



THE ROOSTER

Roos Village Newsletter

No. 62

March 2000

Village Design finally takes off!

Launch of Roos VDS Association

Roos Arms, 28th February

Supporters of the Village Design project had been invited to a General Meeting. Just over a third were able to attend.

Attendance : Willis Ainley, Gerard Baker, Cheryl Blenkin, Alan Bowden, Andrew Coyne, Peter Dinsdale, Susan Dinsdale, Alec Dodson, Margaret Dodson, Kenneth Feetom, Cllr Kenneth Grant, Leslie Helliwell, Rev Philip Moate, Joy Moate, Ben Pawson, Joyce Pawson, Cllr James Priest, Ian Spikings, Sally Spikings, Keith Tyson, Keith Thorogood, Lesley Wood. (Total 22)

Apologies for unavoidable absence : Pat Cheeseman, Mike Cheeseman, Malcolm Cowell, Judith Cutler, Richard Cutler, Irene Helliwell, Cllr Barbara Kirk, Brian Miller, Doreen Miller, Kath Naylor (Roos School), Robert Schleicher, Maureen Whitlam, Cllr David Winter. (Total 12)

(Some supporters were away from home - and the meeting was held during school half term.)

Review

Willis Ainley welcomed those present. He and other Working Party members reviewed the Village Design project since its initiation by a presentation to the Parish Council in March 1997 by Andrew Knight, Principal Urban Design Officer of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

The Working Party

The Working Party was set up after two public meetings in September 1998. The aim was to consider producing a Village Design Statement for submission to the East Riding. If adopted, it would become Supplementary Planning Guidance for elected councils, planners and developers.

The group had met many times. A preoccupation had been the need to solicit wider support to justify a grant. Publicity had often been given in the village newsletter. There were currently some sixty supporters of the project.

Eventually - encouraged by a new Urban Design Officer, Rob Tranmer - a grant application was submitted in July 1999 and a grant was offered in early February 2000.

Offer of grant

The grant was offered by the East Riding - not the Countryside Commission (now replaced by the Countryside Agency). Its terms and conditions were explained.

The grant, with a maximum of £2,000, would meet 50% of the permissible costs. The 50% to be found by the village

could include voluntary work for the project costed at a set rate per hour. Keith Tyson, who prepared the budget in the grant application, thought that costed time would meet most, if not all, of the village's obligation.

The timetable was tight : acceptance of the offer was required by 3rd March; the VDS, complete and printed, must be submitted by the end of November.

Resolutions

A proposal to form a Roos VDS Association was carried overwhelmingly. Those present signed a declaration of membership. Absent supporters would be asked to do so later. Two further resolutions were passed - to adopt the draft Constitution and accept the offered grant.

Officers and Committee

The following were elected :

Chair Willis Ainley Treasurer Keith Tyson

V.-Chair Alan Bowden Secretary Leslie Helliwell

Other Committee members :

Andrew Coyne, Sally Spikings, Keith Thorogood.

It was understood that the Committee had power to co-opt (e.g. previous Working Party members not present) and would do so to draw on specialised knowledge or expertise. Committee meetings would be open : any member of the Association would be entitled to attend.

The Village Survey / Workshop

Guidance documents recommended a survey of the physical features of the village and its setting, with notes and photographs as a basis for the eventual Village Design Statement. Members discussed the management of the survey and some of the issues to be addressed - e.g. the need for wide consultation with local groups such as the WI and young people and the need for affordable housing to enable young people to make the village their home.

Questionnaire

A proposal to issue a questionnaire for all residents was approved. One member suggested an historical slant : changes in the village, old photographs, family memories...

Roos VDS Association Committee Meeting

**Tuesday 7th March : 7.30 , Roos Arms
ALL WELCOME**

Roos Parish Council

Clerk & Councillors, 1999 - 2000

Parish Clerk

Alan Santos Baytree, 17 Elm Garth 671170

Chairman

G.E. ("Ted") Winter 3 Chestnut Garth 670234

Other councillors

Michael Cheeseman Northlands, Tunstall Rd 670282

T.K. ("Ken") Cook Freshlands, Owstwick 670376

Kenneth G. Grant Elms Farm, Rectory Rd 670233

Christopher M. Jackson Pasture Lane, Tunstall 671237

Barbara J. Kirk The Bungalow, Main St 670501

James C. Priest 44 Pilmar Lane 670410

John D. Quarmby Manor View Tunstall 670426

David E. Winter 3 Chestnut Garth 670234

(Items from the meetings in November, December and January are reported. The February meeting was missed.)

(Nov) Crossroads at North End

Accidents at the junction of the Burton Pidsea and Aldbrough roads have led at last to safety measures. Phil Hiscott, East Riding Traffic Engineer, wrote of discussions with East Riding Councillor Stewart Willie about the problem. The Parish Council welcomed the proposals sent for comment :

- new fluorescent give-way signs on the approach roads from Halsham and Burton Pidsea;
- new give-way lines on these roads - set back farther from the actual junction;
- on the approach from Aldbrough, a new advance direction sign farther from the junction to replace the existing sign to Withernsea;
- to cut down speed on this approach, three sets of yellow bar markings, 10 metres apart, the first set to be 10 metres back from the give-way line.
- re-marked warning lines (150 mm wide) in the centre of all four approaches to the junction.

(Nov) Protruding hedges

Owners of overgrown hedges projecting over the footpath to North End had agreed to cut them.

(Nov) New planning applications

Plot 6, Cherry Hill Park. A Mr Shaw had sought permission to erect a dwelling on the remaining plot - on the southern corner of the access road. The Parish Council registered no opposition - provided there was no objection by neighbours.

Sand-le-Mere. Mr Tony Ellis had applied for change of use of a holiday chalet to serve as a permanent residence on security grounds. No objection was made.

Budget for 2000 - 2001

It was estimated that in the current year there would be a surplus of £1,700. For the financial year 2000 - 2001 a further £1,000 was requested as the parish requirement from Council Tax.

(Nov) Tunstall Telecommunications

This company provide their "Tunstall Lifeline" for the elderly - a radio-telephone link for use in emergencies. Because of their name, they were offering to eligible persons in Tunstall a free instrument and service for two years to mark the millennium. The offer was passed on to the Tunstall Village Hall Committee.

Councillor Quarmby referred to the use of Snaith Charity funds to provide a seat on the "Millenium Green" near Tunstall church. He wondered if Tunstall Communications would help fund a cairn nearby, with a plaque to mark the millennium. The suggestion was not pursued.

(Nov) Joint Structure Plan

The Plan to be agreed by the City of Hull and the East Riding would be delayed. *(See separate article.)*

(Nov) Shoreline Management Plan

Mr Mike McCann, Chair of Skipsea Parish Council, had written to all coastal parish councils, including the Hornsea and Withernsea Town Councils. He sought support from other councils in a protest against the current form of the Shoreline Management Plan. He had sent copies of his correspondence with Chris Matthews, the East Riding's Principal Coastal Officer.

The Parish Council did not consider the documents in detail. They agreed to continue supporting Mr McCann's Working Group but did not respond in the specific ways sought by Mr McCann.

(Nov) Parish councils liaison service

Colin O'Connor, The East Riding's Parish Council Liaison Officer, had sent a questionnaire to all parish councils seeking to assess their satisfaction with the service offered. Councillors regarded the exercise as a waste of time. They did not discuss the service offered - how it might be improved. The Parish Clerk was asked to complete the questionnaire.

You Care / We Care

An East Riding notice about events organised to help carers would be displayed. (The help offered was for those voluntarily caring for others - sick or disabled relatives or neighbours. Councillors discussed the notice as if it referred to paid employees - in care homes or sheltered housing.)

(Nov) Public Rights of Way

A letter from Robin Lundie, the East Riding's Senior Public Rights of Way Officer, referred to the authority's "Milestones Statement" of 1998 and the intention to review the targets and timetable within it. The Parish Council was invited to comment and add suggestions.

A summary of the 1998 document was attached, with indications of the changes proposed. 31 targets were identified and updated. Among them (T29) was : "Make available copies of the Definitive Map and Statement at Customer Service Centres from January onwards."

(Presumably the Map may now be seen in the Customer Service Centre at Withernsea Library.)

(Nov)

School Governor

Councillor Mrs Barbara Kirk said that Roos School had had no Education Committee confirmation of her appointment as governor. The Clerk was asked to notify the Chief Education Officer that the Parish Council had recommended her.

(Nov)

Tunstall Village Hall

Councillor Cheeseman asked about the scheme to refurbish Tunstall Village Hall and instal a toilet. Councillor Quarmby said that the scheme had fallen through owing to complex East Riding grant conditions and health regulations. The cost of satisfying them would have been disproportionate to the actual use of the hall. Other funds were being sought. Without such help, the installation of a toilet was unlikely.

The Rooster

Councillor Quarmby asked why former councillor Leslie Helliwell was present and evidently taking notes. Mr Helliwell said he and Dr Brian Wells hoped to collaborate on the next newsletter. He himself had undertaken to supply a Parish Council report. He added that he would be grateful to be allowed sight of some of the documents so as to give a more accurate report. This was approved.

(Nov)

Public session

Mr Helliwell observed that - without sight of the relevant documents - he had found it difficult to understand some of the business of the meeting. When members of the public were present it would be helpful if the Chairman would make clear what the issues were. Members discussed whether there was any obligation to give explanations. One expressed the view that the purpose of a council meeting was to deal with official business, not spend time satisfying the curiosity of members of the the public who happened to be present.

(Dec) November Minutes : Matters arising

Joint Structure Plan. Members had no clear memory of the letter tabled at the last meeting. (See separate article.)

Shoreline Management Plan. With reference to Mr McCann's letter, Councillor Stewart Willie commented on revisions to the authority's plan. New policies would be published shortly.

(Dec)

Planning

Carr House, Hilston Road. Application (by Mr M.E.Maltas) for removal of the agricultural restriction. After discussion a vote was taken. The Parish Council opposed removal of the restriction by 3 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.

Southfield, South End, Roos. Mr P.Beal had applied retrospectively for retention of a wall already built - 2.4 metres high (8ft approx) - to replace a decayed hedge. Cllr Willie reported Mr Beal as stating that the wall was brick-faced on his own side but had breeze blocks on the other. The Clerk was asked to write drawing attention to the wall's structure and height and the fact that it had been built without prior consent.

Two previous applications now approved

Plot 6 Cherry Hill Park. Application by Mr W.Shaw for a detached house and garage.

Owstwick Hall. Application by Mr R.A.Smales to erect a building for use as boarding kennels.

(Dec)

Accounts

Cllr David Winter, Treasurer, said that VAT reclaimed for the last 5 - 6 years totalled £132.90.

(Dec)

Millenium Mugs

To meet a demand, 30 more millenium mugs had been ordered. Roos School had 74 on register + 2 new children. The millennium mugs would be presented at the Carol Concert on 22nd December. The Parish Council would be represented by himself and the two councillor governors (Mrs Kirk and Captain Priest).

(Jan) Owing to further requests to buy mugs, 20 more mugs were to be ordered. The presentation had been a very pleasant occasion. A parent had written in appreciation of the mugs presented to her two children.

(Dec)

Correspondence

Yorkshire Electricity

Mrs S.Tyson, former Clerk, had received a cheque for £10.90, presumably for wayleave for a pylon on parish land at Tunstall. It was agreed to return the cheque and request a new one with the Council as payee.

Lost in the wilds

A letter to all rural parish councils asked them to provide street maps to prevent NHS chiropodists from getting lost. The Clerk was asked to advise the writer to request maps from the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

E.R.Community Advice & Legal Service Partnership

The Parish Council Liaison Officer had written about the new Community Legal Service, part of the government's programme to modernise legal services and the civil justice system. The East Riding was one of 40 "Associate Pioneers" invited to set up a Community Advice and Legal Service Partnership. The Partnership aims to improve access to publicly-funded advice and legal services in the area.

To assess the needs parish councils were asked to complete a questionnaire. Roos Parish Council found it impossible to complete since it required knowledge of individual people's private affairs that councillors did not have.

The questions asked if there had been problems in getting help or advice on :

Income Support - Relationship problems (e.g. divorce) - Job Seekers' Allowance - Housing problems - Housing Benefit - Consumer Problems - Child Benefit - Employment Problems - Family Credit - Money or Debt Problems - Disability Benefits - Pensions - Other problems (specify).

Members recommended anyone who had had difficulty in getting advice to contact Colin O'Connor, Parish Council Liaison Officer, County Hall, Beverley, HU17 9BA - Phone 01482 - 884873.

Note that Mr O'Connor can pass on information but is himself in no position to give personal help or advice personal matters.

Nature Conservation

A letter about local woodlands had been received from Sian Ferguson of the Sustainable Development Unit at County Hall (01482 - 885071). The Parish Council was asked to

confirm that four wooded areas were still in existence : near Roos Church and at Wood's Plantation, The Bog, and the Fox Covert at Willowtoft. Of these the most significant is the site at The Bog, which is protected as an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest), offering, "a continuous record of vegetation history and environmental change over the last 13,000 years."

NEWT (New Environment Working Together)
A conference was planned for 18 March 2000.

Newsletter from ERNLLCA (East Riding & North Lincolnshire Local Councils Association)

Parish Paths Partnership

At the November meeting it had been reported that no one had attended a Parish Paths meeting on this subject called by Cllr Priest - except himself and the Parish Paths Officer, Trevor Appleton. Since there was no interest in the village, the bank account had been closed.

In December a letter was read from the Senior Public Rights of Way Officer at County Hall. He pointed out that a village contact on parish paths need not be a councillor and asked if the Parish Council wished to continue the Partnership. The matter was deferred to allow time for a notice in The Rooster inviting volunteer contacts.

(Jan) Magistrates' courts

Notification was received of the proposed closure of some courts including that at Withernsea. The Clerk was asked to write objecting to its closure.

Parish Paths Partnership

(See item above)

The partnership is between the East Riding and the local community represented by the Parish Council.

Volunteer contact needed

The role of the contact will be to inform the Parish Paths Officer if any Roos footpaths need attention - e.g. if not walkable because of overgrowth or a broken bridge. Contact any councillor first; then :

Trevor Appleton : 01482 - 884115

(Dec) **Any other business**

Cllr Kirk reported that George Bilton had been having enquiries about the position of the bus stop on the east side of Main Street. It was agreed to request the bus company to place signs on both sides of Main Street.

National government... The Region... Hull & the East Riding... Roos

*Big fleas have little fleas
Upon their backs to bite 'em;
And little fleas have lesser fleas -
And so ad infinitum.*

As a lifelong cynic Swift would not have been surprised that his words are still true for us over 250 years after his death. We still have flea-bites from above, passed down in turn from government to region to local authority to parish.

It is usual nowadays to blame the politicians, even when they are trying to do something sensible.

(Jan) Wind turbines

Councillor Kirk asked if the Parish Council had been invited to send a representative to a meeting at Beverley on 7th January. It had apparently been convened by the Inspector who was to chair the public enquiry about the proposed turbines near Easington and at Hollym. Other neighbouring councils had been invited but not Roos, though a representative was there from National Wind Power - the company expected to apply for a wind farm near Roos.

It was recalled that, at a meeting on wind turbines in September, the Parish Council had agreed to write to the DTI opposing wind turbines in the area. No reply or acknowledgement had been received. The Clerk was asked to write again.

(Jan) Roos a "non-Millennium village"?

The Chairman had been stung by a resident's criticism that - unlike other local villages - Roos was not marking the year 2000 in any permanent way. He proposed erecting an eight-foot oak post (set in concrete) carrying a board displaying the Roos coat of arms. It could be set on the patch of grass on the corner of Pilmar Lane opposite the old school.

Other possibilities were suggested : either planters or attractive village signs on the approach roads to the village. It was agreed to submit a supplementary request for £1,000 in the precept to cover the cost of a millennium project.

In Public Session, Leslie Helliwell criticised the proposal for a post and display board as a permanent feature. A wooden structure would not last indefinitely and would invite vandalism. The structure should be of stone or brick.

Further, the decision should have been taken much earlier. For at least two years the Council had been invited to propose a millennium project and part-funding had been available. Nothing had been done. The proposal for a properly-designed millennium marker on the meridian line at Sand-le-Mere had been rejected as too expensive; instead, a recycled concrete triangulation post had been sited there.

As for the grass patch opposite the school, for years any proposal to do something positive with this site - flower beds, a low hedge, a seat with shelter, a display board - had been rejected on two grounds : the risk of damaging gas, water and electricity services near the surface and the hazard of reducing traffic sight-lines across the corner. If a post could be set in concrete there, some of these other things could have been done to enhance "School Corner".

But it is sensible - at any level - to anticipate future needs and plan how to meet them. This is what government has to do, at both national and local levels - to study population trends, for example, and assess future housing needs.

People flocking to the south-east have created a housing shortage. But when the government prescribes a remedy and orders more housing development there, those who have caused the problem are appalled at the solution : the wicked government is intent on destroying "their" countryside.

Blame the politicians!

The chain of command is :

<u>Authority</u>	<u>Instrument</u>
Government	Orders regions to produce Regional Planning Guidance (RPG) for government to approve - or change!
Region	Requires local authorities develop their own plans in accordance with the RPG.
Local authority	Each authority produces a Local Structure Plan - which must conform to the RPG. (For us, it's a <u>Joint Structure Plan (JSP)</u> - worked out with Hull. Only then can the East Riding's own issues be decided.)
Towns & parishes	Have no "instrument" or real power. Any plans must fit in with "flea-bites" above.

Democratic but tedious

To be fair, every imposition from above can be influenced by us below in two ways. First, these documents - RPG and JSP - are drawn up and vetted by politicians whom we elect and whom we can call to account. Second, both documents are published first in draft form and lodged in public offices and libraries for us to read. We are invited to comment on them - to send in our own suggestions and criticisms.

Of course, the process is long and tedious and the documents themselves are inevitably heavygoing : they are full of data, statistics, maps, bar charts, and planning jargon.

Hard choices

Often the decisions to be taken are hard to reach. How do you reconcile conflicting principles? For example, two years ago the City of Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire issued three documents :

- Strategic Assessment (March 1998) : This identified factors and trends affecting future land use.
- Development Options Consultation Document (March 98)
- Consultation Exercise (April - June 1998) . This sought views on the choices for future development and on features to safeguard.

The second and third of these invited comments from the public - individuals, parish councils, and other local groups..

A growth in population was forecast in the East Riding too. One question was whether to expand existing settlements - and if so, which ones ? - or create entirely new ones. The JSP could cover policies on wind farms and the coastline. There are strong conflicting arguments on all such issues. Yet policies have to be agreed. The decisions can't be shirked.

The stage we're at - 1 : Joint Structure Plan

The Joint Structure Plan for Hull and the East Riding will set out policies for the next 15 - 20 years. In 1998 the JSP was at the consultation stage. The documents above were supplied to the Parish Council - but not discussed.

But in 1999 the government required local authorities to collaborate for the first time in producing a draft for the whole region - Regional Planning Guidance. This had to be the priority. Meanwhile work on the JSP was delayed.

Mr J.E.Nesworthy (City of Hull Planning Policy Manager) wrote to town and parish councils about the delay. In spite of

it, a Development Strategy was being prepared.

Key areas were :

- strategic influence of environmental resources;
- major facilities and services;
- economic / regeneration factors;
- accessibility / transport issues.

The timetable for the JSP had been revised as follows :

Mid-2000 Deposit Draft of the Joint Structure Plan and formal consultation on it.

Early 2001 Examination in Public

End 2001 Adoption of the Plan.

The stage we're at - 2 Regional Planning Guidance

In December the Parish Council were presented with documents from the Regional Planning Guidance Panel. They were too hefty to discuss - but were "noted".

The pack is free on request from :

Mr P.H.Bentham-Hill, Panel Secretary, PO Box 213,
City House, New Station Street, Leeds. LS1 4US.
(Phone : 0113 - 283 - 6425)

I rang up and was sent the documents. They are :

- "Advancing Together" : Draft Regional Planning Guidance for Yorkshire & The Humber;
- "Advancing Together" - An overview. An A4 leaflet summarising the above;
- Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft RPG;
- Public Consultation : Leaflet explaining the process;
- Comment form : for observations on the Draft RPG.
(Closing date 11th February)

SUMMARY OF THE RPG

Quotations are taken directly from the documents.

Scope and Purpose

"Regional Planning Guidance (RPG) which is issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Regions, provides a regional framework for the preparation of local authority development plans. It sets out a broad development framework over a fifteen to twenty year period and identifies the scale and distribution of provision for new housing and priorities for the environment, transport, infrastructure, economic development and other matters.

"Draft RPG for Yorkshire and the Humber covering the period up to 2016 has been prepared by the Regional Assembly for Yorkshire and Humberside and has now been submitted to the Secretary of State."

Assessment by Panel

"The Secretary of State will appoint an independent Panel to assess the comments received and identify those areas which are considered in need of further debate. The issues identified by the Panel will be debated by invited participants at a Public Examination to be held in York in Summer 2000...."

The new Regional Development Agency ("Yorkshire Forward") is submitting its Regional Economic Strategy at the same time and will be among the public and private sector bodies using the RPG when approved.

The Region is divided into four sub-regions, corresponding to the main local authority areas - North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Humber (East Riding and Hull).

Public Examination

The public examination will be held in the summer of 2000 at The Royal York Hotel, York, to consider the most important and controversial matters identified. Places will be limited. Those selected to take part will be informed. Before

the public examination two preliminary meetings will be held at the Royal York Hotel on Tuesday 28 March and Tuesday 9 May. Participants in the public examination will be invited to these meetings as well.

Panel Report and Publication date

"It is expected that the Panel will produce its Report in the Autumn of 2000 for submission to the Secretary of State who will then consult on changes to the draft RPG before issuing it in Spring 2001."

What's the point of all this?

Both the Regional Planning Guidance and the Joint Structure Plan will affect what may happen in Roos in the next 15 - 20 years.

For example, the quotations below from the Draft RPG documents bear on three of our current concerns.

Wind turbines and Village Design

Policy N3 (pp 57 - 58)

Conserving and enhancing landscape character

- (a) The quality, diversity and local distinctiveness of landscape character ... should be maintained and enhanced.
- (b) Development Plans should have regard to landscape character assessments prepared on the basis of the approach to distinct landscape character developed by the Countryside Agency.
- (c) Allied to the character approach authorities should appraise environmental capital at the local level as a basis for decisions on major development allocations and proposals.
- (d) ...

- (e) The character of the wider countryside should be safeguarded by promoting local styles and features in buildings design and the use of materials.

Coastal Protection

Policy N5 (p 59)

Coastal and estuarine areas should be protected by :

- (a) Including in Development Plans policies for development of the local economy in a sustainable manner (with particular recognition of the potential for tourism), relating to the needs of coastal communities while avoiding non-essential development in some areas.
- (b) Responding appropriately to natural coastal processes in the expectation of rising sea level, including acceptance of managed retreat and identification of physical protection works in some areas.
- (c) Introducing relocation packages or other forms of assistance where these would have a significant role in ensuring the sustainable management of the coastal zone.
- (d) Establishing and supporting appropriate management mechanisms.

Can this be true?

**Sutton for mutton,
Burton for beef,
Roos for fine lasses,
Tunstall for thieves.**

Keith Tyson quoted this gem at last Monday's VDS meeting. He got it from the late Muriel Smith. We had been discussing what could be learnt about Roos from people with long memories, either from their own early days or from family sayings and anecdotes passed down from one generation to another.

Mr Wilbraham's "History of Roos" gives a good deal of historical background but please get in touch if you can offer more specimens of folk inheritance - old sayings, rhymes, memories of places and customs - as well as actual documents and records such as old maps and photographs of vanished views, ... Contact me at Canwick, Lamb Lane (670291).
L.H.

Roy Bould : Piano tuner

**13 Cheadle Close, Somerscale Street,
Beverley Road, Hull. HU2 9PB.**

Phone : 01482 - 586003

Mr Bould has been blind from birth. He was trained as a professional piano tuner at a school for the blind.

He worked first in London, then in Hull, where he tuned the pianos in all the local authority schools - reaching them by public transport. He now needs private commissions. He would welcome offers of work in Roos but needs to be brought and returned.

It would make sense for "customers" to get together and arrange to have more than one piano tuned on the same day. For more details ring 670291.