

Hough on the Hill Parish Council Annual Report – March 2016

After running with only just enough councillors for a couple of years the Parish Council now has 6 out of 7 places filled. In May last year the district council boundaries were reorganised and the Parish now comes under Loveden Heath ward.

After 2 years hard work the Parish Neighbourhood Plan finally went to a public referendum on 2nd July last year and was passed, with 80% in favour. Amongst the issues raised during the extensive public consultation were internet speeds, roads, use of the playing field and wind farms. There has been some progress with all these over the last year.

High speed broadband reached Hough and Gelston last July. Brandon still has a very poor connection, but the Parish Council is working with 'OnLincolnshire' to resolve this. Hopefully, Brandon will have a good service within a few months. Attention will then switch to outlying properties in the Parish.

The County Highways budget for road repairs is under pressure, but they continue to respond promptly whenever significant potholes or other road damage is reported. Last year the Parish Council arranged traffic surveys in Hough and Brandon. As a result of the Hough survey we've introduced moveable speed signs and Highways are considering a new sign on Grantham Rd. Also the police will be encouraged to conduct spot checks. In Brandon we now have evidence to support a speed limit on the C001; although this is not guaranteed and could be a long process. The Parish Council will also look at the possibility of restricting HGVs through Gelston and the minor roads in Brandon. Meanwhile, Mountain recycling have confirmed that their HGVs should not use Gelston and Hough as a shortcut. If anyone sees this happening they should note the time and registration number and pass these to the parish clerk.

The Parish Council continues to pay for grass cutting and other grounds maintenance in the public areas of the villages, and to maintain the playground at Hough. Following on from the Neighbourhood Plan consultation it is planned to install a Multi Use Games Area on the playing field later this spring, with 93% of the cost coming from grants from the National Lottery Awards for All, South Kesteven Council, the Lincolnshire Playing Fields Association and the County Council. A village fete is to be held on the playing field on 2nd July this year.

The application for a wind farm at Fulbeck Airfield is also still pending, although the Temple Hill wind farm plan has now been dropped and an appeal for a wind turbine between Hough and Carlton Scroop was recently dismissed.

Grants and local fundraising have also enabled the installation of defibrillators in the former telephone boxes in all 3 villages. The Parish Council will become responsible for the maintenance of the 'phone boxes and (ultimately) of the defibrillators. In the light of these extra commitments, and a possible future freeze, we have had to slightly increase the precept this year.

Finally, the Parish Council has started to publish parish newsletters. So far two editions of 'Onside' have been produced and distributed to every household. Another edition will be out very soon.

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