

**Otterburn Parish Council – Parish Clerk's Report  
(7 June – 28 June, 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](mailto:admin@raywindfund.co.uk) or 07762 179579.

**6b: Road safety in the Parish:** Last month it was reported that NCC Capital Highways Improvement Progress team were behind schedule due to a scheme designer being asked to prioritise another project. I have emailed again and wait for an update on progress of the agreed work for Otterburn.

**6c: Revitalising Redesdale local footpaths:** I have established that there is no Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the trees that are adjacent to the Le Petit Château that run towards the Mill from the A696. I have asked the Contractor (Martin Dodd) to meet the Parish Council at site to provide details how the trees will be trimmed back where necessary to ensure it meets approval. I have been advised by the funder that the work for both the new fence line and drainage two different sections of the Otterburn Trail, must be completed by end of July otherwise the funding may be withdrawn.

**6d: Electric power supply in the Millennium Green:** I am waiting for Northern Powergrid to return to me with revised quote for the work as previously detailed, before a date for the installation can be agreed and then the associated work in the Millennium Green can happen.

**6e: Northern Powergrid (NPG) energy resilience grant funding:** The Memorial Hall Committee has agreed to purchase a larger generator than originally planned. This will be able to power the entire building at the same time but is more expensive. The higher cost can be offset to some degree by negating the need for storage heaters and gas stoves however there will still be approx. £3,500 shortfall from the grant originally provided by NPG. I have spoken to NPG and when the grant opens again the Memorial Hall will have an opportunity to apply for the shortfall. Meantime the larger generator has been ordered and Richard Wilson has completed most of the required electrics work to be able switch to the generator when there is requirement to do so.

**6f: EV charging points at the Millennium Green:** I have been working with the legal team of the installer to confirm ownership of land and proposed location of the EV charger. It seems outstanding queries have been resolved and I hope to provide an update with installation details at the meeting.

**6g: School flashing light and other roads signs:** I am waiting a further update on this topic after being advised the materials had not been received last month. I have, as requested, highlighted the ongoing delay and safety concerns with the existing sign pointing mostly towards the field rather than ongoing coming traffic approaching the school.

**6h: Footpath towards Otterburn school:** Further to the ongoing delay of this work I have, as requested, highlighted the problem with Alison Woodcock, (Head Teacher at Otterburn School) and Cllr John Riddle. I am waiting a response.

**6i: Redevelopment of the Otterburn public toilets:** I am waiting notification of the timing and remit of the redevelopment work after having been advised there was to be agreement of the scope of the work in June. I hope to have an update to provide at the meeting.

**6j: Local Transport Programme 2024/25:** NCC has confirmed that the previously submitted 20mph proposals for Brierley Gardens and Willow Green are still on the schedule to happen although there is presently no timescale. Meantime you will be asked to consider the maximum of three priorities to submit for the 2024/25 LTP. Road safety from the Willow Green junction to the entrance of the Otterburn, road safety across the bridge at Otterburn Mill have both been discussed. Additionally I have received an email from Neil Snowdon (NCC) advising that after receiving the speed camera data from Otterburn & Rochester, NCC will undertake its own survey and provide recommendations that may also be part of the submission for the LTP.

**6k: Bike station proposal:** I hope that Cllr Shone and I will find time before the meeting to discuss the options of the bike stations highlighted so that a decision can be made as to how to proceed.

**9a: Speed Indicator Device at Redewater View end of village:** The faulty device has been returned to the company and I am waiting the promised full refund for the unit. You will then need to decide how to proceed and I have provided details of possible replacement including the cost for the unit and installation.

**9b: Otterburn in Bloom 2023:** The Chair is unable to provide sufficient time for the event this year however Cllr Corkin has offered to run the event instead and you will be asked to agree the logistics to make this happen.

**9c: RTC Sports Centre future:** You may have seen that the RTC is seeking additional Trustees as well as a new Chair. If none are forthcoming then preparations will need to be made to close the RTC down. You will be asked to consider what, if anything, the Parish Council can do to ensure this community asset is not lost.

**9d: Mobile library service:** I will have shared the recent details of the new library vehicles that will form part of the mobile service that visits the Parish fortnightly. Details have been placed on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.