

# **BROMPTON TOWN COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL NEWSLETTER**

### **OCTOBER 2024**

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL** – The current Members of the Council are as follows -

Mr R Carter, Mr J Hazelwood, Mrs E Kelly, Mr M Langthorne (Vice-Chairman), Mrs K Mann, Mrs A Robinson, Mrs M Shiel Dods (Chairman), Miss S Rolph and Mrs R Smith.

Parish Councillors are elected representatives who volunteer their time freely to work on behalf of local residents on matters relating to the remit of the Council but who do not make decisions in an individual capacity.

Sadly during the past year two very long-standing former members of the Council died. These being Mr Reginald Collins and Mrs Margaret Chandler. Both had served on the Council for very many years and were consistently active in many aspects of Brompton village life.

Also during the year Councillor Steve O'Sullivan moved away from the area and his place on the Council has been taken by Mrs Karen Mann. The Council now has two Councillors who reside at the North Northallerton Developments – Mrs Karen Mann and Mrs Rachel Smith.

Your local North Yorkshire Councillor is Councillor is Stephen Watson and you can contact him at - [Cllr.Steve.watson@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Steve.watson@northyorks.gov.uk)

Brompton Council has no responsibilities at all with regard to your local roads - whether that be in respect of potholes, traffic issues, road closures, street lighting or signage etc. - North Yorkshire Council is responsible for all highway matters.

Therefore if you are aware of potholes of more than 40mm in depth, or a street light that is not working or any other highway matter of concern you will need to contact North Yorkshire Council at the web site -

[www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk) - The contact number is 0300 131 2131

Also Brompton Town Council is not the Planning Authority so once again if you have any planning concerns you will need to contact North Yorkshire Council.

## **What does Brompton Town Council do?**

Local Councils have a number of legal powers defined by various statutory provisions and in most cases are directly responsible for providing the following services to their villages:-

- **Bus Shelters**, and their maintenance
- **Street Lighting** (other than that which is the responsibility of North Yorkshire Council) and its maintenance - NB – There are no Parish Council lights in Brompton
- **Maintenance any lands it holds** (including Car Parks), Village Notice Boards, etc
- Maintaining/Improving the **Village Greens/Common Land**
- Provision of **Grit/Salt** bins at strategic points
- Supporting the maintenance of village burial grounds
- Providing the use of **play equipment** in Recreation Grounds for the benefit of the wider community
- **Planting trees/shrubs** to enhance the surroundings and to commemorate key events
- **Commenting on Planning Applications**
- Providing a focus within the village for action/representations on key issues

You will therefore see that these powers are very limited. The Council will assist residents in signposting them to the correct Department at North Yorkshire Council if they are unsure who to contact with any concerns.

A very high percentage of the Councils budget each year goes on grasscutting and the maintenance of the numerous trees situated around the Village Greens.

The Council is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church wall at St Thomas's Church which can be extremely expensive when needing to be repaired and also as Brompton Burial Board it administers the Cemetery on Stokesley Road.

## **The Council's Budget**

The Council's annual Precept for 2024/25 has been set at £76,000.00. Details of all accounts are available for inspection upon request

## **This Year**

There have been several common themes on the Councils agenda over the past year, these mainly being -

The receipt of the Community Infrastructure Levy **CIL monies** – the majority of these monies are being held in reserve until the North Northallerton housing estates developments have been adopted by North Yorkshire Council. The CIL monies having come from the developers of the estates.

They will in due course be mostly utilised for facilities for the new housing estates once they have been adopted by North Yorkshire Council.

The continuation of the **wildlife area** at Water End – see a comprehensive report on this later in the Newsletter. The Council is in the process of working to an Environmental Management Plan prepared for the Council by an Ecological Company.

Substantial **tree works** – Brompton Council being responsible for around 200 mature trees many of which overhang the highways and therefore require regular inspection. This is an on-going year on year commitment.

Planning the improvement of local **pedestrian and cycling routes**. This is an on-going joint venture with the number one priority being to develop safe walking and cycling routes between Northallerton and Brompton.

The Council joined with Northallerton Town Council and Romanby Parish Council with regard to moving forward local issues of concern to pedestrians and cyclists. Earlier this year the three Councils held a Local Transport Event in Northallerton Town Hall which was well attended by members of the public. Residents were asked to put forward their views and concerns about local transport issues and these were compiled into a report which was submitted to North Yorkshire Council. Funding however will be the main issue to address.

The main concerns raised were about the lack of bus services especially as this restricted people from the villages from getting into town.

In an effort to reduce the chance of flooding Brompton is protected by a series of dams on farmland to the north of the Parish.

The Councils number one priority last year was to get the leaky dams that help protect the village from flooding repaired. This was achieved last Autumn at a cost of over £30,000 which, assisted by the efforts of NY Councillor Steve Watson, North Yorkshire Council reimbursed to Brompton Council

The Council is also putting monies into its budget annually as a maintenance sum for future repairs to the leaky dams so that any defects can be quickly spotted and rectified.

The works to reinstate the drainage channel at the first road bridge at Water End have also been carried out with 3.6 tons of soil being removed to recreate the channel which will now be capable of dispersing a considerable volume of flood water.

The effects of large **agricultural tractor and trailer movements** in the village has been a major concern for many months with the Council having received several complaints from residents about the speed of these large vehicles, the fact that drivers are using mobile phones whilst driving and the spillage of dirt etc from these vehicles onto the highway and residents parked vehicles.

In addition, the highways in general and the Water Splash especially are suffering from these continual heavy vehicle movements, not only in the vicinity of Fullicar

Lane but also the adverse impact along Cockpit Hill and Lead Lane where the highway verges are continually being eroded, and also in all probability causing damage to pipe works below the carriageway surface.

The Council is also extremely concerned that when reaching the Green at the foot of Fullicar Lane north of the Water Splash continual tractor movements have taken place along the wildlife area of the Green in contravention of the Roads Traffic Act 1988 which prohibits driving of motor vehicles elsewhere than on roads including on Common Land. The Council will therefore be erecting fencing along this part of the Green to prevent it from being driven on.

Following on from the receipt of a grant of £10,000 from the National Lottery Awards for All the Council installed the adult outdoor gym equipment in **the Recreation Ground** during the Autumn. The equipment is one of the few of its kind in this area.

Also in the Recreation Ground the toddler swings which were around 60 years old were replaced and the Council also carried out several reinstatement works such as renewal of safety surfacing to various items of play equipment.

The Council intends to install junior swings in the Recreation Ground during the current financial year and next year replace the swings at Water End with a new set of swings and to install a slide in the Recreation Ground. It is also hoped that the climbing frame and swings at Water End can be added to with some new play equipment in 2025/26.

Improvement works have been recently carried out to the **Council's car park** at the bottom of Cockpit Hill with the site of the former overgrown electricity sub-station adjacent to the car park being incorporated into the car park to provide additional parking. The fencing on the boundary of the car park adjacent to the highway has been altered so as to provide for safer walking off the carriageway.

The Council is responsible for the maintenance of **St Thomas' Churchyard** including the trees and the church wall. Substantial repair works have been undertaken to the Church Wall during the past year at a cost of around £16,000. Whilst periodic repair works have been carried out over the years it is ten years since major reinstatement works were last undertaken. It is hoped that it will be at least another ten years before any major works will be needed again.

**Bollards** have been installed on the corner outside the Three Horse Shoes so that vehicles cannot park on the corner on the cobbles and obstruct the view of motorists emerging from the Cockpit Hill direction.

Bollards have been installed at the bottom of Cockpit Hill on the Water End side to provide a crossing point for pedestrians.

The Council and NY Councillor Steve Watson from his NY Locality Budget jointly financed the purchase of new **goalposts** for the football pitches at Weavers Pavilion.

Some months ago the Council applied to North Yorkshire Council to make the roads from the Rugby Club through the village to the crossroads including the area around the Primary School and then along Water End to be a **20mph speed limit**. The Council's application is still with North Yorkshire Council and a decision is awaited. Councillor Watson is pressing NYC to make a decision on the matter.

If this can be achieved it will enhance the option of more children walking and cycling safely to school and will also improve the local environment overall.

The Council is urging North Yorkshire Council to indicate that North Moor Road has a 30mph speed limit.

The Council is also in the process of investigating whether salt bins can be sited at the new housing developments and whether a Royal Mail post box can be arranged for the Kingsbrook Estate area.

**Broken glass** in the children's play area at the Recreation Ground is a regular occurrence.

**Dog fouling** has been a constant issue as it has been in previous years mainly around Church View, Cockpit Hill and Water End however attempts to get people to recognise the issue appear to have been successful therefore IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION, PERHAPS FROM DOOR CAMERA FOOTAGE, PLEASE REPORT THIS TO - [www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

### **Reporting Local Crime**

Unfortunately many instances of suspected crime are never reported to the Police. Reports must be made of ALL crimes that occur in the village whether this be Anti-Social Behaviour, Criminal Damage, Drug Dealing, Burglary or suspicious behaviour etc. We are all responsible, reporting a crime means the chances increase of the offender being caught and brought to justice.

The Council cannot pass onto the Police any matters that may be reported to it as potential crimes – these must be reported direct to the Police.

Young persons getting onto the roof of the Methodist Church has been a recurring theme recently.

The Police keep records of all crimes and this information goes into the Government statistics and can help to change the way crime is dealt with. Please Do Your Bit And Report Crime.

IF THE CRIME IS TAKING PLACE NOW 999 – OR CALL 101 IF REPORTING AFTER THE EVENT - GO TO THE POLICE STATION - OR CALL CRIME STOPPERS 0800 555 111, IF YOU WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

The Council's PCSO is–

Dougie Beveridge  
Collar Number: 3758  
PCSO  
Northallerton, North Yorkshire Police

Dial 101, press option 2 and ask for Dougie by his full name or collar number.  
If using the collar number, please state each number individually.

## **Community Safety**

*My name is Karen Nattress. I'm the Community Safety Officer for North Yorkshire Council, covering Ryedale South, Thirsk, Easingwold, Bedale, Northallerton and work within the Community Safety Hubs based at Malton and Northallerton. I'm passionate about keeping North Yorkshire a safe place to live and visit for my family and friends as well as the wider community.*

*A little bit of what I do:-*

*The Community Safety and CCTV service supports the priorities and strategies of North Yorkshire Community Safety Partnership (NYCSP) and related statutory functions and duties, with the core aim of protecting the public and reducing crime and disorder.*

*My priority is to help people feel safer within their community and deal with local issues such as anti-social behaviour, drugs, or alcohol misuse, as well as reoffending and crime prevention initiatives. I work alongside several key partners in the local area to identify and support community safety issues as and when they arise and assess local crime and disorder priorities and consult with partners and local communities about how to deal with them.*

*Please, feel free to get in touch: -*

*[Karen.Nattress@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Nattress@northyorks.gov.uk) Tel – 07435 993206*

## **100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations**

If you are aware of anyone in the Parish who will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday this year please send details of their name and address to the Clerk at [Bromptonpc@aol.com](mailto:Bromptonpc@aol.com) - The Council has agreed that it will send a birthday card and flowers to a lady or an appropriate gift to a gentleman who reaches this age in Brompton Parish.

## **The Cemetery**

The Council also acts as the local Burial Authority –

If you are wishing to trace burial details of a relative who is buried in the Cemetery the Clerk is able to answer questions relating to burials in the Cemetery back to the 1930s. Please note that the Clerk does not have the details of persons who are buried in St Thomas' Churchyard.

The Council's Burial Board section of the web site contains a Burial Plot locator to find burial plots in the Cemetery. If in doubt please contact the Council.

The current burial fees are as follows -

- £400.00 per burial plot
- £180.00 per interment in a burial plot
- £60.00 for Memorials (half size headstones – half fee)
- £120.00 for the purchase of ashes plot
- £60.00 for interment of ashes
- No fee for deceased persons under 16 years of age.

Fees are doubled where the deceased person did not reside within the Parish boundary but in such cases proof is required that the person still has immediate relatives in the Parish, unless they had moved out of the Parish within a period of less than 12 months.

Traditionally burial fees tend to increase from the 1<sup>st</sup> January in each year.

**Please note that ashes plots are now available to any persons who live in the area of the former Hambleton District Council. Up to four lots of family ashes can be interred in each plot.**

The Burial Board has adopted the position that it will accept additional pots, urns etc on graves but only where they are placed in line with the existing headstone respective to the grave concerned. This greatly assists with the grass cutting

For the information of relatives the details of the rules and regulations concerning the erection of headstones and memorials in the Cemetery are set out on the Councils web site.

ANY RELATIVES WHO WISH TO REMOVE A HEADSTONE OR MEMORIAL FROM THE CEMETERY FOR REPAIR OR RE-INSCRIPTION PURPOSES MUST ADVISE THE CLERK OF THEIR INTENTIONS BEFORE ITS REMOVAL.

### **Use of the Council's Car Park at the Foot of Cockpit Hill**

Please note that the car park at the foot of Cockpit Hill is private land – the land belonging to Brompton Town Council.

The car park rules are set out below -

Car park spaces are only be available on a “first come first served basis”. No parking space will be allocated to any particular resident or vehicle.

Only vehicles having current Road Fund Licence and valid Insurance cover will be permitted to park on the land. Any vehicle not complying with the aforesaid will be reported to the Police.

Only vehicles owned by residents of the Parish of Brompton are permitted to park on the land unless visiting a resident for a period of no more than 24 hours.

Only private cars, motorcycles or vans no larger than a SWB Ford Transit may be parked on the land.

The parking of any trailers, camper vans, caravans, horse boxes, tractors, boats or boat trailers is not permitted without the previous written consent of the Council.

In the interests of safety no vehicles are permitted to park alongside the front of the site adjacent to Water End highway.

No vehicle is permitted to park on the unsurfaced two metre strip of land running adjacent to and alongside the beck as this area of land is to be left undeveloped to promote wildlife.

Persons parking vehicles on the site are asked to have due regard to the privacy of the adjoining householder by not sounding the vehicles horn, not slamming doors and only using headlights whilst the vehicle is in motion coming into or leaving the car park.

No maintenance work of any sort may be undertaken on any vehicle whilst it is parked on the car park.

No vehicles are to be advertised as being "For Sale" on the car park site.

The Council will not be responsible in any form for the loss of any vehicle, or damage caused to any vehicle by whatever cause, or the loss of property from any vehicle whilst it is parked on the land.

The only driving permitted of a vehicle on the land will be to park or move a vehicle from the car park.

Please take care when exiting the car park.

## **Roundup News (Brompton Wildlife Action Group)**

### **Wildlife Area update Summer 2024**

Well it's been a quiet time down at the wildlife area for most part of the year with the last human input back in the early spring topping up the bulb planting.

The rest of the year we have just let nature do it's thing and been busy behind the scenes making a plan and deciding how to move forward with the area and the village in general.

### **Celebrating Successes!!**

This year we have had a bumper crop of wildlife spotted and reported not only around the wildlife area and Fullicar but along the beck and adjacent land.

We have a huge colony of bats- feeding on the insects on and around the beck

A sparrow hawk around The Green



Up to 4 little white egret at a time - successful broods of moorhen and mallard - grey wagtail has returned to the water splash - daily barn owl sightings \*buzzard - lapwing - toad - jay – Greater Spotted Woodpecker – lapwing – tawny owl - Goldcrest

and the NUMBER 1 star- a solitary OTTER- we think it might have just been visiting but if we keep up the good work, who knows, in the future they may decide Water End is a good place to be!

Leaving the plants in the beck to grow wild for the 3<sup>rd</sup> summer and managing the plants alongside the beck has had several benefits

- \*beneficial plant species have thrived - grasses and reedmace or 'bulrush' as most know

- \* the water flow has been narrowed to create natural rivulets thereby increasing the water flow and improving the oxygen levels of the water

- \* less exposed, shallow bodies of water are decreasing the amount of toxic green filamentous algae. The more shade we have in and over the beck, the better the water quality will be as it remains cooler.

- \* moorhens and mallards have nested in the recent, naturally formed grass islands

Following input from a local Ecology firm who surveyed the area in the spring, we have put together a working plan with month by month details on which jobs we can be getting on with, including short medium and long term plans

### **Not so Good News**

We would be interested to hear from anyone has seen a heron return to the beck as sadly any heron sightings have been absent for a couple of years now. A report of an illegal shooting was received and we urge anyone with any suspicion that wildlife is being illegally shot, injured or taken without a licence to report it immediately to the Police.

### **WHAT WILL WE BE DOING THIS COMING 12 MONTHS**

- \* in October, stripping the turf from a small section of the wildlife area near the water splash to plant up every year with wildflower bulbs and annual wildflower seeds such as poppy cornflower for a real punch of colour where most people will see it

- \* creating 'dead wood' log piles in several areas to providing nesting, feeding and habitat opportunities for a variety of species from creepy crawlies, to toads to birds.

- \* working with Men's Shed in Northallerton again to make us some more bird, bat, hedgehog and owl boxes- which we will then pass on to the school for the children to construct!

\*this autumn, planting wildflower plugs to extend the swathes of perennial wildflowers that have returned and bloomed successfully

\* planting specially selected trees down the beck side to improve the area for water born species

**AROUND THE VILLAGE-** extending small areas of wildflower and bulb planting or habitat creation as time and funds allow

All our work is carried out by volunteers - the more the merrier and many hands make light work, even an hour a year is a help and means we can extend our work around the village.

Please contact the Brompton Town Council Clerk in the first instance on [bromptontowncouncil@aol.com](mailto:bromptontowncouncil@aol.com)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER IS ALSO ON THE COUNCIL'S WEB SITE - [Bromptontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://Bromptontowncouncil.gov.uk)**

Meetings of the Council are held monthly in The Methodist Church commencing at 7.15pm, usually on the third Tuesday of each month. However very occasionally the date of the monthly meeting needs to be changed from the third Tuesday of the month to an alternative date.

Public questions must be submitted by noon on the day before the Council meetings. The Council reserves the right to respond to public questions in writing.

Council meetings are open to the local electors to attend but are not public meetings. However the Council meetings will be opened for a maximum of 10 minutes early on the agenda for Members of the public who wish to speak regarding items **within the remit of the Council** (see page 2)

An Annual 'Parish Assembly' is held in April each year to enable residents to hear reports about matters relating to the Parish and to provide an opportunity for discussions on topics of general interest. In effect the Annual Parish Assembly is a meeting of residents at which Councillors attend and to which the Chairman of the Council makes an annual report and the Responsible Financial Officer makes a financial report.

The Annual Meeting of the Council is held in May.

Mr P Atkin  
Clerk to the Council and Responsible Financial Officer  
Brompton Town Council  
c/o 61 Quaker Lane  
Northallerton, DL6 1EE

## **FLOODING - SANDBAGS**

North Yorkshire Council is simplifying its approach to supporting communities who need access to sandbags during a flood incident. The offer that was available to communities from the previous District and Borough councils was inconsistent, so this has been updated to ensure there is a single offer across North Yorkshire.

From the beginning of October 2024 if a member of public requires access to sandbags they should Google Sandbags North Yorkshire.

If there is an immediate need for sandbags then they can call 0300 131 2 131 and either say Sandbag when prompted or follow the instructions.

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