



Easingwold Town Council

2022 - 2023



Annual Newsletter



Our local Foodbank is a part of EDCCA.

We know that times maybe 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 discrete 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

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

A Message from Council Chairman Peter Nottage

In May 2022 a new Town Council was elected that will serve you for 5 years, so until 2027. I was, once again, honoured to be elected as Council Chairman and could welcome three new Councillors into our midst - Lottie Cranfield, Caroline Metcalfe and Carl Bilson. We hope that they will enjoy the experience of helping Easingwold in this way. Three previous Councillors Kelly Osborne, Richard Tanfield, and Caroline Fletcher all decided to leave the Council; I should like to thank them for the work they did for us, and the support they gave us. Equally I should like to thank our Clerks – Jane Bentley and Jean Fairbrother, for their continued help and support during the last year. Without them and the very able support of our range of contractors and volunteers we would have been unable to complete the significant programme of work that has been achieved. We're pleased that the Council has been able to keep the increase in its precept to a minimum this year given the strain that the pandemic and now inflation is placing on everyone's finances.

In another change this year from April 1st we are operating under the auspices of a new unitary authority, the North Yorkshire Council (NYC). This has replaced the previous arrangement where we had two partner councils – Hambleton District Council (HDC) and North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). In coming months, as the transition comes fully into being, most of the previous contact arrangements and numbers will still be valid and can still be used. Our new NYC Councillor for Easingwold is Councillor Nigel Knapton and we look forward to working constructively with him to the benefit of Easingwold and all those who live and work in, or visit the town.

As you go around the town you will be able to see a great deal of things that have been achieved and work that is underway on our behalf. In Millfields Park volunteers have built a long-anticipated bike track and some outdoor exercise equipment has been installed, they are already getting considerable use. In the Memorial Park an avenue of trees and new resting gardens have been completed. Perhaps the biggest change is in the town centre where, at last, our long-promised town centre footpaths scheme is becoming a reality thanks to PBS (our contractors), a Project Manager, and a considerable CIL grant from HDC/NYCC provided before the Council change-over mentioned above.

It is with great sadness we note that the war in Ukraine continues into its second year. We know that there are Ukrainian refugees living amongst us. Whilst we hope that they are happy here; we would be happier still if the conflict could end, and they were able to peacefully, and safely go home to their families. In the meantime, the Council continues to generally fly the Ukrainian flag on our flagpole as a token of our support and goodwill. We are pleased that the struggles of the Covid pandemic are now behind us, and we would like to thank all those who helped Easingwold move successfully through it. Let's hope it stays that way!

The new Council has now been operating for close to a year and feels that the time has come for us to review our vision and refresh our plans for what the Council is seeking to achieve on behalf of Easingwold. You will see elsewhere our request for your thoughts on what needs to be done over the coming years. Please let us know what you think by contacting our Clerks.

Our Parks Evolve



Memorial Park

An HDC grant has enabled us to install an avenue of trees and gardens in the Memorial Park. Many aspects of the park are ageing, and the Town Council is progressively trying to refresh them. We are re-roofing and refurbishing the Bandstand during the summer. Sadly, much of the children's play area equipment has aged badly. Work is in hand to try to manage their decline, and to replace pieces of equipment gradually as funds become available. The roundabout is replaced, two sets of swings are on order and will be installed as soon as possible. The hedges and trees are being managed, and the main wall will be pointed when we can.



Millfields Park

Work has continued throughout the year. The wetlands have been dredged once again to keep them clear as part of our maintenance. Grants have enabled a bike track to be installed by volunteers in the south meadow. It has been seeded with grasses and wildflowers for a strong summer display. We have also installed outdoor exercise equipment and picnic facilities near the skate park. A row of trees has been planted thanks to the Easingwold U3A to commemorate their anniversary. The Friendship Garden is now well established and is maintained for us by kind volunteers.

Town Centre Footpaths – the Installation

The much-heralded Town Centre Footpaths scheme is now becoming a reality and will be completed by the end of May.



We are grateful to have received a grant from HDC/NYCC for much of the cost of completing our town centre footpaths scheme, which has been in planning since 2017. Whilst we apologise to everyone for the short-term disruption this work will cause, the benefits on completion will be huge. For the first time it will be possible to go all around and across the town square without being forced to walk on either the road or the cobbles – so providing a huge improvement in accessibility.

Easingwold's Summer of Music



Once again, we will welcome back the Easingwold Summer of Music for 2023. Many of our acts will make a welcome return; and there are some new favourites being booked for you to discover. Especially, don't miss 'Rockin' all over the Wold', still in its usual spot – the second Saturday of July.

2023 Reflections



Easingwold's marketplace basks in the summer sunshine as the ETC Summer of Music gets the crowd foot-tapping!

This year, as we embark on revising and updating our vision, we thought it would be helpful to reflect a little on our current vision and the things it has helped us to deliver. Since 2017 we have tried to use the Vision to help shape how we operate; and to improve the services and resources we deliver to the community. When the vision was created the Town Council was restructured to help us deliver its ideas and promises. That structure is reflected on the next page of this newsletter and the summaries of our committees. We also believe that the vision has helped us to deliver significant changes and benefits within the town (the 2019 ETC Vision is on the Town Council website for you to see). Some of the changes/benefits include:

- The refurbishment of the public toilets and clock tower lights,
- The weekly and monthly markets have been maintained and extended to encourage visitors to the town,
- Currently the town centre footpaths are being extended, refurbished, and improved to enable much greater accessibility,
- There are extensive floral displays; green spaces improvements; structured tree and woodland maintenance,
- Extensive enhancement of the facilities at Millfields Park (we still need to complete the dog exercise area and winter lighting for the jogging path and skatepark),
- Repairs to the Memorial Park and provision of a tree and garden avenue (we still need to complete the bandstand and play area refurbishments, improved hedging, and main walls repointing),
- Enhancement of Chase Garth and protection of the veteran oak,
- Provision of an extended network of defibrillators,
- Support for locally focused organisations and charities with an associated budget and policy,
- Creation of an Easingwold Youth Council,
- Licensing extensive outdoor seating areas for cafes and pubs; and support for the town centre's vibrancy,
- Creation of the Easingwold Summer of Music,
- Improved Council website and the provision of free WiFi in the town square.

Besides this, ETC has also sought to build positive relationships with the District and County Councils as well as other service providers who are responsible for many aspects of the town and its infrastructure that ETC can only influence. Working constructively with them has delivered some benefits. However, ETC feels there is still more to do to have Easingwold's roads, footpaths, sewers, flooding, drainage, gritting etc. improved to the standard it would like to see. We are sure to keep working with these partners on these subjects, as keeping the town in good order will always be a priority. Equally, within the planning system, whilst ETC are not the planning authority, we have sought to promote Easingwold's interests as a town; so that our development and growth is sympathetic to and beneficial to our community.

The Chairman has highlighted above that, since May 2022, a new Town Council has been in place and from April 2023 we have a new partner too, as North Yorkshire Council (our unitary authority) has replaced the District and County Councils. So, we feel that it's the right time to review and completely refresh our vision. We will recognise what has been completed, understand what is yet to be done, and create new, exciting challenges for the future. So ETC are asking our local citizens, organisations, and businesses for their advice. What do they all think should be included in the new vision? What new or enhanced facilities should Easingwold have? What programmes should be created? How can the Town Council help make Easingwold an even-better place to live and work in or visit? We would like to hear from you. Some things you propose may be within the gift of the Town Council, others may require us to do our best to have others deliver for us! None-the-less we're open to hearing your thoughts. Please let us know what you think via our town clerks.

Spring 2023



Town Council



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



Local volunteers kindly maintain the Friendship Garden



Outdoor exercise equipment brings an extra facility to Millfields Park

- Our meetings are held in the Council Chamber of the Galtres Centre and are paperless,
- The agendas for all our meetings are published in advance on our website and local Facebook groups. You are welcome to attend if it interests you. If something you'd like to comment about is being discussed, then you can tell us about it during the public agenda section,
- 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 has routine maintenance programmes in and around the town; please help our contractors by allowing them to complete their tasks without hindrance,
- The Town Clerks are the executive support for the Council. The Clerk also provides administrative and management support to the full council and its committees, and acts as its Responsible Financial Officer,
- Easingwold Town Council has limited responsibilities and so it is always pleased to try and help; however, it is often better to contact the other authorities direct if they operate in the arena of 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 ordered two replacement swing sets for the Memorial Park and await their installation. Other equipment will be maintained as well as we can, and replaced as we can afford to do so,
- 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 that have not yet been delivered,
- We have continued our programme of tree works in the areas we own throughout the year. We have completed a professional tree report for the Claypenny area and felled some dangerous trees in several areas and pruned others,
- We have continued our programme of grass cutting and management for the main town greens 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 situated in the Town Library and open on each Tuesday from 2 - 5pm and Friday from 9:30 - 11:30am. You are welcome to visit then. Otherwise, you can call the Clerks anytime on 01347 822422 and leave a message; or email them on clerk@easingwold.gov.uk,
- The Operations Committee oversees the management of our Council, its offices, services, equipment, finances, markets, archives etc. Comments regarding the support we provide, or opportunities we have for improvement 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/NYC Vibrant Market Towns Initiative and 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 and look for yourselves.
- The Town Centre WiFi is provided by NYC,
- The *Easingwold Summer of Music* starts in June 2023
- 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 invest in Christmas Lights and twice-yearly planting to keep us looking great,
- We offer opportunities to sponsor benches, seats and trees, details can be obtained from the Clerks.