

Local Planning - Can We Build It?

From home extensions and shop signs to Park and Rides and other large developments, the Parish Council plays a part in the planning process by passing comments and recommendations on applications in our area. Last year the Parish Council made recommendations on 41 planning applications, possibly because of the recession this was about half the number of previous years.

The care of the trees is also a concern of ours, and we are consulted when permission is requested to alter or fell a protected tree in the parish. We were saddened recently by the felling of an ancient Beech tree outside the Dormouse pub off Shipton Road and we will be seeking to ensure that a suitable replacement is provided.



The Parish Council

The Parish Council currently has one vacancy. If you would like to become involved in shaping the future of your area, The Parish Council is non-political and open to all residents over the age of 18. Contact the council clerk or a member of the council for more information.

CLIFTON (WITHOUT) PARISH COUNCIL

March 2010

www.cliftonwithout-pc.org.uk

PRECEPT SNIPPED

You will doubtless have heard in the media that the recession is nearly over, perhaps over. Let's hope so, but we think that some of you may still be feeling the pinch, so we decided to indulge in a little quantitative easing of our own by cutting our part of the council tax for the second year in a row. Last year we slashed our precept by 20% and this year we intend to cut it by a further 16.5%!



Now please don't get too excited, our part of the council tax is only a small part of your overall bill so the actual reduction in the amount that you will pay will only be small. But in these uncertain economic times we would rather that any money saved, however small, was in your pocket. We're sure that you will agree.

Annual Parish Meeting

Got something to say on local affairs? The annual parish meeting is your forum and will take place 6:45pm to 7:15pm on 10 March at Canon Lee School Library. The parish meeting will be followed by a meeting of the Parish Council.

The Storming of Clifton Hospital

Much of the area between Shipton Road and Clifton Ings is occupied by the site of the former Clifton Hospital. This is still a beautiful area which contains much of the former hospital grounds. One of our councillors contacted retired teacher and former film actor Trevor Hesketh, who gave us his memories of the area...

"From 1942 to 1944, I was a student residing at St. John's College in York. As part of the "War Effort", students were expected to join either the University Air Corps or the Home Guard (Dad's Army). Having been in the Home Guard in Barnsley, I therefore volunteered for that Force. We paraded at weekends, having taken our turns to do Fire Watching at the College during the week.



One weekend, the College Platoon was involved in a Military Exercise to attack and capture the Clifton Mental Hospital! I remember clearly being hoisted up the outer perimeter wall and peeping over the top into a quadrangle, where I was shocked to see elderly ladies wandering about. They were dressed mainly in black, Victorian costumes, probably the clothing they were wearing when at the time of entering the Hospital, it was indeed a shock to me. Needless to say, we were not permitted to enter the premises."

It's changed a bit since then! More information on Clifton (Without's) war time role can be found on our website (www.cliftonwithout-pc.org.uk click on Clifton (Without) tab), including a newly discovered aerial shot of the old airfield.

The Former Hospital Site Today

The hospital closed several years ago, and although the site is now in private ownership it is subject to a section 106 agreement to ensure that the grounds are properly maintained and appropriate public access is granted. S106 agreements are sometimes struck between councils (in this case York City Council) and land buyers when large pieces of land are sold. Unfortunately we believe that some parts of the S106 agreement have not been honoured, despite the 14 years since the site was sold!

Although enforcement of such agreements is outside the Parish Council's jurisdiction, this land is mostly in our parish. So throughout this time we have been doggedly hanging on, ensuring that this agreement is not forgotten about. Recently there have been encouraging signs that this issue might finally be coming to a conclusion. As soon as we have more information we'll let you know.

What's on in Your Parish?

Over the past year this news letter has featured articles about local activities. This time we bring you news of two leisure opportunities...

Happy Snapping

Last year Richard, a local photographer, had an idea to hold a community photography competition, and so fellow amateur photographers of all ages spent the summer snapping away.

This culminated in an exhibition at the Clifton Moor Community Centre where there were some truly fantastic and unusual images on display. Judging was performed by a professional photography company and each of the winners received a small prize.

This year the plan is to make the competition even bigger than before. So if you've got a camera of whatever type, why not give it a go? Many people think that competitions like this are just for the enthusiast with the expensive camera and the lens that Patrick Moore would be proud of. Whilst the ultra keen are most welcome, this is a competition for everyone, last year one of the winning shots was taken on a £25 camera!

Details of this year's competition are available now on the Clifton Moor website www.cliftonmoor.org.uk.

Street Sports

We've got great news for kids and parents! Over the school holidays this year, the Parish Council is bringing street sports to the area. Street Sport is a professionally staffed mobile sport project which aims to bring activities to young people aged between 5 and 18. Sessions include mobile skate parks and climbing towers as well as football, hockey, tennis and more!

These **free** events will be held at the Rawcliffe Lane (Library) play area and other sites in the parish. So don't miss out, more details including dates and times will be published soon.

Fancy a Plug?

Are you involved in a local activity, charity or not for profit club that you would like to be featured in this news letter? Providing it's not something like wife swapping or Badger baiting we may be able to help! Please contact us (details on back cover).