

REPORT FOR SKEEBY P.C. 30 MARCH 2017.

Twelve months ago in my report I spoke about how picturesque Skeeby was looking at this time of year, winter is now behind us and the daffodils are out and driving through the village this evening it was once again a pleasure to see all of the daffodils in full bloom. It is a great shame however that there are one or two properties which let the side down. The Travellers Rest being right in the middle of the village and on the main road is the one most will see.

The appeal against the refusal to grant planning permission for change of use to a house has been heard and we await the outcome. However, it is a major concern to me and no doubt many others in the village that the eyesore will remain for some time, possibly years.

I would urge anyone who has any concern over planning matters like the Travellers Rest to contact me and discuss the matter. I was criticised last June for not attending planning meeting when the decision was taken by the planning committee to refuse the application for change of use which has led to the appeal by the applicant. The committee who want to purchase the building and reopen it as a Community Pub gave a very strong case backed by a business plan which certainly appeared robust, but did not contact me asking for support prior to the planning meeting. However, another individual who did not want the pub to reopen and hence wanted the application to be granted did contact me. So if I had attended the Planning Meeting I would have had to speak in favour of Mr. Whitfield's application.

The main concern in the village at present, which is mirrored around the entire area appears to be the problem of motorists speeding through the village, often far in excess of the 30 miles per hour limit. I did tell the story at the last Skeeby PC of a motorist who overtook me at a speed which I estimate to be around 60 miles per hour when I was driving through the village at 30 miles per hour recently. This behaviour is totally unacceptable and anyone witnessing such an incident is urged to try to take the registration number of the offender and report it to Mark Woods our Community PC. He can then investigate and possibly issue a warning to the motorist if he or she is a "local".

I think the initiative whereby volunteers are trained to check the speed of motorists and warning is sent to anyone over the speed limit is going to act as a deterrent to offenders. Hopefully, this scheme will be up and running in Skeeby very soon. I will do everything I can to assist in this matter.

In RDC we continue to struggle to balance the books. We have a deficit this year of £138,000 which is being paid out of reserves. It has been necessary to increase Council Tax, but we have kept it to a minimum. Other measures like increasing parking charges and imposing a charge for using public lavatories, whilst perhaps unpopular, have meant that we have been able to keep the Council Tax increase down to a minimum. Efficiency savings which we have spent much time and effort on have meant a great deal in terms of savings. It is perhaps worth pointing out that the RDC deficit would have been some £900,000 this year without all of the above and more.

The fund raising activities for the play parks are an ongoing project in Skeeby of which you can all be very proud. Lesley and I both thoroughly enjoyed the Burns lunch and were both pleased that we were able to come to the opening of the Linden Road Park in June. Lesley particularly enjoyed meeting many people from the village at both events.

The Boundary Commission Review, currently taking place will almost certainly mean that my RDC Ward of Middleton Tyas which of course includes Skeeby, will change.



However, I look forward to working with everyone over the coming year and please do not hesitate to contact me with any problems or concerns.