

Bamburgh Parish Council  
Chairperson's report May 2024

The Parish Council has met on a regular basis dealing with planning applications and other matters brought before the Council and trying to progress in our dealings with Northumberland County Council (NCC). Having made a formal complaint about the lack of progress in October 2022 we are not much further forward. The complaint resulted in agreement that double yellow lines were needed along the Wynding and, although generally a success, there were sections missing and parking alongside the fencing near the golf club became a problem. No waiting cones were, again, used but, despite our pleas to add double yellow lines to this short section of road and paint the missing sections, we are still waiting for replies to our emails and any action. Similarly, obtaining any progress or updates on traffic calming measures is painfully slow and, whilst we hope to see progress later in the year, on past performance, we will have to wait and see.

Following complaints about motorhome parking on the Wynding, Castle Estates re-vamped the parking bays with the result that the Parish Council received abusive emails from some motorhome owners and there was a noticeable increase in overnight motorhome parking around the Grove, with some mounting the pavement to keep the vehicle level. With little enforcement there is little the Parish Council can do to prevent this.

Finally, after 19 months in the planning system, permission was granted to use the Glebe field as a seasonal car park. Whilst this will go some way to make up for the shortage of parking spaces in the village, parking along Lucker Road continues. This damages the verges, is unsightly and dangerous. NCC seem to have no will to improve the situation and, similarly, the provision of a footway up to Glorum, despite Government grants and encouragement to provide footways, still looks remote.

The water bottle filler outside the public toilets is still shrouded in black plastic and, again, we have no updates from NCC as to when, or if, this will become operational.

With such high visitor numbers, better toilet facilities, particularly near the beach, are needed. We made a request to NCC for a beach toilet off the Wynding but this has been turned down with some very weak arguments against. We will continue to press for this and, with the prospect of NCC doubling Council Tax on second homes, press for the additional funds generated to be used to alleviate some of the issues we experience with such high visitor numbers.

Dealing with NCC is hard work and frustrating but, sadly, I think we will have to continue to battle to get anything further done.

On a happier note, the new playpark has been an outstanding success although, sadly it did suffer from some vandalism which we hope was an isolated incident. Also, the beach wheelchair facility has been well used and appreciated and thanks are due to those who volunteer both with the bookings and meeting families when they arrive. We have paid for a new online booking system which should make booking easier both for families and for the administration of the bookings.

I would like to thank all our Parish Councillors who put in so many hours of unpaid work and both Joan, our Parish Clerk, who does so much work in the background and Paul, our parish warden who helps look after our village. Bamburgh, I think, is lucky to have such a good team.

At the next AGM I will have, like my predecessor, served 3 years as chair of the Parish Council. I intend to step down as chair but hope to remain as a Parish Councillor.

Andrew Bardgett