

Mayors Diary Boroughbridge July 10<sup>th</sup> 2017

Firstly, I would like to update you on a couple of ongoing issues that are of some concern. The first being that of surface water flooding at the end of Springfield Drive an issue that has plagued residents there for some time. Following some pressure from our Harrogate Councillor and myself the Highway's department finally decided to investigate. The problem turned out to be a large tree root that had found its way in to one of the outlet pipes blocking it completely. Hopefully this problem is resolved, fingers crossed. The second issue involving flooding is that of foul water. Following constant pressure from myself and the help of a knowledgeable neighbour we had a very constructive meeting with an engineer from Yorkshire Water who came armed with plans and past flooding history documentation. The outcome was that he agreed with us there was a serious issue that lay with two of the main outlet pipes. One from the end of Springfield Drive across the school field, the other from Hall Square and across the car park. Basically, they are two small when topped up with heavy rain fall. He assured us that solutions had to be found and that he had already arranged meetings with his management team to come up with an action plan. Once again fingers crossed.

"Fake News" appears to be the flavour of the month in most places at the moment; I suppose it keeps someone's minds active if nothing else. The reason I refer to it is that Harrogate Council have published an updated Local Development Plan, with a fresh consultation meeting scheduled across the district. Some of the comments I have already received from members of the public stretch the imagination a little too far. Yes, new development is a concern to us all and I think Boroughbridge is taking more than its fair share. But our Town Council along with all other councils in the Harrogate District are only advisory bodies. The final planning decisions rest with Harrogate Council. It is therefore essential that as many people as possible attend these consultation events. Hear and see the facts, have your say. Don't leave it to hearsay and chance. The consultation event in Boroughbridge is Thursday July 27<sup>th</sup> in the Jubilee Rooms above the Library.

Boroughbridge and the surrounding area is still plagued with mindless acts of vandalism, despite our police's best efforts. Boddy's Wood Yard is still a dangerous playground for some, who think it is acceptable to take peoples garden furniture to use for their sleepovers and parties. Your child having a sleepover? More cars have been egged, obscene graffiti in our car park, public toilets flooded and a litter bin ripped from its anchor points and taken away. And sadly, it was reported to me that an elderly lady was badly shaken when a large plant pot was thrown through her window one evening. Once upon a time we had fully qualified youth workers who provided some outlet for those young people who found it hard to do something constructive rather than destructive. Once again, I ask that if you see anything untoward please contact the police on 101. Every little bit of information helps

To end on a more pleasant note Pauline and I were delighted to attend the Lions Concert held in the Methodist Church Hall a couple of weeks ago. The concert featured the Knaresborough Choral Society, with their main theme being the Sound of Music. A great afternoon entertainment.