

Mayors Report – May 2024

Invitations:

I attended the Mayor Making event at Pocklington town council on May 31st which was an enjoyable event. Pocklington is a very active town council which is heavily involved and embedded in its community and it runs a number of hugely successful events each year. The event gave me a few ideas that we may be able to replicate in Norton – more to come shortly.

Issues relating to Norton:

- **Meeting with Kevin Linfoot** – I met with Mr Linfoot to discuss the poor quality fencing he has erected near Lakeside. He was adamant that he wouldn't replace the fencing as local residents hadn't supported his attempts to develop the site. He has planning permission to refurbish the dilapidated units on the site only atm, but said he would prefer to put 6 bungalows on the site.
- **Traffic chaos in Norton – lack of proper control/diversion signage/carpark** - ongoing problems with congestion on Church Street/St Nicholas Street. Northern Grid works have resulted in more problems. Real problem with the carpark as motorists are using it as a rat run to cut off a section of the diversion – motorists are speeding though or at busy periods traffic is back up right across the carpark. Having spoken to highways they agreed to barrier the Church Street access to the carpark ensuring that motorists have to use the proper diversion. However Cllr Duncan then insisted the barriers 48 hours later. Obviously he is content to encourage dangerous driving in our carpark.
- **Area Committee – question:**
I went to ask a question about the difficulty that members of the public and clerks have contacting the new authority and how this is diminishing democracy still further on top of the introduction of the unitary authority. Question & Reply available to any members who want to read it – I will email it on to you.
- Also at the T & M Area Committee: **Neighbourhood Plan next stage:**
The Neighbourhood Plan as now amended satisfies the Basic Conditions required and can proceed to referendum stage – which after so long is good news.
 - Could be changed by NYC at a later stage!
- **Skatefest 2024:** Cllr Brampton & I attended a meeting of the skatepark users. As part of this meeting they asked about running another event on the park in July and a date was agreed for July 27th. The event will be self-funded and run. First aid and marshals have been organised and various skate demonstrations and competitions plus live music will take place. Parents actively involved in the organisation.
 - Users also asked for a notice board on the park and the refurbishment of the shelter. These matters will be discussed by the Skatepark Committee who will bring any proposals to council.

- **Cemetery** – just fyi – I would like to set up a Friends of Norton on Derwent Cemetery group. This would resurrect the work that was discussed prior to the pandemic. To this end I would like to bring together a Cemetery Committee and will be asking for volunteers at our next meeting.
- **Candy Crush shop Commercial Street** – after contacting NYC Conservation Officer the shop is being written to about its new frontage as it is so out of keeping with the streetscape on Commercial Street.

June 2024