

SHINCLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH PUMP NO 1

Welcome to the *SPC Parish Pump*, an occasional bulletin. It was clearly evident from comments made at the last meeting of the Parish Council (21st January 2021) that the Parish Council needed to improve its communication with the residents of both villages and Sherburn House. Posters are more relevant to non-residents. Daniel Coe's kind offer to run an email-based provision has been rapidly accepted and this is the result. We would like to extend the existing mailing list so please encourage your friends and neighbours to come forward and add to the list by contacting Daniel at daniel.c.roe@gmail.com. And, where possible, keep those informed who you know may not have access to email.

Shincliffe Village Play Park

Work will be going ahead to remove temporarily the picnic benches to secure temporary storage. The old parish bench will remain.

This decision is based on the need to protect our residents from the latest and most virulent variant of the virus whilst keeping the park open. Government policy concerning playgrounds is that they may remain open but 'Although you can take your children to a playground for exercise, you must not socialise with other people when there.' (www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#exercising). Government guidance also refers specifically to a ban on leaving home and meeting people for picnics.

The picnic benches represent the most obvious basis for socialising and we are aware that they are being used by others as an extension of a local takeaway facility. We are not considering the removal of playground equipment. The cost of removing the benches is marginal – we are already committed to moving them elsewhere in the play park. Finally, we can confirm that they will be returned as soon as possible, guided by emerging Government policy on the release from national lockdown.

Following guidance from the Parish Gardener, it will not be necessary to shut the park on the grounds of health and safety whilst the work is undertaken. This will also apply to the planting of the perimeter hedge which will require some 500 whips, 60-90 cm high.

Salt Bins

All the SPC salt bins have been refilled recently. It would be helpful if residents could notify our Clerk if supplies are running low – shincliffeparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Council Elections- 6th May 2021

Although the timing of the local elections in Co. Durham is 'under review' preparations are underway to hold our local elections on 6th May, 2021. This includes the election of Parish Councillors. At present 2 out of the 7 parish councillor posts are vacant and the remaining posts are open to election. All eligible residents and others are encouraged to consider standing for election, contributing their skills and commitment to our community to this part-time activity. All that is required is two nominations for each candidate with applications being received, according to the present timetable, by 4 pm on Thursday, 8th April. The Electoral Commission offers a useful guide to the process at <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/local-elections-england>

IMPORTANT NOTE Please **do not respond to this email**. Instead, if you wish to comment or express a view please write to our email address – shincliffeparishcouncil@yahoo.co.uk . This correspondence will then be registered on the forthcoming SPC Meeting Agenda.