

Seven-month closure predicted for bridge

Work on footpath

Work has been ongoing to improve the state of the permissive path between Whinhill and Wansford after Beverley Ramblers had to call taxis to transport them along that stretch because of its condition.

With Driffield Navigation Trust permission, the Ramblers have been working to restore the path, created about five years ago, by cutting back vegetation and removing tree stumps.

Although the path is now passable it will require ongoing maintenance.

The Beverley Ramblers have now appealed to Skerne and Wansford Parish Council for financial help.

The matter will be discussed at the November 17 parish council meeting.

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Skerne Bridge remains closed for the foreseeable future following a harvest-time accident.

The north parapet of the listed structure was all but demolished during an incident with a combine.

Work has started with the repair, with the bricks being removed from the River Hull and cleaned before being taken, along with the coping stones, to the ERYC council depot.

According to a public notice in the Driffield & Wolds Weekly, from October 5 any vehicle will be prohibited from travelling between Golden Hill Farm and the Driffield Road to allow for the repair.

The closure notice is for 18 months but it is anticipated that the work will be completed within seven months.



Shoobox appeal to go ahead without using the church

Wansford's 14th annual shoobox appeal will take place as usual this year but in a modified form to allow for the Covid 19 restrictions on gatherings.

Organisers will not be asking to use St Mary's Church as a collecting point.

Further details regarding the cut-off date, drop-off points and any collection arrangements will be circulated around the village at the beginning of November.

Supporters will once again be backing the Real Aid appeal to brighten up the lives of eastern

European children at Christmas.

The boxes will be transported to Romania and Moldavia where they will make a huge difference to the lives of children who have nothing.

Suggested items for the boxes are a facecloth, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, ball, stationery, gloves, scarves, hats and new underwear. Sweets, food items and war-related toys should not be included.

The box and lid should be covered with decorated paper and a donation of £1 towards Real Aid's transport costs taped beneath the lid would be much appreciated.

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Cash windfall plan for our community

A potential scheme to fund community projects to the tune of £10,000 a year has been welcomed by Skerne and Wansford Parish Council. It has been mooted by an energy company which hopes to create a 140-acre solar farm within Skerne and Wansford parish.

The scheme, which is subject to planning permission for the solar farm from East Riding of Yorkshire Council, would come into effect on the first anniversary of the farm's connection to Northern Powergrid's electricity sub-station on the Wansford Road.

Yorkshire-based Harmony Energy applied for the planning permission in June. The company's CEO Peter Kavanagh outlined the scheme, which would be specific to Skerne and Wansford villages, to members of the parish council at their September meeting in Wansford Village Hall. It would be entered into via a legally-binding agreement and would last for the lifetime of the solar farm which would be, at the least, 20 years and possibly up to 40.

Mr Kavanagh said the money would be for village projects within the parish that would benefit the community and suggested that, for more ambitious or costly ventures, a larger advance could be made which would then be deducted from future payments.

Parish councillor and chairman of the Skerne Village Green committee Catherine Bristow commented: 'Should this come to fruition it would represent an amazing opportunity to support the development of the Skerne village green, the land for which is kindly being donated by Warrendale Farms. Potentially it could not only kit the green out with the equipment voted for but also help support the maintenance of the equipment and area for the duration of the solar farm.'

The proposed scheme comes under planning legislation that requires a developer to include in a proposal projects that are beneficial to a community in exchange for a commercially promising development which may be otherwise

unacceptable.

The unsubsidised solar farm, when and if completed, will be the renewable energy company's biggest solar farm to date. It is to be on low-grade agricultural land leased from The Beeches, Skerne, and would extend to about 400 metres south of the Wansford Road sub-station.

Mr Kavanagh told the council how a hedge would be planted to screen the photovoltaic panels, wildflower meadows established and sheep would graze the land. Building the farm would create construction jobs, etc and local contractors would be used where possible.

Hall re-opens

Wansford Village Hall has re-opened for use in line with Government guidelines, which are available to view on the village hall noticeboard.

Because of the requirement for strict social distancing, the hall's current capacity is limited.

Council plea to tractor drivers to proceed with care for others

Support for the area's farmers struggling against the weather and myriad other problems to put reasonably-priced food on our plates was expressed at the September meeting of the parish council.

However, Skerne and Wansford Parish Council members made a plea to farmers to work with them for the safety of all.

With machinery growing in size and roads staying the same width, it is felt by the council members that problems for residents are increasing too.

During a discussion concerning a potential request for a weight restriction on the Skerne Road, members decided first to appeal to good nature.

Many issues were raised during the discussion, not least

being the speed with which these huge machines go through the villages and along narrow country lanes where there may be children, dog walkers and cyclists having to take refuge in the roadside undergrowth.

Councillors pointed out that many of these tractor drivers are, quite blatantly, using mobile phones.

Additionally, members, who are aware that the countryside

is farming's factory floor, were concerned about erosion of verges and the canal bank—and the ensuing problems with localised flooding - brought about when large vehicles pull to one side to make way for other road users. Members sympathised with farmers struggling with the inadequate infrastructure but urged them to be mindful of others in the communities in which they live and work.

Dog poo? Call the dog warden

The problem of dog poo continues to plague both villages. Failing to clean up after a dog is against the law but enforcement is not within the parish council powers.

To report someone failing

to clean up after their animal in confidence telephone the ERYC Dog Warden Service on (01482 393939, or e-mail dog.warden@eastriding.gov.uk with details of the incident, the dog and its owner and, if possible, photographs.

Zoom to church

Church services, which are unaffected by the new rules regarding gatherings, have resumed at Nafferton and Hutton Cranswick. Meanwhile anyone can access the weekly Zoom services on Sunday mornings by contacting priest-in-charge the Rev Simon Elliott on 271592.

Facebook group

Villagers or people associated with Wansford are welcome to join the village Facebook group, Wansford YO25 Community.

Feoffees scholarship for would-be vet Layla

A Wansford student is the proud recipient of one of the Nafferton Feoffees Charities Trust scholarships.

Layla McGreal, who takes her place at her first-choice university – Nottingham – to study veterinary science this month, was selected for the scholarship following an interview.

Layla, is a well-known figure in Wansford, having worked at the Trout Inn while studying at Driffield School. She has been a help to St Mary's Church by taking part in special services – and encouraging her younger brothers Sonny and Gabriel to do the same, and her community spirit shone through when she organised a litter pick along the canal bank in the summer.

Layla said: 'I'm really happy to be able to follow my lifelong dream of becoming a

vet, and hopefully in the near future I will be able to use my skills to help people with their animals around here.

'Moreover, I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to apply for the Feoffees scholarship, and was even more grateful to be given the award!

'This will help me so much with my studies to become a vet, about which I will keep the Feoffees regularly updated.

'It is amazing that there is a scheme to help local students like myself to achieve their goals and I would like to say thank you all so much!'

The Feoffees scholarship is for students undertaking a first degree at a UK university or college whose home is in the ecclesiastical parish of Nafferton with Wansford. It is awarded on an annual basis for the duration of the course



and is intended to contribute towards expenses such as textbooks, study visits and educational equipment.

Students are selected following interviews each year in the spring. More information on the 2021-2022 scheme will be available in March next year.

Help at hand in emergency

Catherine Bristow (Skerne) and Caroline Harrison (Wansford) remain available to organise help for you with picking up shopping, collecting prescriptions, urgent requests or just a friendly telephone call during the Covid 19 emergency.

Their efforts have been registered with the East Riding of Yorkshire Council community hub so they are the first point of call for residents in need.

Anyone vulnerable or self-isolating and in need of assistance can contact them direct on: **Catherine—250190, 07774 402577; Caroline—254452, 07703 354394.**

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Mobile library times revised

The mobile library service to Skerne and Wansford has resumed. It will come at four-weekly intervals with the next visit due on Tuesday, October 6. The library is being run on a one-in, one-out basis.



Because of the problem with Skerne Bridge the times have been revised to take account of the journey between the villages via Driffield.

The revised times are: Skerne, 3.20-3.30pm; Wansford, 3.50-4.05pm. Future dates are November 3, December 1, January 26, February 23 and March 23.