

COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting / Community Forum (held 8 May)

Author Clerk
Meeting date 12 June 2019

1. Community Forum

15 stalls showcasing their work/activities and 52 people attended the Community Forum. Minutes from the formal Annual Parish Meeting have been considered elsewhere on the agenda.

Feedback either at the Forum, or since then, has included:

- “Thanks for the excellent event this evening. It was very useful for us as a community group and interesting for myself as well.” (Emma Wilson)
- “Thank you for such a good gathering.” (Harriet Sams)
- “We didn’t get anyone actually sign up to help although warm words of support” (Play@Cotherstone)
- “Thanks for organizing the event, I certainly found it worthwhile. It was good to meet other local organisations, and local residents took several of my business cards. Suggestion about layout of the tables a more circular circulation route, with tables around the outside facing inwards, and a smaller inner circle of tables, with stallholders facing outwards might be worth considering.” (Paul Hunt)

2. Issues raised by electors at Annual Parish Meeting

Council needs to consider whether/how to address the following issues which were raised:

1. A request that a water supply be installed at the Klondike allotments.
2. A request that the Parish Council try to influence Durham County Council about resurfacing the B6277 at the east end of the village where potholes and patching are particularly bad.
3. Poor visibility, due to trees, was reported as a problem on approaches to the Balder Bridge on the B6277; the parish council has tried before, unsuccessfully, to persuade Durham County Council to address this problem, but could try again.
4. A request was made for the reinstatement of a flower bed underneath the Cotherstone entrance sign at the east of the village.
5. A request was made to explore whether a canoe-launch structure could be installed at The Hagg to prevent river bank damage where canoes enter the Tees.
6. Considerable problems were reported about parking/traffic congestion and safety around the school, at peak times. Parish Council reported that a request had been for a 20mph zone, but that this had been rejected on the basis of cost. One parent of a pupil explained that a police awareness-raising campaign had been delivered in school; that a sign had been relocated, and Scarlett Band buses passing the school had been asked to take extra care. A request was made that the zig-zag lines outside the school are in need of repainting. [A further email from the resident since the meeting has elaborated on the issue and highlighted what they perceive to be the key problem.]

Recommendations

1. To resolve how to take forward any action as appropriate from issues raised at the Annual Parish Meeting.
2. To reflect on what worked well and what could be improved if a similar event is held in 2020.