

Tansley Parish Council

Report to Residents — June 2014

Tansley Parish Council continues to work hard to try and sustain the local character of the village.

The work of a parish councillor is a voluntary one — no monetary remuneration is received by councillors; as the first layer of local government our main task is to respond to residents' concerns and pass on their views to the district and county councils. We lobby to try and ensure the voice of our village is heard, and we receive the services to which we are entitled.

Concerns related to pedestrian safety on the A615 are still paramount. Trying to put over our case is easy, but 'red tape' and intransigence from Derbyshire County Council Highways have proved stumbling blocks on many occasions. However, we are now making some progress — thanks to the support of Councillor Andy Botham, a permanent vehicle activated sign (VAS) will soon be installed on the A615.

Work to improve the burial ground is ongoing. One of the areas planned for the interment of ashes is now complete. Five more rows of plinths will be installed, and the final phase of landscaping will hopefully take place in the autumn.

A good working relationship has been established between the Parish Council and the Fete Field Committee. The Parish Council continues to set aside £1000 per annum for any major works at the Fete Field, while the weekly running cost is met by the Fete Field Committee. Work is due to commence shortly on improving the pitch; thanks go to Tansley Juniors Football Club for match-funding the cost of this work. Volunteers from the Fete Field Committee and the Football Club will also be improving the surface of the garage forecourt, and residents affected by this work will be notified of dates.

The access road leading from Spout Lane to the privately-owned driveway to the Fete Field is in need of repair, and as owners of this driveway the Parish Council will be doing basic repairs soon.

Tansley Development Association has generously donated £1000 for the purchase of three benches for the Fete Field and we are waiting for these to be installed.

Planning issues have taken up a great deal of our time. Tansley seems very attractive to developers. Fortunately the Parish Council had done two village surveys and we were able to base our arguments on the consensus of residents' opinion. We have had to accept some residential development; however, excessive development would permanently change the character of our village. The appeal site West Yard has been dismissed, and the application to build at Tansley House Gardens has just been refused. A written comment from DDDC Social Housing Officer in the recent Tansley House Gardens application stated: "We want to see a relaxed local occupancy restriction i.e. anyone from Derbyshire Dales would be eligible to take the affordable housing units. A restriction to Tansley residents would undoubtedly leave homes vacant and we would struggle to find housing associations to take on the scheme." So — any new social homes in our village will not be ring-fenced for our residents!

Cut backs at Derbyshire Dales mean that our streets will be swept a maximum of four times a year — our pavements are rarely swept. Is this something we could do as a community? Keep the fronts of our properties weed-free and swept? Your village — your decision.

Tansley Parish Council would like to thank Cllr Jacqui Stevens and Cllr Andy Botham for their help, Chris Knightley for keeping our webpage up to date and attractive, and Jane Flanagan for the brilliant 'messenger service' she provides. (To subscribe to Tansley Hotwire, email tansleyhotwire@gmail.com).

Tansley Parish Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7.30pm at The Community Hall, Church Street. Residents are most welcome to attend. Agendas and minutes can be viewed on the parish notice boards, or online at www.tansleyparish.com.