



BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES

PARISH COUNCIL

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2013



Your Ward Councillors

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Parish Council Budget 2013/14

Under the Welfare Reform Act 2012 the government has abolished the national Council Tax Benefits system in favour of a localised system which will be administered by Durham County Council. This localisation of council tax benefits effectively changes the way in which the Parish Council is funded and has resulted in a significant reduction in the Council's tax raising capacity. The Council's double taxation grant for next year has also been withdrawn by the County Council. Consequently, when setting its budget for 2013/14, the Council has had to make the difficult decision of increasing its precept in 2013/14. This has resulted in an increase of £2.81 per year on a Band A property.

'Well if you had bothered to ask' me

The above consultation exercise which took place between July and October 2012 attracted 591 respondents (307 adults and 284 children and young people) from a selection of villages within the Mid Durham AAP area. The top three concerns identified were Young People, Support for the Voluntary & Community Sector and Road Safety and Highways. In the coming months individual village discussions will take place to examine and develop solutions to each village's priority concerns. The full results of the survey can be found on our website.

New Funded Lower Back Programme -We are pleased to invite enquiries for the first Brandon and Byshottles Parish based programme of "Cardi-Back", which has been running across County Durham since 2010. Funded by County Durham Sport, "Cardi-Back" assists adults with a history of lower back pain whilst also decreasing future risk of cardiovascular disease. The programme consists of 8 weekly sessions and is a structured, supervised programme delivered by Platinum Physiotherapy and Personal Training (www.platinumppt.co.uk).

You can visit their website for more information and request an information pack by calling 01913729821 or email info@platinumppt.co.uk. Places are limited so please enquire as soon as possible to avoid missing out.

Around the Wards

Brandon

A new Boxing Club has recently opened in Brandon and is proving extremely popular. Sessions are held on Tuesdays for over 11's 6-7pm and Thursdays Under 11's 5.30p.m.- 6.15pm and Over 11's 6.30-7.30p.m. Julie O'Connor from Brandon Carrside Youth Club kindly agreed to the Club using their premises at Carr Avenue, Brandon. The Boxing Club is run by Alex Oliver who approached the Parish Council for assistance in purchasing equipment for the club. The Parish Council saw this as potentially an excellent facility for Brandon and were pleased to help out with a donation of £750. Alex has plenty of experience as he has boxed for Spennymoor for 15 years and has travelled all over the world such as New Zealand, Australia and America. Alex's brother Adam and cousin Simon will be assisting Alex with the coaching. Both have experience of boxing in the Army to a high level (Simon boxed future world title challenger Darren Barker). Alex's son Callum hopes to follow in their footsteps once the club is fully affiliated with the ABA. The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Anne Bonner met Adam, Callum and Alex at the Parish Council meeting on 18th January 2013.



Table Tennis Club for Brandon - Further discussions have taken place for proposals for the establishment of a table tennis club based in Brandon Community Hall. A group of eight local people have recently met with a view to forming a Management Committee in order to progress the formation of the club. Anyone who is interested in becoming involved can contact Tony Taylor on 07855536361 or email 'tony.taylor@etta.co.uk.'

Meadowfield and Langley Moor

Following concerns from local residents about the condition of Meadowfield cemetery, the Parish Council has worked together with Durham County Council to improve the appearance of the cemetery. The County Council has created a new flower bed and improved the grasscutting programme and the Parish Council has installed 6 new floral containers. There are also plans to improve the drainage and install some new seating. There has been interest expressed by local residents to set up a group to focus on keeping the cemetery tidy. If you are interested please contact the Parish Council.

The Masterplan for Holliday Park continues to make progress and discussions regarding improvements to the park are on-going between the Parish Council, County Council, Mid Durham AAP and the Friends of Langley Moor.

As you will see from the photograph, Langley Moor's Christmas tree switch on event in early December 2012 was seen and acknowledged by many as a significant achievement for the newly formed Friends of Langley Moor .



The group meet on a monthly basis and would welcome any new members that want to help decide and implement future projects to improve our community. The next 3 meetings are Thurs 7th March, Thurs 11th April and Thurs 9th May. All are held in the Parish Council offices at 7:00pm. If you have an hour to spare why not come along.

New Brancepeth

Tree planting at the Village Hall took place recently thanks to the council's successful application for Durham County Council's tree week grant. Two cherry trees, a maple tree and 20 whips were planted in the grounds of the village hall. Hopefully these will flourish over the coming years.

Flooding over the past year has been a significant problem for some local residents. Following meetings with local parish ward members, residents and the drainage engineer from Durham County Council, various solutions to mitigate the flooding issues have been put in place and hopefully these will ensure any future problems are kept to a minimum.

New Brancepeth Banner Group are currently fundraising for a new colliery banner. If you are interested in getting involved please contact your local councillors, Derek Jones or David Bell.

New Brancepeth Revellers Jazz Band are now holding coffee mornings every Tuesday from 10am to 12noon at the Working Men's Club. Why not go along and support the band.

Esh Winning & Waterhouses

Esh Winning

Esh Winning Cricket Club recently approached the Parish Council to assist with the purchase of a new grass cutter so the club members could keep the ground in a playable condition between maintenance visits undertaken by Durham County Council. Our ward was delighted to fund its purchase.

Planning permission for 78 new houses at The Oaks and Rowan Court has been granted by the Planning Committee. This is the fourth and last part of planning permission for the west end of our village. The rest of Pinetree will soon be demolished and building begun on more social housing. Within a few short years this area should be really beautiful once again.

Waterhouses

Hamilton Row Bridge on C18a which crosses The River Deerness will be closed from the beginning of March for four weeks. Warning signs and a diversion will be in place, the most convenient way for local residents could be via East Hedley Hope. The closure is required to allow the construction of a new reinforced concrete slab bridge deck.

The Village Hall has started a Youth Film Night. The next event is Friday 15th March.
The next, ever popular, *Ceilidh* will be on Saturday 16th March at 7.30 pm.
On Sunday 31st March the annual *Duck Race* will take place at 2pm followed by an Easter egg and Easter bonnet competition.

Ushaw Moor & Broompark

Ushaw Moor Youth Club recently received support from the Parish Council towards new equipment and an activity budget. The Club which meets once a week at The Hive in Ushaw Moor were hoping to purchase computer games and a multi-functional games table. The activity budget would be used to arrange a healthy eating and lifestyles course which would help improve the group's knowledge of healthy foods and how to live a healthy lifestyle. The project will incorporate teaching the young people how to cook healthy meals on a budget and about keeping fit and more active. The local ward members were delighted to help the local youngsters.

Ushaw Moor Cricket Club F.C. approached the Parish Council for assistance to cover the ever increasing costs faced by the club. The Council was able to help with the cost of the pitch fees and wish the team a successful season.

Ushaw Moor Ward, together with the remaining five wards, were once again pleased to give a donation to the Hexham and Newcastle Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes. The Pilgrimage is organised by St. Joseph's Church in Ushaw Moor and the young people from the area will be helping to support the sick during the visit to Lourdes.

B6302 Broom Lane, Broompark/Ushaw Moor— consultation is currently underway on a proposed Traffic Order issued by Durham County Council, the effect of which is to amend the existing 40mph and 60mph speed limit restrictions and introduce a 30mph speed limit restriction on the B6302. The Parish Council is fully supportive of these changes.

Councillors would like to say a special thank you to G & S News and Ushaw Moor Convenience Store for assisting with the village collections for the Christmas lights.

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

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Chairman: Councillor Anne Bonner

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