

## SPC Chairman's Report March 2019

The year started off fairly quietly and has remained that way for most of the time. Ongoing maintenance of play areas has been one of the main topics for consideration as this is ongoing for most of the year, cutting back vegetation and clearing up being one of the most time consuming tasks and expenses, Cllr. Metcalfe being a prominent Cllr. in this work and our thanks go to him.

After much discussion due to the onerous rules regarding external auditors, it was decided to obtain professional help and Mr. Ian Crisop was appointed to fill this role. This should make it easier for all, especially Frances.

A damaged speed cushion at the West end of Skeeby had been removed and eventually it was replaced with a new one. Due to lack of support, Speed Watch sessions ceased and N. Y. Police requested their equipment back for another Parish, We can of course reapply for equipment again at a later date as we have all been trained in its use. The purchase and ongoing maintenance of Matrix Boards was a regular item on agendas. Being limited to 18 weeks use per year makes it an expensive exercise and the jury is still out on this.

The A1 upgrade to motorway status was finally finished and fears over a bottleneck at Scotch Corner interchange have proved unfounded. Signage for Scurragh Lane was eventually altered to reduce traffic using this route unnessessarily. At last Common Sense prevailed!

Parking in the village has always been a problem and due to the ever increasing number of cars remains so. Just where we will be in a few years time heaven only knows, all parking is at a premium. Linden Road is practically full of cars and the village car park in front of The Travellers Rest is always full.

Due to severe Spring flooding, the Duck Race was moved from its date in May to August 11<sup>th</sup> and this proved to be another success. Volunteer residents along with Cllr. Metcalfe painted the NYCC railings and the bus shelter in the village and our thanks go to them in making it look better. The marker posts around part of the village green are in need of a good coat of paint. These prevent unauthorised parking on the village green.

District Council Boundary changes confirmed that Skeeby be aligned with Gilling West. Again a victory for Common Sense as we have more in common with Gilling than Richmond. Various planning applications have been dealt with this last year, the most contentious being Scurragh Lane. This one was refused. SPC felt that it would be the thin edge of the wedge for further development. A planning application has been approved for development at the East end of the village, but presumably due to a death, this is no further forward. We await progress on this.

The September meeting was attended by a group of residents with an interest in the disused pub. A lot of discussion took place regarding this and the residents intentions. It is nearly 11 years since the pub closed in 2008 and we are still no further forward. Various solutions have been aired but it usually comes back to lack of funds,

Village greens have again been cut by the Council Maintenance Department and the stream cleared. Daffodils had been late due to the cold wet spring but had been a splendid display again. Grateful thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Nolson and others for their many hours spent planting bulbs which has resulted in this fantastic display.

The purchase and installation of a defibrillator has been forward in our thoughts recently and many thanks go to Cllr. Metcalfe and especially to Kay Richardson for all her outstanding work in researching avenues of funding.

A music night was held in December, again a success. Grant money was awarded from D. C. Thomson for the purchase of a new noticeboard for the entrance to Springfield and has been duly installed. We thank him for his generous award.

My grateful thanks go to all Parish Councillors for all their help this past year, it has made my task easier. Also many thanks to Cllr. Thomson for his work both at District and County level, unseen work at times, but he has our interests at heart. Finally Frances, the amount of work she has to do, especially a lot unseen, is tremendous and she takes it all in her stride. My gratefull thanks to you all.

