

# farnley view



The Last Farnley Ride  
of the Year



FARNLEY  
ESTATES

# Working together...

As you may be aware, on Tuesday 23rd August we submitted a planning application for the redevelopment of the area containing the former Sycamore and Beech Farm buildings.

As we have said throughout this process, we would only make an application for planning once we had the support of the village. We were therefore very pleased when the Farnley Tyas Community Group (FTCG) committee gave us the following unanimous support via email on the 17 August 2011:

**We approve of the paddock systems in principal and of the broad outline development of Beech Farm, providing Paddock 3 (Sycamore field) remains undeveloped.**

This proposal was passed unanimously (with two declarations of interest).

On the basis of this, we instructed the developer to make the application. In addition, we updated the Farnley Estates website (with links to track the planning application) which in turn tweeted the detailed via our Twitter feed @farnleyestates.

I was therefore very surprised to hear that on the 1st October, the FTCC sent out a letter to the village 'on behalf of the group' raising a number of concerns and encouraging residents to 'object to the development'.

These concerns appeared to be centred around 'Communication and Consultation', 'Traffic and Highways' and 'Development'. Without addressing all the concerns in detail here, there was nothing in the letter that hadn't been addressed in the comprehensive and exhaustive consultation that we have undertaken – a fact that we felt had justified the unanimous support six weeks earlier.

I expressed my disappointment with the letter at the FTCC Annual Meeting, where I read out the letter opposite and I am pleased that in recent weeks a more constructive dialogue has resumed. I think that it is occasionally forgotten that Farnley Estates is an active member of the village and that my family live and enjoy the unique environment as much as anyone else.

Our intention has always been to work with the village to find a solution that suits everyone and not just ourselves. If that had been the case, we could have chosen a number of other routes all of which would have been to the detriment of the village. We worked extremely hard to make an application that would benefit the village and whilst attempts have been made to repair relationships of late, a degree of damage has been done.

I am pleased however that we have finally managed to establish the Beech Farm Working Party which will allow those who are interested, the opportunity to work with us, hear 'first hand' progress updates and voice concerns directly. The first meeting was held on 19 October and we will publish the details via our website.



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Tuesday, 4th October 2011

Dear Sirs,

I have been astonished and very disappointed to read your letter of 1st October 2011 to the residents of The Village. I had thought that we had entered into a constructive dialogue over many, many months which had reached an amicable solution by mid-August of this year. The letter of 1st October suggests that this understanding is completely wrong.

The Development Team and Farnley Estates have sought to engage with and respond to points made by the FTCC as well as other neighbours from well before the planning application was submitted and I thought that we had made considerable progress.

I am quite taken aback that beyond advising individuals within the community how they might comment on the planning application, the FTCC has set up an agenda of adverse commentary to be followed. This is completely contradictory to my understanding that a general accord had been reached.

As far as I can see, my team and I have been honest and straightforward and we had hoped that we had established a reciprocal position with FTCC.

Would the Chair be kind enough to explain the letter, the authority for its dispersal, and why Farnley Estates were not given the opportunity to respond prior to distribution?

Yours faithfully,

Paul Sykes

Finally, I appreciate that the 'development' is a very emotive issue, but I would like to assure everyone that we believe that the proposed solution will be to the long-term benefit to everyone in the village. Inevitably we shall not please everyone.

Best Regards,  
**Paul Sykes, Farnley Estates.**

## New Guide Stoops

We have teamed up with Kirklees MC to produce new guide stoops for ramblers walking along the Estate's paths.

The first post was erected this summer and is shown below being used by Estate Manager Paul Elgar, Parish Councillor Robert Barraclough, Winston (left) and Oscar (right).



# The Last Ride of the Year

The last Farnley Ride of the year took place on Saturday 15 October, with over 120 riders taking part.

The event was a tremendous success with many riders taking part in an 'off road' ride for the first time. Many 'rides' involve a degree of tacking (walking the horse along a road) between designated ride areas, but Farnley is one of the few courses that has no need for 'tacking'.

It was also great to see a number of villagers (both young and old) taking advantage of the nice weather and walking the six mile course. We received a lot of positive comments about how well the event was organised and the friendliness of everyone on the day.

It is great to have an opportunity of attracting new visitors to the area and to share with them the beauty of Farnley's scenery.



# Harvest Gathered in the Village

Around the village, the annual crop harvest on the Estates' farmland is well underway. Many thanks go out to Robert Barraclough, Phil Davies and Phil Dyson who ably undertook the physical work under the direction of the Estate.

We recently outlined how some of the crops grown on the Estate are fed to cattle in the locality. The crops are sold and any surpluses are re-invested as part of our programme to manage approximately 1500 acres of farmland, 400 acres of woodland and over 30 properties on the Estate.

From our 2011 harvest, the forage crop will be used as equine haylage, some of the barley will be sold to merchants with the remainder part milled to form winter food for fattening livestock. The straw meanwhile will be retained for the use of livestock in the village. Other areas have been forward sold as standing crops to a farmer in Flockton.

From this years' harvested Spring Barley we have some seed retained (a 'good clean sample') and these will be replanted in Spring 2012.



# Conservation on the Estate

## Fenay Beck

The area between Fenay Beck and Penistone Road has been transformed in the past twelve months both in terms of crop growing and as a burgeoning conservation site.

Following a successful summer, a wheat crop has now been harvested. A conservation crop was planted adjoining Fenay Beck and this is now giving considerable cover for birds (wrens, chaffinches and tree sparrows) and will continue to do so through to next spring. The inclusion of Quinoa, Tricale, Linseed and Mustard gives feed seed throughout the winter and spring months. Kale gives cover against the weather and a number of predators.

The Estate has obtained a consent for the creation of a ford just below the small weir in Fenay Beck. This will allow for cultivation of land to the west of Fenay Beck which will be planted with rotational conservation crops.

## Keep of the Grass

The Estate has made the decision not to plough and plant crops on several acres of land due to them being identified as 'of special environmental interest' due to their content of rare grasses and herbs.

By identifying these sites, we are able to protect the local ecosystem (particularly butterflies and insects) and maintain the diversity of the local countryside. Farnley Tyas has a great diversity flora and fauna and we want to do everything that we can to protect and maintain it.

This decision compliments the significant investment we have made in the land alongside the conversation area at Fenay Beck.

# 'Silk Mill' Update

You may remember in the last issue we reported that the former silk mill was the subject of a major piece of research. Further investigations have revealed that the mill was not actually used to produce silk after all. It is however, almost certainly of historical interest in that it was at the forefront of the industrial revolution and one of the first mills in Huddersfield to use steam powered engines. The mill processed wool for Farnley Tyas cottage weavers who allowed their children to work there under strict conditions.

The Estate has been working closely with Huddersfield & District Archaeologist Society [www.huddarch.org.uk](http://www.huddarch.org.uk) and the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust [www.ywt.org.uk](http://www.ywt.org.uk) on how best to restore (albeit on a limited scale) the ponds around the mill. These new exciting developments mean that the area may be eligible for Lottery Heritage Funding which will significantly increase the amount of restoration we can undertake.

It is believed that the mill may be in some way connected to the Burton Dean Mill in Kirkburton as both were previously owned by Hermann Geissler (a German immigrant who settled here in the 1850s). With further research being undertaken, watch this space for more updates.



## Impact of last winter still being felt

You may soon notice the emergency bracing that has to be erected around the barn at Yew Tree Farm. This building has become another victim of the terrible weather of last winter and in a bid to avoid the damage witnessed at Low Common Farm ([link](#)), the Estate has taken immediate action to protect both the building and the residents of Farnley Tyas.

The erected structure will hopefully stop the building falling down and allow further examinations to take place.

In February we highlighted the damage caused by the collapsed wall at Low Common [Click here](#). As can be seen from the (above) before and after images the wall has been completely rebuilt and restored in keeping with our commitment to protect the built heritage of the Estate.



## We need your help!

### Vandals damage fences at Royd House

The Estate is very concerned about reoccurring damage to fences at Royd House. Since erecting the fences during the summer, the Estate has been called to make a number of minor repairs, however the damage is now getting to a point where barbed wire fences are being cut by wire cutters and posts are being lifted out of the ground.

Not only do the repairs take revenue away from the maintenance of other parts of the Estate, but the damage raises major concerns around public safety. The adjoining open land is used by horses and livestock to graze and therefore removal of fences creates an open route onto the highway and risks causing of a major accident.

If anyone knows who is responsible we would ask that they contact the Estate office on 01484 664477. We will treat any information in complete confidence and will notify the police accordingly.

## Contact details

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