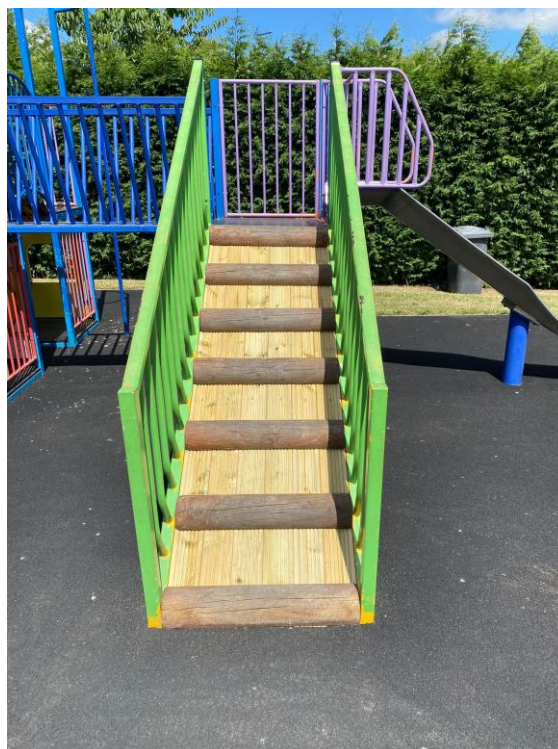


141 Bus Service

Many of you will already be aware of the decision which has been made by Trent Barton, to stop the 141 bus service, from 4th September. As a private company, they are of course entitled to make this decision, but the timing and lack of consultation has left us all very concerned. The County Council has been subsidising this service for a number of years, but they have not pulled the funding, the decision to stop the service, has been made by the bus company. Our County Councillor, Chris Barnfather, has been working hard behind the scenes with other councillors and MPs, to see what can be salvaged from this situation. Hopefully another bus operator will adopt the route, although probably not the whole route, but possibly with smaller sections operating separately. From a Ravenshead perspective, links to the Pronto route to Nottingham and Mansfield are vital, as well as a link to the Joseph Whitaker School. The Parish Council has written a letter to the bus company and the County Council, expressing our concerns. In my capacity as Vice Chair of Governors at Joseph Whitaker, myself and the Chair, Hayley Barsby, have also sent a strongly worded letter expressing our concerns around how children who do not travel on the school bus, can access their school.

Play parks

The Haddon Road play park was unfortunately closed recently for a short period whilst essential maintenance work was carried out by the Parish Council handyman. You will see, from the attached photograph, what a good job he has done. Concerns have been raised about the gate leading from the Abbey Gates Park. This has now been fitted with a self-closer, to prevent children running out onto the road. Work will begin very soon to replace two of the springers on that site. The Leisure Centre play park has a large piece of equipment that has reached the end of its life and will need replacing. This is the large piece nearest to the building with the two slides. It will cost approximately £35,000 to replace and funding is being sought. Feedback from residents in support of our application for funding is a vital part of the bid. Please contact the Parish Council with your thoughts, either via e mail or through our Facebook account.



Overhanging trees and overgrown hedges

Ravenshead is a lovely place to live at all times, but the village looks even better in the summer months when residents make an extra effort with their gardens. I would, however, like to make a plea to look beyond your garden and check if there are any branches from your trees overhanging the footpath or if your hedge has grown so large, it is causing an obstruction. The local authority has the power, as a last resort, to remove branches, cut back hedges and invoice the householder. None of this should be necessary if we take a look around our properties and check nothing is inconveniencing others, including those using mobility scooters and push chairs.

Road Safety and E Scooters

Can I remind those of you who own, or have children who own e scooters, that they should not be ridden on public roads or pavements. They are only legal on private land. There have been a few very near misses within the village recently, and locally there has been a fatality.

Speeding continues to be an issue around the village, particularly on Main Road, Chapel Lane and Longdale Lane. The Police have informed me that speed vans will be increasingly deployed on those roads. Please slow down especially for the sake of our children and elderly residents.

Cornwater 2 housing development, (now called Byron Place)

Residents will have noticed that work has commenced on the building site at the bottom of the Leisure Centre drive. Piper Homes met with myself and the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council, to discuss their plans. They have recently been trapping reptiles before commencing the groundworks. 40 reptiles were removed from the site and relocated in nearby areas. Later in August, the access road and sewers will be put in place with the building of the 46 properties commencing in October. The plans are virtually identical to those of the previous builder with 7 x 5 bed properties, 9 x 4 beds, 12 x 3 beds and 18 x 2 beds, including a number of bungalows. Further details can be found on the Piper Homes website,

<https://www.piperhomes.co.uk/development/byron-place>

Free Tennis for young people

The Parish Council is offering free tennis for 14 – 18-year-old local residents this summer, at the Leisure Centre, Monday – Friday 10 – 4.00pm. This is funded by your Gedling Borough Councillors, from their community funds. Please contact the booking office to secure a court. Some rackets and balls are available to loan. The sessions for adults proved popular and it is good to see some of the participants continuing to play. Remember, the three courts are available to book by residents, apart from when club sessions are taking place.

Christmas lights switch on, planning meeting.

I was very surprised that no residents attended the recent planning meeting for the Christmas lights switch on. After a number of negative comments were received prior to the event last year, I expected contributions and suggestions from the detractors.

Plans for this year's event are in place and hopefully it will be as good or even better than last year.

Save the date, Saturday December 3rd at 5.00pm with the children's lantern parade commencing at 4.30pm.

Wishing you all a good Summer.

Martin Smith

Chairman, Ravenshead Parish Council