

Otterburn Parish Council – Parish Clerk's Report
(8 February – 1 March, 2023)

6a: Ray Wind update: For details on the various grants available please view the Ray Windfunds website at <https://raywindfund.co.uk/> or alternatively contact Jo Willis, Community Development Officer, on either admin@raywindfund.co.uk or 07762 179579.

6b: Road safety in the Parish: I am waiting an update on progress and dates on when the agreed work will begin at the location of the A696 / B6320 junction.

6c: Revitalising Redesdale update: I have been working with Lydia Speakman & James Searle in respect of the areas of the Otterburn Trail requiring attention. It is hoped a solution will be agreed shortly and some of the remaining budget from Revitalising Redesdale will be used to meet the costs of the work. I hope to hear about the progress of the footpath and fence of the trail alongside the Le Petit Château.

6d: Local Otterburn directory map: I am still waiting for a response from the artist to the query regarding the option for the stand of a proposed local map.

6e: Electric power supply in the Millennium Green: The Ray Windfund board have asked for additional information so I am uncertain when I will have a decision on whether the grant request has been approved.

6f: Northern Powergrid (NPG) energy resilience grant funding: I have received an apology for the continued delay for receipt of the cheque for the agreed grant and unfortunately until received the work can not begin. I will attempt to receive an update on progress to share at the meeting.

6g: Parish roadside gullies and drains: I have spoken to Glen Harrison (NCC) and he advises he hopes to get a wagon in Redesdale in the next week or so to clear the blocked drains and remaining gullies not covered in the last visit.

6h: EV charging points at the Memorial Hall: I have received confirmation that NCC will fund a EV charging point that will be installed at the back of the Memorial Hall. A Memorandum of Understanding is being drawn up for the Memorial Hall committee to complete.

6i: School flashing light and other roads signs: I have been advised by Glen Harrison (NCC) that this matter to make a permanent repair to the sign has been requested and I wait for a timescale for the work. Meantime the road sign near the Willow Green junction should be repaired within the next couple of weeks.

6j: Spring litter pick event: March 18th has been provided as a possible date for the next litter pick and you will be asked to agree or suggest a different date so arrangements can be confirmed.

6k: Street parking during Le Petit Château open day events: At the request from the last meeting I have twice invited both Duncan Fisher and James Martin to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss the extensive footpath parking and blocked access by visitors during open days at the Le Petit Château. As yet I have had no response.

6l: Footpath towards Otterburn school: This matter has been raised with NCC again with request that the overgrowth is removed and footpath widened to its original width. I will update when I receive a response.

6m: Percy Cross maintenance work: Thomas Tuyarts and Caroline Hey have kindly spent time at the Percy Cross tidying the area of fallen debris and cleaning the seating as well as the information boards.

6n: King Charles III Coronation events, including 'Big Help out' & NCC community fund: I have shared the details of the fund with the Memorial Hall committee as well as the RTC Trustees. Meantime you will be asked to consider what action the Parish Council wish to take over the weekend and in particular the 'Big Help Out' that the King is urging people to get involved in on the Bank Holiday Monday. Details can be found at <https://www.royal.uk/coronation-weekend-plans-announced>

7c: Reimbursement to A. Shone for payment for 'visittotterburn': You will be asked to agree the payment of £35.98 + VAT for a further 12 months of the domain.

7d: VAT reclaim to HRMC: A refund of £2,159.75 has been received from HMRC.

7e: PAYE charge refund: I am pleased to report that the £100.00 charge to HRMC has now be refunded.

9a Dog mess signs: You will be asked to consider what, if any, additional signs are required in the 'hot spots' where dog mess has become an increased problem. I have provided possible bespoke signs and you will be required to make a decision on how to proceed.

9b: Identification required for voting at elections: All elections from May 2023 will require voters to provide identification when visiting polling stations. I will share details that can be posted on the Parish Council website and Facebook page. Additionally I have asked for a supply of leaflets from NCC that can be made available.

9c: Parish Council vacancy: I have been advised by NCC that you are able to Co-opt to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council.

9d: Grass / hedges cutting in 2023: I hope to have revised costs for grass cutting in 2023 and you will need to consider what areas will require attention this year.

9e: Children's Play Area possible development: You will be asked to consider what, if any, further development would benefit the play area, what age of child to focus on and how funding would be raised.

9f: Road surface markings: There are a few locations within the Parish where road surface markings that are fading and require attention. You will be asked to highlight those locations so I can contact NCC.