

# Bewerley Parish Council

## NEWSLETTER

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### Illegal drugs

The Parish Council is concerned by the growing drug problem in Bewerley and Pateley Bridge and wish to bring their concerns to the electorate.

**Children as young as thirteen and fourteen are being sold class 'A' drugs** - cocaine, crack, ecstasy, cannabis, speed, poppers, and others.

Class A, B and C drugs are termed as controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, with Class A being those considered most harmful.

The misuse of drugs act states that it is an offence to:

- Possess a controlled substance unlawfully
- Possess a controlled substance with intent to supply it
- Supply or offering to supply a controlled drug (even where no charge is made for the drug)
- Allow premises you occupy or manage to be used for the purpose of drug taking

Drug trafficking attracts serious punishment, including life imprisonment for Class A offences.

To enforce this law the police have special powers to stop, detain and search people under the 'reasonable suspicion' that they are in possession of a controlled drug.

Parents should watch for different behaviour patterns in their children. Mood swings or aggressive behaviour, hyper or depressed children, things which may be put down to hormones and being a teenager could be something much more worrying and damaging like the highs and lows of taking drugs.

Whilst we do not want to frighten parents into being over protective, we want you to be aware of the problem and keep your eyes and ears open and report any suspicions or information you have to the police, or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Tell them what you know, not who you are. It is important you give them names or addresses or places where you know or suspect drugs are being dealt or taken

Some of the drug dealers in the area are only teenagers themselves and are often addicts. They get to the stage when they don't care that they are tearing families apart to feed their addiction and draw younger children into the same degraded lifestyle they have adopted.

For more information on drugs, pick up some leaflets from the medical centre, the police station or the citizens advice bureau. You can call the National Drugs Helpline 0800 77 66 00 and speak to someone who knows the facts.

Don't be ignorant of the problem and think it will go away. We can all help to improve the current worrying situation by talking about it and sharing information between each other and the police.

To contact the neighbourhood policing team telephone 0845 60 60 247 and leave a message with a call taker who will send them an email with details of your call.

Other contact details are available on the Parish Council Web Site (see item two in this newsletter)

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**Web Site For Parish Council**

You may have read in the newspaper that Bewerley Parish Council has launched its own website at [www.bewerley-pc.org.uk](http://www.bewerley-pc.org.uk)

The site includes minutes and agendas of past and forthcoming meetings, councillor details with committee responsibilities, a calendar of forthcoming meetings and events and much more.

A number of you have already taken the opportunity to contact the council directly with questions, concerns and comments using the form included on the web site.

The site has numerous links to organisations in the area allowing visitors to the site to view maps of the area, get travel information and route directions. Your favourite views in and around Bewerley can be included in the photo gallery. As the website continues to evolve, it will include an online directory and other features.

We hope that you find the new website useful and informative. If you cannot find what you are looking for on the site or if you have suggestions for items you would like to see included please email the details using the form on the website or contact the Council and we will do our best to include them.

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**Single Unitary Council for North Yorkshire**

At their last meeting, Bewerley Parish Council unanimously rejected the proposal for a single unitary council for North Yorkshire.

In a letter to North Yorkshire MPs, County and District councillors and others, the Parish Council identified ten reasons for rejecting the proposal, including

- Scrapping Harrogate Council would remove a local link for local problems and issues
- Money from Harrogate District would not necessarily be spent in the area.
- Powers devolved to parish and town councils by the unitary authority would be more onerous and time consuming, requiring full time parish councillors and clerks.

The full text of the letter is available on the Parish Council web site [www.bewerley-pc.org.uk](http://www.bewerley-pc.org.uk)

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**Fly Tipping**

Over the past months, there has been an increase in domestic and builders' rubbish being tipped on road verges and open space in the area.

Please let the council know if you see anyone disposing of rubbish in this way and, if possible, note the vehicles details and registration number. The council will then arrange for the removal of the items and take the appropriate action against those responsible for tipping the rubbish.

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**New Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils**

The Standards Board for England has issued a revised code of conduct for parish and town councils. At the meeting of the Parish Council in May, councillors unanimously agreed on the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the parish council adopts the Standard Board's Model Code of Conduct for Parish and Town Councils 2007.

A full copy of the revised code of conduct is available on the web site [www.bewerley-pc.org.uk](http://www.bewerley-pc.org.uk)

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