

Mayors Diary Boroughbridge Aug 7<sup>th</sup> 2017

Yorkshire day, brings sad memories for Pauline and myself as it is a year ago since we lost our lovely old border collie Bess at the age of 15. As I write this our new collie Nell who is now 11 months old is sitting beside me, waiting for me to throw one of her many tennis balls. Yorkshire day also saw our latest full council meeting where we had two members of the public voice their concerns about traffic issues on Horsefair. Although the present speed limit is partly 20mph people were finding it very difficult to cross the road or manoeuvre a car safely out of Chatsworth Grove. The Council agreed with their concerns and agreed to investigate ways the road could be made safer for all.

I, along with other councillors expressed their disappointment at the number of attendees to the Harrogate Borough Council Draft local plan consultation presentation in the Jubilee rooms on the 27th of July. This presentation indicated that the area of Boroughbridge was earmarked for a further 800 new homes on top of the 800 already planned. The revised plan includes a further expansion of Aldborough Gate up to the cross roads and developing the land up the A168 at Stump Cross. If these proposals come to fruition the impact on our community would be immense. Short term our community would increase by approximately one third, Medium term by two thirds and long term it would double. The Council for their part will be writing to Harrogate Council to express their dismay at such an increase. We shall also be contacting our health centre management team and the education authority to ask them what their plans are to cope with such an increase. Yorkshire Water will also be asked yet again. It is not too late to have your say. Visit the Harrogate Borough Council web site where you can see the plans and register your comments. As well as all the housing development plans, there are now enquires being made for a sugar beet factory to be situated close to the waste recycling plant at Allerton Park, only a stone's throw away from Boroughbridge. If this plan succeeds it will dwarf the recycling plant.

Most of the work has now been completed at Aldborough Cemetery thanks to the Community Payback team. We just need to clear away all the brash and carry out some pruning work on the avenue of cherry trees. Work continues in both cemeteries to make safe those memorial stones that have become unsafe.

We continue to suffer mindless damage in the town by some of the younger element in our community, but are still working hard with the police to catch those responsible.

On Saturday Pauline and I were invited with other civic members to judge floats taking part in Ripon's St Wilfred's Parade. Congratulations to all the winners as everyone had a fabulous day.

On Sunday, we attended a double celebration in Knaresborough. This was the civic service of Anne Jones Harrogate Mayor and David Goode Knaresborough Mayor. The joint service was held at St John the Baptist Church with a lovely reception at the Dower House.