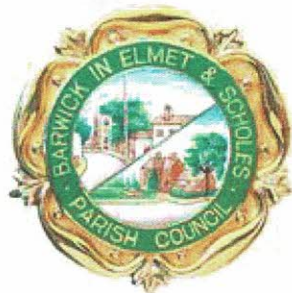


# BARWICK in ELMET & SCHOLLES PARISHCOUNCIL

**Newsletter**  
**May 2013**



## BARWICK for "BRITAIN in BLOOM"



**Barwick in Elmet** has been selected to represent Yorkshire in the Large Village category of **Britain in Bloom** which is a great honour. Competition will come from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and the Channel Islands! Judging will take place late July/early August and the results announced at an Award Ceremony in Cleethorpes on 12th October. Judging is very much about the village generally and "*Barwick in Bloom*" hopes that all residents will play their part in this **team effort** by making their front gardens look pristine for the big day! As always they are tremendously appreciative of the great support which they receive from residents throughout the village.

**Annual Report & Accounts inside**

# **BARWICK in ELMET & SCHOLES PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman :** b\_hogan@sky.com (Ben)

## **Barwick in Elmet Ward**

neil.beaumont@centara-ltd.com  
burrow.j@sky.com (Julie)  
eclairehassell@live.co.uk  
elainejeffers@hotmail.co.uk  
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## **Scholes Ward**

matt.baker@enlight-solutions.com  
tomcrosfill@hotmail.co.uk  
elkell65@gmail.com (Julian Kelly)  
gerrymcdonough@hotmail.co.uk  
stellawalshparishcouncil@gmail.com

## **NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**Monday 3 June**

Scholes Methodist Hall  
Open Forum at **7 pm**

**Monday 1 July**

Barwick Methodist Schoolroom  
Open Forum at **7 pm**

## **Clerk to the Council**

Chris Hassell  
chrisdhassell@hotmail.com  
0113 393 5861

web sites— **www.barwickandscholespc.com.**  
**www.barwickandscholesneighbourhoodplan.co.uk**

# **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**How do you feel about crime in our villages ???  
could you spare a few minutes a week to help prevent crime ???**

West Yorkshire Police are currently running an initiative to relaunch **Neighbourhood Watch** in the villages of Barwick, Potterton and Scholes. Could you become a co-ordinator? **Geoff Nottingham our local PCSO** would like to hear from you.

Co-ordinators get together 4 times a year for a short meeting and otherwise receive and circulate information by e-mail and phone. You will not have to spend a lot of time co-ordinating and it is very worthwhile.

**Farm Watch** has proved a very effective way of protecting the rural areas and whilst crime rates are low in the villages it would be even better if there was none at all. Many incidents are opportunist and it is our own fault if we leave doors or windows open or unlocked. Recently there has been publicity regarding **Euro Profile Locks** and how easy they are to break. Consider getting your locks checked and replaced with quality locks that will prevent entry by intruders.

Meetings in **BARWICK** are at John Riley Centre 7.00 to 7.30 pm  
**Monday 8 July and Monday 21 October**

Meetings in **SCHOLES** are at The Manor House 6.00 to 6.30 pm  
**Monday 17 July and Monday 9 October**

**Contact Geoff Nottingham—Wetherby Police Station 0113 285 5374**



# Barwick in Elmet & Scholes Parish Council

## Report from the Chairman for the Year 2012/13

Ladies & Gentlemen of the Parish and Councillors, this is my report of the Council's activities which have taken place during the last twelve months.

I started my report last year by saying it had been the busiest year I had experienced in the twelve years I had been on the Parish Council but this last year has beaten that by some distance. The main reason for this, being the threat made by developers looking to build in and around our Parish which might mean a massive increase in the housing stock. Barwick and more particularly Scholes could be swamped. To counter this threat, working parties were set up in each village, following public meetings, to produce a **Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)**. Whilst such a plan would not "stop" development entirely, it would give residents some measure of control in terms of allocation of sites to be brought forward, size, positioning, design, reduction of numbers, type, scale and influencing the infrastructure required for any particular site. These choices on size and type would enable social, sheltered and affordable housing to be provided for the young and the elderly, families and individuals.

The **NDP** follows the successful revision of our **Parish Plan** from 2006 and the commissioning of a **Village Design (VDS)** the cost of which was funded from a Big Lottery Fund grant from "Awards for All". Our thanks go to David Gluck and a small group of residents for the preparation of these documents. The VDS in particular contains a great deal of information that is relevant to the NDP and which would need to be considered by developers. Producing an NDP to get the best for our Parish does take time and has resulted in hours of meetings. The two steering groups have collected a great deal of information which will be used as evidence to support our plan. Once it is completed it will be submitted to Leeds City Council and then to an "Inspector" for assessment. After amendment, if required, and approval it will be subject to a referendum where all residents will have the opportunity to vote on it.

We have a **vast amount of resident talent in the parish** and have been able to draw on this expertise for our steering groups. The Scholes group has been led by George Hall who has put in many hours of work assessing much information and writing up many parts of the plan. He recently announced his retirement from public life and we would like to express sincere thanks for the work he has done for the benefit of the community—he will be sadly missed and we wish him well. Councillor Claire Hassell is leading the Barwick group. They have both done a tremendous amount of work along with colleagues and the two teams have now been amalgamated as the Plan begins to take more shape. I have enjoyed chairing the group and my thanks go to those who have contributed to this very important project which will be ongoing for a number of months yet.

We have had a number of **changes in Council members** this year with four retirements. Two of those leaving were Helen Elsworth and Simon Walker, both only serving for a short time on the Council, but they made their mark in different areas and we thank them for their service to the Parish. Norma Fletcher served for approximately six years and was active in most aspects of Council work. Andrew Glyn-Mills served only for a short time due to moving

out of the Parish but was instrumental in obtaining the large increase in reduced price tickets for the Leeds Festival and the establishment of the Community Fund. We express our most grateful thanks to them all for the time they freely gave to the Parish and wish them every happiness and success for the future.

**Co-options were required to fill the vacancies** and four new Councillors joined the Council (two for each village). A number of Scholes residents expressed their interest in serving on the Council which required an interview process resulting in Tom Crosfill and Stella Walsh being selected. Tom at 18 will give the Council a much younger connection. Julie Burrow and Elaine Jeffers were the newcomers for Barwick. All four have settled in well and are starting to find their feet and make their individual contribution. The Council will benefit from new thoughts and ideas from these Councillors and I wish them all a very happy and successful period in office.

Although we have all been busy putting together our Neighbourhood Plan we still had the day-to-day activities to deal with and these included the usual **planning and financial issues**. Residents will have noted that there was no increase in the Parish Precept for the new year. Planning applications continue to drop in numbers and 33 were received in the year, some of which proved quite tricky to deal with. I thank all our Councillors who take time to study these plans and pass their considerations to our Planning Chairman Councillor Yapp. Geoff deals with these applications with great skill and sympathy and merits the praise he receives and we thank him for his diligence.

The **Finance & General Purposes Committee** have had a fair number of issues to consider and with the number of new Councillors it was felt appropriate to include them all in the decision making process. Interest in Parish affairs has increased considerably and this has required additional communications with residents via correspondence, extra newsletters, website activity and social media which has occupied Councillors Gerry McDonough, Matt Baker and Neil Beaumont. Cllr Stella Walsh has prepared a **Social Media Policy** to guide the Council in this new area of increasing activity.

With the **establishment of the Community Fund** most grant applications are now directed to the new committee under the vice-chairmanship of Raymond Budd ably assisted by Judith Birdsall (Treasurer), Liz Hayton, Claire Strafford, Richard Harrison and Cllrs Matt Baker & Neil Beaumont. This team is to be congratulated on the smooth handling of the grants which were made this year, nine awards to Barwick organisations and eight for Scholes. The Council thanks Melvin Benn, MD of Festival Republic who chairs the Fund Committee, along with his very capable assistant Harmony Blake, for their very kind gift of 250 tickets, which are available to residents at a substantially reduced price of £40 and allocated via a ballot system due to the popularity of the event. Festival Republic also added a further sum of £7,500 to enable the Fund to make grants totalling £15,471 to good causes within the Parish.

Congratulations and thanks are due to Inspector Paul Dwyer and his policing team for some of the **lowest overall crime figures** we have seen for some time and also amongst the lowest in West Yorkshire. With crime and anti-social behaviour, both down, all that is needed now is a reduction in speeding around the Parish and for residents to be more considerate in their parking,



particularly in the areas around the schools in both villages and not to block pavements for those with pushchairs. Sadly our local PCSO Dan Sillars has left for pastures new in Australia and we thank him for his work in the Parish and wish him and his family the best of luck in new surroundings down under.

Some more excellent news is the very good performance of our two "**Bloom**" groups. Barwick put in another top performance and came up with a Gold Award, which has led to them being chosen to represent Yorkshire in the large village category for the **Britain in Bloom** contest this year. John Tinker and his team have the whole Parish behind them and we sincerely hope they are successful this year having been just a whisker off winning it last time they represented Yorkshire. Scholes in Bloom fell just short of a Gold Award finishing with Silver Gilt, however, they continue to do their best to get back to Gold Standard this time around. I wish to thank all our volunteers who give of their time so freely to make our Villages such a joy to live in. Obviously the workers who look after the planting are important but we are lucky also to have those who raise funds, by arranging functions, baking cakes and the like—a fantastic job.

Thanks are also extended to our **Ward Councillors** for the support they give us throughout the year. Councillor Matthew Robinson is always available to offer help and support as does our current Lord Mayor, Councillor Ann Castle who is having a very busy year. I am sure Ann will have some very fond memories of her year in office.

Our **Parish Council meetings** seem to be attracting larger numbers these days and the public are not just coming to lodge complaints. There is interest in the agenda items and comment on what is happening in the Parish. **The Open Forum** which precedes our meetings is so busy now it has been extended to thirty minutes and this brings forward some lively debate.

We have had a number of issues with our **Parish Paths**, but these have been handled well by Peter Taylor and his team who keep our paths, stiles and bridges well maintained. I feel sure the many ramblers visiting our Parish appreciate the hard work that is put in by our footpath volunteers.

Following receipt of an archaeological report on **Scholes Lodge Farm** and the circulation of a comprehensive paper on the possible future uses for the field, a meeting (drop in session) was held in the Manor House in November to gather views from residents as to their wishes for its use. It was a somewhat disappointing turnout with only seventeen residents attending and very few positive suggestions being put forward. Those who attended were more concerned about activities they DID NOT want to see in the field. It does not resolve the question of lack of recreational facilities for young people so it is difficult to see how we will ever overcome this particular issue.

In terms of our **bus service** there has been no improvement to the problems with late running and missing services. Ward Councillor Matthew Robinson commissioned a survey for residents to express their views, attracting over 500 responses which were passed to Metro and First Bus. There has been the ongoing problem with buses running across grass verges due to inconsiderate parking by parents at school time—causing damage left for Scholes in Bloom to repair. Details have recently been received of timetable and routing changes due to take effect in July which will affect the services provided for Scholes residents.

The highlight of 2012 was undoubtedly the **Queens Jubilee Celebrations**. No one will forget the day of the Big Jubilee Lunch & Street Party on Sunday 3 June when it never stopped raining. Barwick's lunch was scheduled to take place on Tower Hall Field and for the whole village to enjoy a host of activities which had been arranged under the organisation of John Fergusson with everyone in the Parish set to enjoy them. A number of hardy people were not deterred by the rain, so, they set up their tents and got the food out and shared it with anyone who was passing and made the most of it. Well done John and your many helpers who tried to beat the weather, and it got worse as the day went on. For the special bank holiday on the Monday the weather abated and the lighting of a Jubilee Beacon on top of Tower Hall Field was a huge success. This was part of a national initiative where more than 2,012 **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons** were lit across the country. We were honoured with the presence of Her Majesty's representative, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the County, Major Stan Hardy who lit the Beacon at the appointed hour. The evening got off to a good start around the Maypole with a big turnout entertained by a small jazz band called *The Happy Chappies*. Well done also to our Parish Clerk Chris Hassell, who along with John had a hand in much of the arrangements which took place during the week of celebration. As a memento of this special occasion QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE MUGS were presented to all of the primary schoolchildren (and teachers) at both village schools. The Lord Mayor, Cllr Ann Castle was able to accompany me at Barwick School for the presentation ceremony.

Scholes also had lots happening in the Village, but they were more fortunate on the **Big Jubilee Lunch** day, as the children's entertainment including the Bouncy Castle was moved inside the Church and the children had a terrific time, which included their own entertainer. Whilst all this was happening in the church, the grown ups were enjoying their Big Jubilee Lunch in the Village Hall and once again we were honoured with the presence of the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and his wife. We thank the many helpers from St.Philip's who provided us all with a lovely day.

We also appreciate the Deputy Lord Lieutenant joining us for **Remembrance Sunday** both at Scholes and Barwick; this particular ceremony continues to attract more residents including young people, both inside the churches and also at the War Memorials. We are currently looking at how we can continue to expand our numbers at this very popular event, when we pay our respects to those who gave their lives, so we could enjoy our freedom. Our thanks are also extended to Cllr Matt Baker who has been the prime mover in ensuring the continuation of our local branch of the **Royal British Legion**. Thanks also to Vic Brothers (Standard Bearer) who has held the fort during a very difficult time and to those who have come forward to form the new committee.

My final comment is reserved for our hard working Parish Clerk, Chris Hassell who continues to do an excellent job and this is appreciated by a large number of residents. Unfortunately Chris has intimated his wish to retire in twelve months time. Thanks again to all my colleagues for their hard work and to the entire Parish, it has been a pleasure working with you.

**Ben Hogan**  
Chairman



# BARWICK in ELMET & SCHOLLES PARISH COUNCIL

## Draft Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013

£	£
2012 RECEIPTS	2013
60,463 Bank balances brought forward	42,135.36
39,000 Precept for 2012-13	39,000.00
610 Allotment rents	705.00
34 Bank interest	29.23
30,794 Grant income	900.00
927 Vat refund received	11,532.88
2,259 Sports rents & other income	1,466.65
2,440 Leeds Festival tickets	0.00
2,500 Loan repayment	0.00
13,725 s106 greenspace contribution	0.00
<b>152,752</b>	<b>95,769.12</b>
PAYMENTS	
13,080 Administration	13,700.63
1,217 Insurances	890.76
1,611 Newsletter & website	1,739.83
265 Footpaths	264.81
762 Allotments	727.66
1,142 Planning & legal	0.00
20,961 Conservation & environment	11,578.04
9,229 Parish Plan & Village Design Statement	2,200.00
1,500 Christmas lights	1,620.00
405 Sports & recreation	712.77
46,662 Barwick Children's Playground	80.32
2,250 Grants & Loans	655.30
11,533 Vat paid (for reclaim in 2013-14)	2,940.16
0 Neighbourhood Development Plan	2,151.30
0 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations	5,254.88
20,586 Budget reserves carried forward	32,161.66
21,549 Contingency reserves carried forward	19,091.00
<b>152,752</b>	<b>95,769.12</b>

The accounts are checked twice yearly by in-house auditor Cllr David Leeming  
Internal auditors are Yorkshire Internal Audit Services who examine the books  
twice yearly and report to the Council.

External auditors were Mazars LLP, 3 Grosvenor Square, Southampton and  
a copy of their report available on the Parish web site.

## Barwick in Elmet & Scholes ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

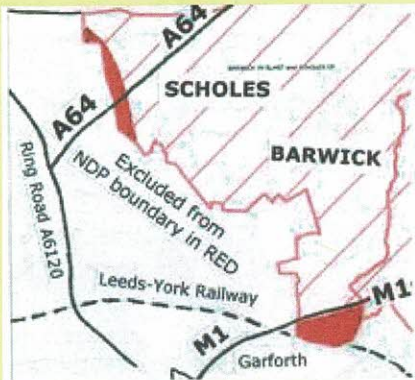


Our Royal British Legion branch has recently been enjoying renewed enthusiasm thanks to a number of new officers and members who continue to work closely with the established members to retain our local Legion presence. Membership has doubled in the past six months following the near closure of the branch, though more members are invited from all walks of life – any age or occupation, with or without Armed Forces connections. It costs just £13 per year to help support our servicemen and women. Application forms are available from Matt Baker (branch secretary) at [matt@mattandjillian.com](mailto:matt@mattandjillian.com).

We are delighted to be able to run a stall at the Scholes gala this year, and would love to see as many people visiting us as possible on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. As well as walking away with any number of impressive prizes, you will be able to chat to current officers and members. Before then, we would be very happy to hear from anybody who might wish to support the branch by donating prizes – contact Matt Baker via email as above or on 393 5856.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN - BOUNDARY AGREED

This issue has finally been resolved with the Parish Council agreeing to Leeds City Council's request that two small areas near to Garforth at Nanny Goat Lane and near the A64 on the line of the outline route of the proposed East Leeds Orbital Road, should be excluded on planning grounds. These two areas will remain within the Parish boundary as far as Council Tax, planning applications and voting is concerned. The boundary will now be put out for public consultation following which it will be "designated", in order that our NDP preparations can be continued. Much work is still required for our plan & further evidence needs to be collected from residents and businesses in order that we know just what is important to our villagers. Revised site allocations for housing developments in Leeds will be released for consultation in June.



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