

New Farnley Community Newsletter



Issue 11 Summer 2013

Village Design Statement

(www.leeds.gov.uk/council/Pages/Site-Allocations-Development-Plan-Document-%28LDF%29.aspx).

New Farnley has a distinctive character, formed as a result of its historic development and its setting in a countryside landscape at the edge of the city. The Village Design Statement provides guidance for anybody designing or building in the area - whether its an extension or something bigger - so that the area won't be spoilt by development that does not respect or improve that character.

It has been a long process, but the VDS is now adopted policy and can be viewed on the city council website at www.leeds.gov.uk/council/Pages/Design-Neighbourhood-and-Village-Design-Statements.aspx. It will now be used by the planners and planning inspectors in deciding whether proposed developments conform to its guidance, both when preparing plans for the area (including site allocations) and when determining applications. But that does not mean that you, as residents of New Farnley, can sit back and let it do the work.

Leeds is currently consulting on Issues and Options in relation to proposed retail, housing, employment and greenspace allocations as part of the Local Development Framework

Development-Plan-Document-%28LDF%29.aspx). Although no housing sites in the New Farnley area have been given a green light in the consultation documents (sites are coloured green if acceptable, amber if acceptable in principle but with drawbacks, or red if considered unacceptable: still others have been "sieved out" because they are not acceptable under any circumstances), comments should be made on those proposals by 29th July and the Design Statement can provide background on the context of those sites (see page 2 about an "amber" site in New Farnley).

In respect of planning applications, if you are contemplating an extension or alteration to your house, take some time to look at what the VDS says about how best it can be done without compromising the appearance of the street you live in. Keep an eye on proposed developments in the village. If you think a planning application does not measure up to the ideals of the VDS, make your comments more effective by including appropriate references to the VDS in your comments. Support the applications that do measure up.

The VDS also includes a series of

suggestions for improvement - many of these need to come from the local community, so get involved and help make New Farnley an even better place than it is already.

It has been a pleasure for me to be involved in helping to produce the VDS, and especially to work with such a dedicated team of people in the Vision Group. There is a real sense of community in the village and pride in the place where you live. It is because of places like New Farnley and its people taking the initiative that the concept of localism in planning has gained credibility. I hope that the VDS will help New Farnley retain its distinctiveness long into the future.

Peter Baker, Architect

Audrey Fildes

It is with great sadness that we heard of the death of Audrey Fildes on 14 December 2012. Audrey was a pillar of the community who served St James Church, the Womens Institute (WI) and other organisations for many years. She was known throughout the village for her tireless work on behalf of others and supporting efforts to improve community life. For a time, Audrey was also a member of the New Farnley Vision Group. Our thoughts are with Audrey's family at this sad time. She will be greatly missed.



Celebration of Design Statement

Seven years ago, residents were invited to 'Your Vision for New Farnley - Consultation Event' at the Community Centre. The hall there was packed and the evening a great success. After listening to the views of many residents, it was suggested by a member of the West Area Committee, Steve Crocker, that we consider developing a 'Village Design Statement'. (The area committees are run by the City Council and are designed to enhance local decision-making).

A committee was subsequently formed, which eventually became the New Farnley Vision Group, and an application was made to the Area Committee for funding to undertake the

project. The group was successful in their funding application, allowing the Vision Group to employ the services of an architect, Peter Baker, to work in partnership with the group and residents of New Farnley in putting together the Village Design Statement, which has just been published.

As a way of now saying thank you to residents, individuals and organisations that have participated in the planning and development of the Village Design Statement, members of the New Farnley Vision Group would like to invite you to a 'Celebration Event' at the New Farnley Community Centre 11th October at 7.30pm. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. We hope the current and former MP, councillors and others will attend.

Maggie Thompson

Housing development?

Leeds City Council has recently undertaken an assessment of, and consultation about, possible development sites. This exercise, which is city wide, is known as the Site Allocations Plan. Concern has been raised locally about the mention of land for potential housing development for 129 dwellings at the back of Castle Ings Gardens. About 30 people turned up to Councillor David Blackburn's surgery on Saturday 13th July to air their concerns and seek clarification. Some people live near the site have also had letters and objection forms from Councillor John Hardy.

Each site included in the plan is colour-coded green, amber or red. Green means the site has the greatest potential for development, amber means there is potential but that there are issues and red means that sites are not suitable. The field at the back of Castle Ings Gardens has been assessed as amber, so it means that the site would not necessarily be ripe for development.

The meeting heard that a major issue - if the site was to be developed - would be the problem of road access. A further concern would be the pressure that additional houses would put on local services and facilities. The site is also poorly drained with the footpath and gardens at the back of Castle Ings regularly becoming flooded. Despite the site's amber

status, residents at the meeting were nevertheless encouraged to register their objections, particularly on grounds of access, facilities and drainage, as part of the consultation process, which ends on Monday 29th July.

Maggie Thompson, the New Farnley Vision Group Co-ordinator, pointed out to the meeting, there was now also an obligation for the City Council to consult the Village Design Statement, which identifies and tries to protect the chief characteristics of the area in any development application. The article by Peter Baker, the architect who helped with the design statement, on page 1 of this newsletter, also considers the role of the statement in these circumstances.

Objections and relevant documentation about the Site Allocations Plan can be viewed at Leeds City Council's website (www.leeds.gov.uk). Once on the website, click on 'Planning' near the top of the page and then on 'Site Allocations Plan - Issues and Options'. A section at the top right corner of this web page entitled, 'Make a comment on the Site Allocations Plan' allows residents to object but only before 29th July. There should also be comment forms available at the Community Centre. Once completed, these should be returned to LDF Consultation (Site Allocations Plan) Forward Planning 2, Rossington Street, Leeds, LS2 8HD.

Gerry Lavery

Lancasterian School Room bicentenary summer fete

On Saturday 6th July we had the pleasure of Emmerdale's Nicola Wheeler (Nicola King) opening the 2013 Village Fete. She was very interested in the fact that it was the bicentenary of the school room.

The sun was out and so were the villagers. It was a wonderful afternoon with tombola, cream teas, BBQ and everyone purchasing food and

goods with profits going to charity. The band were fantastic keeping everyone in a very jolly mood for the whole afternoon.

Our thanks to all the volunteers and helpers who worked very hard so that people could enjoy themselves. Here are a small selection of photographs taken on the day.



First Left: Nicola opening the fete,
Left: Nicola with Gladys Grimes
Above: Looking at the cakes
Right: The wonderful turnout

New Farnley in Bloom

Members of the New Farnley in Bloom group have met several times since the last newsletter. We have recently planted all 23 tubs in the village with summer bedding plants. Unfortunately, we have had three tubs stolen, including two from Walsh Lane and one from outside the Chippy.

The group have also worked in partnership with members from the New Farnley Vision Group in contacting various services from Leeds City Council to either clear litter/debris or cut grassed areas. Some examples include the ginnel near Playground, the area at the side of the GP's surgery (this is not council owned), Back Lane, New Farnley Park and behind the bench and tubs opposite the Woodcock. The In Bloom group initiated the new landscaping to the rear of Farnley Park.

Once again, thank you to Parks and Countryside for these improvements. Thank you also to Ron Bradshaw for planting the tubs to the entrance of St James's and thank you to the Bowling Club for their planting.

Members from both the Vision Group and New Farnley In Bloom have also suggested the possibility of a 'Friends of Farnley Park', bringing interested parties together from Old and New Farnley to improve and safeguard the heritage of the area. Councillor John Hardy has agreed to take this project forward and will be arranging meetings in the future for anyone interested.

Along with the spring, summer and winter planting of tubs, the group are keen to work on new projects. However, in order to be able to undertake additional work, the group would welcome new members. If interested, ring Maggie Thompson 2854219. The group also looks forward to working again with Parks and Countryside.

Maggie Thompson



Dog fouling and litter

Have you ever felt that dog waste and litter in our local public spaces and elsewhere are scourges which we shouldn't tolerate? You wouldn't be alone. Apparently, MPs and councillors receive more correspondence about these two problems than any other.

Litter and dog-fouling have many problems associated with them. Litter not only spoils the environment, but, according to research, it can be linked to crime and anti-social behaviour, lead to a loss of business and can be ingested by wildlife.

Dog fouling has far more serious consequences, particularly for children. Children who play outside near dog waste are in danger from bacteria and parasites, from flies which can spread diseases found in pet waste, from retinal disease, which can cause blindness, and from the E. Coli bacteria. Is uncollected dog waste, therefore, potentially a form of child abuse? And none of us would want to tolerate child abuse.

According to research, one of the most effective ways of tackling litter and dog fouling is by educational campaigns applied consistently and over the long-term. Obviously, other approaches, such as the adequate provision of bins and the consistent application of penalties, can also help. Anyone caught dropping litter or not collecting their dog's waste can be fined £75.

Local improvements

Local residents might have noticed two recent improvements in New Farnley. The first is the refurbished entrance to Farnley Hall Park (see photo below). The second is the use of tarmac to improve road surfaces on Playground and West End, near the doctors' surgery. We are grateful to Councillor John Hardy in helping to secure these improvements.



The New Farnley Vision Group has started an educational campaign of its own, beginning with dog-fouling, as this is the most pressing problem. A poster has been produced entitled 'Clean up after your dog' and pinned up at strategic points in the area. The impression is that the posters have already begun to make some difference.

If you are dog owner we would ask that you:

- always clean up after your pet;
- never dispose of pet waste down a drain (people locally have been seen to do this);
- bag dog waste and place it in a bin (some dog owners have been known to bag it and then throw it away in a public space).

If you are concerned that people are not picking up their dog's waste, you can contact the Environmental Action Service on 0113-2224406. However, we wouldn't advise you to tackle such people directly as this may put you at risk.

As part of the New Farnley Vision Group anti-litter campaign, we hope to produce publicity and organise litter picking campaigns in the coming weeks.



What's on corner

The New Farnley Vision Group website has a host of activities to view that are held at St James Church, Lancasterian School Room and Community Centre.

Check out the website for all the details at www.cwnf.btck.co.uk

Bowling Club

The Bowling Club will be providing cream teas at the Bowling Club

Fighting fit Bessie Smales hasn't let age stop her



Mrs. Smales (or Bessie as she likes to be known) celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends from around the world. Her brother Derek, 85, travelled from America just for the occasion and they both thoroughly enjoyed catching up on what's been happening and reminiscing about the old days.

The Community Centre where the party was held was bursting at the seams with friends from bingo, the church and around the village. Her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren all enjoyed the festivities to mark Bessie's great achievement.

Bessie has called the bingo numbers for quite some time and has only just decided to retire from that position. She is often seen walking around the village - without a walking stick!

We at the New Farnley Vision Group salute you Bessie and wish a very happy 100th birthday

Pavilion for the Band in the Park event with the Tenderloin Ragtime Orchestra on 11th August. There will also be a bowling competition. An end of year presentation will take place in November (precise date to be confirmed).

Community Centre - Ladies Night (80s Fancy Dress) with 80s band Footloose.

Saturday 28th September, £15.00 per ticket - includes raffle tickets, food, prizes and entertainment - See Cheryl or bar staff for your tickets.

Bowling Club

The Bowling Club in New Farnley was founded in 1908 and it is amazing how many people say they did not know that there was a bowling green in the village. Hopefully, this will change as we now have a nice new welcome sign at the entrance to the green.

The green is open from April to September and we have 9 teams running at the moment. Somebody is about most afternoons and nearly every evening, so, if you fancy watching and having a cup of tea, call in - you will be made welcome and, who knows, you might fancy having a go.

The Annual Awards Evening was a great success. With all the awards announced and presented to proud players, it was left to the evening's food and superb entertainment and dancing to finish a brilliant night.

If you are interested in joining the Bowling club, come and visit us at the green during the bowling season and have a chat.

Jan Ingham



The Village Green

On Saturday 30th June a stone was laid to mark the New Farnley Village Green. The stone was sourced by Kevin Wainwright and had been kept in his barn. The inscription was carved by Brian Chapman. Jean Milner then painted the letters and Roger Milner and Kevin sealed the stone.

John, Kevin, Roger & Jean went down to the green and placed the stone in position. Brian Chapman, his wife, June, and Josie Tearle from the Community Centre were all present to see it placed into position. Finally, when the stone had settled, Jean planted the flowers around the base.

The stone was provided to the village as a gift. The green is an unspoilt area within the village that is used for children's community events. The village green is important to the New Farnley, and we respectfully ask that horse riders and car and motorbike riders do not ride across it.

Jan Ingham



pleased to say that a new manager has recently been appointed to oversee the project.

Through my involvement with Neighbourhood Action, I have seen and experienced the true meaning of 'Care in the Community' exemplified by the residents in our areas who care and look out for each other. Here's to the next ten years!

Ailsa Mayers

Congratulations

As the first manager of Neighbourhood Action in Farnley, New Farnley and Moor Top, I was invited to join in a double celebration on Friday 28th of June which was held at Hill-side Hall, Farnley. Members and invited guests enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea as they gathered to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the charity and also the purchase of their new mini bus.

The money for the mini bus has been raised over many years by the members through different initiatives, and has been purchased jointly with 'The Owls', (a neighbourhood

scheme operating in the Kirkstall area of Leeds). Extra funding was secured by the committee and the staff. So when you see the bright yellow bus, please remember the unselfish dedication of the residents to secure this wonderful asset for our communities.

My special thanks go particularly to Anne Braviner, Pauline Moore, Jean Pickering and Diane Shipman who were the original committee members and they continue to work as volunteers for the project. They appointed me on a part-time contract, and I was joined later by Jessica, Joe and Dee. I want to pay tribute to the many volunteers, past and present, such as Kath Goulard, who enable the work to continue and grow. I am



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