



## Easingwold Town Council

2018 - 2019



## Annual Newsletter



*Our winning domestic  
Christmas lights  
December 2018*

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Council and its Committees

**EASINGWOLD TOWN COUNCIL**  
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### A Message from Council Chairman **Peter Nottage**

Each year we reflect on the passage of another year, each has its similarities and each its unique characteristics. The 2018-19 Council Year has been no different; but it is the last for this Council, whose four-year term of office ends with the elections due in May. Throughout our term we have spent a great deal of time, resources and energy keeping Easingwold in physically good condition and providing a broad-ranging community support. We have created a vision for Easingwold and gone a long way towards implementing it. In this regard, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their hard work and dedication to the town and its needs. More importantly, we are all grateful to our Town Clerk, Jane Bentley, her Assistant Clerk, Jean Fairbrother, and their contractor team for all their diligent and energetic support. It is they that organise and undertake all the important, but unsung workload that keeps us in order: from meetings and events; to cleaning the toilets; cutting the greens and planting our flowers; and keeping the parks and open spaces; to managing the markets and allotments; assuring that the repairs and maintenance are completed and much more. The Council will change but their essential work will go on to the benefit of us all.

The restructuring of the Council and its Committees is now bearing fruit by allowing more time for the Council to manage its role and drive progress; whilst allowing the Committees to develop and execute the workload. Perhaps the largest programme of recent times has been the creation of and public consultation about our Millfields Park vision. This has resulted in numerous proposals that we are now busy implementing.

We are proud to have been Hambleton District Council's Parish Council of the Year for successive years and wish the new Council every success as they take over our mantle in May.

# The Easingwold Life

## Millfields Park Easingwold

### Proposed Masterplan



## Millfields Vision

Throughout September ETC held a public consultation about their Millfields Vision through local exhibitions, communication packs and on-line.

This was followed by a professional analysis of the results and a public Council Meeting to discuss them and decide on the way forward.

It was agreed that all the proposals would be progressed. There was support for a Jogging Track but concerns over the lighting impact. So a lighting consultant has been employed to identify a lower impact version for further consultation. The other proposals have all been moved forwards and are at varying degrees of implementation.



Our ETC Friendliness Initiative continues in 2019



With the sponsorship of BATA, our Easingwold Tourist Information Centre garden has been back to its glory days and has won the commercial section of the Easingwold in Bloom competition for 2018



Rockin' All Over the Wold after more success in 2018 is back again supporting the Yorkshire Air Ambulance on the 13<sup>th</sup> July this year. It's a definite date for your diary.



The Millfields Park front hedge has been re-sited at an angle to improve visibility for drivers leaving both the car park and the Millfield Surgery.

## Our 2018-2019 Diary



Christmas comes but once a year as our Christmas Market at the Galtres Centre; Lions Christmas Sleigh, and the Light-up-a-life tree and ceremony bring our town centre to life; delivering fun and seasonal well-being

Throughout the 2018-19 council year Easingwold Town Council has been consolidating and operating within its new structure. Clearly this has been working, as we remain the Hambleton District Council – Parish Council of the Year. Whilst this accolade is pleasing, the year has not been without its challenges and issues. We keep consistently working towards fulfilling our vision and its expression within the town.

The social aspects of our responsibilities have accelerated under the auspices of the Social and Events Committee. The council website has been completely revised and updated to wide acclaim using a new system that allows the Town Clerks to operate and update it themselves. Our work on accessibility and inclusion has continued apace, with Dementia Awareness training for many local businesses. We have chosen to fly the LGBT rainbow flag during February to show support to this group. We have a new working group examining how we can complete a flat footpath circuit throughout the marketplace paid for from our reserves and CIL monies. Some councillors have been trained in youth contact to facilitate the creation of a youth forum, but also to enable young people to help design the bike jumps and skills track in Millfields Park. We have spent more money than ever in sponsoring and supporting local organisations and events including the Lions, Easingwold Green Spaces Group, Scouts, Town Band, and EDCCA. You have an opportunity to help keep Easingwold pristine by joining in the Great British Spring Clean on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March. Finally we are sponsoring an Easingwold & District Community Day to be held across the town centre on Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> and we hope that everyone will attend.

One event we must all remember with fondness and respect are the *Battle's Over* celebrations of Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>. A group of distinguished organisations and the Council delivered an astounding day: from the soldier silhouette; to the poppy plaques; the march, service and ceremonies; to the Millfields beacon. Our respects go to all those that have served their country in any way and especially those that gave their lives.

On the physical side of Easingwold much has happened. The refurbishments across the marketplace continue, with improved paths, benches, all-year around seating at our hostelrys and cafés, improved litter and dog bins. We invested in our biggest and widest ever display of Christmas lights; with a Christmas lights and window display competition added to compliment Easingwold in Bloom during the summer.

Our weekly market has been widely praised as one of the best in the region and has a strong support from its traders and a waiting list to join in. This year we have introduced the concept of guest traders to add variety and interest to the offering and this has been equally well received. The Council is now undertaking a consultation to see how this offering can be improved even further.

Finally we must mention our biggest-ever public consultation exercise with regard to our vision for the future of Millfields Park. The council has been conscious that the growth of Easingwold is putting significant pressure on its largest public park and we have agreed a wide range of projects that will improve its usability and value to many different groups within the community whilst respecting its inherent characteristics, flora and fauna.

## Town Council

ETC flies the rainbow flag of the LGBT community, to remind us all that diversity is to be welcomed and supported



- After this 4-year term a new Council will be elected in May. Should you wish to be a candidate, you have to complete the nomination pack and return it to the Returning Officer in Hambleton District Council. Advice on this is available from the Town Clerk (contact details on page 1)
- The new Council structure is now firmly embedded and working effectively to fulfil the Council's responsibilities and duties, as well as support the implementation of its Vision for Easingwold
- Easingwold is growing very quickly, as evidenced by the major developments by Persimmon and Keir being underway. Easingwold Town Council has begun receiving a 15% proportion of the CIL monies arising from this and has a project list to use these funds to alleviate the growth pressures where possible. Our first priority is to complete a circuit of flat footpaths around the town centre to improve accessibility
- The Council continues to work with the Police, HDC, NYCC, & COZIE on anti-social behaviour in the town.

## Recreation & Open Spaces Committee

- The Council programme of open space and recreation/play park maintenance and development continues. Please report any issues to the Town Clerks
- Significant amounts of work have been undertaken on the trees under our responsibility – most visibly with the pollarding programme on Uppleby. Alongside, the Council's grass cutting programme continues
- Once again volunteer working groups have been helping us clean up and work on many practical things to make Easingwold nicer. There will be more, so please join in; or borrow our equipment and fulfil your own preferences
- We've been refurbishing/replacing some of our public benches. Our new ones are made from recycled materials for a longer service. Sponsorships are available, so please contact the Clerks to do so.
- The extensive Millfields Vision project and its public consultation have been completed and decisions made. The implementation programme is now underway and results will become visible during the year.



The drainage of the Millfields Park south meadow to improve its diversity and usability in preparation for the Millfields Vision

## Operations Committee

- We have continued our investment programme in the town's infrastructure. We plan to accelerate this in the coming years using a combination of reserves, CIL & Section 106 funds plus grants and sponsorships
- Our Town Clerks can help with your needs; but if you wish to report issues relating to highways, drainage, lighting etc. please do this to NYCC or HDC via their help-lines or websites
- Our market continues to grow and receive recognition for its range, friendliness and convenience
- We have extended our exterior seating licences for our hostellers and cafés to a year-round status. Both to improve the ambience of the town centre and add to the convenience of using the marketplace
- Significant areas of the marketplace have been refurbished with better paths and seats. This will be extended during 2019.

## Social & Events Committee

- The ETC policy on Inclusion has been used to help us support a broad range of local groups and organisations, the Dementia Friendliness initiative and support towards accessibility
- The programme of grants, sponsorships and provisions for local organisations, groups and charities has been bigger than ever; as we reach out more extensively to the voluntary sector, so vital for a vibrant community
- Work continues, with professional help from NYCC & North Yorkshire Youth, on the establishment of a Youth Forum for our young people
- The ETC website has been completely refurbished and re-launched during the autumn. This has facilitated much easier management of its content and structure by the Town Clerks.
- We do hope that all eligible organisations will participate in the Easingwold & District Community Day, May 11<sup>th</sup>, and that everyone will come along.