

Ravenshead Parish Council

Best Kept Village Competition

You will recall that we decided this year, to enter the Best Kept Village competition for the first time. Whilst we did not win on our first attempt, we were delighted to receive the news that we are a runner up. The judges were very complimentary about what they saw, and commented in particular about the community feel to the village, highlighting Ravenshead Community Transport. They said "Community and public areas were well cared for. Some nice displays of flowers. Pleasant domestic properties with well-kept gardens. Community facilities kept to a very good standard".

Thank you to all those who made an extra effort to tidy up around their property.

Youth Shelter

Observant residents who use the Leisure Centre, may have noticed that the Youth Shelter, next to the 3G pitch, has been removed. The shelter was intended as somewhere for young people to hang out with a small seat, roof and open sides. Unfortunately, the Parish Council has received a continuous stream of complaints about the anti-social behaviour in and around the shelter, especially the strong smell of drugs. This was particularly an issue when young footballers were involved in training on the pitch and they were subjected to the smell of drugs. Consequently, at the June meeting of the Council, a very reluctant decision was made to take down the shelter. There has been a significant drop in anti-social behaviour since its removal.

Abbey Medical Practice and the Pharmacy

Parish Councillors have been contacted by residents about the changes made to the way that medical appointments are made at the Doctor's surgery. The majority of residents have felt that the changes made are not for the better and the new system is too difficult to manage. A small number have said the system is an improvement. The Parish Council would welcome comments from residents before raising the issue with the Practice Manager. Please contact the Parish Clerks at office@ravensheadpc.org.uk or on 01623 490035. Ideally, an explanation about the changes made could be published by the surgery.

Comments have also been received about issues regarding the Pharmacy opening times and the difficulties faced by some in obtaining prescriptions. Again, before the Pharmacy is contacted, any comments, positive or negative can be passed to the Parish Clerks.

Main Road Drainage Grips and other road issues

Working with our County Councillor, Chris Barnfather, we are delighted to see work being carried out on the roads in and around the village. In excess of 20 drainage channels, called grips, have been cut into the verge on Main Road to allow surface water to run into the roadside ditch. This should help to alleviate flooding further down the road. Blocked drains on Nottingham Road have been reported by Chris and these have now been cleared. The new road surface on Kirkby Road is a huge improvement. This is one of many other schemes that the County Highways department is tackling in an attempt to clear the backlog of repairs. Whilst it is just outside of our village, many residents will be delighted to see that Whinbush lane, leading from the A614 to Calverton, is due to be resurfaced in September.

HM Government Shared Prosperity Fund

The Parish Council recently applied for funding from the previous government, for money towards improving the look of the village. The application was successful. In total, £5000 was received and this will go towards extra planters, replacement planters, plants and Christmas lights and towards the sizeable running costs of the lights.

Litter Force

The Ravenshead Litter Force will be out again collecting litter from the roadside on Saturday 3rd August. Regulars will be contacted, but if there any additional volunteers who would like to give up two hours, starting at 9.30am from the Hutt car park, you would be most welcome. Please contact the Parish Clerks at office@ravensheadpc.org.uk or on 01623 490035

Martin Smith

Chairman, Ravenshead Parish Council