

Chairs Annual Report 19th May 2026

The last year was another successful year for Carlton Parish Council.

One of the main highlights has been the launching of the Carlton Neighbourhood Development Plan project. This was chaired for most of the year by Councillor Andrew Palmer who has done a fantastic job in building the foundation for the project, along with our external consultant. Without this foundation we wouldn't be in the position we are now.

For those who don't know about a Neighbourhood Plan, we are effectively putting together a plan for the village, which would sit alongside North Yorkshires Plan, and would have to be taken into account when any planning applications go in. We can't stop developments happening but we can control what they would look like, to ensure they are in keeping with the village. We can also build in plans for future facilities for the village. We welcome you all along to our next meeting to form part of the team in shaping the Carlton of the future.

Below is a list of things we have funded and achieved this year, however I would like to stress that we have maintained a tight budget and as a result the average Council Tax increase for the villages element is a below inflation rise as of this April, so effectively a cut in the cost.

In addition to the income from Council Tax we have managed to secure other funding from other external sources to add to the village.

Income via External Funding

CIL = £1090 covers costs of 2x new waste bins to go alongside 2x new bus shelters.

Cllr Mike Jordan's Locality Fund = £800.00 to help cover costs of NDP as the government funding was stopped.

Rusholme Wind Farm Funding = £1000.00 which went towards improvements and maintenance in the Golden Garden (new plants, Terran & bark top ups) with purchase of Spring flowering bulbs when appropriate, to be planted in the Autumn.

Community Funding

Annual Award to the Village Hall of £4000.00 This is to help with the upkeep of the Village Hall and to continue its vital role in the community. I would also like to stress that all those on the Village Hall committee and helpers do so as volunteers. So when you see them serving behind the bar or making cups of tea for various events they are doing so in their own time to ensure that any profits made from the room hire go back into the Village Hall to maintain it and keep the lights on.

I would like to take this moment to thank them for their hard work over the last 12 months.

And speaking of volunteers we have some wonderful local groups in the village, again run by volunteers; we thank you for your hard work.

We have also provided funding for some of these groups as follows.

Community Groups

Sing2gether = £230.00

Village Hall = £200.00

Carlton Towers Cricket Club = £250.00

Carlton Rainbows = £250.00

Carlton Brownies = £250.00

We are slowly managing to increase the amount given to groups in the village.

In 2024-25 the PC gave £972.87 to community groups

In 2025-26 the PC gave £1180 to community groups

In 2026-27 there is £2500.00 available to community groups (£250.00 per six-month period for groups)

So please have a good think about how we can help your groups with funding. To keep things legal and above board we do need quotes etc for what you are wanting to do but please contact the clerk, Helen, and she will guide you through what is needed. We do try to keep it as easy as possible but need to maintain governance.

Capex

Phase 5 of the streetlight replacement programme cost £7148. We have continued with the upgrading of the Streetlights in the village. Some belong to us and some are North Yorkshire Council's, but we are gradually replacing all the old style street lights with new modern LED lights. These reduce the running cost in electricity so effectively pay for themselves over time as well as being more environmentally friendly.

Donation made to the British Legion for the Remembrance Sunday wreath

Both defibs had new consumables bought last year.

Grass cutting of the St Mary's church car-park area was completed by the Council's groundworker in agreement with the Council. This service is now included within the annual groundwork contract.

Safety Testing of the cemetery memorials was completed with minimal actions required – no costs.

At no cost to the Parish the damaged bus shelter adjacent to St Mary's Close was pushed to be replaced and is now installed.

A new bus shelter is (hopefully) to be installed at the front of the new Melrose Education SEND School, with no cost to the Parish.

In addition to the bus shelters we are installing 2 new waste bins next to the Bus shelters and this is being funded by CIL money (Community Infrastructure Levy).

We have arranged a couple of litter picks in the village to assist in keeping the village tidy with the Methodist Chapel in addition to arranging for North Yorkshire to send the Road Sweeper around on a couple of different occasions.

Please if you do see any issues in the village get in touch with Helen, and she will either deal with it, raise it with North Yorkshire Council, or raise it at a Parish Council meeting.

Chair of Carlton Parish Council – Adrian Lowes