

# Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Council Newsletter

Contact: Bob Bailey, Clerk 28 Wilson Grove, Heysham LA3 2PQ; Tel: 01524 858557

Email: [clerk@heatonwithoxcliffepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@heatonwithoxcliffepc.org.uk)

Website: <http://www.heatonwithoxcliffepc.org.uk/>



## Putting us on the Map!

**WELCOME** to this first issue of the Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Council Newsletter! This Newsletter is being distributed to residents, businesses and organisations located within the area that the Council serves to inform them about its work and responsibilities. Read on because the Council deals with important local matters that may have an impact on your life and concerns.

### WHAT area does Heaton with Oxcliffe Council cover?

The parish covers a relatively wide area geographically with a mix of urban, rural and business, including Grosvenor Park, Priorsgate, Scale Hall Farm, parts of Westgate and Overton and White lund Industrial Estate. Salt Ayre Sports Centre, the Refuse Collection Centre and Grosvenor Park School are also within our boundaries. The parish has a population approaching 2,500 (2011 Census).



Map of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe

### WHAT is the Council for and WHAT does it have to do with me?

This Council is one of those working at the most local level of local government, closest to where people are. Each year, it has public money at its disposal (raised at the same time as the Council Tax) to spend on a range of local services as defined by law. The Council is expected to act in the interests of local people, deal with residents enquiries and complaints and to always aim to achieve best value for money. The Council also has a role in keeping up-to-date on significant developments at local, regional and national levels and comment on issues that matter to local people—notably the Heysham M6link road in recent times. Here are just some of the services that the Council has the power to spend money on:

- |                |                 |                         |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| ALLOTMENTS     | ARTS and CRAFTS | CRIME PREVENTION        |
| ENTERTAINMENTS | LIGHTING        | LITTER                  |
| OPEN SPACES    | PLANNING        | PONDS                   |
| RIGHTS OF WAY  | ROADSIDE VERGES | SEATS, SHELTERS & SIGNS |
| TOURISM        | TRAFFIC CALMING | TRANSPORT               |

Parish Councils were formed back in the 19th Century when they were broadly based around ecclesiastical parishes that originated in the feudal system of the 8th century. Today these are known as *civil parishes* and have no connection with any church or religion.

### HOW does the Council work?



Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Council is made up of seven members who are elected for a period of four years. Members live within three miles of the Council's boundaries and bring with them a range of experiences, skills and knowledge. The names and addresses of current councillors can be found on our website at <http://www.heatonwithoxcliffepc.org.uk/>

Council meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday in the month (excluding August) starting at 7:00pm at Grosvenor Park School. In May each year the Parish Council has an Annual Meeting where it discusses its activities in the previous twelve

months. Members of the public are welcome to join us at any meeting and every Agenda includes an item for public discussion. The Clerk to the Council, Bob Bailey, is employed by the Council to provide administrative support and professional advice.

## WHAT has the Council been doing recently?

Since the beginning of the Municipal Year (May) the Council has been busy dealing with numerous issues that matter to our residents and the wider community. Details of all our activities can be found in the published Minutes of the Council available on our website and displayed in our Noticeboards. Some of the highlights are set out below...and its still only October!

In Priorsgate, the play area has had a face lift, including the installation of a Jungle Climber. This project was jointly undertaken with Lancaster City Council and was largely funded from £10,000 lottery money—following a successful bid made by Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Council— and £4,150 of money from our own budget. Children are now happily enjoying this new facility and playing in much safer and more pleasant surroundings.



Priorsgate Playground

Based on local knowledge, we have made a series of representations to Lancaster City and Lancashire County Councils on local planning issues and policies to influence planning decisions. You can get more details on planning applications affecting our area on our website. We have also responded to a number of consultations on the important (but complex) Local Development Plan which sets out the City Council's longer term development plans for the district—details again on our website.

Using our influence, we have raised serious concerns with Lancashire County Council about the problems caused by the build-up of traffic on Ovangle Road and Lancaster Road which makes it difficult for residents on the Scale Farm Estate to exit. We are also working closely with Grosvenor Park School to try and remedy traffic issues and behaviour on Roeburn Drive, especially at the beginning and end of school.

In the last few months the Council has also worked closely with the local Police and the Community Support Officer (PCSO) to deal with anti-social behaviour and we regularly discuss and raise issues about pot holes, grounds maintenance, the Heysham M6 link road and wind turbines!



Grosvenor Park Duck Pond

## OUR vision for the future

What activities the Council undertakes and how it spend its money has until now been largely based on plans and objectives agreed annually. The Council is ambitious and recognises that to be fully effective we need a longer term plan that will help to address the issues that our facing our local community, and deliver the services that our residents want and will improve the area we live in. With this in mind, we are in the early stages of putting together a Three Year Plan (or "Vision" as its sometimes known).

**YOU'D LIKE TO SUGGEST? WHAT DO YOU THINK NEEDS DOING TO IMPROVE OUR AREA?**

If you have answered **YES** to any of these, please contact Bob Bailey as soon as possible **BUT BY DECEMBER 15th AT THE LATEST**. Alternatively, come to one of our monthly meetings and don't forget to keep checking our Noticeboards and website for more information.

We plan to publish this Newsletter twice a year and would like future editions to promote activities, events and business within the Council area, as well as provide an opportunity to discuss matters that are important to our community.

If you have questions about the work of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Council, have concerns that you feel should be brought to the Council's attention or have a matter that you think the Council can provide help or support **PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Bob Bailey, Parish Clerk, 28 Wilson Grove, Heysham LA3 2PQ; Tel: 01524 858557 or Email: [clerk@heatonwithoxcliffepc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@heatonwithoxcliffepc.org.uk)**



River Lune from Snatchems

