



## Easingwold Town Council

2016 - 2017



## Annual Newsletter

### A Message from Council Chairman Peter Nottage

Time, they say, waits for no man and for me this year has gone by far too quickly, but I believe that the Town Council has still done a great deal. A view that was validated in March, when our Clerk and myself had the honour to accept Hambleton District Council's award as Parish Council of the Year.

In achieving this recognition, the Town Council has undertaken a number of projects with the purpose of improving the lives of its residents and serving all sectors of the community the best way possible. Our projects, some of which are covered in this newsletter, are always designed to encourage community involvement and spirit; making the most of the funds available and leveraged by grants wherever possible.

The Friendliness Initiative involves inviting lonely and isolated residents (often elderly) to a monthly afternoon tea at the George Hotel hosted by Councillor Shirley Shepherd. Speaking of important, elderly citizens, we celebrated the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with a beacon and a vintage tea party. We also have two new citizens groups that have become active on behalf our community – the Easingwold Business Forum (helping keep the town vibrant) and the Easingwold Green Spaces Group (helping getting people involved and getting the best out of our green spaces).

For our younger citizens we have rebuilt our Skate Park in Millfields with funding sourced from HDC and WREN. To supplement this we have developed a broader vision for our Millfields open space area for which consultations have begun and will continue. Having installed the Skate Park, the next stage is to put land drainage into the recreational area so the public can use it better. Equally we have been (and will continue) refurbishing and replacing our public benches. Some are still available for sponsorship should people wish to do so. In the town centre we have refurbished the market stalls and the gents toilets and some of the seating areas in the market green – with the rest to follow. We have formed a joint group with the police, HDC, COZIE and others aimed at both firmly tackling anti-social behaviour whilst developing more positive relationships with our young citizens.

The Town Council is also working hard on a Neighbourhood Plan alongside the emerging Hambleton District Local Plan. We will be widely consulting on our progress during the summer and autumn.



## Inside

Page 2 – Easingwold's Year

Page 3 – A Great Easingwold  
Future

Page 4 – News from the  
Council and its Committees

### EASINGWOLD TOWN COUNCIL

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# Easingwold's Year

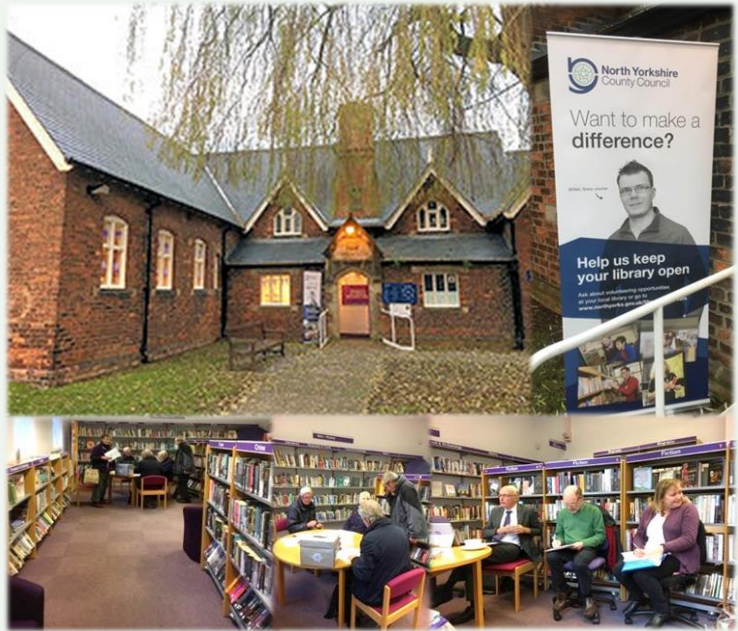
Easingwold in Bloom – the beauty of our town writ large



2016 Winner – Best Garden:  
11 West Avenue

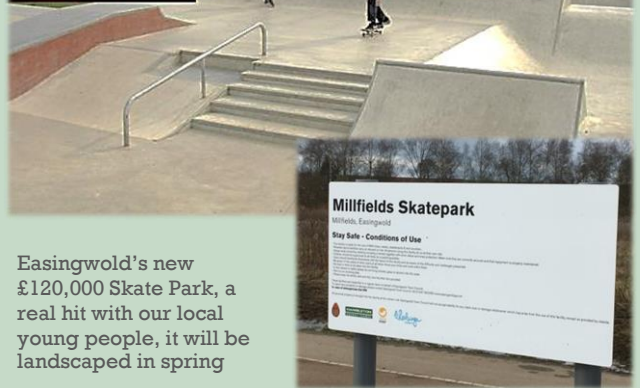


2016 Winner – Best Commercial Flowers  
Tea-Hee!



Easingwold Town Council sponsors the emergence from April 2017 of a volunteer-based community library for the town and surrounding villages

Father Christmas gets friendly at the ETC Friendliness Initiative Tea



Easingwold's new £120,000 Skate Park, a real hit with our local young people, it will be landscaped in spring



During 2016 the Easingwold Green Spaces Group has worked in many of our open areas. Amongst other things they have created a Community Orchard close to Millfields woods.



Easingwold enjoyed the Queen's 90th Birthday very much!



# A Great Easingwold Future

## ETC's Vision for Easingwold



Easingwold Town Council (ETC) has been working on its vision for Easingwold from now until 2035, which will be validated with the community. It will then be used to help create a Neighbourhood Plan for the town; this will compliment and add a local focus to the Hambleton District Council (HDC) Local Plan that is currently under development. As the Neighbourhood Plan emerges there will be extensive public consultations and the publication of a new draft document. This document will need to be cleared by HDC and the UK Planning Inspectorate before being offered to the local population for acceptance via referendum.

ETC's vision is one that is aimed at encouraging the positive development of Easingwold over the coming decades as a thriving town. A great place to grow up in, live in, visit, access services in, work in and grow old in. We wish Easingwold to be a prosperous community that has a clear and distinctive character, one that delivers a high quality of life for all its citizens and users. This vision is based on two equal, interlinked but mutually supportive aspects; namely the town's physical infrastructure and its social infrastructure.

Easingwold looks set to grow further during the period 2017 – 2035 in-line with areas identified for development under the emerging HDC Local Plan. Easingwold Town Council wishes this larger community to retain its essential character, but to upgrade with the times, capturing the benefits and opportunities that modernisation can deliver; conserving the best and improving the rest. Achieving this objective means supporting measured, proportionate, timely and sustainable development to meet local requirements. This development and the management of the town will be supported by policies having a positive effect on the locality, maintaining and improving the quality of the natural and built environments, while providing a positive social environment in which citizens can thrive.

We will need controlled growth in housing and commercial/industrial building over the period in selected sites developed in conjunction with the Hambleton District Council Local Plan. The Town Council will work to assure that this is compatible with the setting of the town and provides a balance of accommodation according to the population's needs.

The Town Council will continue the evolution of the adopted green spaces throughout the town for which it currently has responsibility. This is especially true for the facilities in Millfields, Claypenny, Chase Garth, the Memorial Park and the Town Greens.

The Council will encourage a positive and full use of the town's central spaces. It views the quality of the Market Place as vital to the town's status as a Market Town and will continuously strive to ensure that good facilities are provided and a vibrant town market is encouraged. The Council wishes to see the Town Centre continue as a strong retailing, hostelry and commercial centre for the town. To retain its inherent attractiveness and importance to the town, the Council will continue with its programmes of planting; grass, bush and tree care; provision of benches, public toilets and market facilities etc.

Easingwold Town Council will ensure that it has a suitable structure and budget to enable it to promote and facilitate *Social Easingwold*. This will include co-ordination of activities where needed to maximise their impact for the town. Local individuals, organisations and groups will be encouraged to engage with ETC and its committees and seek their help in keeping the town's social programmes and activities vibrant and plentiful. The Council would like to see a full programme of interesting and exciting events throughout the year and across the town, such that it is always attractive to visit and stay within Easingwold.

Easingwold Town Council very much values and wishes to facilitate and promote the wide range of social clubs, associations and groups within the town. This includes its many sports clubs; youth groups; social support and networking groups; religious groups; educational and training groups; environmental, rural and agricultural groups; and many more.

Easingwold Town Council would also like to promote and support the use of local resources, markets, enterprises and artisans by the townspeople so that as much as is possible Easingwold can fulfil the needs of our people. To this end, Easingwold Town Council will try to help the people of Easingwold to access and retain local activities, services, artisans and resources.



## Town Council



**Litter and Dog Waste is a nuisance in our town. Please clean up after yourselves and use the containers provided**



**Easingwold Green Spaces Group have established our new Community Orchard close to the Claypenney Play Park**

- The Town Council is proud to have been voted as Hambleton District Council's 'Parish council of the Year'. We know that this reflects not only the work of the Council Clerks, Contractors and Councillors; but also the efforts of the whole community. We would like to thank you all for your support and hard work.
- Although not a major issue, we do remain concerned about anti-social behaviour in Easingwold with instances of youthful boisterousness, disturbances, littering and dog fouling. Please help keep Easingwold a great place to live by keeping it clean and tidy and respecting good behaviours.
- We are working hard to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan on which we can consult with all our townspeople and then prepare for a referendum. If the plan is accepted, then more money from the development levies will come to the town for investment in our facilities and infrastructure.
- We have established Working Groups for a range of issues from parking to the cobbles, marketplace and Millfields. They continue to be active and will be seeking positive results for the town during the coming year.

## Open Spaces Committee

- The Open Spaces Committee has continued with its programme of flower planting, verge cutting and tree maintenance to keep Easingwold looking good. This has included work in the Mallison Hill Woods and the verge along Oulston Road.
- An arboriculture report on the wellbeing of our veteran oak tree in Chase Garth Park has been received and acted on by re-balancing its branches and hopefully retaining its health for many years to come.
- We are undertaking surveys of the Easingwold trees that are the responsibility of the town to maintain so that we can have a planned maintenance programme for the future.
- In combination with the Easingwold Green Spaces Group a community orchard has been established near Claypenney playground; planting has been undertaken in Chase Garth and the Millfields Woods.
- Council working parties have looked at and cleared our drains, public footpaths and Millfields car park.
- We are dedicated to keeping Easingwold's open spaces accessible and available for our citizens to enjoy so please report any issues to the Town Clerk for action.

## Recreation Committee

- Please report any faults or problems you identify with our children's play equipment and play areas to the Town Clerk, who will ensure that these issues are urgently addressed.
- The play equipment in each of our recreation areas does receive a regular professional examination to ensure that they are safe for our children to use.
- We are proud to have been able to complete our £120,000 investment (with the support of HDC and WREN) in a new Skate Park in Millfields. This is proving incredibly popular with our young people and will be landscaped when the better weather arrives in spring.
- Now that the heavy work of installing the Skate Park is completed, we can progress to providing suitable land drainage to the Millfields recreation area. This is urgently needed to enable the facilities to be used more extensively and pave the way for other improvements.

## Town Centre Committee

- The Friday Market changed recently when John Pearce retired and was thanked for his 25 years of excellent service. A new contractor now deals with the installation and dismantling of the stalls on Fridays. Many of the existing stalls are being refurbished and new ones have been bought.
- The Gents toilet has been refurbished and we are looking to improve the remainder of our Public Toilets as quickly as possible.
- We have started the refurbishment of the market green seating and will complete the others soon.
- Our War Memorial has received a grant from the War Memorials Trust to help keep this important local landmark in tip-top condition for generations to come.
- Once again the annual Easingwold-in-Bloom competition has been held throughout the town and many, well deserved prizes were awarded. We are especially grateful to people who entered – it's great to have Easingwold looking good all year round.