



Burley Matters

This is Burley Parish Council's e-newsletter, sharing Council discussions and decisions, and bringing news about work underway with our many partners in the village.

Welcome to our first e-newsletter

At the moment, the Council hand delivers four printed newsletters a year to over 3000 homes in the village (with the very welcome assistance of many volunteers).

We also have a website that has around 1,000 hits a month

<http://www.burleyparishcouncil.co.uk> plus a Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/burleyparishcouncil> that receives up to 8,000 views per

post. The Parish Council also issues around 20 press releases a year and has around

15 articles a year in local newspapers. But we'd like to reach even more people – so

here's our first online communication! It's extra to everything we do already. Please

do sign up and encourage others to do the same.

Burley in Wharfedale's Neighbourhood Plan



The Neighbourhood Plan, which will help shape development in the village until 2030, has taken a significant step forward. Neighbourhood Plans are a means to

enable local people to have greater say over any form of development in their communities. Over the past four years Burley Parish Council has been working to produce our own Neighbourhood Development Plan.

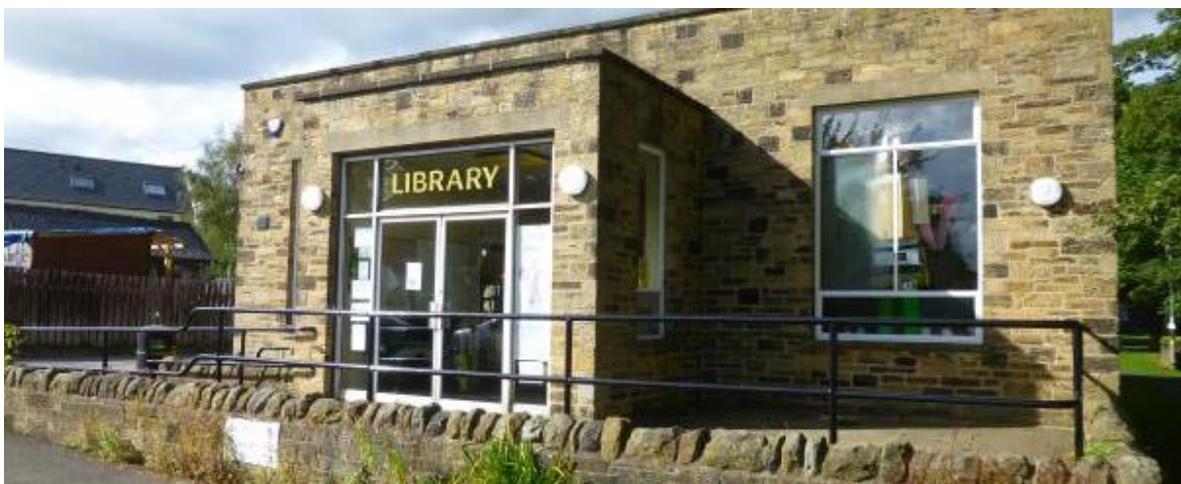
The Parish Council has undertaken a number of evidence-gathering and consultation exercises to get the views of the community. This has then been translated into a number of planning policies and land designations.

The Parish Council has submitted our proposed Neighbourhood Plan to Bradford Council as the plan as we wish to see adopted. Bradford Council is now formally inviting comments from the wider public and organisations. The consultation runs for 6 weeks from Monday, 12 June to 5pm on Monday 24 July 2017.

Following the consultation, Bradford Council will submit the plan for examination by an independent Planning Inspector. Subject to the Inspector's report Bradford Council will then hold a local referendum to allow the village to vote on whether or not they think the plan should be adopted. If the plan receives a majority vote in favour it will then become part of the statutory development plan - the Local Plan, for the Bradford District.

The consultation documents and comment forms are available online at: <https://www.bradford.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/neighbourhood-areas/> and can also be found in the Parish Office in the Queens Hall and in the library.

Library Site - Finance Review



One of the biggest debates at the moment is the future of the current library site. The Parish Council is committed to retaining library services in the village and is

looking at the cost / benefit of doing so out of either one site at the Queen's Hall or from the current library building.

Councillor Mike Wild presented a financial model recently that had been refined following discussions with the Save Our Library Site group in the village. It assumed that all proposed work would be undertaken on both buildings and that all funding would be from borrowed money until the Community Infrastructure Levy (a payment from new property developers) is received. To make extensive improvements the Queen's Hall and also retain and improve the existing library site, it was estimated that £42 a year would be needed to be raised through the precept (a small addition to Council Tax). However if the library site were sold, the money could be used to go towards providing additional space at the Queens Hall. It was estimated that £21 a year would be need to be raised through local taxes to support this alternative.

Councillor Niccola Swan considered that there are many other funding sources to be considered such as, grants and crowd funding which might reduce the need for these levels of expenditure. It was also suggested that the amount of work undertaken on both buildings could be reduced or phased.

Clearly further work needs to be done to help refine the thinking on this. This needs to be brought to a conclusion in sufficient time to effect any changes that might be required once Bradford Council withdraw all funding in April next year. An open consultation event with various costed options is proposed for early September 2017.

Queens Hall Usage during April and May



The Parish Council assumed responsibility for the Queens Hall on 1st April 2017 and immediately made changes to the charges in order to increase usage. The standard hourly charge for the main hall is £25 and for the small hall is £15. It will cost the Parish Council some £58,000 a year to run the Queens Hall and for the first year we believe an income target of £25,000 is achievable to go partway to offset these costs. If both halls were booked for a 100 hours a week this could generate around £80,000 a year. However this may be unrealistic given the current state of the building, but it may be possible to have both halls booked for 50 hours a week which would produce about £40,000 a year.

During the first 2 months of operation in April and May there have been 22 hours of regular bookings and 6 occasional bookings. If this pattern continues, the income for the year could reach £30,000.

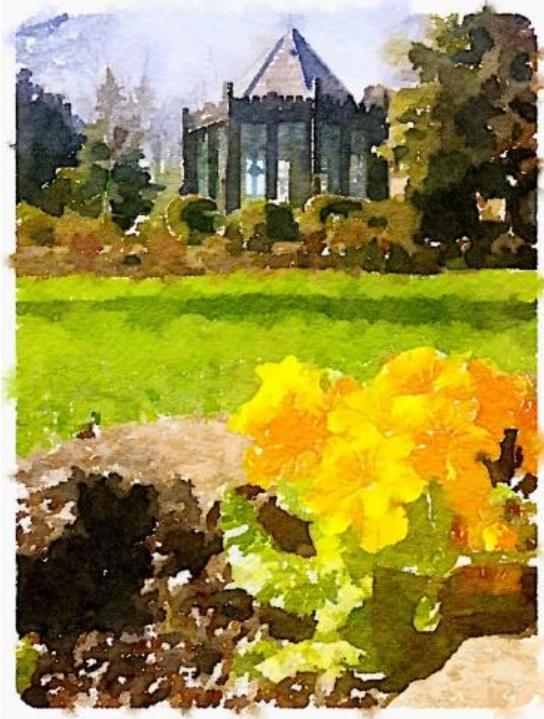
Peak time bookings in the Queens Hall have meant that some bookings have been transferred to the Library. The library is open 25 hours a week and not used after 6pm. To date the income has been £380. In line with the Queens Hall, to cover the significant costs in running these sites, there are no free lets currently being offered

Grange Park Shelter

The Parish Council is aware that the shelter in Grange Park is being used by young people for a range of evening activities which often results in excessive litter and the surrounding area looking a mess. A request has been made to the Parish Council to move the shelter to another part of the village. Most of the Parish Councillors feel that this would simply move the problem, whilst also removing the benefit of the shelter from park users who enjoy the facility by day. As an attempt to address the root cause of the problem, the Parish Council has approved a small budget to pay for outdoor physical activities in the park ('boot camp') which may appeal to this age group, and give them something else to focus on. News on this will follow soon.



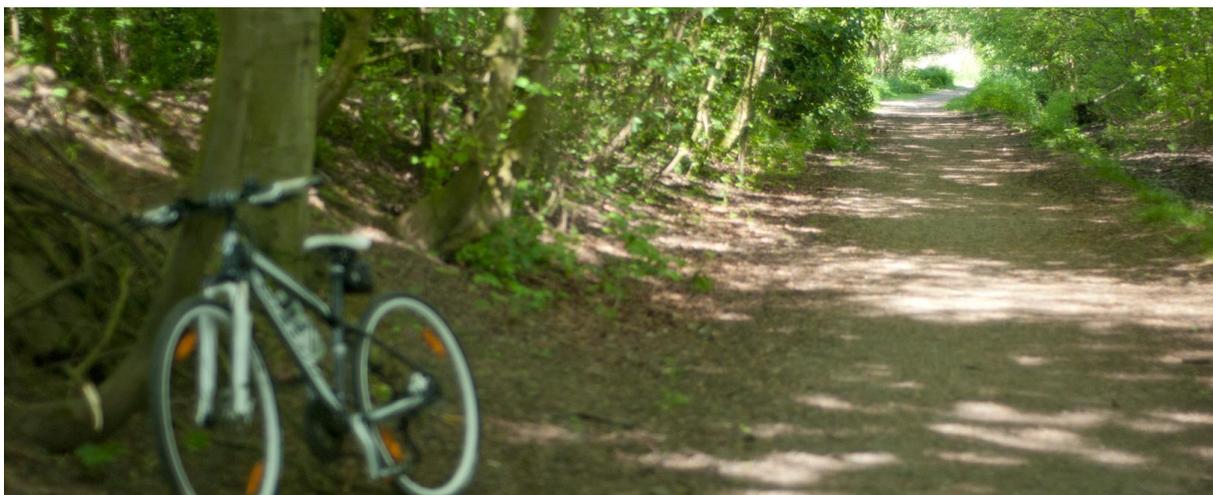
Grange Park Play Area



Following the refurbishment of the play area, the park was re-opened to children on 7th May. The initial proposal was that phase 1 would cover the replacement of the existing play equipment, and subject to further funding, phase 2 would provide for additional play and adult exercise equipment within the main park. This extra funding is now almost certainly in place.

Before Phase 2 work starts there are some outstanding issues to be addressed which include items such as making good the drainage (which was one of the problems that prevented play in the park in the first place). The Parish Council therefore agreed to complete all refurbishment work before progressing with the purchase of additional play equipment. Once the grassed areas are complete, there are proposals to fit out 4 new picnic benches.

Wharfedale Greenway – new walking and cycle path



The Parish Council has been in partnership since 2013 with Pool, Menston and Otley Parish Councils, plus Bradford and Leeds District Councils to develop a Wharfedale Greenway from Pool to Burley, with plans later on to extend to Ilkley and

Addingham. Over this time there have been extensive negotiations with local land owners. At Menston agreement on a specific route has stalled due to land ownership issues and the implications for bridge building (already a high cost element of the outline design).

The Wharfedale Greenway will bring real transport, environmental, health, tourism and economic benefits to the communities of Wharfedale that it will link together. When complete, it will have the potential to encourage short, safe cycling and to reduce car use at busy commuter times.

Negotiations with land owners for the proposed Greenway have been carried out by Sustrans (a leading UK charity in the field, and creator of the national cycle network), and Sustrans has been the managing agent for the project to date. Recent reductions in project resources at Sustrans have prompted a decision by the project that Burley Parish Council should lead on land partnership discussions within Burley. The Parish Council has the legal power to purchase, rent or lease land for recreational purposes, and with that in mind, the Parish Council is currently negotiating with local land owners.

While the West Yorkshire Combined Authority may be the best option for funding, the earliest a bid would be considered is 2019. As a result of the funding challenges, it has been agreed that the Parish Council should seek funding from other sources for Phase One: Otley to Burley Station.

Iron Row Allotments



There are more people that want allotments in the village than there are places available. There is potential to use land off Iron Row to create 40 new allotments. This needs careful consideration since there are significant access restrictions that may affect residents along Iron Row as well as funding requirements. The Parish Council has agreed to consider the costs and funding available before taking the idea any further.

Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)

Leisure provision in the area of the recreation ground has been discussed for sometime, and money from the Greenholme Mills development has been earmarked to go partway to fund such a development.

To move this forward the Parish Council is seeking competitive quotes for a Multi Use Games Area so that the proposition can be worked up and funding arrangements sought.



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