

Your Ward Councillors



BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES

PARISH COUNCIL

QUARTERLY

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

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Mid Durham AAP

In 2013 the Mid Durham AAP, County Councillors and Parish Councils carried out a number of village drop in sessions from which 16 three year (2013/16) Village Action Plans were created (6 across Brandon and Byshottles Parish). Residents who attended the drop in sessions discussed with the partners the various issues they felt needed to be addressed to improve their village. Issues included pot holes, speeding traffic, grot spots, litter, dog fouling, access to community venues, allotments, lighting, pavements, etc. In total across the 6 Brandon and Byshottles parish villages 194 separate issues were identified and added to the action plans. The plans have now reached the end of their 3 years and the partners have started to examine the outcomes. Working closely with the partners and local residents 144 (74%) issues have been addressed and completed; there are 23 (16%) which cannot be addressed and 26 (18%) that are still ongoing. There has been an investment of £797,755 into the areas that have been addressed with the AAP and the County Councillors contributing just over £278,917 towards this. It is the intention of the AAP, County Councillors and the Parish Councils to carry out this process again in 2017, with drop in's planned for May, June and July. More details on this will be circulated in March. If anyone would like a copy of their village action plan then please do not hesitate to contact the AAP team at mdaap@durham.gov.uk or ring 07818 510 370.

Residents across the north of Durham are already accessing the Wheels 2 Work programme which was just launched in November of last year. The scheme seeks to support people struggling to get to their job, who cannot afford a car or get direct public transport to and from work. The scheme can provide the loan of a moped for 6 months alongside the support to get the right training, insurance, breakdown cover, servicing and protective clothing. If you live in the Brandon & Byshottles area are over 16, and have a work, training, or college place then you could receive

the support of this scheme. For more information contact the Wheels 2 Work team on 07460 068 668 or 07472 668 884 or email them at info@wheelstowork.org

Parish Council set Precept

The Council is required to set its precept according to statutory requirements therefore the Council considered its budget at its Finance Committee at the beginning of January. The Council has faced some challenges over recent years in the light of Government cuts which have impacted on services provided by Durham County Council. In order to continue some of the services the Parish has taken over responsibility for 2 play areas, refurbished the area of land in the centre of Ushaw Moor and taken over its maintenance, formed partnerships with the County Council to provide floral displays throughout the Parish and continued the provision of a Community Highways Worker. The Council also continues to support numerous community groups and organisations throughout the Parish. Despite these challenges the Council has managed to keep its Council tax increase to a minimum.

However 2017/18 sees a bigger challenge for the Parish Council as Durham County Council has made the decision to stop open access youth provision across the County. This would result in the closure of Brandon Carrside Youth & Community Project based in Brandon from 1st April 2017. This would have a massive impact for the young people of our Parish who have benefitted from this service for many years, developing good relationships with the youth workers, gaining confidence and enjoying opportunities many may otherwise would not have. The Parish Council was approached by the Management Committee of the youth club to request financial support in order to continue this vital service from 1st April. The Council felt that the loss of this provision would have a detrimental impact on our young people therefore the Council made the decision to contribute to the continuation of the service. Taking into account the Council's other commitments the Council has set a precept of £176,290 which is the equivalent of £36.36 per year for a Band D property, a 4.97% increase on 2016/17. This equates to an annual increase

of £1.72 or 3p per week. The Council Tax on a Band A property would be £24.24, an increase of £1.15 per annum or 2p per week.

Brandon

Brandon Carrside Youth and Community Project,

Brandon Community Partnership and the Parish Council have joined forces to deliver a history project throughout the last year supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This has seen many offsite educational visits to museums and places of interest all relating to World War 1. In 2016, a group of students went across to Normandy and visited the Somme battlefields. This year another group are researching the centenary of Passchendaele, along with intergenerational days out to Manchester Imperial War Museum and Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds and the Durham Light Infantry. The culmination of this history project has resulted in 6 elaborate commemorative benches being

installed throughout the Parish – look out for them in your village. An official launch event will take place at Brandon Carrside on **Monday March 13th at 10.30am** with a viewing of the final bench to be installed. Everyone is welcome to come along and see the design and beauty of this piece of artwork designed by intergenerational members of our local community. The event will coincide with the 'Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth' ceremony which is being organised by the Parish Council when the Commonwealth flag will be raised at 10.00am by the Chairman of the Council. Local schools and churches have been invited to the event.



Meadowfield & Langley Moor

St. John's Hall Meadowfield, Brandon Carrside Youth and Community Project and Meadowfield Royal British Legion were successful in a bid to the Big Lottery for a celebrate grant of £9,560. From January to December a number of events are being planned for the community. The first was held on 24th January at Meadowfield British Legion to celebrate Burns Night. Over 75 people attended and enjoyed a traditional Burns Night including the ode to the haggis with a bagpiper followed by a three course meal of scotch broth, haggis, tatties, neeps and dessert of cranachan. A ceilidh was provided by Dusk to Dawn which was enjoyed by everyone.

Friends of Langley Moor are a residents group that formed in May 2012 to enhance the local community. Their achievements to date include 5 Christmas Tree events, Boyne Place in the centre of the High Street, award winning floral displays (with 2 additional 3 tier planters appearing this Spring), new play equipment in Holliday Park, several Litter Picking events and ongoing lobbying of Network Rail to clean up their bridge over the High Street. Meetings are generally held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Parish Council Chamber. If you have an interest in helping to improve the community perhaps you may consider attending one of the meetings where a friendly welcome awaits you.

New Brancepeth

Hampers for the elderly were distributed in the village thanks to members of the youth club. The young people raised £2,000 before Christmas to provide hampers containing tinned foods, toiletries, gifts and other essential goods so the elderly residents didn't have to leave the house if the weather took a turn for the worse. The young people received some lovely feedback from the recipients of the hampers and greatly appreciated the thoughtful gesture.

For anyone who is interested the Senior youth club meets on a Tuesday 6-8pm and the Juniors on a Wednesday at 5.30pm.

Esh Winning & Waterhouses

Youth provision at Woodland Road Communal Hall will continue thanks to Esh Winning ward paying for the hire of the hall from 1st April for the coming year. Sessions are held on Tuesdays and Wednesday 4pm to 6pm during term time.

The Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal 2016 was supported by Esh Winning ward as well as the other Council wards. Every Christmas the Salvation Army raises funds to buy Christmas gifts for local children from disadvantaged families. Last year's appeal saw over 80 families from our Parish alone benefit from the appeal.

Ushaw Moor & Broompark

The first community Christmas tree lights switch on event in Ushaw Moor was a great success, enjoyed by all sectors of the village. Many local residents and children came together to join in the celebrations of this momentous event as well as local Councillors and representatives of local community groups. Choirs from Silver Trees and St. Joseph's Primary schools and Deerness Community Business College sang carols while Fr. David Coxon performed the switch on. The event was the culmination of the works to the area at Whitehouse Lane which has seen the completion of a new sculpture depicting the mining history of the area.



Speed Visors for Ushaw Moor & Broompark- thanks to funding from local unitary councillors' neighbourhood budgets 2 permanent speed visors will be installed soon on the B6302 in Broompark and near St. Luke's Church, Ushaw Moor. This follows increasing concern from local residents regarding speeding traffic through the villages. The Parish Council will be taking responsibility for the maintenance costs of the visors for the next 8 years.

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 Tuesday

New Brancepeth Village Hall

10-11am-first Thursday

The Silver Trees Centre, Ushaw Moor

11am-12noon-third Thursday

Credit Unions

Every Wednesday 10a.m.-11a.m in the Silver Trees 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
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Chairman: Councillor Mrs Susan Nelson
This newsletter is also available to view on the council's website.