

Mayor's Diary Boroughbridge Monday 30th October

An interesting week to say the least starting with our young border collie Nell booked in for a minor op first thing Monday morning. We picked her up later that day, "keep her quiet and calm for a couple of weeks and put this collar on to stop her licking the wound". Ha, easier said than done. It has been a very long 10 days! So, whilst on dog-watch duties I took the time to read all the letters that Y5 had sent me following their visit to the council office some weeks ago. I was keen to see which subjects concerned them the most. There were three main themes. One was the proposal to build a motorway service area at Kirby Hill. Their main concerns here were the environmental impact it would have on our countryside and the air pollution caused by all the extra vehicles in the area. The most popular subject was about road safety near the school and some called for a zebra crossing to enable them to cross safely at the junction of Aldborough Road and York Road. A valid point well made, but I doubt if that would be possible. However, it will be put before the full council at the next meeting for their views before putting the proposition before NYCC Highways department for consideration. The third issue the class were concerned about was all the new proposed housing. The class appeared split in their opinion. Some thought the new houses would bring new families into the town so they would have more friends and the schools would grow along with the town. Those against that thought it would spoil the village-like feel of our community. I will be suggesting that compromise may be the best solution. I will be writing the to the Y5 class in greater detail.

Just a few interesting pieces of news just coming in as I write the piece. I have just heard that Gladman's have submitted outline planning proposals for 450 houses at Stump Cross adjacent to the A168 just south of the town. Secondly, the Water Rats building near the river bridge was broken into over the weekend by several young people. I, along with others will be glad to see this eyesore gone for good. It is currently awaiting demolition. However, a note to parents, this is not a safe place for your son or daughter to be. The police have been informed. I may have more news on this in a few weeks.

I think as a community we need to start to re-evaluate what we are providing for our young people in the community. We hear about multi-agency working, task forces, and intervention schemes, but that does not provide the very basic needs for a young person to meet socially and have some adult guidance in what is, and is not, socially acceptable.

On Sunday afternoon Pauline and I were invited to the Social Club in Boroughbridge to judge Halloween costumes and pumpkins. An event organised by Lynn Bidski and Jackie Wood. When we arrived the place was full of scary youngsters having a great time. Judging was difficult and as usual we took some time to agree on the best costume. The same applied for the pumpkin designs and we did award a special prize to one that commemorated Remembrance Day.



