

TOM CHILDS MEMORIAL AWARD 2024

This again was included as part of the Annual Open Evening, which was held at Belmont School in September 2024. This year's winner was Nancy Ellerby who was nominated for her great work keeping Londonthorpe Woods clear of dog mess and other detritus. If you use the woods, you may have seen her with her bucket and picker. During the year, every week on several days she has turned out and cleared up after the inconsiderate dog owners who have left their mess.

She donated her Tom Childs Award money to the Lincolnshire & Notts Air Ambulance. She also received a certificate. This donation is made annually via our S137 budget.

Looking forward to our 2025 Awards. the Seventeenth; -

Who do you know who deserves some recognition?

There must be numerous people out there who have done great things for our community over the past few years, we would like to hear about them.

The Council prefers the nominations to come from you the residents rather than a member of the council so please let's all celebrate the great work being done.

Qualifying criteria states that whatever they have been doing must have benefitted more than one person and have some involvement within the parish.

Do you know someone in the Parish who deserves recognition for doing good deeds outside of their regular duties?

They may run a club, do charity work or many other things that benefit our Community?

Nominations for this year should be submitted by the 31st July 2025.

This Award was set up in the memory of the late Tom Childs the Londonthorpe & Harrowby "Without" Parish Council Clerk for over 27years. As always we wish to give credit to someone who has gone out of their way to help others in the Parish,

much in the way that Tom himself did during his lifetime.

For further details please contact the Clerk Pete Armstrong on **07929321426** or at Clerk@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

or any councillor on their email as per this Newsletter.

We received some sad news in November that Kath Childs, Toms wife, had died. We have been gifted an etched glass vase by the family this had been awarded to Tom for his services to the council. It has been decided by the council this will be awarded each year to the Tom Childs Award winner.



LONDONTHORPE & HARROWBY WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER **No 19. FEB 25**

Community Emergency Planning

Firstly, we need a Community Emergency plan...every Community does. This isn't owned by the Parish Council, it is supported by the Parish Council and owned by the Community.

As a Parish Council, in November, we were invited to the Lincolnshire Emergency Planning Centre in Lincoln to discuss how a local

Community Emergency Plan could be set up.

It's a very professional organisation who have learnt so much from the storms of 2022 and 2023 and from bitter experience recognise what is needed locally on the ground to be able to react quickly. We were joined by Parish Councils who recounted their experiences.

Following on from the awful experiences of residents in the adjoining parish of Grantham this January it's all the more apparent that we need a plan. And it's not just about flooding, it could be a major fire, it could be a chemical spill incident, it could be major storm damage, another pandemic, major road accident, and even a hostage situation demanding evacuation of local residents.

And secondly, the most important thing is that the

Community needs to own it!

So, we are looking for members of the community to be part of a community emergency plan group ...to put it bluntly to stop complaining when things happen, and instead to be ready and able to take action. Local people know best about

their own community, and how to get things done quickly and effectively, especially when they develop the plans. So, we are looking for volunteers, people prepared to step up when there are challenges, people who care what happens in the community, people who have skills and knowledge they can bring to the situation.

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST AND WE WILL CONTACT YOU WITH A VENUE AND TIME TO MEET AND GET THIS FULLY UNDERWAY



Continued on page 2.

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We're also looking to **local businesses, institutions, and organisations** that can play their part at the time of an emergency within the community. As an example in an emergency we might need rest centres, places to store supplies and materials that might be needed, places to coordinate volunteer teams.

By doing this we, as a community of over 5,000 people, become prepared, ready and capable of responding at that time of need.

But also having a recognised Community Emergency plan means we get direct access via a hotline to county wide support through the County Emergency team 24/7 with all their direct links into the Emergency Services.

PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK TO REGISTER

Londonthorpe & Harrowby "Without" Parish Council

Clerk Mr Peter Armstrong; 27 Belton Avenue ,
Grantham, Lincs, NG31 9JE Tel 07929 321426
clerk@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Parish Council Calendar 2025-26

2nd March 9:30 am Woodland Trust Working Party (Meet Five Gates carpark)

[12th March 7:15pm Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Parish Council Meeting @ Belmont School](#)

[Defibrillator Training Sessions: Dates to be Set, Awaiting Confirmation from the Trainers.](#)

[1st May Election: Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority](#)

[14th May 7:00 pm Annual Parish Council Meeting @ Belmont School](#)

[31st July Tom Childs Awards Nominations Close.](#)

[8th July Best Kept Gardens Judging Starts](#)

[2nd July 7.00 pm Parish Council Meeting @ Belmont School](#)

[August Best Kept Gardens Judging Continues](#)

[7th Sept Best Kept Gardens Judging Ends.](#)

[3rd Sept 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting](#)

[24th Sept 7.00pm @ Belmont School "Open Evening" & Best Kept Gardens Awards](#)

[12th Oct 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party \(Provisional\)](#)

[2nd Nov 9 .30am Woodland Trust Working Party \(Provisional\)](#)

[12th Nov 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting @ Belmont School](#)

[30th Nov 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party \(Provisional\)](#)

[2026 11th Jan 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party \(Provisional\)](#)

[14th Jan 7.00pm Parish Council Meeting @ Belmont School](#)

[8th Feb 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party \(Provisional\)](#)

[1st March 9.30am Woodland Trust Working Party \(Provisional\)](#)

[11th March 7:00pm Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Parish Council Meeting @ Belmont School](#)

Other working parties are held as and when required if you would like to be informed of these please contact the clerk to be put on the contacts list.

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...is just a call away!



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NG31 9SW

EMAIL US

[sales@a1-
interiors.co.uk](mailto:sales@a1-interiors.co.uk)

Your Councillors at March 2025

Londonthorpe & Harrowby Villages

Chair; Cllr Carol Markwell 07733 300742

cllrcmarkwell@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Sunningdale Estate

Vice-Chair Cllr Alan Bowling 07710 039495

cllrabowling@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Paul Bakker 07961 522113

cllrbakker@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Paul Bavin 07976 792398 Mob

cllrbavin@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Scott McGrane 07875 010952

cllrsmcgrane@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Harrowby Lane & Alma Park Area

Cllr Geoff Parnham 01476 401873

cllrgparnham@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Avril Gregory 01476 568392

cllragregory@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Richard Keeler 07779 955128

cllrckeeler@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Paul Nesbitt 07803 133000

cllrpnesebitt@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Elvis Stooke 07288 320003

cloretooke@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Londonthorpe & Harrowby Villages

Cllr Yolanda Martin 07796 848676

cllrymartin@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Bridge End Road

Cllr Roland Wright 07863 893952

cllrrwright@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Your Lincolnshire County Councillors

LCC Belmont LCC Councillor Linda Wootten

The Burgage 141 Manthorpe Road Grantham NG31 8DH Home Phone:
01476 400183 - 07534 778090 Email: cllrl.wootten@lincolnshire.gov.uk

LCC St Vincent's Ward LCC Cllr Adam Stokes 18 New Beacon Lane
Grantham NG31 9JR home 01476 591142 Mob 07974 342648

cllrA.Stokes@lincolnshire.gov.uk

South Kesteven Councillors:

Cllr Elvis Stooke elvis.stooke@southkesteven.gov.uk

Cllr Phil Gadd phil.gadd@southkesteven.gov.uk

The Parish Council Clerk:

Peter A Armstrong 27 Belton Avenue, Grantham NG31 9JE

Tel: 07929321426 Email: clerk@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk

Chairs Report Feb 2025

Hi All,

Welcome to your latest Newsletter with up-to-date information on all your Parish Council activities. I hope you find it both interesting and informative. I have been moved to page three so that we can tell you about our plans for a Community Emergency Plan. This is part of a county, district and parish councils initiative. This is particularly timely in view of the adverse weather we have had this winter so far!

Winter is generally a quiet time, as it is too cold, windy, or snowy for outdoor work. However, your Parish Council has been active with issues relating to planning applications and working groups are out there when it is not snowing or flooding.

There is also an update on the planning issues affecting this Parish with regard to Solar farms. However, all issues relating to planning may change. We wait to see what effect the new Labour government proposals will have.

We are still having issues with Anti-Social Behaviour around the parish. If you hear of any incidents, please report it to the police but also let us know.

The Parish Open Evening was held in September 2024 and was again a great success. This was an opportunity for your Parish Councillors to showcase activities undertaken this past year and present the Best Kept Gardens and the Tom Childs Awards. We took a stand at the Belton Community Festival using the same materials to let the wider community know what we are up to.

Unfortunately, we have not managed to carry out many Community Speed Watch sessions this last 6 months, due to a shortage of volunteers. We did however, carry one out in January, despite the cold. Why not come and have a go? It's fun and sociable, as well as satisfying when either we catch people doing 40 or 50 mph in our 30 zones – or even if we don't catch anyone it's because they are driving under 30! Contact me or the Clerk if you are interested. You receive simple training and then get a chance to have a go.

Finally, we have again lost an active Councillor recently, this time due to clashes with his work. We thank him very much for his knowledgeable input. However, that means we have another vacancy on the council for the Londonthorpe & Harrowby Ward. Have you ever thought about joining us? It involves six evenings (one every 2 months) meeting in the local school. Although of course you can do more activities. There is a lot of support from the other councillors and LALC, we get to tour the parish with the Clerk so that we are aware of our boundaries and responsibilities. This makes for a better understanding when matters are discussed about any area of the parish.

That's all for now. If you see me 'Plogging' – that's the Swedish word for litter picking while jogging - around Londonthorpe village and Newgate Lane, please stop me and say hello. I am always glad of an excuse to stop!

Stay safe and well Best Regards Carol Markwell, Chair

Parish Council Precept 2025-26

The parish council's total precept this coming year will we are afraid rise to £34,000.

Unfortunately, we have this year been forced to increase the total by £1000. This is due in part to the extra costs that will be incurred by the Chancellors change to the Employers National Insurance. This affects us in several ways as all our brought in services will rise even more along with our employment costs. This will mean an 27p increase per annum, per equivalent Band D household a 1.40% increase.

There has been slight increase in the number of Band D properties calculated for the parish. This is because of the properties developed in Harrowby coming on to our register.

The councillors who are guided by the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), have in most cases managed to remain within their set budgets for all areas. One increase that we allowed for in 2024-25 budget was the Grass Cutting Contract as we were expecting their operating costs to rise, but we remained within budget. As it is not a fixed contract, we don't expect that to be the case in 25/26. Play and Safety equipment has overspent but you will see all about this in other articles in this newsletter.

We expect that other bought in services especially the Insurance, Salaries and Newsletter printing will also increase. The move from HSBC to NatWest during 2022-23 remain a prudent move. We are getting much more interest and lower user costs.

Other than the precept smaller pots of income come from a grant from SKDC towards the cost of our Community Cleaner and Donations. This year we have received a grant of £599.25 from a SKDC scheme for our Community Orchard Project (See Leisure & Outdoor & Bridge End Grove reports).

We believe this precept will enable us to meet our normal expenditure on services and allow us to continue with all the projects already in the pipeline. Parish councillors are keen to provide all the services that they are required to at the best possible rate. As you will continually see throughout this newsletter, we have several responsibilities that require resources annually. Our forward planning for the years 2026/27 and 2027/28 indicates that although we cannot predict accurately what increases that will be needed during that period, some increase will be required. In these uncertain times we would still be endeavouring to keep any increases to a minimum.

Things we have highlighted before about how the government is expecting the parish to grow, means we are still not fully able to assess other the effects on our budgets. With building work already commenced on Somerby Hill there may be more homes in the parish by the next budget setting procedure in November. The major building work planned for the Spittlegate Garden Village area has still not started, it is difficult to assess the impact this will have on us in the future.

We are keen to continue with all the projects outlined in this Newsletter some of which had to be delayed until the next financial year for several reasons. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see where some of the precept has been spent this year.

Our Parish Clerk/RFO Pete Armstrong always keeps a close eye on our spending and councillors receive a detailed update at each meeting which is then agreed and signed off by the councillors. This of course enables the budgets to be adhered to.

Volunteers

As we have stated previously, we are extremely lucky that several parishioners volunteer around the parish. Some people are involved in more than one activity, and we are very grateful for that. Many of the councillors are also members of these groups and find it great to be able to talk openly with other volunteers and discover their thoughts about things.

Areas where we have volunteers, are the working groups at the Hills & Hollows, Blessed Hugh More School/Jubilee Mount site, plus the Withambrook and Londonthorpe amenity areas. This year we have added the Community Orchard to the list of volunteering groups. We have also had some of our parishioners involved with the "Reconnecting Grantham Project", whilst it was ongoing. Some of these members were invited and attended a tree planting event in early December organised by Belton House operatives to mark the end of the project. (Monies have runout).

The Woodland Trust Working Party has now been running for over 16yrs and continues with a strong team of volunteers. (some travel from as far afield as Melton Mowbray each month).

We also have the volunteers looking after the planters at Londonthorpe, planting them up spring and autumn. Then there are the people who organise events for the good of the parish, like SunniFest.

We know who most of these people are, and we thank them sincerely.

There are others we don't know because they are not part of any of our parish organised events, these are those people who go out litter picking or run clubs/charities etc! So, without naming anyone, you know who you are, the councillors would like to say a big THANK YOU!

Is there a Tom Childs Award Candidate amongst them? Let us know!

TAILORED HAIR

Unisex Hair Salon

Sunningdale

For Appointments

Please Ring

01476 568021

Hours of Business

Tue 9.00am to 6.00pm

Wed 9.00am to 7.00pm

Thurs 9.00am to 5.00pm

Fri 9.00am to 5.00pm

Sat 8.00am to 2.00pm

Belmont Community Primary School

Harrowby Lane, Grantham,

NG31 9LR. 01476 567939

www.belmontprimary.com

Head Teacher: Jamie Allsopp

'Every Child Matters. Every Moment Counts'

Belmont is a welcoming and aspirational school, with a learning environment that promotes independent learners and encourages children to achieve their full potential.

We offer a breakfast club and after-school club, providing wraparound care from 7:45am to 6pm, a wide range of extracurricular activities and much, much more.

Contact the school for further information

Jamie Allsopp Head Teacher

Along with this we have relaunched our free Baby and Toddler Group, Rising Stars, on a Tuesday between 9:30 - 11:30am in the Church Hall, which includes healthy snacks.

We realise that these are challenging times. But whatever you may be going through, you are not alone. As your parish church, we are here for you if you'd like to know more about the services and community activities of your local church, including baptisms, weddings and funerals, feel free to call me on: 01476 574145 if you'd like to know more about the services and community activities of your local church, including baptisms, weddings and funerals, feel free to call me on: 01476 574145 or email me at rev.samparsons@gmail.com.

Rev. Samantha Parsons, Vicar of the Church of the Ascension and St John the Baptist's Londonthorpe

Service Times: Church of the Ascension, Edinburgh Rd

- 1st Sunday of month 10am Holy Communion
- 2nd Sunday of month 10am Sunday Worship with Sunday Club for children
- 3rd Sunday of month 10am All Age Family Service
- 4th Sunday of month 10am Holy Communion
- 5th Sunday of month 10am Holy Communion

All services followed by refreshments

St John the Baptist's, Londonthorpe

- 2nd Sunday of month 4pm Holy Communion
- 4th Sunday of month 4pm Hymns of Praise

All services followed by refreshments

The bread and butter thing.



New Hub Opening:

HARROWBY

from Monday 3 February

at Church of the Ascension, Edinburgh Rd, Grantham NG31 9QZ

- Get around £35 worth of food for £8.50
- Includes fresh fruit and veg, fridge favourites and cupboard staples.
- Open every Monday at 1pm.
- You need to become a member to use the hub but it's free to sign-up and book a slot - just follow these steps.
- There is no commitment and it's free to join.
- Everyone who signs up before 9 May 2025 will get their first order free.

It's really easy to sign-up:

- 1 Text 07860 063 304 with your full name, postcode and the name of the hub you will be collecting from: "HARROWBY"
- 2 Select the size of order you want to receive: Family £8.50, individual £5 or Large Family £17. There is a Vegetarian option available too.
- 3 You'll get a text every SATURDAY to see if you want an order. Just reply "YES" by 10am the next day. Your order will be delivered to the hub on Monday at 1pm.
- 4 Collect and pay for your goods from the HARROWBY hub. (Don't forget - someone can collect on your behalf if you can't make it and Healthy Start Vouchers are also accepted).

Section 137 Monies.

Your Parish Council has a pot of monies set aside for aiding good causes within the parish and are explained below.

In 2024-25 this has been used to assist Lives First Responders where our £250 was match funded to £500. Grantham Foodbank, Lincs Air Ambulance and South Lincs Blind Society/BHive.

"Sunnifest" the Sunningdale Festival received a donation towards the cost of their toilets. St Johns Church Londonthorpe received £250 towards their Grass Cutting. Our usual limit spend is between £1000-£1500 for this element of our budget. Anyone can apply for these grants, with a written reason and explanation of the good it will do for our parishioners.

Under Section 137, expenses that may be incurred by a parish council include, but are not limited to:

- Donations to Charities:** The council might decide to make a donation to a local charity that provides services benefiting the local community.
- Grants for Local Clubs:** Supporting local youth clubs, senior citizen clubs, or other community groups that offer beneficial services or activities to residents.
- Awards and Prizes:** For local competitions, perhaps to encourage community spirit, art, or environmental awareness.

Examples where Section 137 cannot be used.

- Unrestricted Specific Statutory Power:** Where the Council has a specific power to spend, that is not restricted.
- Statutory Prohibition:** Where there is a statutory prohibition on the Council carrying out a particular function.
- Benefit of One:** S137 cannot be used to benefit a single individual. We can, however, provide a donation to a charity of which the individual belongs, as the benefit will be to "some" of the community.

ALMA PARK FISH BAR



Opening Hours:

- TUE: 16:30 - 19:00
- WED - THU: 11:30 - 14:00
- WED - THU: 16:30 - 19:00
- FRI: 11:30 - 14:00
- FRI: 16:30 - 20:00
- SAT: 11:30 - 14:00
- SAT: 16:30 - 19:00



GLUTEN FREE : EVERY FIRST TUESDAYS OF THE MONTH
DELIVERIES AVAILABLE VIA UBER EATS, TELEPHONE AND FACEBOOK ORDERS.

01476 594173
<https://www.facebook.com/almaparkfishbar/>

13 ALMA PARK ROAD
GRANTHAM
NG31 9SX

Leisure & Outdoor Committee

The Councillors who sit on this committee have been busy keeping an oversight on all aspects of the outdoor and leisure areas of the parish in order to make recommendations to the full Parish Council for the enhancement and maintenance of our parish environment.

Much attention has been given to the five play areas in our parish in respect to providing new equipment and to particularly replace the old obsolete wooden items.

At Londonthorpe Amenity Park, despite delays beyond our control, new metal supported swings are due to be installed replacing the current wooden ones as well as the replacement of the stolen baby swing. The new metal bin has been fitted, and the untidy roadside hedge is also due to receive attention.

We are very pleased to see this fine asset now being used much more frequently.

Our thanks are due to village residents Messrs Richard Bush and Brian Bradley for assistance in planting the replacement tree on Church Lane as well as the 100 tulip bulbs to mark the Airborne Forces Anniversary; also, to the volunteers who have maintained the very attractive planters on the village approaches. The Withambrook field Play Area and multi-use games (MUGA) facility off Ruston Road continues to be very popular with parishioners of all ages.

Unfortunately, we have again witnessed anti-social behaviour by a minority including some expensive damage to the MUGA in particular. A large metal panel was broken out and a basketball ring and backboard badly damaged. Both have been replaced at much cost. Volunteers have worked to clear brambles at the top of the field in preparation for the planting of a Community Orchard with a variety of fruit trees in conjunction with an SKDC scheme.

At Bridge End Road, again despite some lengthy delays beyond our control, the new play equipment to replace the ageing wooden items are also due to be installed by our contractor and plans are in hand to also provide a new parish noticeboard.

All our play areas are subject to an annual ROSPA inspection when any defects are reported to us. Thankfully no major problems have been found apart from some small adjustments at the Belfry Play Area which are being dealt with. The Hills and Hollows Nature Reserve continues to be well used and enjoyed by walkers. Thanks go to the volunteers who continue valuable maintenance work to enable accessibility to the right of way pathways. Special thanks go to parishioner Tony Parker for using his time to keep the hedges in trim for us. A new strimmer was purchased and has been utilised by Councillor Richard Keeler to keep the areas around the trees clear.

Thanks also to those parishioners who voluntarily collect rubbish while walking in the area.

Again, we have to report yet more wanton vandalism at the site, including broken fences and a destroyed information board, requiring unnecessary expense.

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Rays of Light and Glimmers of Hope

As we begin a new year it seems that there is so much around us to cause concern and alarm: the increased cost of living, local flooding, extreme weather caused by the climate crisis, and the horrors of continuing conflict in the Middle East and Ukraine. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the darkness of it all.

But if we look around us at what is going on here in Grantham, Londonthorpe and Harrowby we may be surprised to discover all the ways that local people are pulling together to bring rays of light and glimmers of hope into the darkness: The Beehive Community supporting mental health and well-being; St Anne's Church opening a new Youth Club; Hive FM bringing Grantham together. These are just some of the incredible community initiatives being run *by* local people *for* local people, demonstrating that we can be agents of change for good in our town.


At the Church of the Ascension and St John the Baptist's Londonthorpe, we are also seeking to bring rays of light and glimmers of hope into this part of our town. Londonthorpe is partnering with the National Trust to provide free Wellbeing Walks which finish with coffee and cake at the church.

For those who may want a peaceful, quiet space to reflect or pray, St John the Baptist's is open every day between 9am and 4pm.

At the Ascension in February, we are delighted and excited to be launching the Harrowby Hub of *The Bread-and-Butter Thing*. This is an organisation which provides £35 worth of food for only £8.50 and helps reduce food waste.

Food comes from supermarkets whose produce is near its sell by date. It's free to register and open to everyone (see instructions following this article). There is already a hub running on the Earlsfield estate which is extremely popular, and we are very grateful that many of those amazing volunteers are coming to help us at the Harrowby Hub at the Ascension, along with volunteers from this local area. It launches on the 3rd February and will run every Monday, with food available for collection between 1.00pm and 1.30pm.

We also run a Wellbeing Cafe in the Church Hall on Edinburgh Road each Monday from 10:00am - 1:00pm. As well as free hot drinks and cake, table games, crafts, friendly company and a listening ear, we are now serving free soup and rolls at midday until the end of March.



Rising Stars

9.30am
11.30am

Ascension Baby & Toddler Group

Every Tuesday during Term Time

Sensory Corner • Toddler Gym
Toys • Crafts • Singing
Storytime • Healthy Snacks

Ascension Church Hall
Edinburgh Road
Grantham, NG31 9QZ

For pre-school children and their parents or carers

FREE with voluntary donations



Wellbeing Cafe

Ascension Church Hall
Edinburgh Road, Grantham, NG31 9QZ

Free Refreshments

Every Monday 10am - 1pm

Company • Cake • Soup & Rolls
Crafts • Table Games

All Welcome

L&O continued:

We would appeal to anyone witnessing vandalism or the use of off- road motorbikes in that area to phone the police on the 101 number if safe to do so. Please don't approach them yourselves.

Work to improve the pathway at the Jubilee Mount site adjacent to the Blessed Hugh More field is awaiting a start date with our contractor. We aim to improve safer access for walkers and to also hopefully alleviate some of the flood water problems. Many thanks to Councillor Paul Bakker for his help in strimming the pathways in that area to enable easier access for walkers.

The Blessed Hugh More field is currently officially registered as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) which was successfully applied for by the Parish Council a few years ago. However, this is due to lapse in September 2025.

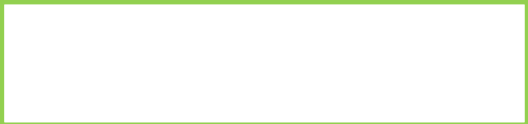
We will therefore take steps to commence a new application before it expires to maintain that status for this important community asset.

The Woodland Trust Working Party, consisting of both Councillors and volunteers from the community have again been busy with new recruits joining their regular meets (see their article elsewhere in this Newsletter).

We will resume work on the Millennium Garden on the corner of Kenilworth Road in the spring again in conjunction with the children from the Belmont Community School Garden Club as part of their links with the community. Including the children on this project has been most rewarding for all concerned.

Throughout this report the grateful assistance of volunteers in the various Parish tasks has been repeatedly quoted. If you feel you would also like to get involved in any way you would be most welcome, and you can register your interest with the Parish Clerk whose contact details are in this Newsletter.

Geoff Parnham – Committee Chairperson.



Woodland Trust Working Party Report – Feb 2025

The jointly run working party group between the Woodland Trust and the Parish Council has had a successful autumn & winter programme so far, with several new members joining. This time our focus has been on the car park side of Londonthorpe Woods off Five Gates Lane. This area was vastly improved 3 years ago as part of the Reconnecting Grantham project with a new hardcore circular pathway and enlarged car park. It was now time for us to go in and make sure the paths don't get overgrown and maintain the various habitats on site.

In October we pruned back the dog rose and hawthorn planted around the car park fence and cleared back the grass encroaching onto the new paths surrounding it. November saw us working our way around the circular track, cutting backing any branches overhanging it or threatening to in a year or so time. We also cleared back any self-set species, especially hawthorn and blackthorn, to 2 meters from the path. In December we continued with this work from the other direction. Despite raining for most of the session we had an excellent turnout and nearly completed the circle. For the January meeting we focused on raising the crowns of the oaks in the more open section near the golf course.

This involves removing the lower branches to approx. 6ft all around the tree. These oaks are self-sets, as this area was always supposed to be an open meadow. By carrying out his work, it will encourage the trees to grow in height and allow the site manager to cut underneath with the mower to stop it reverting to scrub. This will keep most of this area as an open meadow with the oaks providing some shady spots.

This work was completed in February along with our circuit around the main path.

The work is done for the benefit of the all the many users of this most valuable asset to our community. There are also other volunteers working on these sites, some clearing up dog mess, some litter-picking and others leading very informative walks teaching about the history of the area and the wildlife that abounds. We thank them all. Our final session of this winter is on Sunday 2nd March 9.30am to 12.30pm, please contact the parish clerk if you would like to become a volunteer.

Clr R Keeler

Appreciation

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our generous Sponsors/Advertisers for their continued support.

A special mention for the ongoing assistance given by Tailored Hair on Sunningdale and East Midland Electronics who continue to accommodate the one on Alma Park. Defibrillator to be sited on their building.

We would ask you to consider them when making an appropriate purchase.

We must also say a big thank you to Mr & Mrs Bradley of Londonthorpe for allowing us to place our latest one on their property.

Useful Numbers

Anglia Water 0845 7145145

Gas 0800 111999

NHS Direct 08454647

NHS non emergency 111

Power Cuts Emergency 105

Electricity 0800 0568090

Grantham Hospital 014767 565232.

Local Policing

Police non emergency 101

Police Station 0300 111300

Our Grantham East team

Senette-Crofts, Jennifer

email Jennifer.Senette-

Crofts@lincs.police.uk

SKDC Switchboard 01476 406080

For Dog Fouling-Abandoned Vehicles,

Fly Tipping etc 01476 406279

For Collection of Refuse-Recycling-

Green Waste Etc. 01476 406360

Lincs C.C. 01522 552222

customerservices @lincolnshire.gov.uk

Lighting etc 01522 582070

E-mail- www.Fixmystreet.com

Benefits Agency

To Claim Benefits is 0800 055 6688

Benefit Enquiries is 0800 169 0310

Local Jobcentre is 0800 169 0190

Tax Credits Helpline 0345 300 3900

Universal Credit Enquiries 0800 328 9344

Pension Credit Apps 0800 99 1234

Pension Centres 0800 731 0469

Childline 0800 11 11

Citizens Advice 08444 994199

Crimestoppers 0800 555111

Public Transport

Centrebus 01164 105050

Call Connect 03452-343344

National Rail Enquiries 08457 484950

Traveline 0871 2002233

Millennium Garden

As we reported in 2023 the Millennium Garden on Kenilworth Road/Harrowby Lane junction, was taken on as Community Project by the children of Belmont School Gardening Club.

They have continued to work with our Clerk Pete Armstrong to plan and provide for both the summer and autumn planting. Two teachers Mrs Pallier & Mrs Eggleston run the club which has anywhere between 6 & 10 attendees each week.

Before each planting season they cleared the garden of the old bedding and removed it to their compost heap. On the planting and clearing days, the clerk is ably assisted by Cllrs

Bakker & Parnham. All plants/

seeds/compost etc are

supplied through the Parish

Council so no cost to the

school. They have now

progressed to do their own

show bed outside the school

office, they will be looking after

this with each passing season.

This year the younger year 1-2

children have taken over and are

learning their gardening skills early

in their lives. This will leave them

in good stead for their later life

as gardening can be a hobby

of a lifetime.

The Belmont Children with Councillor G Parnham assisting with the planting of the summer display.

Hills & Hollows

The trees and hedges in this area continue to grow at a pace despite the some-time drought and other times flood conditions. Each autumn you can see the extra growth made though the year. This extra growth is particularly seen on the hedges and the undergrowth which obviously requires maintaining. We are very lucky here in that Tony Parker once again has volunteered many hours to cut the hedge for us and Cllr Richard Keeler has been doing a lot of strimming work this winter. The work done by Richard is keeping the self-set hawthorn from taking over the area as it is on a neighbouring plot to ours.

To assist Cllr Keeler, we purchased a "Battery Power Operated Strimmer" with two batteries making it easier to transport. Each battery giving over thirty minutes of cutting time. On everyone's behalf we sincerely thank them both for their efforts.

Volunteers have assisted in other tasks within working parties doing other maintenance tasks. Cllr P Bakker and the Clerk have also undertaken some repair tasks over the year.

We have experienced vandalism again this year, only recently one of the information lecterns has been smashed to pieces, this will cost in excess of £1000 if we replace it. Another continuing issue is the illegal use of motorbikes along the paths of the parish owned section and neighbouring sites. The police are aware and should be increasing their presence in the area and will be using drones.

During the dry spells of last summer fires were a constant worry, luckily none occurred. Please report any motorbikes using the area to the non-emergency 101 number if you feel safe to do so.

We normally hold 1 or 2 working parties per year, so if you are interested in helping out, please contact the Parish Clerk.

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NATIONAL TRUST-Belton House

Thank you to the parish council for giving me the opportunity to update the local residents on what is happening at Belton.

It's been a very busy few months for us as we delivered an extremely busy Christmas and New Year period. Unfortunately, we were then beset with closures due to the weather and major flooding in the grounds (although we were lucky compared to many and my best wishes go out to residents that have had to deal with flooding in their homes).

Sadly, this appears to be the new norm through climate change and something we all have a part to play in trying to limit and mitigate for in the future.

As we in the National Trust organisation move into our new strategy, we will prioritise restoring nature, doing our part on climate action to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 and end unequal access to our land and properties.

To that end I'm excited that we plan to open Grantham House by the end of March as a community hub with free access to the gardens and house, enabling the local community to engage with nature, cultural heritage and community projects.

At Belton we plan to continue important restoration work in the house and grounds as well as offering numerous walks talks and opportunities to connect with nature.

The restoration of Bellmount tower has just been completed and is a great addition to the partnership work we have completed with the Woodland Trust - plans to open the tower to the public on viewing days are progressing and with the new accessible footpaths, cycle path and walking trails we have opened up 100's of acres of land for public use. Reconnecting Grantham to a beautiful part of the Belton Estate where people can connect with nature.

Kind regards, Ian.

Ian Cooper; General Manager
South Lincolnshire Portfolio



Community Orchard Project

South Kesteven District Council in 2024 were offering grants towards the planting of Community Orchards so we applied with a plan that was accepted. We will receive around £700 towards the costs.

The Community Orchard plan we have is on our land at the Withambrook Amenity Area, we are clearing an area of overgrown brambles approx. 40m by 10m.

We had a contractor come in and do the rough work and the volunteers are burning the brash and preparing for the trees to arrive ready for planting.

We have chosen as many local species as we could obtain, they are nearly all originating from Lincolnshire or neighbouring counties also they are mostly heritage varieties.

Defibrillator Training - your chance to receive some free training

Over the last few years there has been a significant growth in the number of Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) within our communities. We now have three, Alma Park Shops, Sunningdale Shops and the latest is in Londonthorpe village. Whilst this offers reassurance to help in an emergency, some in the community did express a concern that they had no experience of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) or how to use an AED – especially as it's likely to be an extremely stressful situation when it's needed. Leisure SK is keen to engage and support our communities and are running some training courses with the public. Their team of trainers are already in place at the leisure centres, and they've been able to help by delivering a number of sessions in the community based on the Royal Lifesaving Society "Save a Life" scheme. These are free 2.5-3hrs sessions that cover some basic first aid skills, resuscitation and using a defibrillator. The sessions are offered for awareness and practise/experience and are not a qualification. The sessions have been well received though with feedback from those attending the sessions feeling more confident in how the devices work and how they can respond in an emergency. All training equipment is provided. - Maximum 12-14 individuals per session. The sessions are delivered free of charge but those taking part may like to make a voluntary donation to the RLSS.

The Venue will be Belmont School, Date & Times to be confirmed, likely to be in April & May. If you are interested in taking part, please contact the Clerk ASAP as places are limited and it will be first come first served.

Projects Completed in 2024-25

This year has seen monies spent on various projects, including the following:

We purchased another **Defibrillator** which is now situated in Londonthorpe. It is on the Old Stables Wall with the kind permission of Mr & Mrs Bradley. This could not have happened without their support.

It is registered on the "Circuit" along with our ones on Sunningdale & Alma Park shops, so if it is required when you ring 999, they will give out the code for the door. It is completely automatic after you have attached the pads to the patient. It talks you through every step to be taken.

To go alongside this, we are hoping to offer CPR training to allow the necessary first response in an emergency to take place. (See Separate Item if Interested)

We also purchased a fixed "**Speed Indicator Device**" (SID) which is sited on Harrowby Lane. It is solar powered so does not need to be taken down for recharging. The first indications are that it has reduced the speed of vehicles travelling down Harrowby Hill into the 30mph zone. Vehicles have been picked up just outside the zone at 50mph plus. Their speed has reduced to the 30mph and below before they reach Kenilworth Road junction.

At Londonthorpe Amenity Field we cut back the neighbouring hedge by up to 3mts and replaced it with a **2mt Steel Mesh Sports Fence**. By doing this we have improved the entrance and got back masses of extra useable ground, the brush was used on tracks elsewhere in the parish.

Also, here we have after 30 years we have replaced the Old Wooden Swings with a brand-new **Steel Combo of Two Normal Swings and a Basket Swing**. This is part of our ongoing programme of replacing our worn out original wooden equipment.

All of these have been financed from our projects fund and normal budget headings for Leisure & Outdoor items.

Update on Major Planning Applications for solar photovoltaic farms (commonly known as Solar Farms).

Ash Tree Solar Farm (S23/2199 Construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic farm with battery storage and associated infrastructure including electrical cable route corridor). This was refused by SKDC based on the proposed development by virtue of its scale and nature would result in a harmful impact to the landscape character of the area and consequently the setting of Belton House Registered Park and Garden and Bellmount Tower on 25th October, and at this time (Jan 24th) no appeal has been made. It must be made by 25th May to be considered.

Welby Solar Farm (S24/1040 Installation of solar farm with associated battery storage, comprising ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels, including mounting systems, inverters and transformers, electrical substation, underground cabling, stock proof fencing, CCTV, internal access tracks and associated infrastructure for a temporary period of 40 years Open for comment icon). At the time of writing (Jan 17th) this application had not gone before the SKDC planning committee although we suspect it will go to them on 6th February.

Church Lane Solar Farm (S24/0360 Installation of solar farm comprising ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels, including mounting systems, inverters, underground cabling, stock proof fencing, CCTV, internal access tracks, electrical substation and associated infrastructure for a temporary period of 40 years . This was refused by SKDC on 25th July based on the application proposals would result in the temporary loss of 27.5 hectares of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land (BMVAL) from productive agricultural use and insufficient justification has been

provided for the loss of BMVAL throughout the lifetime of the development, and on 16th August went to appeal. On 16th January the central planning inspector (who visited the site in November) passed the application so this one will be built.



“Sunnifest 25”

**Following the last three successful events held on the estate,
the 2025 edition is now booked for
Saturday June 21st**

13:30 – 21:30 on the Berkshire Drive Green.

**This is a show of community spirit organised by a small
number of residents led by Sue Smith, and you are welcome
you to join them in a fun afternoon/evening.**

**The event involves music and games including (A Hawaiian Pi-
ñata, Limbo, Face Glitter, Bubbles, Games and once again the
Memory Tree) alongside a show of community spirit.**

**It is an event where you bring your family/party to the Party!
Look out for the advertising near the time.**

Community Speed Watch Team

Last year's Community Speed Watch activity was again somewhat less than we would have liked due to the loss of members and some unavailability. We have had one person interested in joining the team but unfortunately, we have been unable to arrange a training session unless we get more volunteers!

Is this something you could assist with for a few hours per year?

Again, we have visited most of the locations in which we are licensed to operate. These are all around the Parish in Londonthorpe, Belton Lane, and Harrowby Lane. Sunningdale and Alma Park Road. We feel that these sites we have been given do not enable us to work efficiently and will try and get these changed. Again, the results disturb us as at times, vehicles are travelling at nearly twice the speed limit for the area!

We report all drivers caught breaking the speed limit to the CSW Admin team who then write to the driver/owner or in the case of a business vehicle the company it is registered to. If a driver receives three of these letters' police action may follow.

Our nine trained volunteers took it in turns to make up the operating teams of three. Nearly all members have done at least one session, some considerably more during the year. We thank them on your behalf for generously giving up their time to try and make the parish a safer place to live.

At present we are short of volunteers as several have had to resign for various personal reasons.

**Could you give up some of your spare time to help us protect our residents?
Please contact the Clerk if you can assist.**

Best Kept Gardens Competition

The winners of this were again presented with their awards at our Annual Open Evening in September. As is customary we the judges saw some excellent gardens over the judging period.

As the competition is split into different sections, some are very hotly contested others not so. The judges are always spoilt for choice with the numerous excellent gardens on “Kenilworth Road Section” with Bridge End also hotly contested.

Once again though, the regulars presented shining examples to us all, making the Past Winners Section very competitive. The judging process for 2024 was the same as usual with three Councillors and the Clerk selecting the winners through a points system over the months July to September. The gardens are judged on well-kept, not so much on the content but that does help. The local councillors travelled around their areas and put forward nominations to the judging panel to observe them on at least three occasions during July too early September.

The 2025 competition will start in July and will run through to September, so plan carefully!

Last year's winners were:

West Sunningdale: Mr & Mrs A Davis,
East Sunningdale: D Berry & S McGrane,
East Harrowby Lane: Mr & Mrs R Jones,
West Harrowby Lane: Mr & Mrs T Holt.
Somerby Hill, Mr & Mrs F Jones,
Villages Mr & Mrs T Matthews,
Containers Section by Mr & Mrs R Henson Alma Park Road. Past Winners Section was won by Mr & Mrs Baker whose garden is the highlight of Saltersford Road.

Good luck for this years event.

Open Evening 2024

Last year's Open Evening in September was again a successful and enjoyable event for the councillors. This Open Evening gives your parish councillors the chance to answer any queries that you the residents have about the projects and work that they do in a relaxed non formal atmosphere. All the projects and ongoing works are displayed for all to see. It also is a chance to celebrate all of the good things happening in the parish like the awarding of the prizes and certificates for the Tom Childs Award and the Best Kept Gardens Competition. You can read about these the articles in this newsletter. This year the Chair Cllr Carol Markwell presented the prizes, with prize winners being introduced by Pete Armstrong the Parish Clerk. This followed a successful stand we had at the Belton Community Festival two weeks earlier. We will be doing that again this year.

Planning 2024

As you will see elsewhere in this Newsletter, we have spent a lot of time along with the villagers of Londonthorpe fighting against the plethora of solar farm applications. If they were all to go ahead, we would be inundated with them.

The one other major application that we have dealt with and has been passed is for 250 homes on Somerby Hill. These landowners and developers (Bloor's) have engaged with us from the very start even arranging a meeting with us before going to planning they wished to see what we felt would be acceptable for the site. Your councillors raised several points that they wished to be considered for the site.

Some of the main ones were the Access Road onto A52 (Road Safety), Drainage/Flooding (Safe Dispersal and Storage on Site), Noise Abatement (Protection from the Noise from the Factory), Road Layout (to Incorporate Green Spaces) and Protection for the Residents of the Eatch's Estate (Ensuring No Vehicular Access to and from their estate). This application was passed and work is underway laying out the site, unfortunately we have already seen incidents of flooding in properties on the Eatch's estate. Cllr R Wright has been at the forefront of dealing with the residents and Bloor's on our behalf. Living on the estate he has taken the brunt of complaints. We are still not confident that the warnings about excess water we gave at the outset will not be proved correct. We must give Bloor's their due though as they always listen and try and to correct any problems ASAP. Bloor's have visited the residents concerned and are footing the bill to correct any damage done by their diversion of a spring.

We have to say though that the authorities like the LCC Highways and Anglia Water do not seem to consider local knowledge on this sort of application. They often make no representation of consequence to SKDC planning so things slip through unhindered.

There was a Public Consultation Meeting in November about the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks, most of your councillors attended along with many residents of the Harrowby & Bridge End areas of the parish. We were informed that the camp will now stay open until 2029 unless the new government changes that! We also heard that the number of properties to be built on the site would be reduced to 3000. They are still looking at ways to protect the listed buildings on site.

Spittlegate Garden Village; we have heard nothing more on this and now don't expect to until the GSSR is complete.

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Local Policing Update January 2025

Happy New Year to one and all.

Good news to start the year with, we have had no significant crime trends to report in the Harrowby and Londonthorpe areas.

We did experience some incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour towards the end of last year, specifically around the Tesco on Harrowby Lane and in the Harrowby Lane/ Polygon Walk area.

As we head towards spring, we expect there to be an increase of incidents involving illegal off-road motorbikes on the Hills and Hollows and at Londonthorpe Woods. People using these bikes cause un-necessary harassment, alarm and distress to residents and people using these areas. Please support us in trying to disrupt and stop the use of illegal off-road motorbikes. If you know where any bikes are stored or used from, please contact us

by email Grantham@lincs.police.uk or via the Police non-emergency number 101.

Kind Regards PC 564 Jen Senette-Crofts and PCSO 2388 Rowena Everitt

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At present we are short of volunteers as several have had to resign for various personal reasons.

**Could you give up some of your spare time to help us protect our residents?
Please contact the Clerk if you can assist.**

The Parish Council Clerk:

Peter A Armstrong 27 Belton Lane, Grantham NG31 9JE

Tel: 07929321426 Email: clerk@londonthorpeharrowby-pc.gov.uk