



## **THORNHAUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

### **OCTOBER 2023**

It is quite some time since the last newsletter, and it seems even longer because we are still strolling around in shorts and T-shirts in October. It feels very odd, but welcome warmth before winter sets in. Here's what has been happening...

#### **1. King Charles III Coronation event**

Although sadly we did not get enough take-up for a full village event to mark the Coronation, our thanks go to Alan and Joan Frost who hosted a personal event and opened their home and gardens for those of us that could make it. A brilliant afternoon was had by all – lovely food, plenty of drink and great company.

#### **2. Augean**

We had a really good meeting recently with Augean, who continue to keep the community in mind in all their operations. They have recently taken back the land previously used by Mick George (Cooks Hole) and are planning integration/restoration of that area. They are putting on an exhibition at the Christie Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> October (3pm to 6.30pm) outlining their plans. Please go along if you are interested in their plans.

#### **3. Budget simulator**

Peterborough City Council has developed a 'budget simulator' which enables all residents in the Peterborough District to contribute to and better understand the budget parameters. Details of the simulator can be found on the Parish Council website or directly on the City Council Website. Please do look and have your input included in their budget plans. (<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/budgets-spending-and-performance/budget-simulator-challenge>)

#### **4. Defibrillator news**

The defibrillator training took place in the Christie Hall – with many thanks to Louise Molesworth for making it happen. A really good event that helped those of us who could attend to understand how the defibrillator works and what a major benefit it is to the village. I hope we never need it, but we have it in case of emergency. If you weren't able to go to the training but would like to attend a session, please let the Clerk know and if we have sufficient numbers, we can organise another session. ([clerk@thornhaughparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@thornhaughparishcouncil.co.uk))

#### **5. Speed limits**

Although there is sufficient signage, please remember it is 20mph throughout the village. We'd be grateful if you could remind any visitors and family so that we can keep speed to a minimum. There are major roadworks planned for the A47 Wansford to Sutton dualling soon and we have been given assurance that Thornhaugh will not be a designated diversion route. However, this won't prevent people using us as a cut-through on an ad-hoc basis so please be cautious.

#### **6. Litter picking heroes still going strong ....**

The litter pickers are still doing an absolutely brilliant job – out in all weathers. With thanks to Nikki Higgins for continuing the initiative and for liaising with Wansford litter pickers to coordinate activities. There is still only the hardy few pickers so if you are interested in joining them, please contact Nikki ([nikki@4stonecottage.co.uk](mailto:nikki@4stonecottage.co.uk))

#### **7. National Highways**

We are still battling with National Highways in relation to the layby and the bus-stop area on the A1 Northbound adjacent to the Thornhaugh entrance. As a reminder, we are trying to get the layby permanently closed and adaptations made to the bus stop area (which is no longer in use) that would enable us to get our cars in line with the carriageway to make it easier to pull out and to give other drivers on the A1 a better view of someone trying to join the carriageway. So far, we are making little headway, although our contact at National Highways has included another department in discussions and we are in the process of arranging to meet to again to talk about our concerns and to try and get this work agreed. We'll keep you updated with progress. Please be assured we will continue the battle.

While writing about all things 'roads', we've asked the City Council to review the state of the stretch of Russell Hill going out of the village towards the A47 to make them aware that we now have grass growing through the tarmac and a few potholes. They refused maintenance earlier in the year, considering the state of the road good enough. We are awaiting a response to our latest request.

## 8. Website

The new website has been launched and I hope everyone has had chance to go on and see the changes (<https://www.thornhaughparishcouncil.co.uk/>). Our thanks to Jay Allsop for doing this work for us. I hope you like it. The website now has a 'contact us' area, which gives everyone an on-line opportunity to raise concerns or issues.

For those of you who use social media, you will no doubt have come across the Thornhaugh Facebook page. This is a great community group but please be aware it wasn't set up by the Parish Council and isn't a formal channel of communication. If you need the PC involved in anything please either use the website, contact the Clerk or any of the Councillors whose details are on the website.

## 9. Village sign

The village sign has been refurbished and is looking back to its sartorial self. Glyn Mould has done a great restoration job for us. It felt very strange while it was away, but I hope you agree it was worth it.

Our thanks also go to Liam Higgins who keeps the grass on the triangle mown, and to Tracey Parker who plants a little bit of sunshine (or do I mean sunflowers) at the foot of the sign.

## 10. Christmas tree event

I am delighted to say that, once again this year we'll be holding our Christmas tree event. I hope everyone can join us at 6pm on 10<sup>th</sup> December at the junction of Meadow Lane and Russell Hill. We've got the Wansford Ukulele Group coming to entertain us again and there will, of course, be mince pies and mulled wine. Looking forward to seeing you there.

## 11. Dog fouling

The village has seen an increase in the amount of dog waste that has not been picked up and disposed of appropriately. This is particularly the case on the footpath at the end of Meadow Lane towards the small bridge. Please help us to keep the footpaths as clear as we can. We want the footpaths to be enjoyed by all so please pick up after your dogs – even us dog-walkers object to taking nasty stuff home on our boots!

The mystery of the dog waste bin has not been resolved. It suddenly disappeared a few weeks ago which hasn't helped with the waste problem. I am delighted to say that Sutton Parish Council have donated a bin to us. A very generous and kind gesture. We are arranging for the City Council to put this up in the same place as the lost one as soon as possible.

## 12. Business as usual

The Parish Council has seen changes yet again in 2023. Neil Croft-Taylor sadly had to leave the Parish Council and we pass our thanks to him. I am delighted to say that Nicky Rogers has joined us, so we are back up to a full complement of five councillors. Details of all the councillors can be found on the noticeboards and on the PC website.

The Parish Council take great care to ensure the finances remain appropriately scrutinised. With the financial situation of the City Council, we did not ask for an increase in the precept for this year. We can continue with our fixed commitments to the Buriel Ground and Christie Hall without cause for concern. If you have any questions about how your money is spent, or you have ideas of projects you would like to see started please let us know.

Please contact any of the councillors at any time if you need help or advice on anything about the village. The Parish Council is there to represent your views to the City Council should you need that, or simply here to help.



CHRIS SMITH  
Chair, Thornhaugh Parish Council  
15<sup>th</sup> October 2023