

Gargrave Parish Council

As highlighted in last month's edition, work has started on the Birds Mouth Fencing, indeed it may well have been completed by the time this article is published. This is a milestone event for the village and represents a tangible deterrent to the village greens being occupied again by Travellers Gypsy and Roma (TGR) during the annual transit to Appleby Fair and their traditional stop-over in Gargrave. This year that stop over will likely be over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend 23-26 May. For information Appleby Fair dates this year are Thu 5 Jun to Wed 11 Jun, with the main days being Thu 5 Jun, Fri 6 Jun, Sat 7 Jun and Sun 8 Jun.

Work will now be progressed by the Parish Council's TGR Working Group to update the measures the Parish Council will take to engage with the TGR community in order to manage the situation for the best outcome for residents and the TGR community. These measures will be taken to the Professionals Meeting on Mon 31 Mar where all agencies will detail their commitment to the 'overall plan' and be held to account by Restorative Solutions. While the Professionals Meeting will exclude the public, the second Public Meeting, where the results of the Professional Meeting will be presented, will be held in the Village Hall in Apr.

We are now actively recruiting for:

- A Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for the Parish Council. The advert is now out, and Application Pack, which contains the Application Form, Job Description and Person Specification is available on the Parish Website. The post is part time at 10 hours a week. While prior experience is welcome, it is not necessary as training in local government administration can be provided.
- An additional Parish Councillor, details for this position will be promulgated in due course.

The Neighbourhood Plan anomaly, the omission of 6 planning policy statements relating to the site off Marton Road, remains a high priority for the Parish Council. The site off Marton Road was recently the subject of a contentious planning decision. The Parish Council will redouble its efforts to actively engage North Yorkshire Council and continue to call into question the planning decision.

We have recently written to Yorkshire Water and NYC Highways to ask their plans to address the gabion basket collapse on the northern riverbank along Mill Lane near Pinfold, and we await their responses. Work also continues to look at the options available to reinstate the Low Green stepping stones at an affordable price.

Maintaining our focus on riparian issues, the Parish Council has established a River Working Group (WG) to address the erosion and accretion (the build of stone and sand deposits) along the route of the River Aire within our responsibility. This new WG will report back to the Parish Council, with a route towards establishing a long-term action plan, in October 2025.

Gregory L Butt MBE
Chair Gargrave Parish Council