



BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES

PARISH COUNCIL

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2012



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Mid Durham AAP

At the Mid Durham AAP January Board meeting the key priorities for the AAP in 2012/13 were discussed. The Board decided to keep the task groups for the four existing key priorities namely activities for young people, support for older people, support for the Voluntary Community Sector and road safety and highways. At the forum held in the summer, Employment and Job Prospects came high on the priority list of young people and statistics indicate an increase in our Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEETs) numbers. Therefore the Board agreed to also examine this priority to see if the AAP could make a difference in this area.

The Mid Durham area railway path masterplan was completed in November 2011 with feedback from over 600 people, groups and services being received. The plan contains recommendations based on this feedback for each village connected geographically to the railway paths. All the villages of the Parish are included as well as Lanchester, Langley Park and Bearpark. Road shows will be organised over the next few months to convey the findings and to gather together volunteers, groups and services to address some of the issues raised. Look out for details of these on the Parish Council website.

The Community Speedwatch Scheme was launched in 2010. If any resident is concerned about speeding in their villages, please inform the Parish Council in writing and the mobile speed indicator device may be able to be used in that area provided that a volunteer accompanies the police officer when the device is deployed .

The Small Grants Fund has been approved to continue with an allocation of £20,000 for 2012/13.. The fund has helped many community groups over the past year so if you are interested in applying for a grant, forms are available from the Parish Council offices or from Julie Taylor on 0191 3844801.

Donation to Lourdes Pilgrimage

The Parish Council was once again delighted to be able to assist towards the funding for the Hexham and Newcastle Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes which is organised by St. Joseph's Church in Ushaw Moor. All Parish wards contributed to the donation for the pilgrimage which will take place between 30th July and 7th August 2012 and young people from the area will be helping to support the sick. Councillor Nelson presented the cheque to Mrs Pat McMahon and Megan Barrass at the January meeting.



Brandon Village Community Garden

A Community Garden project which opened in September 2010 is looking to attract more visitors. The garden was created by Brandon Village Residents' Association, who have transformed a former derelict allotment into an amenity that can be enjoyed by the whole community – young and old alike. The area boasts a wildlife pond, wild flower meadow, raised vegetable beds, fruit trees, greenhouse and seating areas. The Garden Committee, along with other volunteers, spent hundreds of hours clearing and preparing the land, planting, and building paths, fences and walls. The team is keen for the wider community to enjoy this wonderful and unique space which will be open on Easter Sunday and then the first Sunday in each month, 2pm to 4.30pm until 28 October. Private viewings can be made for individuals or groups by contacting Tom Sharples on 07710359584. The garden can be seen on the Brandon Village website: www.brandonvillage.org.uk



Lord Crewe Charity Fund

Four apprentices in the Parish area will be benefiting from a grant from the Lord Crewe Charity Fund. The apprentices, who are being trained at New College, have all received assistance with the purchase of tools.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be celebrated in June and the Parish Council will be presenting china mugs to all our local Primary schools to commemorate the event. The children will be able to keep the mugs as a souvenir of this landmark occasion in our country's history.

Around the Wards

Brandon

Carrside Youth & Community Project

March 29th will see groups of young people coming to Brandon from Bulgaria and Denmark for 1 weeks worth of activities. The project, 'Wet and Wild around Western Europe', has been in the planning stages for over a year. Young people from Brandon Carrside Youth and Community project have been planning the programme, raising funds and getting excited about the up coming project. During the visit, the groups will be visiting local attractions, experiencing our culture and meeting the local community. Look out for more information about events taking place throughout the week long visit, and if anyone is interested in getting involved please get in touch with Julie O'Connor on 0191 3784975.

Brandon Ward recently supported 14year old Joe Barker from Brandon who excels at the sport of water polo and was selected to receive coaching at the highest level, the England talent squad. If Joe is lucky enough to be selected to play for England in the future then he could be flying the flag for Brandon & Durham at future Olympics. Good luck for the future Joe.

Philip Readman, also from Brandon, has recently travelled to India as part of his degree course to work with the charity CEDAR, Centre for Education, Development Action & Research. The Council agreed to give a donation to Philip to help with the costs of the trip. Philip is helping children, young people and adults with special needs and will be coming to the Parish Council meeting in March to give a report on his experiences.

Meadowfield and Langley Moor

Funding for the next phase of the regeneration of Addison Park will hopefully be secured shortly. The Friends of the Park Group, through Groundwork, have applied to 'Transform Your Patch' and have a chance of receiving £20,000 if they win the public vote for their scheme. If the park is successful then extra play equipment can be installed. Every vote counts so please give your support at www.transformyourpatch.com/vote?filter=north-east.

Children in the local primary schools are currently being consulted on the type of equipment they would like in the park and Graham Hopper, a local sculptor, is providing another metal seat which will have a mining sculpture incorporated into the back of the seat. Durham County Council has donated a Coal Tub which will be installed by Brambledown Landscapes.

The Parish Council is working closely with Langley Moor

Primary School and the AAP to try to resolve parking issues outside of the school. Consultation with parents will take place over the Easter Holidays. Also a recent visit was made to Holliday Park to look at ways of improving the park and encouraging visitors from the wider community. The Parish Council is now waiting for a master plan to be drawn up by Durham County Council.

Esh Winning & Waterhouses

Esh Winning

The new development of 21 houses known as Oak Green (by Hamilton Close at the top of Ridding Road) has begun. This will be a welcome addition to the west end of the village. Planning permission has also now been granted for the site at College View which will be a mixture of affordable houses and bungalows.

Waterhouses

The Council has recently erected a new field gate and a pedestrian gate at the allotment site at Hamilton Row which hopefully will give the site more security.

Family nights at the Village Hall continue to be a great success, over 90 people attended the quiz night in January. Everyone is welcome to attend a Ceilidh which will be held on St. Patrick's night, 17th March. Don't forget the annual Easter Duck Race

on 8th April. This will include competitions for the best Easter Bonnet and Easter egg.

New Brancepeth

New Brancepeth WMC Football team recently approached the Council for help to pay their pitch fees for the season. The team is currently in the Durham District Senior League division 3 after being promoted from division 4 last year. New Brancepeth ward members were pleased to help the team continue to play on their local field and let's hope the team will achieve further promotion this season.

Ushaw Moor & Broompark

The Ushaw Moor Playsite fund has now reached £33,000 with further funding hopefully coming from Sherburn House (£3,000) and the Hadrian Trust (£500). Applications are still pending with the County Durham Foundation and the Trusthouse Fund but we should find out about these in March. Although we are looking for £50,000 in total the project can start when we get over £40,000. Fingers crossed, it won't be too long before things start moving.



Durham Community Business College 's new Studio School proposes to offer education to students aged 16-19 for the first time in September. The Parish Council fully supports the proposals and believe it will give students in County Durham the option to study through 'real world' projects rather than through traditional, more academically focused methods.

The Christmas lights were once again a welcome sight at the entrance to Ushaw Moor. The Parish Council would like to express their thanks to Alderson's Funeral Directors, Alderson's Builders, G & S News and Ushaw Moor Convenience Store for their sponsorship.

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
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Chairman: Councillor Brian Nelson

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