

BLAXTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017



Welcome to Blaxton

Signs welcoming people to Blaxton have been purchased and will be installed at the four entrances to the Village in the near future. The Parish Council is proud of the Village and wanted to raise the profile to those who pass through the area. We hope that you will like the signs.



New Pavilion – Joint Playing Field – Formal Opening

The **formal opening** of the new pavilion, which is managed by the Blaxton and Finningley Playing Field Association, will be on **Sunday 22 October at 2.00 pm**. Please come along and support the event. Roy Hattersley and Patricia Schofield will “cut the ribbon”. Both have been long-time supporters of the project and without their efforts over many years it would not have happened.



Airport Noise Monitoring

Following complaints about the noise from aircraft training flights the Council asked the Airport to locate its portable noise monitoring unit on the Summerfields Drive green space area. In fact, the Council made its request in October 2015. Finally, after many technical difficulties the Airport managed to get the unit working and it was placed on the green space area at the beginning of August 2017.

Regrettably, during the monitoring period, no training flights took off to the North due to wind direction. A further request has been made for the noise monitoring unit to be returned to the Summerfields Drive green space but, apparently there are no training flights planned at the time of writing and, it is possible that the unit may be required elsewhere for a period of time whilst a new navigation system is being installed.

The Parish Council is determined to find out if the level of noise from training flights is beyond acceptable levels and will consider hiring monitoring equipment if necessary.

Blaxton Playing Field Fencing and Hedge cutting

In recent years the Council has invested in play equipment on Blaxton Playing Field but now it is time to pay attention to the fencing and access gate areas. The fencing at the far end of the field was replaced in 2016 and the remaining fences are suffering from old age. In August a Contractor cut back the self-set shrubs and vegetation along the Bank End Road boundary to reveal the fencing. Although not very attractive, it remains an effective barrier. The Council had budgeted to replace the fencing if necessary (it would have cost over £6,000) but it looks like it can be brought up to scratch if a few wooden posts are replaced and the wire fencing is patched in places. This work is being planned to take place before the end of the year.

It is possible that funding for work on other fence runs and access gates will be made available in the 2018/19 Budget.



Seats and Planters



Over the past few years a number of seats were installed around the village for the benefit of residents and passers-by. This year a new seat has been installed on the grass verge between

New Street and Hillscroft Road, bringing the total number of seats to twelve. Please let the Council know if there are other locations which would benefit from a seat. Litter and dog bins have also been installed to keep our footpaths clean and we hope they will be well used.

The four planters on the verges around the roundabout were full of flowers in the summer months. They have now been filled with winter flowering pansies which we hope will provide colour for some time.

Overhanging Hedges

Over the last few years a number of hedgerows have become overgrown. Robin Hood Airport had to be reminded for many years about the need to regularly cut back the hedge on Station Road from opposite the Post Office towards the level crossing but it is now maintained well. If you are responsible for a large hedge would you consider cutting it back please? They are mainly down Station Road and Mosham Road. Thank you.

Yorkshire Wildlife Park – Expansion Plans

Yorkshire Wildlife Park has submitted £50M plans to expand the park which includes relocation of the entrance/exit from Warning Tongue Lane to Hurst Lane. The Parish Council has raised concerns about possible traffic congestion particularly at the junction of Mosham Road with Hurst Lane. We are also aware of concerns expressed by neighbouring Parish Councils at other traffic hot spots.

You can access the planning application 17/02189/OUTA, view the proposals and add your comments via the DMBC Planning Applications website at www.doncaster.gov.uk/publicaccess where you can view the detail by clicking on "associated documents" or add your comments by clicking "make a comment".

You can also view the plans by visiting www.yorkshirewildlifepark.com, the Yorkshire Wildlife Park website.

Parking on Grassed Verges

Vehicles are being parked on grassed verges in various areas of the village. Your help in keeping vehicles off verges would be appreciated so that they do not become muddy patches of earth and can be maintained by the DMBC mowers.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)

Blaxton and Finningley Joint Playing Field

DMBC has recently enacted a new PSPO which covers the Playing Field and supersedes the previous Dog Control Orders that applied. The PSPO is Borough-wide and will be enforced by DMBC Officers and others employed by or empowered by DMBC.

The Order as applied to the Blaxton and Finningley Playing Field means that to avoid the possibility of a fine, you must:

- Always carry a means of removing dog mess,
- Pick up your dog mess (and place it in a proper receptacle e.g. dog bin or your black bin at home),
- Keep your dog out of the children's play areas, tennis courts, skate park and the pavilion compound,

- Keep your dog on a lead when there is an organised event on the field (all matches and organised training – if in doubt we recommend that you put your dog on a lead).



Blaxton Playing Field

There is no change to the “No Dogs Allowed” Order on the Blaxton Playing Field. The field opens onto a children’s play area into which dogs are not allowed.

To assist in enforcement DMBC has enlisted the services of six additional officers from Kingdom Security. They are empowered to act on behalf of DMBC and, if appropriate, issue fixed penalty notices.

Fracking at Misson Springs

Planning permission was granted by Nottinghamshire County Council on 24 May 2017. Specifically, “To develop a hydrocarbon wellsite and drill up to two exploratory hydrocarbon wells (one vertical and one horizontal) by use of a drilling rig together with associated ancillary works. The proposed development will be carried out in four phases: Phase 1 - Wellsite construction; Phase 2 - Drilling of up to two exploratory wells for hydrocarbons including potential shale gas (the first one vertical and the second one horizontal); Phase 3 - Suspension of wells and assessment of drilling results; Phase 4 - Site decommissioning, well abandonment and restoration.”

The wellsite will be located on Springs Road, Misson, close to the Rocket Site. Early indications are that the horizontal well will run from the site south towards Misson. Fracking will take place either side of the horizontal well extending up to 800 metres. The Council has a representative on the IGas Community Liaison Group, any questions you would like asking at meetings can be sent to the Clerk via the website.

Further information can be obtained at www.igas-engage.co.uk/our-work-in-north-nottinghamshire.

Village Hall

Blaxton has had a Village Hall since the early 1950’s. The villagers raised money through numerous fundraising events and bought a garage from George Auckland (Snr.), which was then transformed into the Village Hall. It has been a focal point of the village ever since. Numerous villagers have served on the committee over the years and the Village Hall has undergone several renovations.

The present committee are continuing the good work and ensuring that the Village Hall is a welcoming environment for many clubs and activities, which cater for all ages. A list of activities is shown on the notice board outside the Village Hall.

Recently the Village Hall Committee decided to go ahead with plans to insulate the single brick external walls to help conserve energy and provide a sound external surface. The Parish Council wishes to thank the members of the committee for their hard work and prudent management of the hall.

The Village Hall is available for hire at a very reasonable £7.50 per hour. Enquiries about bookings can be made via Sue Mason; 01302 770400.

Impact of HS2 on Local Plan



In July 2017 the Secretary of State for Transport announced a “re-alignment of the HS2 route between Derbyshire and West Yorkshire”. This means that instead of the original route via Sheffield and running to the west of Mexborough the line will now run to the east of Mexborough with a spur to Sheffield.

This re-routing effectively “scuppers” the DMBC New Local Plan which set out where new housing developments would take place over the next 5 to 10 years. DMBC has objected to the change but is unlikely to be successful and DMBC will need to reconsider the “2016 – 2025 Plan”.

In the original version there was little or no housing development planned in Blaxton; that may change. The Council will be consulted on any proposed changes and will, via its website, keep you up to date with information as it becomes available.

Website

The Parish Council has had a website since November 2014. It contains details about Blaxton, the Village Hall, the two playing fields and the Parish Council’s activities. Although records show that it receives many ‘hits’ it is hard to know if they are from real people or just search engines. The address is www.blaxtonpc.org.uk and the site is still being developed. Have a look and let us know what you think. Are there other types of information that you would find useful? Please email the Clerk with suggestions for improvement.

Useful Numbers and Contacts

Airport Noise Complaints 01302 623499

DMBC Customer Services (all enquiries and complaints) 01302 736000

DMBC Noise Nuisance Team 01302 737573

Environment Agency (smells/other environmental concerns) 0800 807060

Police (non-urgent matters) 101

Report a Power Cut 105

Parish Council Contacts

Norma McCarron – Chair	32 Park Lane, Blaxton, Doncaster, DN9 3AJ – 01302 770418 normamccarron@googlemail.com
Patricia Schofield – Vice Chair	21 Park Lane, Blaxton, Doncaster, DN9 3AJ – 01302 770248 tenscho@aol.com
Richard Johnson	Ashlyne, Chapel Lane, Finningley, Doncaster, DN9 3DJ – 01302 771252 PlugJohnson@aol.com
Len Hornsby	29 Summerfields Drive, Blaxton, Doncaster, DN9 3BH – 01302 770109 len.hornsby@btinternet.com
Peter Oliver	17 Summerfields Drive, Blaxton, Doncaster, DN9 3BH – 01302 771374 Peteroliver17@aol.com
Philip Dennis – Clerk	8 Hillscroft Road, Blaxton, Doncaster, DN9 3AR – 01302 771233 clerk_bpc@btinternet.com

The Parish Council meets every third Thursday of the month, except in August and December. Anyone can attend meetings and members of the public can raise issues with the Council during the first 15 minutes of the meeting.