



BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES

PARISH COUNCIL

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2012



Your Ward Councillors

Brandon

Lesley Catterson Tel: 0191 3789465

John Grantham Tel: 0191 3782631

Brian Nelson Tel: 0191 3783147

John Turnbull Tel: 0191 3780408

Esh Winning & Waterhouses

John Kelley Tel: 0191 3736752

Philip Venn Tel: 0191 3732085

Cynthia Wilkinson Tel: 0191 3733173

John Wilkinson Tel: 0191 3733173

Langley Moor

Colin Allen Tel: 0191 3781032

Sarah Leckenby Tel: 07794604669

Nick Rippin Tel: 07534749521

Meadowfield & Browney

Thomas Akins Tel: 0191 3784369

Maureen Smith Tel: 0191 3781892

Paul Taylor Tel: 0191 3780951

New Brancepeth

David Bell Tel: 0191 3406086

Anne Bonner Tel: 07979064241

Derek Jones Tel: 0191 3731631

Ushaw Moor & Broompark

Billy Dowsey Tel: 0191 3734974

Pauline Gates Tel: 0191 3739290

Julie Kitching Tel: 0191 3736507

Phil Stoddart Tel: 0191 3736698

Council Appoints New Chairman

At the Parish Council's AGM on Friday 18th May Councillor Anne Bonner was appointed as Chairman of the Parish Council for the coming year. Councillor Bonner has served on the Council since the elections in May 2007 and represents New Brancepeth ward. Councillor Bonner, who will be supported by her husband, Frank, during her term of office, was presented with the Chain of Office by the former Chairman, Councillor Nelson. Councillor John Grantham from Brandon Ward was appointed as Vice Chairman.



Past Chairman's Charity



The past Chairman's Charity raised a staggering £2,003 for Brandon Community Hall. The event, held on 30th March, was attended by civic dignitaries from all over the County as well as residents of the local community. Cllr. Nelson would like to express his sincere thanks to all those who contributed prizes and supported the event in any way. Cllr. Nelson presented the cheque to Jill Rodgers from the Community Hall at the Parish Council's AGM.

Mid Durham AAP

Mid Durham AAP has a new Chair - Newly elected Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr. Anne Bonner also became the



new Chair of the Mid Durham Area Action Partnership (AAP) for 2012/13 at their recent AGM in May. Cllr. Bonner had previously been on the AAP Board as a member of the public. Before handing over, Cllr Armstrong, the 2011/12 Chair (pictured left with Cllr Bonner), provided the AAP Board and

Forum with an overview of the AAPs Annual Report. Several of the highlights included a forum membership of over 400 residents and community groups; the development of 9 Area Budget projects addressing such areas as activities for children and young people, support for older people and support for the voluntary and community sector for every £1 spent of Area Budget a further £4.36 has been brought in to Mid Durham and Durham County Council elected members in Mid Durham have supported 145 projects throughout Mid Durham. The Annual Reports for Mid Durham AAP and its Small Grants Fund will be published on their website at the end of May www.durham.gov.uk/mdaap

The Parish Council are working with the 9 other Mid Durham Parish Councils and the Mid Durham AAP during June, July and August to look at visiting or speaking to as many different residents or residents groups as they can concerning life in their villages. We want to get your views

on what you think affects community life in your village and what could be done to tackle it. For further information on this or if you just want to put your views forward please contact the Parish Council

Synopsis of Annual Report

The Parish Council's Annual Report is published in June and provides a review of the Council's activities throughout 2011/12. Copies of the report will be available at various locations around the parish including Brandon & Esh Winning libraries, Brandon Community Centre, The Orchards, Brandon, Langley Moor Post Office, New Brancepeth Village Hall, Ushaw Moor Post Office, G & S News and Waterhouses Village Hall. Copies are also available from the Council offices and on the Parish Council website. A brief summary of the report is as follows:

- ◆ Maintenance of allotment, grazing and garage sites
- ◆ Grasscutting programme
- ◆ Provision of floral containers
- ◆ Projects with Mid Durham AAP
- ◆ Support to local community groups
- ◆ Community Highways Worker scheme
- ◆ Responses to consultations
- ◆ School's painting competition
- ◆ Maintenance of Public Rights of Way

Summary of Accounts

Balance 1.4.11	107,897
Income 2011/12	<u>176,273</u>
	284,170
Expenditure 2011/12	<u>149,617</u>
Balance 31.3.12	<u>134,553</u>

Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Service

The Parish Council has once again supported the Citizens Advice Bureau with a donation of £1,860 in order to continue their Outreach Service. All wards of the council contributed to this valuable service which offers free advice on a wide range of subjects such as welfare rights, housing and tax issues . You can find details of the sessions on the back page of this newsletter.

Community Highways Worker Scheme

Additional funding from the Parish Council has meant the Community Highways Worker Scheme can continue for at least another year. Significant budget cuts at Durham County Council threatened the future of the scheme, however the Parish Council agreed to substantially increase its share of the funding for the current financial year. Operating since 2004, the scheme has been predominantly highways focused. However this year more emphasis will be placed on improving the streetscene of our villages such as edging off pathways, trimming back hedges and painting street furniture.

Around the Wards

Brandon

The new build Primary School at Brandon officially opened after the Easter break. This is an excellent facility for our young children and Brandon Ward was pleased to assist the school with a donation towards new I.T. equipment. Cllr.Nelson presented Headteacher, Mrs Charlton with a cheque for £5,000 at a morning assembly on Wednesday 16th May. The children were delighted and thanked Cllr. Nelson with a rousing 'hip, hip, hoorah'!



A new replica Brandon Colliery Banner has successfully been commissioned thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Brandon & Browney Banner Community Group. The Banner was officially unfurled on 25th May at Meadowfield WMC. The Parish Council has agreed to adopt the banner on behalf of the community.

Meadowfield and Langley Moor

Problems with parking at Langley Moor School are looking to be addressed over the next few months. Meetings have taken place with the Headteacher and a scheme to extend the parking area opposite the school has been drawn up by Durham County Council. Local unitary councillors will be funding the scheme through their AAP Neighbourhood Budgets.

Local County Councillors and the Parish Council are planning to develop a master plan for the Holiday Park in Langley Moor. The park had been a destination for many families throughout our Parish to come along to during the summer months and spend a good family day out and it would be great to see if we can bring this back. Two public consultation events will be planned for August and September of this year and work with the schools is also being planned. A leaflet to outline the process is being developed and will be circulated soon around Langley Moor. For anyone interested outside of this area please contact the Parish for further details.

'Friends of Langley Moor' group has now successfully been set up following two initial meetings to give advice on the procedures for forming the group. Their first meeting will be held on Thursday 14th June at 7.00p.m. in the Parish Council offices. Anyone is welcome to join, so why not come along and share your ideas to make Langley Moor a more attractive place to live.

Esh Winning & Waterhouses

Esh Winning

The Parish Council has given its unanimous support for the application for Village Green status for the field at Newhouse Avenue. This application was originally submitted in July 2009 and a decision should be made in the next few months by Durham County Council.

A wildflower meadow is to be created on the green space opposite Station Avenue between Lymington Crossings and Field's Garage. Esh Winning Residents Group and Esh Winning Primary School will be working in partnership on the project which should begin in September.

Following a request from the County Council Esh Winning Ward has agreed to maintain the grassed area from Station Avenue to Esh Winning Methodist Church.

Waterhouses

The Village Hall has recently applied to Durham County Council for planning permission to erect 16 solar panels on the front elevation of the building.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Summer Fayre which will be held in the Hall on Saturday 16th June from 2pm to 4pm. There will be a variety of stalls selling produce, a raffle and tombola and refreshments will be available. Please try to support The Marie Curie Appeal by going along to a coffee morning on Saturday 7th July from 9.30a.m. On July 17th 'Beat n Blow', a German Band who are part of Brass: Durham International Festival will be appearing commencing at 7.30p.m.

New Brancepeth

New Brancepeth Revellers Jazz Band last month received a donation from all wards of the Council towards the cost of uniforms for the younger members of the band. The band has been performing for over 40 years and over the past year numbers have increased with members joining from Brandon, Ushaw Moor and Esh Winning. Cllr. Nelson presents cheque to Mr. Rowlands (right)



Ushaw Moor & Broompark

Great news! Funding for the Ushaw Moor Playsite next to Deerness Gymnastics Academy has now been secured. A total of £53,000 has been confirmed with grants coming from the Parish Council, the AAP, Sherburn House, Hadrian Trust and the County Durham Foundation Premier Waste Fund. The Parish Council has worked in partnership with Mid Durham AAP, Ushaw Moor Together, local unitary councillors and Durham County Council following concerns from parents and young children about the quality of play provision in Ushaw Moor. Once the tender process has been completed the scheme should be in place for mid to late September.

Ushaw Moor Childcare have benefited from a donation for the provision of a trolley to transport hot meals from Silver Trees Primary School to the Surestart Centre. Following consultation with parents, the childcare provider has started to provide hot lunches for the children which are sourced from the nearby school. This is an excellent initiative which will meet childrens' nutritional needs as well as encouraging the children to eat together and try new foods.

The results of the Pedestrian Crossing survey undertaken in Ushaw Moor at the request of the Parish Council, local county councillors and the AAP have unfortunately revealed that a pedestrian crossing is unwarranted in Durham Road. The results have to be considered against national guidelines and regrettably in this instance the guidelines have not been met.

World Challenge Expedition to Malaysia- a group of current year 8 & 9 students from Durham Community Business College, Ushaw Moor and Fyndoune Community College, Sacriston will be embarking on the trip of a lifetime to Malaysia in July 2013. Students will be interacting with local village children teaching them traditional British customs and games as well as completing a charity phase working in an orphanage for deaf and blind children or an elephant sanctuary.

Students are responsible for their own fundraising and are currently involved in the 'Bags to School Campaign' where unwanted clothes, shoes, bed linen and towels are being collected. Donations of these items would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off at college receptions before pick up day on 20th June. The students have also entered wholeheartedly into the business enterprise factor of the expedition coming up with independent ways to raise money such as setting up car washes near their homes and organising dance nights with the support of their parents. The Parish Council hopes the expedition will be a great success and give the students an experience never to be forgotten.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

As mentioned in our last newsletter the Parish Council will be distributing commemorative mugs to local primary school children. Approximately 1,600 mugs will be delivered to the schools across the Parish before the schools' half term summer break. I am sure the children will keep the mugs as a souvenir of the occasion.

Schools' Art Competition

The Council is once again organising the Schools Art Competition this year. Letters have been sent out to all the primary schools, nurseries and pre-schools inviting them to take part in the competition. Members have the difficult task of choosing 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners in each category. Book tokens will be provided as prizes by the Parish Council. Look out for the results in our September newsletter.



Floral Containers

The Parish Council's floral containers will shortly be replanted with summer bedding. A total of 159 planters situated all across the Parish will be refilled and watered throughout the summer months. This includes 2 new planters at Esh Winning Methodist Church, Langley Moor High Street and 2 new baskets at New Brancepeth Methodist Chapel.



Registered Trader Scheme



Registered Trader Scheme

Operated by Durham County Council

The Registered Trader Scheme is a list of vetted traders who are committed to honest and fair trading. Businesses need to satisfy certain criteria in order to qualify for the scheme including checks on previous

criminal convictions, police checks on employees and sub-contractors, references from previous customers and compliance with civil and criminal law. The scheme advises you not to employ people who knock on your door asking if you need any work carried out or tell you that work is required. Also be wary of adverts and leaflets that come through your door with only a mobile telephone number. You can contact the Registered Trader Scheme for details of reputable traders at Durham County Council's Trading Standards Tel: 03000 261 016 or visit www.durham.gov.uk/registeredtraders. Your local library can also access the list for you –just ask the librarian. Leaflets explaining the scheme are available at the Parish Council offices.

Citizens Advice Bureau Outreach Sessions

Brandon Community Hall

11 am-12noon- second Thursday of month

11 am-12noon- fourth Thursday

Esh Winning Community Centre

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 Community Centre

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 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 Mrs Anne Bonner

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