



## **KIRKLEVINGTON AND CASTLE LEAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

**MAY 2018- MAY 2019**

This year has been a quieter year for planning applications but there has still been plenty to discuss at each Parish Council meeting. During the Year we were very pleased to welcome Tony Hoban, Chris Phillips and Pram Deepak as new Parish Councillors.

At the beginning of this Parish council year we were disappointed that the Banks planning application for 100 houses accessed off St. Martins Way was approved by the planning Inspector but very pleased that the application for 11 houses off Braeside was refused. We have been fortunate in that the Story development, to the south of the village has not moved forward until very recently but access to the site is now being progressed. So far there is no movement on the Banks development. The application from Duchy for 19 dwellings is however progressing at a reasonable speed.

The Parish council has been pursuing the provision of a safe crossing on Green Lane. The calculations by Stockton Council officers do not presently support our requests but we will continue to actively pursue this as the Parish council thinks is an essential safety requirement.

Better news is that the long awaited extension of Yarm station car park will be carried out during the school summer holidays

The new Local plan has now been accepted after the examination in public by a Planning Inspector and hopefully this will carry more weight in any opposition we have on your behalf against future planning applications where they do not conform to the plan.

We were pleased to support Kirk Fest again this year; this popular annual event includes the scarecrow competition, events in the Village hall, Church and Primary School and we hope has something for all who want to be involved in Village Life. Our Christmas event is a popular start to the Christmas calendar with singing round the Christmas tree followed by refreshments and a small treat for the children is open and free for all Parish residents.

Within the village the local bus service operated by Stockton Council runs on a Tuesday and Thursday (mostly a.m.) the timetables are in the notice board on The Green and outside the Village Hall, but support is still low.

Our sewage smell near to the Village Hall is still an ongoing problem. After meetings with representatives from the Water Board the disinfecting of the waste pumped down from Crathorne has still has not been resolved, the lack of a “fat trap” seems to be a major part of the problem which means the disinfectant cannot work properly. Experts employed by the Water Board have so far been unable to overcome that problem and patience is running out. A solution needs to be found and quickly.

The Children’s Play Area in Kirklevington is in need of refurbishing now after many years of use. The Parish Council is presently looking at designs and funding opportunities.

I will finish with sincere thanks to all my fellow Council members and a special thank you to two retiring members Jim Parker after many years of service and Tony Hoban who had joined us in the last year and was a resident of our new area off Green Lane. A big extra thank you to the clerk, Ruth Mazonas, who works very hard for the Parish.

Jennie Beaumont, Chairman.