

## **Report Notes – 2021 AGM, Ravensworth Parish Council, 24 May 2021**

### **Village Hall**

Since the last report May 2019 considerable changes have taken place to the village hall.

As agreed at the last AGM the electric account is now a direct debit with automatic readings to British Gas (the previous supplier NPower was extremely problematic).

The ongoing upgrade of the village hall has progressed considerably since 2019. COVID 19 has been both a blessing and curse but despite delays for materials and tradesmen we have now completed internal renovations. This has been achieved with the assistance of 2 major grants – one from National Community Lottery for All and the other from Richmondshire Community Investment Fund.

A dry lining system has been installed throughout the main hall and kitchen area.

The toilet block has been completely refurbished and the windows replaced with hard wood double glazed units.

The main hall and kitchen area has been insulated, re plastered and painted.

A new kitchen, with new appliances including a commercial dishwasher, has been installed.

The main hall floor has been sanded and re-sealed, and new flooring put down throughout the rest of the building.

All lights are now LED

The Village Hall is also now finally registered for the delivery of post and has a post box.

### **Village Green**

North Yorkshire County Council holds the contract from the PC to cut The Green. Their team has come regularly every two weeks throughout the growing season and has done a fine job for a competitive price.

While The Green has continued to benefit in the spring from the many bulbs previously provided by Ravensworth Nurseries, the Nurseries also generously supplied numerous plants last summer which were planted by volunteers in containers, in borders and at the entries to the village.

Last winter's bad weather led to The Green being water-logged and there was much damage caused due to the movement of vehicles on the grass.

### **Cart Tracks**

Repairs were carried out in June 2020. Those undertaken to the track on the upper side of The Green proved successful – potholes were removed and the water which encouraged erosion is no longer being retained. However, the lower track repair was not satisfactory and the company RTW was asked to resolve the problems before any payment was made. To date this work has not been undertaken.

## **Roads and Traffic through the village**

A team of residents were trained as part of the Community Speed Watch Scheme and monitored traffic through the summer of 2019. It was clear that the presence of the team acted as a deterrent to speeding and encouraged road users to take more care.

More reflective posts were added to those already in place by Forge Farm to try to encourage drivers, particularly of large vehicles e.g. lorries, buses, tractors, to stay on the road.

An up to date reflective No Entry sign was erected on The Green outside Hare House to caution drivers not to exit the cart track opposite Ash Cottage.

## **A66 Improvements**

Early in 2020 much work was completed to improve the safety of the junction of New Lane with the A66. In addition, the 50 mph speed limit on the single carriageway section of the A66 was approved and signage put in place. Considerable credit and thanks are due to the local action group led by Ken Bell that has fought determinedly for these changes.

Happily, the chosen route for our part of the A66 upgrade is to the north of the existing road and consequently should have little effect on the village's environment. Work on the A66 Trans Pennine Project is expected to start in 2024 and be completed by 2029. Ken Bell continues his involvement with the A66 as a member on the Project Community Liaison Group and posts information on the village website.

## **Housing Development**

Construction began on the housing at Forge Farm and Mill Farm developments in 2020. It has proved difficult to deal with the traffic that the building work has generated. The road verges, the tracks and the highway itself have all suffered as a result and residents' patience has been tested.

## **Communication**

The establishment of the website <https://ravensworthvillage.wixsite.com/website> dedicated to Ravensworth Village by Ken Bell has proved most useful for posting information and enabling e-mail via [ravensworth.village@gmail.com](mailto:ravensworth.village@gmail.com)

## **Resident Initiatives**

There was a daily rota constructed of residents who volunteered to shop for those villagers who were shielding or unable to travel during the periods of lockdown. Many experienced the comfort and aid of their neighbours.

There are a number of residents who have consistently litter picked around the village and the surrounding area. A team, including villagers from Ravensworth, spent a morning collecting waste from the sides of the west bound carriageway of the A66 near Scotch Corner.

While we were unable to organise any communal gatherings in the period of Covid restrictions, it was good to see villagers finding appropriate ways to participate in events such as VE day, thanking the NHS and the funerals of long-term residents.