

Valley Road Recreation Ground

The Parish Council have made a considerable investment in the park this year including the purchase of new equipment and the landscaping of the area. The "new" park was opened in the early summer and has been a huge hit with both children and parents. However the Council has received some complaints that older children have been riding their bicycles in this area and we would request that they stop doing so as they are causing a hazard to the younger children and they are damaging the grass and the equipment!

The Clough

The council have received a request for some new play equipment and it is hoped that this can be accommodated. The parks at Lea Road and Valley Road have both been updated recently and the council would like to make the same commitment to the children of Little Hayfield.

Bank Vale

The Parish Council and St Matthew's Church are making significant progress on the transfer of the field to the Parish Council. It was initially hoped that an outright purchase could be made but the Parish Council is now content to take out a 35 year lease to progress the project.

Grit

The Parish Council provide grit for parishioners use and would ask that that it be shared fairly! Council provide grit for public footpaths and roads only and it must not be used on private property. Although bins are checked frequently, please let the Clerk know if any bins require refilling and it will be dealt with as soon as possible.



Dungeon Brow

The Council Office and "Dungeon" have had a face lift over the past few months with new windows and a change of colour. Thanks to Councillors Bevins and Clarke for their efforts. The Name Board has also been replaced and looks a lot smarter. After many false starts work has finally been scheduled in to begin in the next few weeks on the paths and walls around the office. The Council would ask for your patience with the disruption that these works will cause.

Accounts and Finance

The Council has passed its External Audit showing good practice in all aspects of its accounting.

The Council continues to support local groups via Section 137 funding and have given donations to the following groups this year: Hayfield Civic Trust, Hayfield Over 60's, Hayfield Royal British Legion, Hayfield May Queen Festival, Chapel en le Frith Physiotherapy.

Highways Consultation

On Saturday 25th July 2015, Hayfield Parish Council held a very well attended public meeting to consult with the village about the various concerns we all share about traffic and parking. Concerns were based primarily on safety of pedestrians, and then on convenience for residents and visitors. Contributions were measured and thoughtful, as were the written responses the council received. There was general agreement about what constituted the problems, less so about the solutions.

The council has formed a sub-committee to move forwards on the issues raised as quickly as possible. They have met and made recommendations to the council, which we have approved and are detailed below.

The sub committee discussions, with advice from DCC Highways, revealed that traffic issues are extremely complex. We have opted to pursue some solutions immediately, but also to produce a carefully planned three year action plan, so that we are not just reacting to issues when they occur, but planning for the future. We will keep everyone informed of developments through regular updates such as this – which will also appear on our website (address)

Examples of complexity include:

Parked vehicles can be a problem, but can also act as 'natural' traffic calming (by slowing cars down)

Yellow lines may improve safety, but they do not solve parking issues, as they simply move the cars to somewhere else;

Residential Permits – these are expensive (£35 for first car, £50 each for second and third, extra for guests, workers etc.) and they do not guarantee a particular place, let alone a place outside the holder's house.

In general it also has to be kept in mind that the village was simply not designed for the number of vehicles it now has to accommodate so there will be no easy, or indeed any solutions to some of the problems, and some might even have a negative impact of the very look of our attractive village.

– one way systems, for example, require a proliferation of lighted signs which would be intrusive – and in any case

the junction with the bypass at the north (Glossop) end of the village will never get Highways approval as an exit.

So we have agreed to pursue the following:

Fishers Bridge:

Bollards on 'The George' side of the junction where there is antisocial parking on the kerb and by one resident who regularly actually parks on the pavement.

Yellow Lines on both sides of the junction and opposite, to improve sightlines of vehicles entering the village on the approach to Church Street

Hayfield:

Pursue free residential parking in the Bus Station Parking (based on other schemes, this would entitle free parking from 3.00 pm through until 11.00 am)

Prominent signing which directs visitors to the car park

Express an interest in DCC scheme for 20 mph zones

Pursue regular, high profile enforcement of existing restrictions

Little Hayfield:

Yellow lines (approx. 3 car lengths) to improve sightlines of traffic travelling north (towards Glossop)

Support of road parking proposals (Throstle Farm) – make formal contact directly with the National Trust to discuss the possibility of improving access should the scheme proceed.

In addition, develop a longer term action plan with a view to implementing longer term solutions.

The Parish Council will continue to keep everyone informed of developments and would like to thank everyone who made a contribution at the meeting and / or in writing. These have been extremely important to our discussions.

Community Orchard

In 2009 the Hayfield Parish Council in conjunction with Hayfield Primary School launched a project for a Community Orchard in the village. The aim was to involve pupils from the school and the wider community in the cultivation and nurture of the orchards that were to be planted. One participant summed it up at the time as follows;

“Never has the time been more appropriate to begin a project in Hayfield which has as its primary focus as care for the environment, an awareness of the natural world, the wider issues of climate change, and the imperative for all of us to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and imported foodstuffs.”

A grant was successfully obtained and after some initial work on identifying areas to plant trees and what types of trees would be most suitable the task began with fifty volunteers from the village clearing land and planting the 200 trees that had been purchased.

Six years on the project has clearly been a success with mature fruit trees in many parts of the village bearing fruit. A wide variety of apples and pears are now available free to anybody who wishes to go out and pick them.

However for the project to continue and grow we need to care for it. We are therefore asking if you are willing to give up some of your time to support us. We are looking for a small team of volunteers to give us 3 or 4 hours, three times a year, to help prune the trees (training will be provided) weed around the base of the trees and put bark down and generally clear around the areas where the trees are planted.

This orchard belongs to the whole community. Can you do your bit for the village and give up a few hours each year to help us out? If you are interested in helping with the project contact Councillor Derek Clarke at derek.clarke@hayfield-pc.gov.uk



May Queen and Breaking the Chains

For many years Hayfield had regular spring or hiring fairs where local farmers took on their workers for the coming season. There is also a history of livestock markets /fayres taking place in the Village. The May Queen as we know it has its beginning in 1928 when the local hospital started the event to raise funds. This tradition continues to this day with profits going to local charities. Hayfield can claim to have one of the longest running annual parades in the country.

Breaking of the Chain

Every year the village vote for who they want to represent them the following year. Each girl chosen is given a link in the chain of office which takes 22 years to fill. When it is full a party is held and this year it fell on the 27th Sept.

Mayor's Chain

On the topic of chains the Parish Council have recently had the Mayor's chain cleaned and updated. Councillor Easter will now be wearing it with pride to the many civic functions he attends.



The May Queen Parade.



Who is on the Council

Chair: Councillor Peter Easter
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Clerk: Brian Smyth
Grounds Maintenance Staff: Trevor Middleton
Contracted Gardener / Maintenance Workers: Graham Hewitt and Chris Wild