

Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Council Newsletter

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Improving where we live

WELCOME to this third issue of the Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Council Newsletter!

Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Council Plan—update

The Council has recently entered the second year of its three year Development Plan. It is continuing the priorities from the first year - health and wellbeing and ensuring that our roads, paths and footways are safe and well-maintained. It has also begun work on two new priorities from the Plan - reducing fly-tipping and improving flood risk management.

Responsibility for the reduction of fly-tipping lies with the County and City Councils. However, this Council will monitor the situation thoroughly and remind the other Councils of actions needed. It will seek to work in partnership with local businesses and residents and will keep records of, and report on, all fly-tipping incidents and any work carried out by our newly appointed lengthsman (see below). Flood risk management, drainage, cleansing of roads and the protection of residents and local assets are key issues in the local area. Again, the County and City Councils have main responsibility but this Council will work with them to improve the situation and will promote better communication with the public.



The Council has continued to plan and develop its role in supporting the health and wellbeing of residents in the local community. It has been successful in a £600 bid for funding from Lancashire County Council as a contribution towards the development of a Health and Wellbeing Programme primarily focused on our elderly, isolated and vulnerable residents. Specifically, in the coming year the Council aims to survey the health and well-being needs of residents; publish a newsletter specifically on health and wellbeing matters; promote the Council as 'dementia friendly' and support national dementia aware campaigns; develop and distribute a health and

wellbeing handbook; and publicise and support "learning for wellbeing" opportunities in the area. Do you want to join in? If so, send your name and contact to the Clerk (details above) for more information. If you have opinions on what extra help our Programme might provide for residents, let us know.

What's in a name?

The Council is now asking for your views on whether it should change its name. Since it was created by statute in 1894, the third tier of local government has traditionally been referred to as 'Parish Councils'—Heaton-with-Oxcliffe is one of these. Parish Councils are the tier of local government closest to the people and have the same powers as any local authority to raise and spend money and deliver services to the people it represents. The name 'Parish Council' has a proud place in history, but it can give the false impression that it has a religious connection. Legislation does, however, provide for a Parish Council to change its name to one of the following alternatives: *Town Council*; *Neighbourhood Council*; *Community Council*; *Village Council*. Before making a decision on whether to change its name the Council would like to hear your views.

Are you happy with the name *Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Parish* Council? Or do you think that it is time for a change? If so, which of the alternatives above should we choose?

Please contact the Clerk (details above) by the end of May with your views.

Lengthsman

Another piece of history is reflected in the fact that many parish councils employ so-called "lengthsmen". The term meant originally someone who kept a stretch or 'length' of road tidy and in good repair. This Council has just appointed its first lengthsman, John Fairclough, whose duties will include grass-cutting, drainage, litter removal, tree, bush, and hedge trimming, planting, improving public rights of way projects and more!



Other matters of interest



In recent months, the Council represented residents in the Winster Park Ward on the Lancashire Three Tier Forum and was successful in getting support from the main contractors for the Heysham M6 link and Lancashire County Council to improve the ingress and egress problems at the junction of Scale Farm Road and Ovangle Road.

The Council is also involved in ongoing discussions with Lancashire County Council, Lancashire Constabulary and Grosvenor Park School to find solutions to the traffic and

driver behaviour problems on Roeburn Drive and surrounding roads in Grosvenor Park, particularly at the start and end of the school day. Representatives from the Police and Lancashire County Council have attended Council meetings to consider the issues raised and a 'Day of Action' was undertaken by the Police, supported by Police Community Support Officers, in December.

Elections Day: May 7th

It will not have escaped your attention that **Thursday May 7th** is the day that the Parliamentary, City Council and Parish Council elections will be held. So as well as electing who you would like to see represent you in Parliament, you can also vote to elect your Ward Councillors at Lancaster City Council and on the Parish Council. All seven standing councillors at Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Council have expressed that they wish to stand for another four years. To be eligible to vote you must be registered. You can do this by calling by **01524 582905** or online at: **<http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>**



Annual Meeting and Annual Report 2014/15

The week after the elections on **Wednesday May 13th** the Annual Meeting of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Council will be held at Grosvenor Park School.

This meeting is an opportunity for the Council to report on what it has done in the previous year, what it is doing now and what it plans to do in the coming year(s).

The meeting is open to all residents, community groups and other organisations and is an opportunity to discuss community matters.

The Council's Annual Report for 2014/15 will set out the Council's achievements and challenges over the past year, and provide a summary of our finances and plans for the future. The report will outline both the opportunities and obstacles facing the Council and its ambition to develop into an active, quality council that engages with, and represents effectively, our community and the well-being of our residents.

