

GREAT NEWS ABOUT PLAY EQUIPMENT!

2021 will see some exciting additions to the Stray Road play area.



Dear Residents,

While everyone has been doing their bit and staying at home during lockdowns, your Parish Councillors have been considering what we will all need to aid our mental health recovery and fitness and emotional well-being. We hope you like our plans!

In December 2020, we ordered 4 x double sets of **adult gym equipment** that can give a full body workout: a Cross Rider, a Chest Press & Lat Pull, an Air Walker Duo and a Skier. It means that 8 people can work out at once. This is a considerable investment for the parish at £16,000, and we hope that everyone appreciates it and looks after it. The range of equipment is suitable for all age groups and compatible with the free Caloo Pulse App, allowing you to track your progress (using a QR code).

Due to changes in child-safety laws, all non-play equipment must be outside the play area, so these units will be located outside the play area fence, on the playing field. This will allow parents to use them while their children play in the playground.

The SUDS bond surfacing (Sustainable Urban Drainage Solution), on which the units will be installed, allows for speedy drainage in winter (as the recreation field can get boggy), which means the site can be used all year round. We aim for this to be in place before April 2021.

We have also secured a £6,500 grant from Heworth Without Ward to fund 50% of the cost of a set of **Yorkshire Stone Climbing Rocks**, which will be located in the area where the old gym equipment was sited. Rock climbing is one of the best total body workouts available, as the activity of climbing works every part of the body. The practice of rock climbing strengthens arms, legs and core, as well as helping to develop strong, lean muscles, and building up overall strength, endurance and flexibility. The equipment will be no higher than 2.2m, depending on the size of each piece of Yorkshire stone. We hope to install these by May 2021.



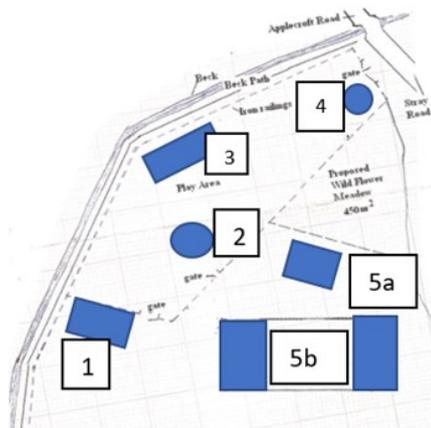
It doesn't stop there, as we are in the process of applying for a grant of £10,000 from City of York Council to help in the purchase of some **inclusive swings** and an **inclusive roundabout**, costing £14,000 (including an **access path and gates**), with the support of Applefields School. (These units can be used by anyone and suit all ages.) Our local Spar has already contributed £200 towards a swing, but they are £826 +VAT each, so if you know of anyone who wishes to sponsor a swing, please let us know, as we wish to purchase two! Watch this space on the outcome of our bid!



We have also spent a considerable amount sorting out the ground underneath the circular swing and the gate way to the recreational field, to reduce flooding and water ponding.

Our final aim in this ambitious programme is to enhance our recreational field, with a **basket-ball practice area**. This is delayed due to consultation with possible funding streams and our parishioners. We need to canvass opinion on the desirability of the basketball area, its exact location, and the materials used. Should the basketball area be separate from the football pitch, as in 5a, or should there be a combined football-and-basketball area, as in 5b?

We would very much welcome your views on this, using the contact details above, and will be sending out a survey soon! Have your say on option 5 on the map: Would you prefer 5a or 5b? Please use the contact details above to let us know.



<p>Key</p> <p>1 – New Gym Equipment March 2021</p> <p>2 – Set of Climbing Rocks – April 2021</p> <p>3 – 2 Inclusive Swings in existing 4 x bay swings – May 2021</p> <p>4 – Roundabout – awaiting funding decision – by Summer 2021</p> <p>Have your say on Option 5</p> <p>5a – Separate Basketball Practice Shooting Area (1 Goal)</p> <p>5b – Basketball Shooting Areas incorporated with Football Goal Nets at both ends of Existing Football pitch – with grass in the middle</p>
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ELECTRIFYING INFORMATION:

There is a Government grant scheme for charging electric and hybrid vehicles at home offered via the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). No phone number is available—search for OLEV on the internet. And, on another transport issue:

POTHOLES!

Report potholes to York Council at 01904 551551.

WIND IN THE WILLOWS

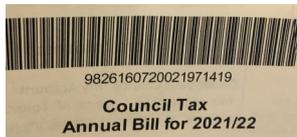
The large willow trees in our Park are known as ‘Crack Willows’ because their branches are brittle and likely to crack. They are wild trees and are common along river banks. In the past they were pollarded to promote new shoots, which rapidly lengthen to at least 2 m over the summer. The shoots are an attractive yellow-brown and they once provided material for basket-weaving. Unfortunately, left to their own devices, crack willows can grow to a height of 25m. When in full leaf, they can catch the wind and huge limbs may break off suddenly without warning. In recent years many of our nearby crack willows have shed limbs across footpaths. Usually, the breaks occur at the point where they were pollarded or coppiced many years ago. But this was not done with our willows and



the resulting thick multi-stems are liable to break away from the stump during high winds. Regular users of our park may have wondered why a lot of tree surgery was done last year to the large crack willow whose branches overhung some of the play equipment. Now you know!

PRECEPT

When you get your Council Tax Bills you will see a line labelled ‘Heworth Without.’ It will probably show a figure of a little over £20 per year. This is the ‘precept’ for the Parish Council. We use this money to provide amenities for the Parish, which involves mainly the play facilities at Stray Road. At the Council Meeting on 18th January we agreed to increase the precept by 1.99%. However, due to the reduction in the tax base in the area, the figure eventually



came out as 2.4%. Although we are aware that some people find Council Tax a struggle to pay, the part of it that the Parish Council gets is still very small, and the increase, for a Band C property, will cost about 20p per month. We think it is a small price to pay for the developments that are taking place—which have been helped by other sources of funding.

BACK YORK

You may have heard that there is a proposal for a single new unitary council for everyone in North Yorkshire. York Council do not support this, and a petition against it has been launched by ‘Back York,’ at <https://www.change.org/p/to-the-house-of-commons-back-york>. This petition claims that “York’s residents and



businesses are best served by having an independent council, on its current boundaries, that is focused solely on their needs and provides the basis for economic opportunity, high quality public services and a stronger community.” Phone 01904 551550.

HMOs

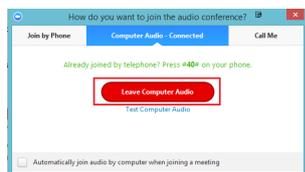
The Council is concerned about the possible increase in the number of HMOs (Houses of Multiple Occupation) in the Parish, and these concerns are shared by the City Council. There is a draft document at <https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/2867/houses-in-multiple-occupation-draft-spd>; York Council is at 551550. Article 4 Directions are the legal means by which



a local authority can require property owners to seek permission to convert a single dwelling house into a small HMO. The idea is that, by doing this, councils are given more control over housing stock through their ability to control the density of HMOs in a given area. Please let us, or York Council, have your opinion on this issue.

COUNCIL MEETINGS AND COVID

Since last April, our council meetings have had to be held on Zoom. This makes it difficult for members of the public and councillors to attend, especially if they don’t have access to the internet. However, we don’t want anyone to be excluded from attending. Fortunately, on Zoom, there is the possibility of attending meetings by phone. It’s not as good as attending a real meeting with real people, obviously, and it’s not as good as seeing people’s faces on a screen, but it’s better than nothing, and it’s the best we can do at the moment. Please pass the word on to anyone you know who might want to attend a council meeting but doesn’t use the internet. We don’t want to exclude anyone! Further details about how to attend council meetings by phone or internet can be obtained from the Clerk at 07422961495 (please leave a message) or clerk.HWPC@gmail.com.



AND, FINALLY, Please use the same contact details to comment on any items in this newsletter, whether to complain, make suggestions, or express approval.

Your Parish Council.