

Risby Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2023

Highways

There are ongoing problems with the gullies/drainage in South street and the maintenance of the road surfaces, (potholes and areas around gullies.) There are also problems with vegetation obstructing road signs and making visibility difficult.

We were not happy with the quality of the lorry survey carried out and asked if the lorries could be made to use the official diversion routes when maintenance works are carried out on the A14.

Highways are against erecting bollards on the end of lower green where lorries/vans turn causing damage to the green and water mains equipment.

Mill lane has been designated as a quiet lane and signs erected.

Defibrillator

It has now been registered as rescue ready. John Fairlie has agreed to do all the necessary checks, and bollards have been erected to prevent vehicles obstructing access to it. A defibrillator training session is planned for the future if enough interest is shown.

Planning

A lot of concern has been raised about the possible development of land adjacent to Fishers field. Mr David Roach from the planning department came and explained that a site with a SPA on it will not be allowed in the local plan.

There have been a number of planning applications this year, the two main ones of concern were both down Hall Lane, a planning application to extend the nursing home and Charman's Farm grain store which is classed as General Permitted Development class Q section, which relates to redundant farm/agricultural buildings being converted for residential use without planning permission providing they keep the same footprint as the original buildings. The main concern was the extra traffic they would create in Hall Lane.

Pigeon development wanted to meet and discuss possible future development. Risby Parish Council declined as it wanted to wait for the West Suffolk Local Plan to be published. Risby is categorised as a class A village.

Tree survey

This is carried out yearly, where work needed to be done to keep the trees safe and healthy is prioritised. We have to obtain planning permission as all the trees we are responsible for are in a Conservation Area. In some areas it's a problem to establish the ownership of trees and who is responsible for them.

We helped Risby WI obtain and plant a tree on the Lower Green in memory of the Queen who was a WI member.

Ponds

The gabions are being monitored and solutions are being sought and discussions ongoing, as are possible clearing cleaning options. Fish were dumped illegally in Hall Lane pond; most were removed as salt off the roads would not be a good environment for these fish to live in for their welfare. The best solution is not to put the fish in the pond in the first instance.

Allotments

All the allotments are rented out and look really good, a real credit to all those with one. There have been ongoing discussions about putting in a new water system to try and save water usage. This proved to be very expensive or water usage would need to be monitored carefully. A request for a community orchard was declined.

A huge thank you to all the folk who help make our village the lovely place it is to live in. Be it cutting the grass, picking litter, trimming trees and hedges, clearing gullies, resurfacing footpaths, trimming the edges on footpaths, monitoring speeding through use of a VAS and all the other jobs that get done but often go unnoticed, a huge thank you to you all, it is appreciated.

Last but not least, a huge thank you to Joanne our clerk for all her hard work, efficiency and the way she keeps us up to date and legal, often in difficult circumstances, thank you.