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Chairman's report 2017

First of all a quick update from last year. The gasification plant (energy from waste plant) on Kingmoor Park was passed. Although I have heard that the funding might not be available and to date nothing has happened.

On the state of the footpaths after the big flood in December 2015, the 100 yards that was washed out at Stainton has been reinstated and 2 weeks ago 2 men in a van turned up at Cargo with a brush and a shovel – better late than never. However it did take a digger and chainsaw to put it right.

This year most of our attention seems to have been taken up by different cycle ways, one which wants to use the old Waverly Viaduct at Stainton and one that wants to put traffic lights at the bridge at Kingmoor House, we don't agree with either of them.

Taking the one at Stainton first we feel that forcing someone to sell their land for a cycle track through the process of compulsory purchase is wrong. It's not like the new bypass or a major road it's a cycle path. There was no support in Stainton as the residents can remember what it was like before the barriers were put up with motorbikes regularly coming over the viaduct.

Our complaint with the other cycle path is that it would involve reducing the 2 way flow of traffic under the bridge at Kingmoor House, this is on the road from the roundabout into town. On 2 different occasions in the last year there have been traffic lights here and both times traffic has backed up on to the roundabout blocking the bypass. The Parish Council put a consultation paper in the post office and out of 109 people who expressed an opinion 107 thought the traffic lights were a bad idea. That's more than 99% of the local population. Both our City councillors and our County Councillor and local MP Rory Stewart all think that it is a bad idea. Let's hope democracy comes through. I would like to thank County Councillor Trevor Allison for all his help with this project.

One might think that Kingmoor Parish Council are against cycle paths, this is not the case. We, along with Trevor Allison are still trying to find funding for a cycle path from cargo up to the bypass.

On the new Crindledyke Estate there are now about 175 houses being lived in and it is now nearly at the end of Phase 1. Before Phase 2 can begin there will have to be some major infrastructure changes including moving electric pylons. Last year we were trying to raise funding for some kind of traffic calming on Crindledyke Lane. We were unable to find any funding so we are going to finance the project ourselves. We are looking at some kind of solar powered flashing warning sign to go between the new estate and old Crindledyke.

At Cargo we have had to take the swings down on the park but I am assured they will be back shortly we also had a kind donation of a bench and this is now sitting in the park.

On the planning front we have had applications for new houses, barn conversions, house extensions and even a new Mercedes Garage. All have been looked at and commented on. We have also been involved with issues including road safety, pot holes, dog fouling, footpaths, street lighting, car parking, fly-tipping, just about anything.

I would like to thank all the members of the Council for their time and the Clerk for her patience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R.C. Graham', written over a horizontal line.

Rob Graham, Chairman