



## Easingwold Town Council

2021 - 2022



## Annual Newsletter



Our local Foodbank is now a part of EDCCA.

We know that times may be difficult for some amongst us; and, if you need their help, please do call them on 01347 822875 and we know that they will provide you with a discreet support.

Please do contact EDCCA if you wish to volunteer to help local people; or, if you are having problems that may be helped by their support. If you are looking for local resources, please go to their website or call them.

EDCCA, Police House, Church Hill, Easingwold YO61 3JX Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30am to 12.30pm Tel:01347822875 email: [info@edcca.org.uk](mailto:info@edcca.org.uk)

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**EASINGWOLD TOWN COUNCIL**  
Contact: Town Clerk  
Easingwold Library, Market Place  
Easingwold YO61 3AN Tel: 01347 822422

### A Message from the Easingwold Town Councillors

When we wrote to you last, we had hoped that we would have put a couple of difficult years behind us, and we could look forward to a period of post pandemic rebuilding and calm. Unfortunately, as we write, several of us have just gotten over Covid and we know we are not alone. All of us, have much to thank our local Covid Vaccination Centre for, as their injections are helping us to fight against and to live with this nasty disease. Please keep yourselves safe, our Council sends our best wishes for those most badly affected, and condolences to those that have lost loved ones.

Equally in 2021, we could not foresee the terrible war and traumatic events that are occurring daily in the Ukraine. We know that many amongst us are doing their best to offer such support and aid as they can to those living with this terror in their country; and their compatriots who have been forced to flee abroad. When you see this, there may well be Ukrainian refugees staying in our wider community. Nothing we can say or do can soften the disaster that has befallen them; we can only hope that they will find some comfort and respite here. If Easingwold Town Council can help in some way, then please contact the Town Clerk and we will do our best. We hope that the Ukrainian people will prevail and that they will be able to restore their proud nation to its previous splendour. In the meantime, we believe that the Council has your full support in our decision to fly the Ukrainian flag in our town square to emphasize our best wishes and hopes for the people of the Ukraine in their travails.

In another unexpected twist, this Newsletter is the last that will be offered by this team of Easingwold Town Councillors. The advent of the new North Yorkshire Unitary Authority means that our term in office has been reduced by a year and elections for a new Town Council will be held on the 5th May. Please do go out and vote and exercise your right to select those amongst us who will serve you for the next 5 years; before we return to 4-year Council terms thereafter.

On this theme, we should like to thank all the Town Council team that has served for the last three years. We are all unpaid volunteers and independent representatives, all working for the benefit of Easingwold and all its people and visitors. The significant array of progress that has been delivered and is shown in this Newsletter has been achieved by collective hard work. That said, such progress could not have been realised without the parallel support and hard work of our Town Clerks (Jane and Jean) and their array of contractors, workers and volunteers. So many thanks go to them for their efforts which have greatly benefited Easingwold.

When we commenced our journey as the Easingwold Town Council we reviewed our 'Vision for Easingwold', and we have done our best to work towards our goal. In doing so we have been forced to increase our precept for 2022-23 to cover our operating costs. This Council and the one before had held the precept steady for 5 years by using cost savings, carried-over funds, CIL, grant monies and reserves. Unfortunately, we could not continue in this way; had we tried the new Council would have run out of money. We have had to set the precept higher, at a level that just covers the annual Council operating costs. We will still need grants and outside funding support to enable us to complete our projects. Please enjoy reading about the work we have completed and join us in supporting the new Council when it has been elected.

# Millfields Park Evolution



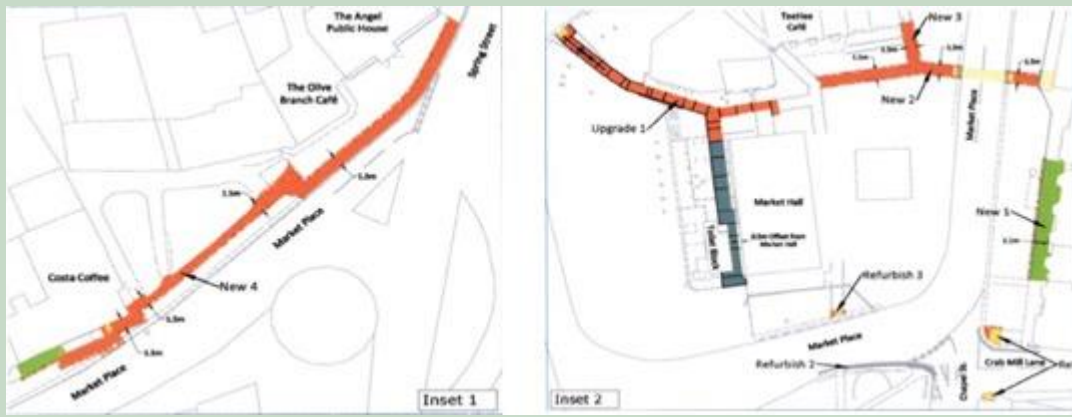
Throughout the year ETC has worked on the continued development of Millfields Park to enhance its already excellent facilities. Perhaps the most marked change has been the creation by our volunteers of the new Friendship Garden to a design by Crayke Plant Nursery. This provides a haven to sit and relax just as you enter the park, with great views across to all the rest of the park. Next, in the recreation area, we have widened the old horseshoe path and made it into a loop for our joggers and walkers to enjoy and for the weekly Easingwold Park Run to use. Extra benches are planned for the convenience of the skate park and jogging/walking path users.

In the more natural spaces of the park we have: maintained the always popular Jacko's Way; added many new trees; selectively cut the meadows to enhance their biodiversity; dug out the wetlands ditch to allow proper drainage; cleaned and maintained the permissive route for horses and its ditch; and added some more seats around the paths. Finally, we have just rotovated the wildflower border ready to completely refresh its planting for this year.

We have also held a highly successful and well supported public consultation about some new opportunities. Thus, when funds are available, the Council has agreed to: provide winter lighting for the jogging/walking circuit; create a fitness trail; provide learners & advanced bike tracks; and finally, to develop a dog exercise and training area when the selected land can be raised.

# Town Centre Footpaths – Public Consultation

The Council has reached the moment when the Town Centre Footpaths Scheme design will soon be submitted to public consultation. Its objective is to substantially improve the pedestrian accessibility and safety of the town square.



The plan includes a section of new footpath from the side of the Post Office to the bottom of Spring Street. Another new section will go through the marketplace cobbles in front of Tea-Heel to the main road. The third new piece will go across the front of the George Hotel. The corners of the Chapel Street footpaths and those alongside the town hall and across the car park will be refurbished. Should we receive a positive support during the consultation; then the Council will seek suitable contractors and fulfil the scheme as in stages as funding allows.

# Easingwold's Summer of Music

Last summer ETC filled the town centre with people and music every Saturday afternoon to great acclaim. So, the Easingwold Summer of Music was born, and weekly musicians performed from the Butter Cross for us all. This was so successful that it has been extended and enhanced for the 'Summer of 22'. It will run from 14<sup>th</sup> May until the 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Look out in the local press for our advertisements as a whole range of great acts will be there to greet you again. As a highlight on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July the ever popular 'Rockin' All Over the Wold' will return.





## Our 2021-2022 Diary



Easingwold's markets have been a considerable success during the year. They have proved a real benefit during the pandemic as they have allowed their customers to buy many of their essentials without needing to go inside. The Friday market continues from strength to strength and the monthly Farmers Market is ever popular. The monthly artisan markets, run by Little Bird Markets, have proved a real attraction. They bring a strong buzz and huge variety of artisanal goods to the town centre come rain or shine!

This Council's term of office has been shortened by a year, so May 5<sup>th</sup> will bring an election to select a new Council to serve the town for the 5 years from 2022 until 2027. We wish that new Council well as they seek to continue to support our community and its growth in the years to come. Please get out and vote for your new Councillors and then work with them to make Easingwold an ever-better place to live in, grow up in, work in and visit. This change comes with the advent of a new unitary authority covering the whole of North Yorkshire and the loss of Hambleton District Council. The first year (2022-23) will be one of transition, so we cannot know until late 2023 or 2024 how exactly this will affect Easingwold Town Council and its role and responsibilities for the community. Things will change, and the new town council will be representing Easingwold's needs in that process.

Once again, the 2021-22 Council year has brought its challenges and changes. Having hoped that Covid would recede, sadly it is still strongly with us, although we are learning to live with it as a fact of our lives. The monthly main Council and Committee meetings are back being held in the Galtres Centre, where the Council Chamber has been kindly refurbished. Just to remind you, all these Council meetings are open, public meetings and everyone is welcome to attend and hear what is said and being done. Equally, we are holding an Annual Parish Meeting once again, in the Galtres Centre on the 27th April 2022 at 7pm. Please come along, hear what has been done on your behalf and put your questions to the Council. We're working with other organisations to create a series of events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend. Please do come into town, join in, and enjoy the performances, beacon, fireworks, ceremonies and all.

A considerable amount of work has been done during the last 12 months to enhance the social side of Easingwold and help to rebound from the rigours of the pandemic and the global crisis that is following it. Elsewhere we describe the Easingwold Summer of Music and our vibrant markets. The Town Council has extended the outdoor licences of our cafés and hostelrys to improve their ability to trade and enhance the social ambience of the town. We have also given permission for bakery, fish & chips, and ice cream vans to trade periodically in the town. The summer *Easingwold in Bloom* and Christmas *Easingwold in Lights* competitions have continued. We have continued to revamp and enhance the town centre and Long Street Christmas decorations. We have extended our winter and summer town planting; and this summer our colours will be red, white and blue. There is a new notice board in Station Court to help advertise what is going on.

We have installed many new seats, benches, and planters around the town; and received a grant for more in Long Street later this. We have repaired the railings on Spring Street and Uppleby. We are very pleased with the new Friendship Garden in Millfields and hope you all find time to rest a while there. Hopefully there will be another soon in the Memorial Park. Speaking of friendship, our monthly Friendship Teas in the George Hotel are back in full swing and are kindly sponsored by our North Yorkshire County Councillor's Locality Fund.

Keeping Easingwold looking nice is always a major concern. We are grateful to Lynda Rippen and Sjaak of Crayke Plant Nursery for helping design and execute the replanting of the Crescent Green. We have removed a dead cherry tree in the town square and replaced it with a new one. We have been bringing Mallison Hill Woods into more active management, with the clearance of excessive growth, felling some trees, and adding seating. A great place for woodland walks this coming summer. We have planted many new trees in Millfields. The footpaths around Millfields have been maintained and improved. We have rerouted the hedge in Millfields car park to make visibility better for its users. We have put in a storage facility to the back of this car park in conjunction with the Easingwold Green Spaces Group, so that our tools are to hand when needed. We have also held numerous litter-picking events to help keep our hidden little places clear of waste. A plea to everyone – please don't drop litter anywhere in Easingwold; or leave your dog waste on the ground. Pick it up and put it in one of the many litter bins we provide for your convenience or take it home!

Once again, we are grateful to the Easingwold Library for hosting our Council Offices. Finally, we would like to thank our Town Clerks, our contractors and all our volunteers for all that they have done this year. Without them much less could ever have been accomplished.

## Memorial Park

The Memorial Park is important to us all; but needs substantial attention and investment. We have started maintaining the wall and fence, and the children's play area. However, the Bandstand roof needs replacing and much more. We are planning another Friendship Garden and enhanced picnic facilities. We're applying for grants to help us and hope to deliver continuous improvement there.



## Town Council



We are proud to fly the Ukrainian flag above our town square in support of Ukraine and its struggle against unwarranted aggression and war.



With local volunteers we have fully redesigned and replanted the Crescent Green



The refurbishment of our Public Toilets is now complete and their opening and closing is done electronically

- Our meetings are being held in the Galtres Centre once again
- The agendas for all our meetings are published in advance on our website and in local Facebook groups so that you can see if something that will interest you or about which you would like to comment is going to be discussed. If so, then you are welcome to attend
- Our policies, minutes, reports etc. are also stored on our website – so you can consult them to identify what actions we may have taken, what responsibilities we have, and what work we undertake
- The Council will continue with its routine maintenance programmes around the town; please help our contractors by allowing them to complete their tasks without hindrance
- The Town Clerks are there to help you if they can, you can visit them in the Easingwold Library during their office hours, leave them a message on the telephone, or send them an email.
- Easingwold Town Council has limited responsibilities. Whilst the Council is always pleased to try and help, it is often better to contact the relevant authorities directly to seek a response to your question. To help in this the ETC website has a guide and link to different local service providers.

## Recreation & Open Spaces Committee

- This committee oversees a strong programme of maintenance and support for our wonderful open and recreational spaces and our children's play areas.
- In particular, the play areas have a working group who interact with quarterly professional inspections to assure that all the equipment is in good order and safe to use. Please contact the Clerks if you identify issues that may need attention
- We have replaced the roundabout in the Memorial Park children's play area and the ramp up to it. We have done essential maintenance of the rest of the equipment. We have protected the top of the main wall.
- As expressed elsewhere our programme of work in Millfields Park has continued along the lines of our vision. We are working on finding funding for the developments included in our public consultation
- We have continued our programme of tree works in the areas we own throughout the year. We have felled some dangerous trees in several areas and pruned some others.
- We have continued our programme of grass cutting and management for the main town green and parks
- We provide Council Allotments in Dawnay, and should anyone wish to have an allotment, then they should contact the Town Clerks to join the waiting list.

## Operations Committee

- Our offices are open. However, could we please remind you that, whilst our Town Clerks will help your needs as much as they can, the Town Council has limited responsibilities. If you wish to report issues relating to highways, drainage, lighting etc. please do this to NYCC or HDC via their helplines or websites
- The Operations Committee oversees the management of our Council, its offices, services, equipment, finances, markets, archives etc. Comments related to the support we provide or opportunities to improve them should be forwarded to the Town Clerks
- We discuss elsewhere the success of our markets. We try to keep a high level of diversity in the traders present; and keep a list of potential new traders. We also have a series of part-time traders, who fill gaps for illness or holidays.
- We provide street trading licences on our land to cafés and hostelrys to add to the town's vibrancy
- We are working with the HDC Vibrant Market Towns Initiative and the Wold-Class Business forum to keep Easingwold an exciting destination to visit and stay in
- We do hope that you will all visit our town centre and its traders and businesses for all your day-to-day needs.

## Social & Events Committee

- The Council website, email, and IT systems have been updated and improved during the year. Please go on-line to [www.easingwold.gov.uk](http://www.easingwold.gov.uk) and look for yourselves. The Council has also moved to paperless meetings delivering substantial cost savings.
- The Town Centre WiFi is now being provided by NYCC and the ETC facility stopped
- Inclusion and accessibility are important aspects of the ETC programme. We support a broad range of local groups and organisations, as well as our Friendliness Initiative
- Our programme of grants and donations is extensive; but is exclusively in support of local organisations. Should an organisation with which you are involved be looking for support; either financial or in any other way, please contact the Clerks for the necessary forms
- In conjunction with the North Yorkshire Youth Organisation, we have an active Youth Council for the town. Should any young people like to join in, then please contact the Clerks and they will put you in touch with the Organising Team
- We are investing in ever better Christmas Lights and twice-yearly planting to help keep the town looking inviting to visit and good to live in.