

Welcome to the Curbar Annual Parish Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is for me to provide an overview of the working of the Parish Council and to give the residents of Curbar an opportunity to raise any issues which, if appropriate, can be fed into the Parish meetings and discussed further.

I would also like to welcome back our Clerk, Pip and thank her and my fellow councillors for their time and contributions over the last 12 months. During this time the Council has taken the opportunity to reflect on the success of changes and initiatives whilst gathering ideas for further changes and improvements.

The council continues to have an open spot as no replacement for Cllr Crook has been found since his passing and will, at the end of this term also have an opening as a result of Cllr Masterhorn moving out of the village. If anyone would like the opportunity to become a Councillor, please contact myself or Pip to discuss further.

We have investigated further works to the playing field this year with the possible addition of more equipment aimed at younger children likely to go ahead this summer. The contracts for mowing the field have been renewed and the council continue to be happy with the service provided.

The defibrillator has recently required replacement due to some components of the original model approaching their end-of-life date. The device itself and the cabinet are checked regularly to ensure that they are still in good condition and are ready to be used, I hope that no-one has any need of it. The council would welcome thoughts on whether there should be another device installed elsewhere in the village and ideas on location.

The speed of traffic continues to be an area of concern for many residents. The Speed Indicator Device continues to operate and data shows that there are few vehicles exceeding the limit, with most being comfortably under 30.

Parking on Bar Road and Curbar gap continues to be a focus of the council with the issue being raised multiple times at both District and County level as visitors continue to flaunt the double yellow lines and create a dangerous obstruction. I would encourage residents to notify the County Council through their website or by phone when there are issues such that they can send out parking enforcement. It is worth noting that, unless the road is actually blocked, this remains an issue that the Police cannot help with.

The discussions with the County Council around grass verges appear to have been successful and we are now into our third year of an agreement with the County where select verges have not been trimmed to allow for the wildflowers present to seed before being removed. Feedback on this initiative, which provides benefits to wildlife would be welcome. This is yielding results with wild orchids spotted by myself in some of our verges!

The Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications within the parish. This means that we, as a council, must be consulted and, if an objection is raised, the application must be heard by the Peak Park planning committee. During the last year, 5 full planning applications have been received and reviewed.

The Village Square has also received some attention with the unblocking of the drains occurring during winter to mitigate some of the risk of black ice on The Bent as a result of overspill. A big thanks to the Eastern Moors Partnership for their help with this work! The Square once again

played host to the village Christmas tree and learnings from previous years meant the (particularly fine) tree survived everything December could throw at it.

Snow clearing and gritting services continue to be provided by Harry White and the council remain happy with the excellent service provided. I'm sure that all residents would join me in thanking Harry for coming out in the early winter mornings to keep us mobile and it is worth noting that, if this service was not in place the village roads, other than the A623, would not be gritted or cleared by the County Council.

In closing, the Parish Council continues to run well and do it's best to improve and maintain the village and advocate for it's residents. Once again, I'd like to thank my fellow councillors and the clerk for their time and continued support.

Rob Scott

Chair, Curbar Parish Council