

# NEWSLETTER



**Fulford**  
Parish Council

In this edition of the Parish Council Newsletter you will find news on recently completed and upcoming projects in Fulford, alongside information about the Parish Council, the community facilities it operates and some other local news. Contact information is at the base of each page.



**Fulford Parish Councillors** work together on local matters as a committee, led by national guidelines and legislation. We hold discussions and make decisions as a group based on what we feel is best for the community we live in. We might not be able to solve all the residents' issues that are brought to our attention, but we always listen and act when we can to support the people of Fulford.

As individual members of the Parish Council we all joined the council because we are passionate about Fulford, but we are also passionate about specific areas or activities within our community.

The Parish Council is committed to creating and maintaining the green spaces we manage for the community as well as for our wild neighbours. Some councillors focus on improving our local environment, our health, and increasing the local wildlife biodiversity.

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**By** sowing wildflowers, leaving areas to go a little bit wild, and planting native trees we are doing our bit to combat flooding risks, noise and air pollution as well as giving wildlife a home. Some councillors are keen to see more outdoor play equipment for the children, and some adults! Examples are where we have planted more trees and installed the Titan Swing on Fordlands Road playing field.

**As** well as looking after our own properties, we have councillors who are highly knowledgeable in planning matters and we regularly correspond with City of York Council on all sorts of local matters. We work with Persimmon Homes and the residents of Germany Beck as well as City of York through a liaison committee to help address issues and concerns relating to the new development.

**We** also manage Fulford Cemetery, the main cemetery for York, which is a beautiful and peaceful place. Next door to the cemetery are the allotments, another peaceful place, that the parish council manages, where local folk can grow fruit and veg.

**Currently**, a working group of councillors are working on the renovation project for Fulford Social Hall and engaging with the community on how they use the hall and what improvements they would like to see in the future.

**Fulford Parish Council** is made up of local people working for the community in many different and varied ways. It is a voluntary position, but the councillors do it because they care for Fulford, the people of Fulford, and for the many areas and aspects that make up Fulford.

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# Fulford Social Hall

Many of you will be aware that we have exciting plans for the future of our Social Hall. We wish to repair, improve, modernise and make more sustainable this well-loved community asset. There have been quite a number of surveys, questionnaires and meetings recently to collect your opinions about the Social Hall as we want to keep the Parish Council in touch with your wishes.

So, thank you to the many people who completed our latest survey and shared their ideas about the future role of the social hall. The responses revealed that for many residents the venue is a treasured asset with great potential to further increase its role as a community hub.

Respondents were clear that a local, conveniently situated venue is needed as a place to meet neighbours or enjoy a range of activities. Ideas for future activities were wide-ranging and innovative: a cafe close to the school and library was a popular suggestion; more activities for toddlers and young children had a lot of support; more sporting and keep-fit type of activities were high on the wish-list. Many other imaginative ideas were forthcoming and Fulford Parish Council would love to increase the range of activities available.

Many of you also stressed the importance of keeping the character and historic look of the building in addition to the essential improvements.

It is heartening to see that so many of you care about the hall and we would love more of you to be part of the decision-making about the building's future – please contact the Clerk if you wish to be involved. More community involvement also increases the possibility of unlocking available funding. Over the last year we have put in a lot of time and energy applying for various hard-to-access funds and although we have not been successful so far, we do remain undeterred and continue to investigate further funding streams. However, this does mean that we are unable to give any definite dates when work might begin so it's a question of 'Watch this space'!

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From This



To This

Meanwhile, the Social Hall is very much open for business. Both the Main Hall and the smaller meeting room in the Old Library are available for events and free **WiFi** is available on request. Discounted Rates for Fulford Residents and Regular Bookings Please contact [socialhall@fulford-pc.gov.uk](mailto:socialhall@fulford-pc.gov.uk) / 01904 633151 for further information.

### Social Hall Regular Activities and Regular Timeslot Availability

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Main Hall</b>							
<b>Old Library Room</b>							
<b>Mornings</b>			10am-12pm Children's Session				
<b>Afternoons</b>		7.15-5.30pm Kumon Education	4-8.30pm Ballet with Sally Corbally	7.15-5.30pm Kumon Education	5.15-7.15 pm Ballet with Sally Corbally		
<b>Evenings</b>	7.30-9pm Yoga with Joyce Rhodes	7-8pm San Bao Tai Chi	8-10pm Ukelele Group				

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# **Fulford Parish Council has space for 11 councillors, and at present there are only 6.**

The description on p.1 of the Council's responsibilities shows there is quite a lot to do, even though the highly competent clerk does a lot of the heavy lifting.

We would really like to increase our numbers, to share the workload and also so the Council reflects the diversity of the area and connects with the range of people living in Fulford.

Councillors are unpaid. We work cooperatively together, with respect for different views, and are a friendly and welcoming group. The Council currently meets approximately every six weeks, on Wednesday evenings, and most councillors participate in at least one other smaller working group in between full council meetings. We all try to focus on the areas that concern us most or reflect our skills and knowledge.

Are you interested in planning, or playgrounds? In natural areas, or community spaces like the Social Hall? Do you have HR knowledge? Or do you simply want to get more involved in your community?

If you would like to help us get things done and contribute to the wellbeing of our Fulford community, we would love to hear from you! You can have an informal chat with a councillor or the clerk before making up your mind.



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# Tackling Sewage Spills on Fulford Ings - Local Action

Last autumn a manhole cover burst on Fulford Ings, resulting in serious and ongoing sewage spills onto this special protected flood plain area, damaging the environment and putting residents' health at risk. Together with local stakeholders including Fulford Parish Council, University of York, St Nick's, the Fulford Motor Yacht Club, Natural England, Luke Charters MP and local residents, Kate Ravilious, Councillor for Fulford & Heslington, has been pressing Yorkshire Water to clean up and ensure this doesn't happen again. As Kate said, "Blowouts like this are completely unacceptable. We need to see Yorkshire Water invest in upgrading the Fulford pumping station and inspecting and maintaining our sewer infrastructure".

Thankfully these efforts have paid off and a significant maintenance programme is now underway. Yorkshire Water are carrying out camera inspections of all the pipes going underneath the Ings, cleaning them all out and re-lining them. They are also installing sealable lids on all of the chambers and valves to prevent the pipes silting up again. The works are anticipated to continue into the autumn.

Along with these immediate repairs Yorkshire Water have worked with Natural England to develop a 5 year restoration plan for the Ings, to ensure that excess nutrients are removed and this special environment is allowed to recover. "It's places like Fulford Ings that make York such a wonderful city. It supports an abundance of wildlife and is greatly loved by the local community. We need to cherish these green spaces and I'm really glad that Yorkshire Water are taking their responsibility seriously and working with us to restore and protect the Ings," says Kate.



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**The Swap 'n' Shop on 5 October 2024** was a joint event between Greener Cleaner Fulford and the Parish Council, held at the Social Hall.

The main goal was to encourage re-use and recycling of clothes, toys, books, houseplants and other small household items.

If people hadn't brought something to swap, they could make a donation instead, and could also donate for a hot or cold drink.

The donations amounted to £103.56, which will be shared by Greener Cleaner Fulford to support future events, and to contribute to the funds for making the Social Hall a more sustainable building. Everything that was left behind will either be given to charity shops or saved for a future event. About 50 people came (hard to judge exact numbers), and it was a great opportunity to chat over a coffee. Some visitors had never seen inside the Hall and could see what a good space it is for social activities and fundraising events for charities.

Germany Beck's new microbakery, the Brothaus, brought their amazing sourdough bread and a range of sweet baked goods for sale. Not surprisingly, they almost sold out!

Look out on Facebook and the Parish Council web pages for future events, or get in touch if you want to be part of one yourself.



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# Recreation Areas Update

Both the Fordlands Road the Parish Field Play Areas have undergone groundworks and improvements to the equipment surfaces over the past few months and we were pleased to install the new Titan Swing at Fordlands Road which seems to have been very popular over the summer. The new trees at Fordlands are doing well, plans for more tree planting are underway and St Nicks have recently carried out works to improve the wildlife value of the rougher grass areas of the field.

The future project for the Parish Field continues to evolve in collaboration with City of York Council, Fulford Sports Club and Persimmon Homes and it is hoped that further consultation with residents will happen soon, once some technical details have been resolved.

The area of the former cricket square area on the Parish Field has been restored and a maintenance programme has begun to help the drainage of the field and improve the condition of the football pitch area.

The Village Green: Walkers and nature lovers will be aware of the work proceeding on Fulford Ings, as Yorkshire Water's contractor Sapphire Utilities carries out essential work to the drains.

To enable heavy machinery to get to where needed, the contractors have laid a temporary metal roadway from Landing Lane to the University boathouse at the northern end. This avoids churning up the ground. The work is planned for completion at the end of November.



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