



BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES

PARISH COUNCIL

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013



Your Ward Councillors

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Your Money, Your Village, Your Views, Your Vote

Over the past few weeks residents living in the Mid Durham AAP area have been given the chance to vote on village projects they think are worthy of a share of £80,000.

The £80,000 was made up of funding from the AAP, our County Councillors Neighbourhood Budgets and the Northern Clinical Commissioning Group and was put in place to let residents decide which village priority they thought the money should go to. The funding was divided up into the 16 villages across the AAP which provided each village with £5,000.

Within our Parish area over 200 local people attended the 4 village vote sessions held throughout October with the following projects each receiving £5,000 :

Brandon Community Hall refurbishment
Langley Moor Holliday Park Drainage Scheme
Meadowfield– St. John’s Church Hall refurbishment
Ushaw Moor/Broompark– Broompark Play site refurbishment
Esh Winning– Family activity programme
Waterhouses– Play site refurbishment

As part of the voting sessions the AAP also took the opportunity to gain residents views on a variety of subjects. A total of 210 residents provided their views on which themes the AAP should prioritise during 2014/15 and a further 270 residents provided their views on how they thought the County Council should divide its budget in the coming years. Because of further major reductions in Government grants the County Council has to make savings of £100m by 2017 which is approximately 25% of their current budget. This means some very difficult decisions have to be made and your views on this are welcomed. You can still have your input into this consultation until 11th December by completing an online questionnaire at www.durham.gov.uk/consultations or by contacting the County Council on 03000 263 590.

Around the Wards

Brandon

The Annual Remembrance Service took place at Brandon Village War Memorial on Sunday 10th November and was attended by the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr John Grantham together with other local council members, the British Legion and many community residents . Wreaths were laid to commemorate the many servicemen and women who lost their lives in the two world wars and in recent conflicts. The Council arranged the services of Durham University Band who played to their usual high standard at St. John’s Church and at the Memorial. The Members of the Council would like to express their appreciation to members of Brandon Village Residents association who kindly provided refreshments in the Community Garden following the service.



Following the great success of the Holiday @ Home Week held in August at St. Andrew’s Methodist Church, the church has decided to run a weekly session on Tuesday mornings . The aim of the sessions are to tackle isolation and loneliness amongst older people by helping them to make new friends whilst providing a range of activities . The Church will be working together with other churches in the area and any volunteers will be welcomed.

Brandon & Byshottles Table Tennis Club is proving to be very popular with the local community. Sessions are held in Brandon Community Hall on Thursday evenings 6.30p.m until 8.30p.m. and Saturday mornings 10.00a.m. until 12noon. All ages and abilities are welcome to attend and there are now four tables available to use. Each session costs only £2.50, so why not go along and enjoy the fun. If you would like more Information please contact Tony Taylor on 07539275048.



Meadowfield and Langley Moor

Friends of Langley Moor Community Group have once again planned the Langley Moor Christmas tree lights switch on which will take place on Sunday 1st December. Local school children will be singing carols and music will be provided by the Salvation Army Band. Why not go along and enjoy the festivities starting at 4.30p.m. for a 5p.m. switch on. If you would like to join the group, meetings are held in the Parish Council offices usually on the 1st Thursday in the month. The next meeting will be held on 5th December at 7.00p.m. Further details about the group can be found on the Parish Council website.



Holliday Park

Following the production of the Masterplan for Holliday Park the Parish Council is continuing to work with Durham County Council and Mid Durham AAP to make improvements to the park. Initially, on completion of a tender process, work will be carried out on a drainage scheme for the north side of the park which suffers from severe flooding during episodes of heavy rain making this area of the park unusable. Once the drainage scheme is in place further funding will be sought to make improvements to the entrance to the park, provide new seating, possibly an adult fitness trail and development of the existing play site.

Meadowfield & Langley Moor Over 60's recently approached the Parish Council for financial assistance to help towards their activities for the year. The group has over 135 members and meets on the last Tuesday of every month in the Royal British Legion at Meadowfield to enjoy refreshments, entertainment and speakers. Members of the group also enjoy outings throughout the year and go on holiday together. Anyone wishing to join the group are welcome to go along to the meetings.

New Brancepeth

The Parish Council has provided financial support to New Brancepeth WMC Football Club for another year by paying for the Club's pitch fees for the season. Good luck to all concerned.

Local elderly residents will again be enjoying their Christmas Party at the Village Hall on 7th December.

The village carol service will be held in the Hall on 22nd December at 3p.m.

Esh Winning & Waterhouses

Esh Winning Mining Memorial Group is a voluntary community group established with the intention of erecting a permanent mining memorial to commemorate the men and boys killed in the collieries of Esh Winning, Waterhouses, Hedley Hill and East Hedley Hope. The memorial will take the form of a life-size statue of a miner and his wife and child, carved from black granite and set on a sandstone plinth. The memorial will be located on the enclosed grassed area to the front of the Woodland Road bungalows. The group are now nearing their target following several years of dedicated fundraising and following a request from the group, Esh Winning ward recently agreed to support the group with a donation. The memorial will serve as a lasting reminder of the mining heritage of the Deerness Valley.

Esh Winning Christmas Tree Lights Switch On will be held on 6th December at 4.00pm. Local school children will be performing the switch on. Everyone is welcome to go along and refreshments will be served in Woodland Road Communal Hall following the event.

Waterhouses Village Hall have a number of events planned in December:

6th December Christmas Tree Lighting & Carols 6.30p.m.

13th December Quiz Night with turkey sandwiches 6.30p.m. Cost £3 (contact Beryl on 3734442 before 9th December to book)

14th December Family Night showing 'The Croods' plus games and refreshments— donations accepted 6.30p.m. Further Family Nights will be held on 25th January and 15th February 2014.

Ushaw Moor & Broompark

The firework display at Ushaw Moor Cricket Club, which was again sponsored by the Parish Council was a big success and enjoyed by the local community. Thanks must go to the Cricket Club and all those involved in arranging the event.

Ushaw Moor Cricket Club F.C.—the Council has again paid for the Football Club's pitch fee for this season following a request from the Club. Ushaw Moor ward were happy to help the club out in these difficult times.

New Kids Club for Ushaw Moor—a newly formed Kids Club catering for 7-11 year olds has recently been set up in the village and meets on a Tuesday from 5p.m. –6.30p.m. in the Age Concern hut. The Council were pleased to help the group with a donation to assist with the provision of a wide range of activities for the children. The group has become very popular in a short space of time with 70 children currently registered. As a result the group is considering holding a further session on a Friday evening in the new year.

Dates for your diary– the following events will be taking place at the Baptist Church

Saturday 14th DecemberPittington Brass Band 7p.m.

Monday 16th December.....Community Carol Service 7p.m

THE CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR JOHN GRANTHAM, MEMBERS AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.



Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Sessions

Brandon Community Hall

11 am-12noon- second Thursday of month

11 am-12noon- fourth Thursday

Esh Winning Library

2-3pm-first & third Tuesdays

New Brancepeth Village Hall

10-11am-first Wednesday

Sure Start, Ushaw Moor

11am-12noon-third Thursday

Credit Unions

Every Tuesday 3p.m.-4p.m. in Esh Winning Library

Every Wednesday 10a.m.-11a.m in Ushaw Moor Sure Start
Children's Centre

Every Wednesday 9.30a.m-10.30a.m. St. Andrew's
Church, Brandon

**'Dog Pooh ' bags available free from the Parish
Council offices and various locations in the Parish**

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Susan Carmedy

Administrative Assistant : Mrs Susan Howe

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Chairman: Councillor John Grantham

This newsletter is also available to view on the council's website.