



Welcome to Walton Parish Council newsletter Winter 2024 edition.

Hot topics from recent Parish Council meetings

Walton Park

In previous newsletters we reported on the work done by students producing designs for a public garden on the site of the old tennis courts. We had hoped that the students would be able to conclude a design before they finished their degrees and went off to pursue their careers, but this has not been possible. Therefore, the Parish Council has decided to appoint a professional landscape architect to progress the project, taking forward the most desirable elements of the students' work. We are currently in the process of seeking quotations from prospective architects with a view to making an appointment early next year. The architect's first task will be to complete an outline design that we will share with the community for feedback later in the year.

The Parish Council has resolved to engage an arboriculturist to inspect all of the trees in the Walton Park. This will give us a clear indication of the health of each tree and indicate any maintenance requirements moving forward. The majority of trees in the park are covered by tree preservation orders (TPOs) and will need permission from Wakefield Council before any work can be carried out.

We would like to thank our groundsman Paul for his hard work maintaining the flower beds at the entrance to the park and in the planters outside the Village Hall. Once again, we have had beautiful displays over the summer.

Traffic concerns

Following on from our article on road safety in the last newsletter here a few things to consider now that the earlier dark nights are upon us. Navigating the streets in lower lighting adds risks for everyone, but there is one group that is most particularly vulnerable. People in cars are protected by the vehicle. Pedestrians are generally safe on footpaths and at crossings. Cyclists, however, are subject to enhanced risks. Road accident data shows this difference very clearly. When calculated on a per mile travelled basis, cyclists suffer over ten times more fatalities per year than car drivers. Well over half of those deaths occur in areas with 30 mph speed limits and almost half happen at junctions. In recent weeks children have been observed riding along by themselves after dark having no reflective clothing or lights on their bikes. Our village is happily busy with children playing, making their way home from school and perhaps off to football, rugby or dance. If you are a parent, please take some time to check children's bikes and helmets. Maybe consider an inexpensive hi-vis vest? A small improvement in visibility might make all the difference.

Our Safe Scheme reports in recent months have also shown that many of the cars that have been stopped for either speeding or driving while using a mobile phone have been local residents. A polite reminder that the 20 mile an hour zone in front of the school is in force 24 hours a day. Please get in touch with either PC Steel or the Parish Council if there is a particular issue you wish us to look at. Craig.steel@westyorkshire.police.uk Please let's all make it our responsibility to keep our village a safe place to live.

The **Walton PACT** (Police and Communities Together) meeting for the Walton area will be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 19th November 7pm. This is your opportunity to come along and discuss any issues that may be affecting you in the community.

Be a good citizen - There has been an increase in litter across all areas of Walton. Please be vigilant, use the bins provided and pick up after your dog. Let's help to keep our village tidy. Thank you!

Grants and Donations- The Parish Council Grant scheme received and granted only one application this year to Friends of Waterton's Wall. The deadline for grant applications of up to £250 is September 2025 and information can be found on the Parish Council website. The Parish Council appoints a representative to the trustees of the Almshouse Charity where there are two funds, one for repairs and one for relief to the Parish of Sandal Magna. Gifts of £500 have been given to Walton Community Library and Walton Colliery Nature Park. Here we have Chair of the Parish Council John Carlon handing over the cheque donation to the library.



Recent projects carried out by the Parish Council:

Floral Displays - The Summer hanging baskets and planters looked stunning this year. Unfortunately, two planters at the Walton signs on Shay Lane and Oakenshaw Lane were stolen. However, the Parish Council has

resolved to replace them next year. The lamp post Christmas Trees will be arriving shortly.

Repairs - It has been resolved to make repairs to the roof on the Village Hall and also Coronation Cottage. We are still awaiting permission from Wakefield Council Highways department to remove the Finger Post at the bottom of The Balk ready for restoration.

Village news

Walton Community Library - Walton Community Library has a number of events you might be interested in: - Christmas Wreath making. Thurs 5th December 6.30. £35 pp to include refreshments and materials.

FREE Children's craft morning for accompanied primary aged children. Saturday 7th December 10.30 – 12.30.

Brass Band Concert in Walton Village Hall. Saturday 14th December.

Walton Singers Christmas Concert Monday 16th December at St. Paul's Church.

Festive Quiz at the Library. Jan 2nd 7pm. Walton Calendars are now on sale – still only £5 each.

We also have regular wine evenings, Bingo, Nordic Walking, Cycle group and much more. Volunteers always welcome. For further details about all our events – Walton Community Library, Charles Waterton House, Almond Avenue (top of The Grove). Tel:- [01924 917627](tel:01924917627) or pop in. We are open Mon – Fri 2-5 pm, Tues, Thurs and Sat 10 – 1pm.

Working for Walton - We are excited to welcome Walton Residents and their families to this year's Christmas Lights Extravaganza. TIME & PLACE: Sunday 1st December from 4.30pm at Walton Village Hall, School Lane & Walton Park. There will be a complimentary cafe in the Village Hall with hot chocolate being served by those fabulous elves. Hot food available to purchase from PIGGYLICIOUS outside the Village Hall and an outdoor licensed bar including (always a favourite) hot mulled wine on sale. Cash & card payments accepted outside. There will also be a Christmas Craft Market in the village hall. The programme of entertainment gets under way from 5.00pm with Studio A dance performance, Crofton Silver Band and the man of the moment Santa arrives in a procession of Studio 'A' Dance performers, to switch on the lights... at roughly 6pm. Kindly supported by Walton Parish Council. Please note on Sunday 1st December School Lane will be closed from 3pm until 8pm PLEASE NOTE: ALL TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE.

The Friends of Waterton's Wall -



Did you see us on ITV Calendar recently? Planning has commenced for a Waterton Festival to celebrate the bicentenary of the completion of the wall around the first nature reserve in the world. We are planning an event for EVERY day of May 2026! You can find out more by emailing us at: friendsofwatertonswall@gmail.com. Or scanning the QR codes below



Preservation work has started with an enthusiastic band of volunteers attending a day's Lime Mortar workshop in September. A small stretch of wall along the canal path was repaired using traditional methods. We are now looking for funding to carry out a further 21 days of restoration next year.

The Friends of Walton Colliery Nature Park - The Friends are grateful to Walton's Ward Councillors for supporting their grant application for new way marker posts and signage for the Nature Park. Volunteers have already begun installing the posts and hope to have the work completed early spring. If you have a couple of hours to spare once a month, why not join us at one of our volunteer work sessions. The next one is on Wednesday 11th December meeting in Shay Lane carpark at 10.30am.

Walton Manor - The residents of Walton Manor have been busy in the last few weeks making a beautiful display to commemorate Remembrance Sunday with the help of the activities co-ordinator. They used the bottom of plastic drinks bottles and painted them to depict poppies whilst sharing their memories and experiences of the war. Some of the men had served and received medals in Cyprus.

