

Ravenshead Parish Council

Local Elections, 4th May

Elections will be held on 4th May for three Councillors to represent the Newstead Abbey Ward of Gedling Borough Council. In addition, there will be eleven seats to be contested for Ravenshead Parish Council. Further details of prospective candidates will be seen in future editions of the newsletter. Residents should, however be aware that the Electoral Commission is making a major change regarding voting at the Polling Station. Voters will now need to produce photo ID. Further details can be found at electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID . There will be further information provided by Gedling Borough Council and this will be communicated directly to residents. Basically, you will need either a passport, driving licence, an older person's bus pass with a photo or if you possess none of these, you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, which needs to be applied for by 25th April. If anyone would like any assistance or further information, do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerks on 01623 490035 or by e mail to office@ravensheadpc.org.uk

Ravenshead Post office and Sorting Office

You may be aware that the Royal Mail are planning to close the Sorting Office attached to Ravenshead Post Office. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter. Please support, either the on-line petition or by signing the paper version, which is available in the Post Office. At the time of writing this article, over 900 residents have signed the online petition, which reflects the feeling within our community.

<https://www.change.org/SaveRavensheadSortingOffice>

Fruit trees on Ravenshead Common

Again, as mentioned previously, the Parish Council is delighted to have the opportunity to work with the St. Peter's Church Eco-group in maintaining and improving the fruit trees on the Ravenshead Common, the land adjacent to Swallow Crescent and the Leisure Centre. An action day is planned for Saturday 4th March, 9.30-12.00. Please contact the Parish Clerks on 01623 490035 or by email to office@ravensheadpc.org.uk if you are able to help. Refreshments will be provided and advice will also be given to residents on how to look after their own trees.

Ravenshead Litter Force

Litter picking volunteers will be out and about in the village on Saturday 11th March and Friday 14th April. Regular volunteers will be contacted with the details. However, if anyone else would like to offer two hours of their time to enhance our fantastic village, again, please contact the Parish Clerks.

Council tax village precept

At our January Parish Council meeting, Councillors were presented with a number of options regarding setting a balanced budget for 2023/24. A unanimous decision was made to put forward a proposal to increase the village element of the council tax by a modest amount. For a typical Band D property, this will result in an increase by 5.7p a week or £2.98 a year, at 5.61%. With inflation running considerably higher, particularly for utility bills, this was considered by Parish Councillors to be a necessary increase. As mentioned previously, no financial support from Gedling is given towards the cost of providing facilities within Ravenshead, this has to be found from the precept.

Reporting issues within the village

The Parish Council is always keen to engage with residents and a number of you do contact us with issues and concerns. Our Parish Clerks, Belinda and Amanda can be contacted on 01623 490035 or office@ravensheadpc.org.uk. They can often help with enquires about the most common concerns, which usually relate to Highways, a Nottinghamshire County Council responsibility, or waste bins, a Gedling BC responsibility. Monthly Parish Council meeting are held at the Leisure Centre on the third Monday of the month at 7.00pm. The public are always welcome to attend for a short section at 7.30pm, to allow residents to address the councillors. The agendas for both the full council meeting and for the planning committee meeting are displayed on the Parish Council website and on the precinct and Leisure Centre noticeboards.

Martin Smith

Chairman, Ravenshead Parish Council