

Ravenshead Parish Council

Happy New Year

Happy New Year to all residents, from Ravenshead Parish Council.

Christmas lights switch on event

The Christmas lights switch on last December proved to be another huge success. In excess of 400 residents attended and Santa and the Round Table were kept very busy, handing out presents to over 150 children. The grotto, which was installed by the Scouts, was beautifully decorated inside once again by Stephen Reddish. Thank you to all those who attended, and in particular to my fellow Parish Councillors and staff for organising the event, alongside the Village Hall Management Committee. There was a great children's disco inside and the music outside was particularly enjoyed by the young children, especially when the artificial snow machines were operating. Thank you to the Vicar for the blessing and to Santa for switching the lights on. The bar and the mulled wine were very popular as were the hot drinks and mince pies served by the WI. The raffle income helped to offset some of the costs due to the fantastic prizes of hampers which were filled with donations from local businesses. We thank you all.

As mentioned previously, new lamp post lights and lights for the trees were purchased this year by the Parish Council. The consensus is that they were much improved on those previously rented from Gedling Borough Council. The village now owns its own lights with considerable savings in installation costs being possible in future years.

Leisure Centre Reburishment

A further delay to the start date of the refurbishment has occurred whilst funding is sought. The cost of materials and labour has rocketed recently, which has meant a few changes to the plans have been necessary to ensure the costs remain within budget. Regular users will continue to be informed, but the start date for work to begin is expected to be 1st May.

Sinkholes

Users of the sports pitches will have noticed a small and large area cordoned off. Recently, two holes appeared in the pitches which required investigation by the Coal Authority. A crack in the bedrock was discovered which required sealing, back filling and turfing. Hopefully we will have no further issues.

Skatepark petition

At a recent meeting of the Parish Council, a resident attended asking for the reinstatement of the Skatepark. Residents will recall that it was removed due to the very expensive costs required to maintain it. In the last few years before it was dismantled, more than £22000 was spent on repairs. A large part of which was used to rectify vandalism. To replace the skatepark with a concrete bowl, it would cost around £200,000, money which we do not have and could only be obtained by grants.

The Parish Council has always been clear with residents, that we have numerous spending priorities and constraints. At a recent Parish Council meeting, a medium- and long-term spending/funding strategy was agreed.

In priority order, it was agreed that funding should be sought for:

1. Leisure Centre refurbishment, phase 1.
2. Leisure Centre refurbishment phase 2
3. Haddon Road playpark. Replacement of equipment.
4. Abbey Gates playpark. Replacement of equipment.
5. Leisure Centre floodlighting. Replacement with LED lights.
6. Skatepark. Replacement of ramps.
7. Leisure Centre playpark. Refurbishment.

We are actively seeking funding from external sources and have been successful with some of these applications. As mentioned in a petition, conducted by residents, other areas have secured funding, often provided by the housebuilders working within their area.

Fortunately, Ravenshead has not been faced with large scale development and only a small contribution from the Piper Homes development on Longdale Lane, was required for public open spaces.

The work required on the skatepark will be very costly and will be looked at in the order of priorities that has been identified. In the meantime, those young people who wish to skateboard have a number of alternative options within the local area.

If and when any funding does become available, we will consult residents.

Ravenshead Litter Force

The team will be resuming its regular litter picking sessions on 9th February and 2nd March. Please meet in the Hutt car park at 9.30am. Regular members will be contacted, but new volunteers are always very welcome. Please contact the Parish Clerks, details below.

Parish Council

Please remember that as volunteers we do our best to serve the residents of Ravenshead. We may not be the local authority responsible for services which you may need assistance with, however our Parish Clerks should be able to point you in the right direction. They can be contacted at office@ravensheadpc.org.uk or on 01623 490035.

Martin Smith

Chairman, Ravenshead Parish Council