

Ellerker NEWS



A roundup of news from around the parish

Special Parish Council Update January 2013

Ongoing drainage problems in the village

On Friday, 11th January, Parish Councillors met with representatives from Yorkshire Water, the Environment Agency and the Highways Department at ERYC to put pressure on these agencies to resolve the serious and ongoing drainage problems in the village, the surrounding fields and at the Water Treatment Works in Norfolk Lane.

Residents will have seen for themselves raw sewage bubbling through manholes at various points in the village on a very regular basis since November. At some points in the village, this has been draining into and polluting the Beck. The heavy rainfall over the festive period exacerbated the problem. Ellerker's sewers have been additionally compromised since a natural spring was incorrectly redirected into the sewers in Brantingham some 5 years ago. This has created a seri-

ous overload situation in the sewers running through the village, which becomes noticeable in wet weather when the system simply cannot cope.

Residents will also have seen considerable activity by Yorkshire Water over the Christmas period, as it has responded to emergency calls and taken remedial action by pumping the sewage through the system. This is clearly not the long-term solution that is required.

A multi – agency action plan was developed at the meeting, which will address the following:

1. Review the drain configuration and routing of flow outside Blacksmith's Cottage and the bus stop in Main Street and develop a remedial plan, if necessary, to ensure the appropriate flow of surface water and sewage through the village.
2. Complete the investigation

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor

- of the routing of spring water in Brantingham and produce a remedial action plan with timescale for delivery.
3. Repair the roads where leakage from the manholes has eroded the surface.
 4. Undertake a fitness for purpose assessment of Ellerker Water Treatment Works in the light of recent problems and existing and planned housing developments in neighbouring villages
 5. Establish a water sampling programme for the drain entering the estuary at Crabley Creek, as it is believed that the pollution level there regularly exceeds the levels permitted.
 6. Assess the fitness for purpose of the pump down Sands Lane and if changes to the structure are required, produce a plan with timescale.
 7. Encourage residents to continue to report problems immediately to Yorkshire Water. Although Yorkshire Water is aware of the ongoing problems in the village, it is important that it is reminded that the situation is totally unacceptable to residents. So please keep the pressure on.

The number you should use is:

0845 124 24 24

Alternatively contact our Case Manager at Yorkshire Water. She is Michelle Reynolds and can be contacted on michelle.reynolds@yorkshirewater.co.uk.

Please copy **either** Damian Johns **or** Claire Wood into your correspondence. Their contact details are below.

A further meeting will be held on Monday 25th March, when progress on the action plan is expected. The Parish Council recognises that residents are losing patience with the situation and will consider, after that meeting, whether and how any outstanding problems should be escalated.

Street Lighting

The Parish Council has approved the plan for the replacement of street lighting. Following input from residents and consideration of the funding available, it has been decided that the lighting will be on cast iron heritage columns, painted an appropriate green to blend in with our country setting. The columns have swan necks and Jet lanterns, which are low energy (30% lower than the existing ones) and will have a soft glow. Lighting will be sited at existing points in the village and will be illuminated between dusk and dawn, as at present. It is hoped that the work will be done between March and May.

Unfortunately, in the future, ERYC will not service lights on wooden columns, which was the preference of some residents. These columns will therefore become redundant and a tender process will be announced in due course for their purchase.

*******STOP PRESS*******

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP OUR VILLAGE
SOLVE THE SEWER PROBLEMS**

Dear Residents,

Yorkshire Water tends to solve problems that have the most complaints first, no matter how serious the problem! So the number of complaints it receives is important to getting action.

Could everyone please complain to Yorkshire Water EVERY time a sewer is noticed overflowing from a manhole. Please do not assume that someone else has reported it before. Remember the volume of complaints counts!

**The number you should use is:
0845 124 24 24**

Alternatively our Case Manager at Yorkshire Water is Michelle Reynolds and she can be contacted on:

michelle.reynolds@yorkshirewater.co.uk.

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Parish Council Members

At the meeting on Thursday 17th January, Chris Bradley and Diana Bushby were co-opted and welcomed onto the Parish Council. This means that for the first time in several years the Parish Council has full membership, which will give it the capacity to drive local issues forward faster on behalf of the residents in Ellerker.

A full list of Councillors and their contact details are below:

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and parishioners are welcome to come and raise issues. A representative from our East Riding Ward Councillors is al-

ways in attendance. Alternatively issues can be raised at anytime with Councillors.

The meetings are always held at 7.30 in the Village Hall. The next meetings are on:

Thursday 11th April
Thursday 13th June (Annual General Meeting)
Thursday 12th September

Please come along to support and challenge your Parish and Ward representatives!

Damian Johns
Chairman

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