

# Annual Report of Riccall Parish Council 2021/22

Welcome to this year's Annual Report for Riccall Parish Council. The Council's business plan continues to deliver important services and new projects and facilities for Riccall.

## **Financially...**

The precept will cost the average (Band D) household in Riccall £107.20 per year which is an increase of 2% on the previous year. The decision to increase the band D charge by two percent was made in the light of the financial situation we all find ourselves in, including the council; some of our bills have recently increased by 7%. We are very much aware of the hardship residents are facing in the current situation. We will bridge the gap with funds allocated from the General Reserves of The Parish Council.

Once completed, a summary of the Riccall Parish Council accounts for 2021/22 will be displayed on the Parish Council website, [www.riccallparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.riccallparishcouncil.org.uk), and any questions are welcomed. We can assure you that Riccall Parish Council enters into a full and detailed budgetary process. Should you want to find out more or make an appointment to discuss our budget in detail or about plans for the community and on-going work, please contact our Finance Officer.

## **Riccall Parish Council provides the following services:**

Riccall Parish Council provides many local services as listed below and currently employs four paid staff, the Clerk/Finance Officer, an Administration Assistant, a Litter Collector and a Lengthsman.

**The Clerk/Finance Officer** organises and manages the work of the Council, arranging and attending meetings, dealing with local residents, Selby DC, North Yorkshire CC, North Yorkshire Police, contractors, the management of project work, partnership arrangements and administrative work.

**The Administration Assistant** works part-time assisting in the office and keeping the notice boards and website up to date with news and information.

**Our Litter Collector** keeps the village clear of litter and, whilst on his rounds, helps the Council by reporting other problems quickly to the Clerk.

**The Council Lengthsman** carries out routine maintenance and various other jobs that are necessary.

\*Street lighting is provided and maintained. New streetlights are installed/replaced when necessary.

\*Grass cutting is carried out on the highway verges and public spaces such as Riccall

Park, Jubilee sports field, the Village Green, and the Church grounds.

\*General litter collection from footpaths and public areas in the village and some areas outside of the village centre.

\*Local planning matters are considered, and responses submitted to the local planning authority – Selby DC.

\*Providing litter/cigarette and dog bins for various public areas.

\*Central Village Rights of Way are walked annually, maintained, strimmed and kept clear.

\*Trees on Council land are maintained and annually assessed.

\*Public areas owned or leased by RPC are risk assessed regularly.

\*Planting bulbs and maintaining village name planters.

\*Recreational project work is managed to develop public areas within the community for recreational use. So far, Riccall Park has been developed in six phases of equipment, including the junior area, individual pieces of equipment such as the aerial slide, sports wall, skate park, pre-school area and outdoor gym. The Jubilee Sports field opened in 2012.

\*The play and outdoor gym equipment and skate park are professionally inspected, maintained, and improved, as necessary.

\*Working with your local District and County Councillors and MP to resolve Riccall issues.

\*Producing a regular newsletter, 'The Riccall Beacon,' to communicate about Council news/initiatives and to offer the community an opportunity to include other news and events.

\*Pest control on public areas, as necessary.

\*Offers, manages, and promotes a 'Community Grant Scheme', allowing Riccall Community Groups to apply for limited funding.

\*Assessing traffic schemes and helping to ensure that Riccall is represented as fully as possible in local traffic management.

\*Providing and assessing winter maintenance with salt bins for community use on footpaths (**The grit is not for personal use on private drives and footpaths**) and the development of Riccall Snow Patrol which relies upon community volunteers.

\*Operating a Parish Council website, for local information and links. We are hoping to have a new website up and running early April 2022. We now have a Facebook page, to give information about all aspects of the Parish Council, including the Park and any events.

\*Providing a Council Office, making our services as accessible as possible to the community. Due to the pandemic, most of the year the Clerk/Admin staff have been working from home; now the restrictions are being lifted the staff are going back into the office. Communication details remain the same.

\*Supporting a Community Library which includes a children's area.

\*Developing funding bids, applications and accompanying business plans to ensure Riccall benefits from as much available national and local funding as possible.

\*Supporting Riccall Band to provide Christmas Carols on the village green, held on Christmas Eve.

\*Supporting the Resilience Group, who in turn offer support to residents and our

neighbouring settlements if required, in times of need.

## **Recreation and Leisure**

Riccall Park continues to be well used and a valuable asset for the community. The equipment is regularly assessed and maintained, and thanks go to our grounds' maintenance contractor, who cut the grass at the park and Jubilee sports-field amongst many other public areas in Riccall. The Outdoor Gym is now well established as part of the facilities we offer at the park. There is a large information board on-site explaining how to use each item of equipment. The Outdoor Gym is aimed at adults and teenagers over the age of 14.

The Council had a project to look at a car park for the park. However, due to last summer's illegal encampment, the council have put this project on hold; we need to look at the security into the park. Tidying up after the visitors left cost the council in the region of £10k to clean up the park and to make it safe for users. We have also installed some large, temporary "lego" blocks, at a cost of £800, as an interim measure to prevent access until we have the planning permission to install a height barrier, similar to the one on Westfield.

The tarmac section in front of the ramps extended the skate area. Please do keep young children off the ramps when at Riccall Park – the ramps are intended for skateboards, BMX s, rollerblades and scooters. The area in front of the Sports-wall was tarmacked to make that area more usable. Unfortunately, continued vandalism of the Sports-wall net and the high cost of replacement resulted in the net being removed. Please respect the notices at the park, 'dogs should be on a lead at all times and are not allowed into the fenced play areas'. Please bag and bin your dog mess.

## **What's going to be happening at the park next?**

Much of the play equipment has been in place for some years now. We have an ongoing maintenance system to keep the equipment in good condition and have carried out major work on the Aerial Slide and the Basket Swing surface; both are very popular items of equipment. Previous plans to replace equipment have been shelved due to the current climate; a large portion of the existing timber equipment has had major work carried out recently instead. There is further work planned to replace safety surfaces beneath some of the equipment and update further items. The bark chippings on the aerial slide are added as deemed necessary.

## **Riccall Jubilee Sports-field**

Riccall United FC is an FA Charter Standard Development Club and continues to do a fantastic job in setting up and running junior football teams within the community. For details about playing junior football in Riccall contact Liam Bradley at Riccall FC: [liambradley@riccallunited.com](mailto:liambradley@riccallunited.com) Tel.: 07496 026591. The field is in use most

weekends and for evening training for Riccall junior football teams. It is a public area – so please feel free to use the field for family games and sports if organised sport is not taking place. **Dogs are not allowed on the field at any time for obvious reasons.** The Woodland Walk alongside the sports field welcomes well behaved dogs and owners and has dog bins located at both entrances, please use them. If you have ideas about Riccall Park or the Jubilee Sports field and their community use, we are always happy to hear them. Some areas of the field are not cut regularly to encourage the growth of naturally wild species to repopulate the area and in turn attract insects and wildlife. Please respect these areas. Due to last summer's incident on the park, you will notice that we have installed a Height Barrier at the main entrance to the sports-field,

## **Environment and Conservation**

Riccall Lands Charity continues to provide many wonderful areas of nature at the northern end of the village within the 'Millennium Green' and 'Northfield Wood' and we hope that you are all able to make good use of these areas. One of the fields in between Coppergate and Northfield Lane is going to be planted as a wood-meadow to help the environment and to create a place for villagers to spend some leisure time. Field gardens in the village are mostly occupied but there is a few vacant plots at Westfields and Little Northfields. Riccall is doing its bit to reduce its carbon footprint by producing lots of fruit and vegetables and recycling waste using composting areas.

Contractors keep our public areas and grass verges cut and tidy on behalf of the Council. The quality of work carried out by our new contractor has been recognised and appreciated by many residents.

The Christmas lights on two village green trees have been enhanced with the addition of additional lights mounted on several streetlights around the village centre and we thank Riccall Carnival for raising funds for these; the ownership of the lights has now been passed over to the Parish Council. The commemorative bench is a popular resting place on the village green and a donation of spring bulbs from a resident has made the boundary of the green very attractive in springtime. Another addition to the village green is a cycle rack which had been suggested by residents. It will also serve the increasing number of visiting cyclists as a place to stop and use village facilities. We are grateful for funding from NYCC Locality Fund and Cllr Musgrave for supporting the application.

## **Riccall Round Walk**

This was officially launched in October 2014. The routes have been adopted by both Selby and York Health Walks as regular destinations. The walks are sign posted and a leaflet is available for both residents and visitors to the area. There are two walks, both around 4/5 km in length. The Council is grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for providing just over £5,000 to help put six interpretation boards around Riccall.

The boards are sited at the Village Green, Millennium Green, Riccall Park, King Ridding Lane (near the turn off to the Grange), Riccall Landing and the Regen Centre. Each board contains local history and other information pertinent to the area in which it stands. The Regen Centre board displays a copy of the Riccall Round Walk leaflet as it is the starting point for the walks. The local history trail forms part of the Riccall Round Walk. The Council recognises ongoing problems with dog fouling on our community footpaths. Window stickers are available for residents with dog fouling issues directly outside their homes. We are also continuing with the stencil scheme to try and minimise this. Look out for stencils on community footpaths and let us know if you feel that we need them in any particular area. We are constantly looking for new initiatives to try and solve this issue for the benefit of our community. The Primary School shows the children's concern on this issue with posters designed by students being used around village, making a colourful addition to formal signage which has been displayed to encourage dog walkers to use the bins provided.

## **Traffic and Highways**

The Council continues to push for traffic improvements for Riccall and if any residents wish to note speeding issues, please use the '95 Alive' form on the Parish Council website to report them. These reports form the basis for areas monitored by Community Speed Watch. We initially set up a Community Speed-watch in the village back in 2018, with the aim to address the speeding in all parts of the village. It worked reasonably well in theory but as soon as we deployed, we were back to the start. Unfortunately, there is too much red tape that had to be followed and the volunteer residents felt they wasted their time standing out in all weathers with too many rules in place. Temporary signs letting motorists know we were on duty had to be displayed. The best we achieved was 8 drivers, which were issued with a letter, warning them, should they be caught again, anywhere in North Yorkshire, that they would get a visit from the traffic police. On the third time they would receive a fine. The volunteers' view was if they were caught speeding, then they should receive a fine and not have to wait for three cautions. It could be started again at any time, but it is you, the villagers, that need to volunteer to take part in the watch. If you would like any further information, then please let us know. We would like to thank those that took part previously.

A Traffic Working Group works to try and find solutions to the escalating parking and traffic issues. We continue to receive correspondence from residents relating to parking issues within the village. Recently, concern has been raised regarding parking at the park and for using the cycle track; we are liaising with Highways and police.

**One of the main concerns is parking on pavements, causing pedestrians and wheelchair and disability vehicle users to move onto the road to pass.** We politely ask that residents are considerate and avoid parking on pavements. In addition, we

work with NYCC Highways, to encourage residents to keep hedges adjoining pavements to be kept trimmed in line with NYCC regulations to avoid obstructing the pavements. We are continually looking for solutions and work with the authorities to try to achieve this.

We are working with North Yorkshire CC to address the speeding in the village especially down Kelfield Road. We had secured funding for a traffic calming solution which entailed a build out section; unfortunately, this was not looked at favourably by some residents, so we are having to revisit the proposal. However, some good news, we have placed an order for our own permanent Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) to be installed in the village. Where previously these were rented from NYCC, we are now able to purchase our own and move them around certain locations as we feel necessary. These have been funded by CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) money.

### **Street-lighting**

We continue to report faulty streetlights on behalf of residents. Please contact the office and we will pass on your reports, (please supply the number on the lamp post and location where possible). Whether the lights belong to Riccall PC or NYCC highways, we will report them. NYCC operate an energy saving scheme by switching off some lights between 12pm and 5am. Due to Covid and staffing issues, the lights are not being repaired as quickly as we would like; we have taken up our concerns with NYCC.

### **No Cold Calling Zone**

At the request of residents, many of whom have been upset by doorstep callers, the whole village is now a No Cold Calling Zone, giving all our residents peace of mind that there should be no further uninvited doorstep sellers, (this does not apply to Charities). Unfortunately, this has not stopped all callers and we continue working with Trading Standards and Nigel Adams's office to try and eradicate this. Please report any incidents to Trading Standards at North Yorkshire County Council or via the Parish Council.

### **Riccall Snow Patrol**

Riccall Snow Patrol was set up in the winter of 2011 and is now an established asset in the community. Our volunteers continue with gritting during icy conditions clearing the priority routes for pedestrians and they have been busy gritting this winter. Volunteer numbers fluctuate, as some have moved out of the village, and we thank our new volunteers for joining. If you feel you would like to be part of the team too, please contact us for details. Your help would be very much appreciated.

For those of you who may not have seen the Snow Patrol in action, a team of volunteers from within our community give up their time and energy to help keep the

footpaths as clear as possible of snow and ice. This community spirit should not be underestimated, and we know that this is an important element of living in Riccall for lots of you.

### **Riccall and District Resilience Plan Group**

Following the flooding of late 2015 early 2016, the Parish Council reviewed its Emergency Plan so that in the event of any emergency, whether it is due to natural weather events or major accidents or incidents, we will be better prepared. In order to see this project through, a separate group (run independently, but supported by the Parish Council) was set up to progress the plan in partnership with our closest neighbouring communities, Kelfield and Hollicars. The Community Resilience Plan Group has continued, and is continuing, to develop the scheme further. The Riccall Emergency Plan has been reviewed and updated several times. In Riccall, several members of Snow Patrol formed the basis of a group of volunteers; more volunteers have come forward in recent years. Funding was granted from the Eastern CEF and Riccall Parish Council to buy equipment so that we will be better prepared for any future incidents. Much of the required equipment has been purchased and is safely stored.

### **Community Engagement Forums**

I am afraid that due to Selby DC moving with other councils in North Yorkshire to a new Unitary Council, the CEF has been disbanded. I hope that there will be something similar in place when the new unitary council is in place. This offered a valuable funding opportunity for Parishes and local groups to obtain money for projects that may not have been eligible for grants from other sources.

### **Community Library**

The Community Library has gone from strength to strength since its move to the Village Institute, with a conscientious and enthusiastic team of volunteers who manage and run it and many of you are using it regularly. Opening times include the teatime slot on Tuesday, so that families can attend after school hours; the children's corner is a great asset. There is a good selection of books on offer for all age groups and they are changed every three months from the stock at North Yorkshire Library Services. Last summer's reading scheme for primary school aged children proved to be very popular and it will take place again during the school summer holidays. Come along and meet our volunteers, who will be please to assist you in the newly refurbished Village Institute: Mondays (except Bank Holidays) 10.00am – 12.30pm, Tuesdays 2.00pm – 6.00pm The volunteers do a fantastic job. Our sincere thanks go

to them all.

## **Beacon**

We would also like to take to opportunity to thank our other volunteers who help deliver The Riccall Beacon to households in the parish.

[www.riccallparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.riccallparishcouncil.org.uk)

The site has sections on news, Council business, events and local contacts, amongst many other links and features such as the Riccall Round Walks. Local information, including events information, is posted on the 'Latest News' feature. We will also post any information relating to major roadworks affecting the village which we are aware of. A new website will replace the existing one shortly.

## **Facebook**

We now regularly give updates as to issues/work that is happening on our Facebook page "Riccall Parish Council". **I find it disappointing that a lot of the comments made are not true, "if they don't know the answer, they make them up"**. If you have concerns and want information or updates, please contact us via [clerk@riccallparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@riccallparishcouncil.org.uk) or a Councillor. If we cannot answer your question, we will find the answer and get back to you.

## **Planning matters**

Riccall will continue to grow in line with other local towns and villages and the Council has a working 'Village Design Statement' (visit the website to see it) to ensure that any development will be sympathetic to the current housing style. Rural Exception Sites are used for the development of affordable housing for people with local connection in perpetuity. These are often within or adjacent to a village development boundary. The preparation of the new Selby Local Plan provides the opportunity to consider what sort of place we would like Selby to be in 2040. The plan will set out a vision and framework for future growth of the district, identifying where new housing, employment and other development will be located. The Local Plan will also set out policies which the Council will use to determine planning applications and, once adopted, will replace the Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan (2013) and those policies that have been 'saved' from the Selby District Local Plan (2005). The Preferred Option Consultation identified one site for residential use in the village and rejected other sites. The Parish Council commented on the options, representing the views of the village.

## **Members of the Council**

At the time of preparing this report we have a full complement of Councillors.

However, May 9th, 2022 sees the local elections as a part of the new Unitary Council. This affects all Councillors - Parish, Town, District and County Councillors.

### **Council staff**

**Steve Golton** (our litter collector). Steve lives in Riccall and enjoys working within his own community.

**Gavin Wright** (our lengthsman). Gavin carries out repairs and general maintenance on behalf of the Council and can mostly be seen on-site at Riccall Park completing maintenance and minor repairs.

**Sandra Botham** (Council Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer). Sandra manages the day-to-day business of the Council, its meetings, finances, project work, activities, staff, services and partnerships. Sandra works Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Friday at our Regen Centre office. You can make enquiries to us at [Clerk@riccallparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:Clerk@riccallparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Glenda Brown** (Administration Assistant). Glenda helps part-time in the office and is often in the village keeping the notice boards up to date.

### **Engaging our young people**

Youth Advisors to Riccall Parish Council: In an attempt to engage young people in local politics, Riccall Parish Council invites young residents aged between 16 and 18 to serve a one-year term of office as a youth advisor to the Council. The young people involved will be summoned to and attend Council meetings in the same way as Council members. Legally we are unable to give the youth advisors a vote, but they will be able to contribute and influence discussion. We will take up to two advisors each year. Would you like to be involved with this? If so, please contact us and let us know why you are interested and what you feel you have to offer the Council and community.

### **Riccall Youth of the Year**

This award has recently been made to a very worthy nomination for volunteering in our community. It is an annual award and we look forward to receiving your nominations. Do you know a young person aged 18 or under who would deserve this title for 2022? Perhaps someone that has gone out of their way to give their time to a community group or activity? Maybe someone that has tried to help others or has shown maturity beyond their years? If you would like to nominate someone for the award this year, then please do so by contacting [clerk@riccallparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@riccallparishcouncil.org.uk). Nominations should be submitted by Friday 11 November 2022.

## **District and County Councillors**

District Councillor John Duggan and County Councillor Richard Musgrave are our representatives to Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council respectively. Both attend our monthly meetings and support the Parish Council and residents on a variety of issues. This will change at the forthcoming Elections in May; we will keep you updated on our Website and on the Noticeboards of the changes.

## **Reform of local government in York and North Yorkshire**

*Leaders of City of York Council, North Yorkshire County Council, and the seven District Councils within North Yorkshire have been working on a deal with the Local Government Minister that will see specific powers (and significant funding) devolved to the York & North Yorkshire area. A condition of this is that there will be an elected Mayor for the York and North Yorkshire area who will be directly accountable for the new powers and associated funding.*

Since reporting on the above in my last annual report, the government decided on 21st July 2021 to split North Yorkshire into two. City Of York will remain the same but the seven District Councils will be dissolved and they will form a new Unitary Council consisting of Craven, Hambleton, Harrogate, Richmondshire, Ryedale, Scarborough and Selby. District Councils will continue to operate until March 2023, then from April they will be one Unitary council.

By the time you receive this report, we will have held the Local Elections - all the Councillors elected will serve a five-year term to enable a smoother changeover to the unitary council in April 2023. Thereafter, elections will be held every four years.

## **Riccall Beacon**

Due to Covid restrictions, the council had to reduce the number of issues of “The Beacon” we published. Current circumstances also mean we cannot publish the Spring/Summer edition. I hope this will be only temporary and we can publish again in the near future; I know many of you have told us how much you enjoy reading them for information of future events etc.

## **NY Police**

PC1745 Neil Morris is now covering the Selby North area. Unfortunately, the police are not attending our meetings as often as we hoped. In fact, they have attended 2 meetings since last May. We request a police report on a monthly basis so we can add it to our minutes; unfortunately, this seldom happens.

## **Conclusion**

The Council continues to work hard on behalf of the residents of Riccall. We welcome any member of the public to our meetings; these are held usually on the third Monday evening of each month, with the exception of August, starting with public participation at 7.15pm. The past two years have given everyone unexpected and unprecedented challenges. The working practices for the Parish Council have had to change and adapt along with changing restrictions. Council had embraced the use of on-line meetings up to May 2021 and would have preferred to keep this option available along with traditional face to face meetings. As yet the Government insist that we only do face to face meetings and remote meetings are not an option but the NALC (National Association Local Councils) are pressing for this to be reconsidered.

Cllr Brian Keen

Chairman, Riccall Parish

## **Parish Council members for 2021/22**

Cllr Brian Keen, Fuchsia Cottage, Kelfield Rd

Cllr Howard Adamson, 12 Holmes Drive

Cllr Keith Dawson, 3 Kelfield Rd

Cllr Jeff Marston, 25 Selby Road

Cllr Nick Morton, 1 Cherry Orchard

Cllr Mark Nuttall, 1 King Rudding Close

Cllr Bob Owens, 42 The Meadows

Cllr Duncan Rimmer, 3 Viking Drive

Cllr Steve Sharp, 49 Hawthorns.

Cllr Rebecca Tatterton, 11 Chapel Walk

Cllr Martin Wiles 66 Chapel Walk