

Guildhall

GreenLight



The Newsletter of York Green Party

Sept 2016

Ward Funding News

Our ward objectives 2016/17

- Children can play safely in the street
- Tackling loneliness
- More waste is recycled
- Parks & green spaces better maintained
- Embracing diversity in our communities
- Less anti-social behaviour

The Council has moved a small part of its main spending into ward committee budgets, increasing the budget on previous years. This year, Guildhall ward has £89,000 to spend by the end of March 2017, although the amount available for future years can't be guaranteed and may well be less. We aim to spend this money based on the 6 objectives for the year agreed by residents at our annual meeting in May (see above). We will revisit these next May.

Money can be awarded to groups via grant applications or we can commission some services. Funding decisions are made by ward councillors along with officers and representatives of ward community groups via monthly Ward Team Meetings and are reported at public 'ward committee' meetings and on the Council website. For more information or to apply to join the ward team see www.york.gov.uk/GuildhallWard or email neil.gibson@york.gov.uk tel. 01904 552842.



The refurbished play area in Clarence Gardens. Guildhall ward councillor, Denise Craghill is chairing a council 'scrutiny' group looking at how to work with residents to improve play and recreation facilities for children and young people across the city. If you have any ideas or comments do get in touch.

Thursday 22nd September

Ward Residents Meeting

York Explore Library

5.30 – 6.00 Informal surgery

6.00- 8.00 Meeting (NOTE NEW START TIME)

Main speakers (in response to resident requests at the May meeting):

Andy Kerr – the Southern Gateway Project: plans for developing the area including Piccadilly, the Castle car park, the Foss and Clifford's Tower.

Paul McCabe – One Planet York – how can we increase environmental sustainability in the city? See <http://bit.ly/29KqkHj>

There will also be updates on ward spending and time to ask questions/raise issues. All welcome!



Green Party

for the common good

Guildhall and York in brief



Highways Budget and Area Walkabouts

Look out for an invite through your door to join us for a Guildhall Ward Walkabout over the next few months. Having started in the Lawrence St area a few weeks ago, we will be meeting on various street corners around the ward to look at ways of spending our very small ward highways budget, plus dealing with any other issues that may arise.

Floods Inquiry – Have Your Say

The Flood Inquiry Panel is still very keen to record the experiences of residents who were flooded – both at the time and during the months afterwards. You can contact them via email:

floodinquiry@york.gov.uk or post to York Flood Inquiry, c/o Sarah Butcher, City of York Council, West Offices, Station Rise, YO1 6GA or tel. 01904 551550 and ask for Sarah Butcher. Formal hearings will take place between 29th Sept and 14th Oct., with the final report and recommended action plan expected in December.

Join the Abundance Harvest

York Abundance is part of Edible York – they will be harvesting surplus fruit this Autumn in Guildhall ward and elsewhere and donating it to foodbanks and community cafes. You can report fruit in need of harvest or volunteer to help via email: info@edibleyork.org.uk or Facebook 'Abundance York' (or contact us).

Street cleaning

As part of the on-going changes to how the Council works, ward councillors have been issued with details of new cleaning schedules for streets and pavements/pathways in their wards – both mechanical cleaning and manual litter-picking. These new schedules have been in operation since

beginning August and will be reviewed after 6 months. Please feed back any comments you have regarding cleaning in your street to Cllr Craghill and this can be forwarded to the review.

Health Matters – NHS in Crisis?

Cllr Craghill is a member of the Health & Social Care Scrutiny Committee. Recently she raised questions about the latest Government imposed plans for re-organising the NHS. Catchily known as 'Sustainability & Transformation Plans' (STPs) these see York as part of a new NHS organisation called 'Humber, Coast & Vale' stretching across to Scarborough and down to Hull and North Lincs.



Cllr Craghill supporting the Junior Doctors – standing up for patient care.

Denise says 'It is no secret that the break-up of the NHS into many separate organisations played a big part in the closure of Bootham Park Hospital. NHS staff continue to provide a brilliant service against the odds, but it increasingly feels that the health service is teetering on the edge of collapse. The sudden announcement, without consultation, of plans to close the Archways rehabilitation unit by the end of this year is possibly just a taste of things to come. York Hospital is battling a £19m deficit; the local health service commissioning group (CCG) is in

special measures with a £13m deficit. The new 'STP' area will be looking for £500m of savings across the region, again without public consultation – I am very worried as to what this will mean for patients in York.'

Friday September 23rd

'Public Meeting: "Reclaim Our NHS" – speakers on STPs and what they mean'
7.30pm Priory Street Centre

www.defendournhsyork.wordpress.com

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