

# Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Parish Council Newsletter

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## Talking Rubbish!

**WELCOME** to the fourth issue of the Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Parish Council Newsletter!

### Fly-tipping

A key action in the Council plan is to look at ways in which fly-tipping and litter dropping can be prevented or reduced in the local area. In October, Lancaster City Council's Enforcement Officer attended a meeting of the Parish Council, providing Members of the Council with an



informative presentation and subsequent discussion on the issue of fly-tipping. Fly-tipping incidents



are on the increase across the country. It costs millions of pounds to clear up and to deal with associated risks such as the pollution of watercourses, attraction of vermin and danger to animals and fish. It undermines legitimate waste businesses and trade. It is often difficult and costly for the authorities to achieve successful enforcements and prosecutions.

In the coming weeks Councillors will consider ways in which it can support the City Council and the Environment Agency in tackling fly-tipping and litter dropping in this area. Members of the Council have expressed a specific concern that Heaton-with-Oxcliffe may be susceptible to a higher level of fly-tipping giving its proximity to the Waste Recycling Centre and the urban, rural and trade demographic of the local area. Apparently no evidence or data available to support or disprove this concern. As a consequence a record of (known) reported incidents of fly-tipping is now being maintained by the Parish Clerk. Actions taken by the City Council to remove reported waste is being monitored by the Parish Lengthsman as a means of determining the extent of the problem and to inform decisions on further action.

### Health and Wellbeing

The development of various activities around the health and wellbeing of our residents have progressed and are now planned to be implemented in Spring / Summer 2016. Good relationships have been built up with both County and City Councils and particularly Salt Ayre Sports Centre (SASC) (managed by Lancaster City Council) which is conveniently within Heaton-with-Oxcliffe. The Clerk and Councillors are working closely with SASC in planning, developing and, ultimately, running various dementia awareness activities and other events aimed at residents and families affected by dementia. Staff at SASC are currently working towards being recognised as 'dementia friends' and the Centre as a whole being accredited within the Dementia Alliance for the whole of the North West.



Details of some of the health and wellbeing initiatives and plans being developed by the Parish Council were positively featured in a recent Newsletter of Lancashire County Council's Parish Champion following the successful submission of a bid for a grant award to help fund the planned Health and Wellbeing Programme primarily focused on our elderly, isolated and vulnerable residents.

Do you want to join in and support our plans? If so, **PLEASE** send your name and contact to the Clerk (details above) for more information. If you have an opinion on what extra help our Programme might provide for residents, please let us know.

### **Parish Lengthsman**

Our Lengthsman (this is the historic name for a handy-man employed by the Council) is available to carry out tasks identified by the Council. Often these arise from issues raised by residents that are not dealt with by the Lancaster City or Lancashire County Councils. Issues can be raised through contacting the Parish Clerk by telephone, letter or email or, more preferably, online at [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com). The latter provides the added benefit of the details and location of the problem being sent directly to the principal authority responsible for dealing with the matter such as graffiti, fly tipping, street lighting, drainage, trees/bushes and a host of other matters that need addressing. Reporting via fixmystreet also enables the Parish Clerk and Lengthsman to monitor, on resident's behalf, whether problems have been rectified within specified timescales (normally 5–10 working days) and to follow up and take appropriate action to deal with the matter where possible.



### **Local Plan Consultation**

Lancaster City Council has been consulting on the Local Plan document titled '*People, Homes and Jobs – How should we plan for the district's future?*' The consultation will look at the overall approach to allocating future housing and employment land and strategic sites to plan for potentially 9,500 jobs and 13,000 new homes in the District over the period of 2011 - 2031. Community views on the proposed strategy, additional development sites and the way in which the district's green belt is reviewed will inform

future plans. A leaflet explaining the background to the consultation and the potential strategic sites being considered is available at: [www.lancaster.gov.uk/planningpolicy](http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/planningpolicy)

### **Annual Meeting and Annual Report 2014/15**

On Wednesday May 13th, the Annual Meeting of Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Council was held at Grosvenor Park School. The meeting was open to all residents, community groups and other organisations and was an opportunity for residents to discuss community matters and for the Council to report on what it has done in the previous year and what it plans to do in 2015/16 and beyond. At the meeting Councillor Mr S Edmondson was elected as Chair of the Council for the 2015/16 Municipal year. Details of the Council activities, a summary of the Council's finances and its plans for the future are set out in the Council's Annual Report for 2014/15 appended to this Newsletter.

### **What's in a name?**

Over the summer residents were asked for their views on whether the Council on whether the Council should cease to be called a *Parish Council* and take on the title of a *Town Council*; *Neighbourhood Council*; *Community Council*; *Village Council*. Members of the Council were pleased to receive residents' comments and taking these into account resolved to remain Heaton-with-Oxcliffe *Parish Council*. The Parish Council has the same powers as any local authority to raise and spend money and deliver services to the people it represents. The range of Services it can deliver are defined by statute. Your views and suggestions on how the council fulfil its duties are always welcome. Meetings held every second Wednesday of the month (with the exception of August). Alternatively councillors can be contacted directly—details on our website—or via the Parish Clerk.

