

Great Ouseburn Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting, Wednesday 14th May 2008

Chairman's Report

This year we have had dealt with around 24 planning applications compared to 25 last year. We have also dealt with the consultation on the Harrogate area plan, Affordable Housing sites, North Yorkshire Minerals and Waste Strategy and the Conservation Area review.

The Village Design Statement committee has completed the first part of the consultation via a questionnaire and is moving forward to consult with various groups in the village including the school, Youth Forum and over-60s and is also putting together the background information.

The new bus shelter on the village green was completed and officially opened on 17th July 2007, a commemorative plaque in memory of Keith Raspin and Elliot Swann was placed on the new shelter.

Work towards creating a riverside path highlighted in the Parish Plan is still ongoing with the official papers being produced by North Yorkshire County Council for signing by Q Hotels and Leeds and District Amalgamated Angling Club. The Parish Council participated in the Yore Vision Ure Walks Through Time project to produce 6 circular walks in the Yore Vision area. This resulted in the erection of an interpretation panel on the village hall and a leaflet for the Bronte Trail, other walks are the Dunsforth Loop, Town Tour, Roman Ramble, Langthorpe Loop and Roecliffe Ramble.

The Village Hall Committee held its 21st Birthday party in June and has been very busy improving the hall's facilities including a new sound and light system, improved access to the upstairs storage area and a marquee style lining for the main hall. The much awaited Club room extension should be starting shortly with a grant for £10,000 being received from Yorkshire Forward in conjunction with Yore Vision and North Yorkshire County Council.

The Crown Inn which had been empty for over a year reopened in the Autumn to the great relief of the thirsty villagers.

What else has happened:-

A grant was given to the Youth Forum for the older persons Christmas party which again was very successful.

We have applied for a grant from BBC Breathing Spaces for improvements to the Free Landing.

The Post Office survived the Post Office closures review and thanks were sent to MP Anne McIntosh for supporting the Parish Council in keeping it open.

We are registering the ownership of the various areas of Parish owned land.

Thanks:

This year I would like to give special thanks to the various committees, clubs and organisations that help make Great Ouseburn the vibrant and friendly place in which to live:- The Village Hall Committee, Parochial Church Council, Spring Festival, VDS Committee, Youth Forum, FOGOS, Cricket Club, Football Club, Short Mat Bowls Clubs and Over 60s club.

Keith Scott, Chairman, Great Ouseburn Parish Council.