

Loversall Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting 2025/26
Chairman's Report

During this period Loversall Parish Council met regularly and as scheduled with all such meetings and resulting minutes being published with the required notice on the Council's website. In the second half of this period, a number of members of the public did attend meetings to put forward their views on serious issues facing the village which had arisen and which will be covered later in this report. I am pleased to report that meetings were also regularly attended by one or both of our two City of Doncaster Council (CDC) Ward Councillors, Martin Greenhalgh and Jackie Glover who have provided us with invaluable access and informed opinions concerning any issues, plans or policies arising from the CDC which may affect the parish.

This period has regrettably seen a further increase in traffic and a worsening situation, although it should be noted that traffic from commercial vehicles has been alleviated largely as a result of new signage. The problem of irresponsible speeding continues in the form of vehicles accessing the Nursery by entering and leaving the village via Bubup Hill. Numerous incidents and near misses have been reported by residents, despite the installation of long awaited 20mph speed restriction signage in January 2025. We continue, with CDC to explore other measures to control speeding vehicles particularly at the entrance to Bubup Hill from the direction of Wadworth.

At the same time, large numbers of worshippers attending Orthodox services at St. Katherine's Church have caused severe problems with vehicles being parked throughout the village on the two days each week that services were being held. On some occasions, the parking on such a narrow road restricted the flow of traffic. This matter was raised with representatives of the Church of England at a public meeting in November and since then the situation does seem to have improved with the notable exception of Easter week. However, the same cannot be said of the other issue that was raised by residents at that meeting.

The issue of the inconsiderate behaviour of visitors, particularly at weekends and Bank Holidays who were parking their cars throughout the village and too close to the entrance to Rakes Lane remains. As the popularity of Anabel's Café has increased this has caused considerable nuisance and distress to many residents, with vehicles parking on pavements, blocking entrances, obstructing access and obscuring vision. All too frequently this has resulted in some near misses. This has not been alleviated by the provision of car parking in the farmyard at the top of Bubup Hill for those seeking to access the café. At weekends it has become difficult for residents of Rakes Lane to use their vehicles due to the considerable number of walkers and the narrow nature of the road.

As a consequence of the increase in the number of walkers, dog fouling has become a serious issue and footpaths continue to be eroded or without signage which in some cases, has resulted in unauthorised entry to private property, particularly farmland. Noise levels and acts of anti-social behaviour have also increased, and residents have been severely affected. These residents are convinced that this issue could easily be resolved if a path were to be instituted directly to the café. The owners have so far shown no inclination to oblige and no other proposal or option which would eliminate these issues has been suggested or received. We continue to actively address this problem by working closely with CDC and have given an undertaking to our residents that we will continue to do so until there is a satisfactory conclusion. We are also, currently engaging with CDC about the need

for public footpath signage to be reinstated given the increased footfall and hope to have this in place shortly.

Anti-social behaviour is particularly evident around the lakes and is a persistent issue involving quad bikes and acts of a destructive nature. We are engaging with CDC and Yorkshire Wildlife, the latter of which have erected more fencing and established restricted areas, but we are also exploring a variety of further countermeasures among which include restricting vehicular access. Also there have been some attempted thefts and break-ins in the village during the winter months which were fortunately unsuccessful. We continue to liaise with SY Police, and we would like to remind you that the Parish Council has established a WhatsApp residents group which is open to all residents to join so they can ensure that alerts and information are passed on quickly.

Sadly Loversall, like so many rural areas continues to have its unwanted share of fly tipping, the frequency and level of which appears to be increasing, and which requires everyone's vigilance. To this end we continue to lobby CDC for more hidden cameras and further signage to be installed.

The Council once again met all of its statutory requirements and was able to obtain a certificate of exemption from external audit for its annual accounts. Given rising operating costs, at the beginning of this year we have again, albeit reluctantly sought an increase to the Annual Precept.

We are pleased to confirm that in March, John Goodall was confirmed as a Parish Councillor filling the seat which had been vacant since the election in May of last year. John was born and raised in the village and brings with him an unrivalled knowledge of the village and its history together with considerable experience of the role of Parish Councils. On behalf of the Parish Council; I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joanne Halsall for providing a professional and proactive support to Loversall's Parish Councillors in her role as the council's Clerk.

Looking ahead our priorities will be to continue to work with CDC for improved road safety and signage, monitoring of noise and other acts of public nuisance, such as unacceptable littering, anti-social behaviour, dog fouling, trespass, environmental damage and fly tipping.

Nigel H Tomlinson - Chairman of Loversall Parish Council

10th April 2026