

KIRKBY MALZEARD, LAVERTON AND DALLOWGILL PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council elections were due to be held last May, but as there were insufficient residents wishing to stand as Councillors, the four Candidates who did stand (myself and Geoff Lobley representing Laverton and Dallowgill and Jane Aksut and Ruth Broadley representing Kirkby Malzeard), were automatically elected without elections being necessary. Further Kirkby Malzeard Councillors were then added using the co-option process (Alan Brownlee, Geoffrey Berry and Peter Saxon) to bring the Council up to full strength. Recently Pippa Manson replaced Ruth Broadley, who had to resign due to other commitments. We now have a Council which more closely reflects the various age groups in the community and it is hoped that this will benefit us all. Jen Hurford, a local resident, acts as Clerk and manages to keep us all organised.

- The Council has continued to provide Consultative Opinions on Planning Applications during the year but it has long been our view that whilst the Planning Department are obliged to seek our opinion, they are not obliged to take any notice of it and to this end we have taken the decision to create a Neighbourhood Plan which, once complete, will hopefully give the community, through the Parish Council, more influence over what happens here. We have now received the go-ahead to start work on the Plan and will be consulting closely with everyone who lives and works in the Parish whilst this process is on-going. It will not happen overnight, as it will take time to look at all relevant aspects thoroughly, but in due course the finished Plan will be put to the residents who will vote in a referendum on whether or not to approve it. We are currently seeking members for the Steering Group (effectively a Working Party who will prepare the Plan) so if you are interested in helping please get in touch.
- In my report last year, I stated that I hoped we would complete the take-over of the Children's Play Area at Highside shortly. Twelve months have passed and, due almost entirely to the lack of priority given to it by Harrogate Council (who are the owners of the land), we still have not been able to complete the formalities. Hopefully this month will finally see the lease signed and the matter concluded.
- I note also that in last year's report I referred to the situation concerning the former Henry Jenkins public house as being no nearer to being resolved and sadly this is still the case. The building has now stood empty for 8 years and there is little sign of any progress in determining its future. Outline consent has however been granted on the new housing development off Laverton Road and we shall carefully monitor all 'reserved matters' and the subsequent effect on traffic issues in the village.
- As a new venture this year, we have been working with the main Local Organisations on the creation of a Community Association and we hope that this will soon come to fruition. Grants were allocated to the Mechanics Institute, Highside Playing Fields, Kirkby in Bloom, the Youth Club and Pre-School to help ensure that they can continue to fulfil their roles in the community.

Please do contact myself, my fellow Councillors and our Clerk, Jen, if there is anything we can help with. Keep in touch with our activities via the Parish council website (www.kmldpc.btck.co.uk), our Facebook page @kmldpc or our Noticeboards.