

14/12/11

## DECEMBER NEWS

### CHURCH SERVICES

Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Dec

Christingle 3:30pm, All Saints Whitley

Midnight Mass 11:30pm, St Edmunds Kellington

.....  
Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Dec

Family Eucharist 9:30am, All Saints Whitley

[www.villagechurchonline.co.uk](http://www.villagechurchonline.co.uk)

### CHRISTMAS AT THE GEORGE & DRAGON

For all festive events, contact Howard or Janet. 01977 661319

[www.georgeanddragonwhitley.co.uk](http://www.georgeanddragonwhitley.co.uk)

### SCHOOL EVENTS

Pupils and teachers recently joined allotment owners to plant more than 150 young trees in the Daffodil Park! Fantastic work by everyone, especially the local children. An official opening is planned for the Spring..

[www.whitley-eggborough.ik.org](http://www.whitley-eggborough.ik.org)

### OVER 80's

Every year the Parish Council delivers a seasonal parcel of goodies to all our parishioners who are able to look back on at least eighty Christmases. If for some reason you are, or know of, a resident who is not on our list, please contact Kath Walton [kathleenwalton@btinternet.com](mailto:kathleenwalton@btinternet.com) or 01977 662720.

15/11/11

**....17:00pm Tuesday Nov 15th, confirmation that Poplar Farm has been *WITHDRAWN* as a Traveller Site....**

***view the response of the Action Group & Parish Council***

14/11/11

LATEST, from last Thursday's meeting...

Cllr. Mark Crane addressed the meeting and outlined the council's position. He also fielded a number of questions from the floor. He indicated that the council IS currently working on finding a new site but was not forthcoming as to where it was or how far this had proceeded.

Cllr. John McCartney addressed the meeting and revealed that he had been in communication with the landowner of Poplar Farm and his planning consultant. The landowner is now willing to withdraw the application for Gypsy & Traveller use if the community actively supports the site being used for market housing instead. This was put to a show of hands and a majority of the audience agreed to the proposal.

IF YOU SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL YOU SHOULD URGENTLY MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN TO SDC [Idf@selby.gov.uk](mailto:Idf@selby.gov.uk)

Cllr. Simon Humphrey addressed the meeting and gave an update on the campaign and work of the Action Group in developing a formal response to the consultation, which will soon be available to view.

IF YOU SUPPORT THE 'NO TO POPLAR FARM' ACTION GROUP AND THE FORMAL RESPONSE OF THE COMMUNITY YOU SHOULD MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN TO SDC [Idf@selby.gov.uk](mailto:Idf@selby.gov.uk)

**FULL CONTACT DETAILS**

10/11/11

official response from Nigel Adams MP after visiting Whitley this week...

*Dear Simon,*

*Thank you for inviting me to Whitley on Saturday morning to view the proposed traveller and gypsy site and meet with local residents.*

*It is, and has always been clear to me, that this particular site is unsuitable*

*for a travellers' site with potentially thirty caravans sited on it. The proposed location has limited*

*visibility splay and with the amount of traffic movement that a large*

*travellers' site would generate gives me a great deal of concern. Additionally, there is a junction*

*opposite the entrance which would add to the problem.*

*I can totally understand residents' concerns over the suitability of this site and I forwarded the concerns on to SDC of anyone who has contacted me.*

*I have also made personal representations*

*over the site to the Leader of SDC and I have pledged to work with him and his sub-group to find a more suitable site in the Selby District.*

*In the meantime, I would encourage all local residents to share their concerns*

*with SDC before the deadline expires and can I thank you once again for*

*inviting me to the village.*

*Regards, Nigel Adams MP*

04/11/11

big week coming up.... expect fireworks!!

**Nigel Adams MP** coming to Whitley Saturday

**BBC Look North** doing a piece on the campaign Tuesday

**Mark Crane**, leader of SDC, attending our public meeting Thursday

[Click here](#) to download the 'neighbour' flyer to inform locals of Mark Crane's attendance.

(in JPG format, please print and tear in half)

SH

03/11/11

petition tops **800** signatures. aim is to hit 1000+. *keep spreading the word.*

24/10/11

DOWNLOADS

latest village news update flyer [HERE](#)

our template response letter to SDC as a [WORD DOC](#) or [PDF FILE](#)

NO to POPLAR FARM poster [HERE](#)

18/10/11

next public meeting arranged for Thursday, November 10th 7:30 Whitley School.

SH

17/10/11

this is the response of mark crane to my letter

Thank you for your open letter and giving myself the chance to respond.

Selby District Council has a duty to provide a gypsy site within the district for at least 10 pitches to be used by the travelling community. It is clear from meetings held in Brayton, Whitley and Brotherton that every community within the district is very nervous about having travellers within their community. The council went out with 60 suggested sites, several in my own ward, we also called for other suggested sites. Following this consultation only five sites were put forward. One of these five, in Brotherton, was removed by the owner following planning permission for another use. This left the council with four sites, one of these was in the flood plain and therefore not able to be considered. This left us with three, two of these are in the green belt and therefore under planning law not suitable. This gets us to the only site, the one in Whitley. I understand the frustration of people living locally, indeed the council continues to look for a more suitable site, working with both the travelling community and landowners. If we can find a better site, supported by the landowner that would be great. I hope this helps explain why we are now in the position we are, but I repeat, we MUST find a suitable site.

Regards

Mark

15/10/11

more good press in the Post & Times this week..

also we were the main news feature on BBC Radio York Thursday morning.

another good meeting of the working group on Thursday, we will soon be distributing a flyer to update the community and a date for another public meeting, provisionally set for Nov 3rd.

listen to the edited relevant bits of the radio broadcast [HERE](#)

SH

11/10/11

brilliant local press coverage last week. this week an open letter has been sent to the leader of the council, Mark Crane.

Mr Mark Crane, Leader of the Council

Members of the Executive

Selby District Councillors

Sirs, Madams

SADPD decision re. travellers site. Preferred option Poplar Farm, Whitley

Brayton, Brotherton and now Whitley. Each community outraged and united in opposing the process and decision-making by which the Conservative Council is developing the SADPD with regard to the provision of travellers' sites in this area. For the record, Whitley was not consulted in any way about the Poplar Farm site prior to the 'preference' decision. When the residents of Whitley & Eggborough succeed in outlining the many valid reasons why Poplar Farm, Whitley, is a completely unsuitable location for this site, no doubt other communities will be forced to go through the same process of resentment and anger.

The current SADPD document acknowledges that this issue provided the most responses and that this can be an emotive subject. But at the public meeting in Whitley, there was no great outpouring of nimbyism or antagonism towards the travelling community. Rather, resident after resident stood up to condemn the District Council's crass and high handed approach to decision making. When a local prominent Romany gypsy also addressed the meeting to show his frustration and incredulity at the decisions made by the Council, he was

warmly applauded. If a whole community can stand side by side with local travellers in rejecting this methodology and approach, the Poplar Farm decision has lost any credibility whatsoever. The intention of the SADPD is to peaceably integrate travellers into the local area, but the criteria, process and recent decisions made by SDC have produced EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE OUTCOME.

This is not Selby District Council acting in the interests of its residents

This is not local democracy

This is not consultation

This is not acceptable

I urge you, members of the Executive and the Policy Review Committee to urgently consider suspending this decision and reviewing the criteria and process that is currently being applied. This issue must be resolved, not just to meet some statutory requirement, but with the full co-operation and support of the residents the Council promises to serve. The letters pages of the local press show this is turning into a PR disaster for the Council, and potentially more fundamental damage and credibility is at stake.

Faithfully

Cllr. Simon Humphrey, Chair, Whitley Parish Council

Cc

Nigel Adams MP

Selby Times

Selby Post

York Press

BBC Radio York

SH

08/10/11

The group met on Thursday 8th October 2011 - the following actions were agreed

- 0. Weekly objections letters to be sent into Selby District Council
- 0. Approach John Taylor from the Romany Gypsy community for support
- 0. Invite Nigel Adams to the village to outline the community's objections
- 0. Check covenants on the land at Poplar Farm
- 0. Obtain documents from Selby District Council to ascertain validity on criteria for site & process
- 0. Banners to be erected in the village objecting to site - initially at the George & Dragon Pub SP

07/10/11

Whitley Against Travellers Site  
Press Information

The first meeting of the Action Committee Group to fight against Selby District Council's decision under the Selby Area Development Plan (SADP) to allocate the Poplar Farm site in the middle of the village as a Travellers Site, was held at the George & Dragon Pub in Whitley last night, Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

This Group, was formed after Simon Humphrey, Chairman, Whitley Parish Council called for volunteers at the end of a packed meeting attended by around 350 people in the local School Hall to assist in opposing this decision.

The Group consists of around 20 people who have a wide range of skills and who are all eager to explore every avenue to persuade Selby District Council to overturn this "ludicrous decision".

Members of the Group have been already tasked with various duties and they will be meeting weekly to update and co-ordinate progress.

A good start has been made already with the 300 plus signatures on the "Whitley Against Travellers Site" Petition

JW

06/10/11

This is where we hope to provide as much information about this as we can. The working group is meeting today (Oct 6th). All the progress will be found here.

SH