

# Humbleton & Flinton Parish Newsletter

June 2018

## Parish Council News

On 24 May, the Parish Council held its AGM & meeting at Maple Garage at 7pm, with two residents in attendance. The minutes are on the website as part of the transparency regulations but the highlights are mentioned below:

The AGM approved the Annual Return noting the internal audit report, and the Chair thanked the Clerk for her work during the year. The Flinton annual rent was kept at the same level, and the clerk's salary increased to £380/quarter.

Residents attending raised concerns about the children playing in the road in Humbleton. It is concerning children believe it is a safe place to play – given the large size of both the lorries and farm vehicles going through the village, and the fact that some vehicles fail to comply with the 30 mph speed limit. The issue is on the risk register, and we have tried to reduce the speed in the village unsuccessfully. We have been advised that until there is a serious accident, there is little that can be done, except to remind parents that the road is not a safe place to play, and playing 'chicken' with large farm vehicles will result in an accident. Please can parents be mindful that whilst Humbleton may seem a small quiet village, that the traffic going through the village is mainly large vehicles which would cause serious injury / death to a child if hit. Residents - keep logging any incidents to ERYC to raise the priority of reducing the speed in the village.

The bridlepath from Lelley to Maple Garage is impassable and the clerk was to report it to ERYC.

Village walkabout – ERYC attended on 22 May the walkabout with two residents. A full list of items to be completed over the two villages by the street scene and other items for ERYC responsibility were noted. It was identified that some residents in both villages have a responsibility to maintain and cut their hedges so that pedestrians and traffic can walk / drive past safely. ERYC are providing a leaflet to the clerk who will write to the residents concerned.

Parking on the footpaths remains an issue in Humbleton with residents / visitors parking on the footpaths – this is an obstruction and residents are reminded to keep the footpaths clear at all times.

Police reports / neighbourhood watch – nothing significant has been reported in our parish, however fly tipping continues to be a problem with reports of sofas, asbestos roofing, lawn mowers and the list continues.

Southern entrance planter – unfortunately a vehicle had demolished the nameplate which had delayed the work on the planter – this had now been replaced and so work will start soon on replacing the planter.

Parish clock – this project is back into play after confirmation by the Diocese of York that work is limited to the repair of the clock and chime.

The defibrillator in Flinton is now operational after fitting the electrics by ERYC – we await their invoice.

Community plan was adopted and is to be placed on the website and plans how to move forward on the first 3 items (broadband, speeding and community buildings) – thanks to Chris Brazier for pulling together the plan, and for the community team for working on getting this issued.

The finance report, previously circulated, was reviewed and payments approved as follows: Clerk salary & expenses (£304) and HMRC £76. Payments made and retrospectively approved were The Marvell College for printing newsletters £10.38 and Supplies £26.38 for two litter pickers. April saw the receipt of the precept funding.

Planning application – no update to date.

AOB – Humbleton Hub facebook created - see details later. GDPR (Data protection) – the clerk was appointed as Data Protection Officer and it was noted that the clerk will complete the audit of data and finalise a privacy statement.

The next meeting is 6 September 2018 at Maple Garage starting at 7pm.

## Pot Holes

Please keep reporting either to the Clerk or directly to ERYC about the number of potholes – ERYC usually are quick to repair them, but you will all see the increasing number of potholes on all the roads not just in our parish. It is not just the pot holes in the road, but the ‘gullies’ alongside the road are problems too. Be careful when trying to avoid potholes and the oncoming traffic that you do not hit a gully and damage your car / tyre / alloy etc – it can be an expensive repair! However the more reports, then ERYC have to take it more seriously.

## Litter pick

On 22 April and 24 June several Humbleton residents gathered and did a litter pick – they collected several large bags of rubbish across the village. The Parish Council provided four litter picks but residents also brought their own. Thank you to those of you who improved our village.

## Facebook

The Humbleton Hub has been set up on facebook as a closed group. If you are on facebook and want to join in – it is a private group but if you ask to join the group and are a resident then you will be accepted. Go and have a look and is currently used to add events, add photos and report issues. We would encourage all residents to get involved.

## Dog Fouling

It is a sad sign of the times that this has to be included in the newsletter every time it is issued – but we have some very irresponsible residents who fail to clean up after their dog. More recently dog mess has been found near the goal posts on the recreation field – whilst children were playing.

I do not know about you, but I am horrified that other residents think that letting their dog foul and failing to clean it up is considered acceptable at any level. The only way we can make this totally unacceptable is if we challenge each other – even directly or let me know and I'll tell the dog warden who will happily go and fine the resident.

Our children and families are at risk, and given we are looking forward to the Family Fun Day later this month – what does it take to get people to CLEAN UP AFTER THEIR DOG?

## Fly Tipping

If you drive around our parish, you will have seen the increase in the amount of fly tipping from general waste, to sofas and gas bottles and more recently asbestos. This seems to be a problem in society generally with people thinking it is acceptable to dump their waste on someone else's land out of sight.

If you see any fly tipping, please report it to ERYC promptly so that it can be cleared up. If you manage to witness anyone actually dumping rubbish – do not approach nor challenge them – instead if you can get a registration plate and either report it to ERYC or pass to any of the councillors, the clerk or Chris Wilkinson (who is the parish's resident fly tipping point of contact) ERYC will hopefully catch the culprit. You can take photos and post it on our Humbleton Hub facebook pages so we can show ERYC the issues.

## The Community-Led Plan

Big News - we have a Community-led Plan!

Residents who completed the questionnaire, attended meetings or wrote ideas on sticky notes last year may have been wondering what become of their efforts. You will be relieved to hear that they were not wasted and that those who participated have helped to shape the Community-led Plan that can now be found on the parish website at [www.humbleton.org](http://www.humbleton.org) – it is your Plan and its well worth a look.

Compiling the Plan was a lengthy process and we are grateful to all who contributed their time and effort. The final version is an interesting read and contains the all-important Action Plan, which lists those items, which were raised, and prioritises what we're going to try to do about them – with a timescale. I doubt that there will be many surprises at the results, but the important thing is that we now have the combined power of our residents behind us when we go to the various authorities in order to try to get things done. No longer simply 'the Parish Council wants', but now we can also have 'the residents of Humbleton and Flinton have told us that they want' to add a little more weight to our requests.

Thanks again to those who participated. For those who did not, the Plan will have regular updates to ensure, that it remains relevant – do not miss your chance next time!

## Notes from St Peter's Church

Two churches have already closed in the deanery and it would be easy for the small congregation at Humbleton to worship elsewhere as they do on the Sundays when there is no service at Humbleton and the church itself be put into moth balls.

This would ease the physical and financial burden on the handful of worshipers considerably. However, the church belongs to the village and not to the congregation and it is where for centuries people have gathered to celebrate the births of their children and their marriages and come to mourn their dead. It has also, in an agricultural area, been the place where villagers have given thanks for their harvests.

So what of the future?

This in the main depends on the village. At present, there are plans for the future. A kind donation will see a sound system introduced in the near future. Someone else has contributed to the tower repair. Other faithful supporters keep the grass mowed. The community at present use it for local Elections and Halloween and Christmas celebrations.

Therefore, with the hope that the village will continue to support the church building, plans are being drawn up for a toilet in church and perhaps even a kitchen sink. However, with the boiler-needing repair and the insurance to pay on the building it is hard to raise sufficient funds to cover day-to-day maintenance of this beautiful medieval building. It would be good if we could get together a group of Friends of St Peter's who perhaps could think of new ways of raising money to keep the church open for the use of the village - not just for its weddings and funerals but for its social activities.

If you are interested in helping in any way please phone the Vicar on 01964 601381 or email her at [susanwalkerfe@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susanwalkerfe@hotmail.co.uk).

The Royal Wedding Tea party was a great success and raised £202. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

A Coffee morning or Tea Party in aid of Macmillian Cancer Appeal will take place in church later in the summer. Watch out for the dates.

Elvis will be in concert on Saturday 15 September at Humbleton Church at 7.30pm.

## Calendar of Events

Sunday 29 July                      Family Fun Day on Recreation Field at 1pm  
Thursday 6 September            Parish Meeting at Maple Garage at 7pm

Please check the website / facebook page as the Parish Council meetings can change date.

## Farm Vehicles & Children

How would you react if a child was injured (or worse) by one of the large farm vehicles or Lorries that goes through our village? Outrage? Shock?

Well despite Humbleton being a little rural village, seemingly in the wilderness, we have many large vehicles that go through our villages (not always at the correct speed).

Children playing chicken in the road is an accident waiting to happen....several residents have pointed this out to children and are usually ignored at best, or verbally abused at worst. Some kind residents have even voiced concerns to parents, either once again ignored or verbally abused.

Both the police and ERYC have been advised of this irresponsible action by children (and their parents) of playing chicken with large vehicles in the road. The police, correctly state that until there is an accident there is nothing they can do. It would be horrible for all (parents, children, residents and the driver) if such an accident did occur.

Therefore, your parish council are asking that parents be thoughtful and educate your children not to put their lives at risk by playing chicken in the road with the large vehicles.

## Be kind to your neighbours

The warm weather is upon us and many of us will be enjoying our gardens – long may it continue. However, it seems that some people are less considerate for their neighbours – remember burning garden rubbish is neither considerate nor neighbourly when the wind means that their laundry is now covered in black soot and requires re-washing or means they have to close all their windows and sit indoors.

Spare a thought for your neighbours when you think about burning any rubbish – common sense must prevail.

## Planning

The planning application for Walnut Cottage for the erection of a single storey extension to the rear of dwelling, detached tractor / hay store and a detached stable block and associated change of use of paddock land to equestrian use was approved.

## Broadband

Following the adoption of the community-led plan, I wrote to our local MP, Graham Stuart asking for help in trying to resolve the issues in our parish about broadband. Despite the East Riding Broadband project team assuring us that it was a priority, the community-led plan has provided a further opportunity to remind our suppliers and MP that decent broadband is not a luxury but is a necessity especially for rural communities and businesses. Below is my email to Graham Stuart.

Humbleton has had access to 'superfast' broadband for a couple of years now. However, I have to say I am disappointed with the service provided, and in fact it would appear that rural communities are being dealt a poor service yet are expected to pay the same as every other BT customer. Our cabinet is at the southern end of the village, fortunately, the cabinet is about 50 yards from my house, so the service I receive is good – but it appears that depending how far you are away from the cabinet seems to determine the quality of the service. This is because the cabling is updated to the cabinet from the exchange, but it is not updated from the cabinet to the resident's houses. Therefore, in a village where houses can be half-a-mile from the cabinet, the provision of superfast broadband is just not true. In fact, we have the extra-ordinary situation where there are three houses on the west side of the village (on the same side as the cabinet) and whilst 2 of the houses are able to get 'superfast' broadband, the one in the middle is being told they cannot access broadband. Logically that just does not make sense.

So for Humbleton the further away you live from the cabinet then the 'superfast' broadband deteriorates and because the cables are not 'superfast cables' they cannot get superfast broadband. Can it be true that BT / Open reach have been given millions of government funding to install superfast broadband, but all they are installing is from the exchange to the cabinet and no further? Once again, the rural communities are short-changed with investment in broadband limited. This seems unfair and discriminatory. Our parish council have asked me to contact you about this, as this is wrong at every level. We have tried to engage with the East Riding Broadband project, but their communication is appalling and lacking. BT customers are still charged the same fees as those who live in towns / cities with proper superfast broadband, whilst rural communities are left in the cold. I work in the education sector and know that students are required to do homework online and do research online – how can our children access the same information if they do not have access to proper internet access. Stable and fast internet access is not a luxury in today's world – it should be a basic right. Those small businesses who operate in rural communities suffer with little or no broadband. Maple Garage who are strictly in Flinton will be the furthest away from the exchange in Aldbrough, and whilst they are relatively near Sproatley, are being told that they cannot tap into the Sproatley exchange as it is KCOM and so is not available – how can that be fair. This local business has a limited opportunity to obtain a decent broadband.

This view is reinforced by Flinton, which is still waiting for any upgrade to reliable broadband. Engineers have told residents that the service is poor and basically whoever rings up and complains the loudest and longest gets their connection changed to improve the internet access, until someone else complains. Flinton is approximately 2.5 miles from Aldbrough where the exchange is.

Neither of our villages are in the wild extreme rural areas, but the broadband service is poor at best. It took us several years to get the Humbleton broadband improved, however it would appear that only half the job is done, and Flinton is still waiting, and I'm sure that much of your rural constituency will be in the same situation.

Are the government aware that 'superfast' broadband is only partly rolled out to villages in rural England – ie only to the cabinet and no further. Whilst this may not be an issue for residents in towns/cities as there will be more cabinets so I imagine no one is very far from a cabinet – in a rural community this is not the case. What is the government going to do about this – surely, if we are paying for the same service we should receive the same service – otherwise we are subsidising those in towns/cities. I feel that we are being short-changed because of our location. As I mentioned I am closest to the cabinet in our village, and tonight's speed test shows a download speed of 61.3mps and an upload speed of 22.94mps – which falls short of the advertised speeds of up to 80mps. I dread to think what speed test those half-a-mile away get at the other end of the village.

Part of the problem is that speeds advertised are an average and that average can be achieved by as little of 5% of customers – how can that be considered fair and reasonable? Please could Graham advise me what the government is doing about this unfair and discriminatory action by Openreach and other providers and what the parish council can do to get quality superfast broadband in both villages and in our surrounding area?

The response I received from Graham Stuart MP is printed below, which is from the East Riding Broadband Project:

“Mrs Nolan is correct that premises in Humbleton are connected to a Fibre to the Cabinet structure (FTTC) called Burton Pidsea 9. This structure is now live and providing the majority of residents with superfast speeds.

An FTTC solution means a fibre optic cable is installed between the main telephone exchange and the green cabinet you see at the side of the road. However, the connection between the cabinet and the premises continues to use the copper telephone line.

An alternative is Fibre to the Premise (FTTP), where the line from the exchange is replaced and fibre optic cables are installed alongside the copper line into each premise.

Both are capable of offering superfast speeds, which Government defines as 24Mbps while the EU defines as 30Mbps. FTTC is effected by distance while FTTP is not, but FTTP can take longer to install and has proven costly in the past. Openreach use both methods, but FTTC is used in the majority of premises in the UK.

Estimates vary, but an Ofcom press release in February 2018 estimated that only 3% of homes and offices can currently access a full fibre (FTTP) service (<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/features-and-news/new-rules-boost-full-fibre-broadband>).

ThinkBroadband, a body which monitors national coverage, places the East Riding of Yorkshire as having one of the highest coverage of FTTP in the country, with 37% of premises capable of accessing the service. This is primarily due to the commercial work of KCOM, unfortunately, its network does not extend to Humbleton.


You can see a summary of our region's broadband information at <https://labs.thinkbroadband.com/local/east-riding-of-yorkshire,E06000011>, which is updated monthly.

FTTC was key to achieving its national target of 95% superfast coverage by December 2017, but Government has initiated a number of new programmes to assist the expansion of full fibre coverage. As per the Ofcom article, this includes legislation to reduce the cost of installation.

Government has also created the 'Gigabit Voucher Scheme' for small businesses, and the local communities surrounding them, to contribute to the installation cost of a fibre connection. This scheme is in its very early stages but more information can be found at <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>. It is due to be led by commercial providers (Openreach, Virgin, KCOM etc) and coordinated by DCMS, but the Council is looking at how it can advertise the scheme to residents.

The Council is also working with Government to identify potential sources of funding to encourage commercial fibre deployment. These include the 'Local Full Fibre Network' programme and we intend to submit a bid when Wave 3 of the fund is initiated later this year. More information on LFFN can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-full-fibre-networks-challenge-fund>

Whilst these measures aim to facilitate fibre roll-out and remove any perceived barriers, it remains the responsibility of commercial providers to upgrade their networks.



Mrs Nolan has raised two enquiries with the Council, regarding the planned work in Flinton and a premise unable to order a superfast package despite their neighbours doing so; both are with Openreach to resolve. I will contact Mrs Nolan with an update but please see the status below:

**Flinton** - Openreach has been undertaking planning and survey work for the remaining structures of the Broadband East Riding Programme, including the structure expected to improve broadband speeds in Flinton. The planning work due to be completed in March 2018, but then delayed until May. The Council has since had assurance from Openreach that it will be provided with the outcomes of this work in June, which we will relay to Mrs Nolan. However, I can confirm the planned structure for Flinton is due to be FTTP, and therefore would not be affected by distance.

**Holtinard** - The premise of Holtinard in Humbleton is unable to order a superfast service due to records stating it can only receive 4.4Mbps. Openreach has confirmed that this is due to an incorrect record, rather than a fault. It is working to resolve this error and I have escalated the issue within the Openreach management team. I will copy you in to my reply to Mrs Nolan when Openreach respond to me.

When this work is complete, we expect the majority of premises in the parish of Humbleton to be able to access superfast speeds. Those not doing so may be eligible for a Gigabit Voucher or Government's 'Better Broadband Scheme', which provides residents receiving less than 2Mbps a £350 voucher to offset the cost of installing an alternative broadband solution (<http://broadband.eastriding.gov.uk/alternative-solutions/better-broadband-scheme/>).

Finally, should you wish to see a more accurate estimation of the speeds a constituent can expect, I recommend using <https://www.dslchecker.bt.com/> rather than a consumer website, as they often only provide the 'up to' amount (such as the up to 80Mbps which Mrs Nolan refers to)."

I have today received a letter from Margot James MP, Minister for Digital and Creative Industries, which repeats the same word for word as stated by Graham Stuart.

Where do we go from here....well it would be great if residents could check their upload and download speeds at the speed check website mentioned above and either let me know or post it on the Humbleton hub, so we have a record. As we get more information or an update on the situation. I will let you all know.

## The Summer Countryside by Harry Buck

This green and pleasant land, what a good description – wheat crops look good again with new ears of soft grain just coming into sight.

After the poor weather of early spring, the crops few along in leaps and bounds. Just lately, I have looked closely where the ground has been removed for several excavation reasons – like deep drainage or several pipelines – it is very clever that the soil must have been put back very well or it would not be showing in the field crops. The wildlife was connected with the variable spring weather – resulting in late arrivals of Swallows and House Martins – also the late nesting of the many local birds. Let's hope by the end of summer most numbers will have evened out.

Young rabbits are in good numbers, some in my garden – which I could have done without! Almost on a daily basis at dusk there is a Barn Owl, which comes hunting on a small grass paddock near where I live – it searches very thoroughly by flying low back and forth until it spots something on the ground when the bird does a very quick dive downwards onto some small creature.

How well all the herbage has grown up on the local grass verges – all without the help of fertilizer – Mother Nature knows well how to do it.

KEEP WELL, KEEP LAUGHING

### [www.Oil-club.co.uk](http://www.oil-club.co.uk)

The Oil-Club has launched a club for Humbleton and the surrounding area, and yes, I know it is the summer, but those who use oil, know about the vagaries of oil prices – up and down more often than an up-and-down thing. If you would like to join or find out more about the club, please visit the website: <https://www.oil-club.co.uk>.

The benefits are

- Reduced heating oil costs
- Reduced heavy goods vehicle traffic through our villages
- Reduced carbon exhausted into our environment

#### **About the oil-club**

The oil-club is an independent organisation and has no links to any of the suppliers. The Clubs aim is simple – reduce the cost of heating oil for our members and the environmental impact as much as we can! The Oil-Club already manages over 5,500 clubs across the country.

#### **How much can we save you?**

By grouping our deliveries by village or postcode sector and the bulk purchase ability of The Oil-Club, we are able to negotiate with our panel of suppliers the best bulk purchase price for heating oil and pass on the saving to our member.

As our membership grows so does the negotiating power of The Oil-Club!

'together we all save more'

**If anyone has any events or information to add for future issues – let Vanessa know.**

**Website: <http://humbletonparishcouncil.eastriding.gov.uk/>**