, depending on take-up. A Chat Club is held each week on a Thursday and is well attended. Residents enjoy exercise, refreshments, organised activities and regular trips out.

To take forward a voluntary request that dogs be kept on a lead when on the playing field, dogs having access to all areas other than the children's play area and the pitches.

There is an issue regarding enforcement of any specific rules around keeping dogs on a lead but the Parish Council would like to proceed with voluntary arrangements. 4 Dog/Litter signs have been purchased and are to be installed at both entrances to the Playing Field and Play Area in March.

To liaise with the schools and NCC re - the appointment of a School Crossing Patrol

An advert for a School Crossing Patrol Officer continues to be advertised on the NCC website, however to date there has been no interest.

To organise planting of trees in the village for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and replacement of dead or removed trees.

22 trees are to be planted on the Playing Field in March by NCC and volunteers . NCC have funded the purchase of the trees, an extra 8 trees donated by a resident will also be planted.

To discuss with NWL/Bentleys a solution re disguising the concrete bollards which are in place in the Hermitage Layby.

A site meeting was held in February with NCC and Bentleys to discuss the possibilities for removal or enhancement of the bollards. A request has been made for funding to cover the cost of wooden fencing to be installed in front of the barriers.

To discuss further the provision of Electric Charging Points.

Information re funding of Electric Charging Points has recently been received and will be discussed at the March Parish Council meeting.

Re- instate the Goose Fair

We are very happy to report the Goose Fair will take place in June this year, organised by Joanna Jackson of the Parish Council, together with a team of volunteers.

Long Term Plans

To investigate the provision of a footpath on the eastern border of the Dene Garth grassed area to the entrance to field leading to Whittle Dene.

A request for the provision of a footpath was included in the Parish Council 2022-2023 LTP submitted to NCC. There is also the possibility of funding from the Local County Councillor small schemes fund.