

BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Electors,

It has been a privilege and a great honour to have served as Chairman of the Parish Council for the first time in the period of 2018/2019.

Having a full-time job and being the Chairman has been quite a balancing act at times, but with the support of my wife Lynne, Parish Councillors, in particular Cllr Jamieson and the Vice Chairman Susan Nelson, I have managed to promote the excellent work Brandon & Byshottles Parish is achieving.

With having a new Clerk, Susan Howe and a new Allotments Officer, Lauren Rutherford in post this year, I cannot be any prouder of the help, support and guidance they have given me, and for the work they do for the Parish Council which does not go un-noticed.

My chosen Chairman's Charity was St Cuthbert's Hospice, I undertook a Dip in the North Sea on Boxing Day, held an Elvis Charity Evening and an Afternoon Tea & Tour showing off the beautiful Ushaw College to everyone and raising a grand total of £2642 for a truly worthy cause.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has made my term of Chairman such a memorable one and encourage any Councillor who has never been Chairman before to give it a try, you will be pleasantly surprised.

The following overview of the Councils work shows that the Parish Council has been proactive during 2018/2019 and responsive to the needs and wishes of the residents.

David W Clegg
Chairman

LIST OF MEMBERS

Cllr David Clegg	Chairman	Tel: 07552697663
Cllr Susan Nelson	Vice Chairman	Tel: 0191 3783147
Cllr David Bell		Tel: 0191 3406086
Cllr John Turnbull		Tel: 0191 3780408
Cllr Brian Nelson		Tel: 0191 3783147
Cllr Mrs Sarah Leckenby		Tel: 07794604669
Cllr John Grantham		Tel: 0191 3782631
Cllr Nick Rippin		Tel: 07592785287
Cllr Jill Rodgers		Tel: 0191 3784668
Cllr Frank Bonner		Tel: 07775395970
Cllr Lesley Catterson		Tel: 0191 3789901
Cllr Ian Spencer		Tel: 0191 3781916
Cllr Anne Bonner		Tel: 07468895349
Cllr Derek Hindmarch		Tel: 0191 3739489
Cllr Philip Stoddart		Tel: 0191 3736698
Cllr Mrs Pauline Gates		Tel: 0191 3739290
Cllr Jimmy Jamieson		Tel: 0191 3732440
Cllr Jean Chaplow		Tel: 07769239669
Cllr Barry Sims		Tel: 0191 3734576
Cllr Cecilia Wharton		Tel: 0191 3730643
Cllr Hannah Walter		Tel: 07875281904

Council Offices situated at 6 Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Durham DH7 8JJ

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STAFF

Mrs Susan Howe

Mrs Lauren Rutherford

Mrs Jane Carmedy / Mrs Diane Cassop

Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council serves a population of approximately 18,500 and had an electorate of 14,416 in October 2018. The Council encompasses the following 6 villages:

Brandon	- electorate	4365	4 ward members
Langley Moor	- electorate	1305	3 ward members
Meadowfield and Browney	- electorate	1792	3 ward members
New Brancepeth	- electorate	925	3 ward members
Ushaw Moor and Broompark	- electorate	3397	4 ward members
Esh Winning and Waterhouses	- electorate	2632	4 ward members

19 Council seats are elected.

The Parish Council meetings are held 3rd Friday of the month (excluding August) in the Council offices, commencing at 6.30 pm.

Finance and Allotment Committee meetings are held quarterly and working groups meet as and when necessary.

Agendas are posted on the Parish Council website, noticeboards outside the Council Offices and at Esh Winning, Meadowfield, and Ushaw Moor and also in Brandon and Esh Winning Libraries. Minutes of the meetings are available at Brandon and Esh Winning Libraries, Brandon Community Hall and on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council have now set up a Facebook page, which can be found by searching for Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council, it is kept up to date with any events going on in the local area and relevant news.

The Parish Council is responsible for 16 allotment/grazing sites and 3 garage sites at the following locations.

Station Avenue, Brandon	Folds Close, New Brancepeth
Commercial Street, Brandon	Broompark
Alder Park, Brandon	Cockhouse Lane, Ushaw Moor
Low Browney (inc. grazing)	Empire Field (inc. grazing), Ushaw Moor
High Browney	Rear Durham Road, Esh Winning
Low Meadowfield (inc. grazing)	Hamilton Row, Waterhouses (inc. grazing)
High Meadowfield	Waterhouses - grazing
Black Road, Langley Moor	Langley Grove (inc. grazing), Langley Moor

Garage Sites

Commercial Street, Langley Grove and Brandon Road, Esh Winning.

The Council leases land at Waterhouses Play Area and Broompark Play Area from Durham County Council and land to the rear of Coronation Homes, Esh Winning from Durham Aged Miners Homes Association. The grassed areas and play equipment at Waterhouses, the grassed area at Esh Winning and the play equipment at Broompark Play Area are maintained by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has responsibility for the village greens at Brandon, Browney and Ushaw Moor, provides public seats, maintains 3 War Memorials at Brandon Village, New Brancepeth and Ushaw Moor and provides floral containers throughout the Parish. An annual Painting Competition is organised for primary schools within the parish and the Council supports numerous local community groups and organisations.

The Council continues to work in partnership with Durham County Council to provide services such as the Community Highways Worker in order to improve the streetscene of the Parish.

An overview of work carried out during 2018/19 follows:

1. ALLOTMENTS

Approximately £19,000 has been spent on the maintenance of the Parish Council's 16 allotment/grazing sites, this includes fencing, clearance, water consumption and provision of skips.

2. GRASSCUTTING

The Parish Council has spent approximately £5,000 on its grasscutting programme at the following sites:

Village Green Browney
Brandon Carrside Youth Club
Brandon Community Centre
Land opposite Bay Horse and war Memorial, Brandon Village
Waterhouses Play Area
New Brancepeth Village Hall
St.Andrew's Methodist Church, Brandon
Brandon Road, Esh Winning
Rear Aged Miners Homes, Esh Winning
Path at Alder Park allotments
Path at Durham Road allotments, Esh Winning
Land adjacent to Deerness Railway Path, Esh Winning

3. FLORAL CONTAINERS

The Parish Council is in a 3 year contract with Durham County Council to provide floral displays throughout the Parish with both summer and winter bedding. The floral displays enhance the appearance of our villages.

4. COMMUNITY HIGHWAYS WORKER

The Parish Council continues its partnership with Durham County Council to provide a Community Highways Worker with the Parish Council funding over 80% of the cost. The Worker works hard in all of our villages to make improvements to the environment and streetscene including edging off footpaths, cleaning out bus shelters, cutting back overhanging branches/hedges to make signs visible, path ways and bus stops accessible; strims around signs, planters, seats and verges; weeding and litter picking. The CHW also carries out inspections of childrens playgrounds at Broompark and Waterhouses.

5. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

The Parish Council has continued to work with Durham County Council through its PROW maintenance programme. A grant of £1833.00 was received which was used to trim or spray various PROW throughout the Parish.

6. PRIMARY SCHOOLS' ART COMPETITION

The Schools' Art Competition has been organised by the Parish Council since 1989. In 2018 a total of 7 schools, including a Pre-school within the Parish entered the competition. The theme for the competition was 'Art and culture' 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize winners were presented with book tokens for £15, £10 and £5 by the local ward Members who has the pleasant but difficult task of judging the paintings. The 1st prize winners' pictures were judged by the Chairman of Durham County Council, Councillor John Lethbridge and his consort Mrs Sandra Lethbridge. The overall winners received a trophy from the Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor David Clegg at the Parish Council meetings in July and September.

The winners were as follows:

Nursery	Ella Jane Walker	Esh Winning Primary
Reception	Kai Lansley	Silver Trees Primary, Ushaw Moor
Years 1 & 2	Oscar Clark	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Esh Winning
Years 3 & 4	Ella Eilles	St Patrick's, Langley Moor
Years 5 & 6	Victoria Pattinson	St Patrick's, Langley Moor

7. POPPY APPEAL

The Parish Council has continued its support for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal with a donation of £500 to this year's appeal. Members of the Council paid their respects at Remembrance Services held in Brandon, New Brancepeth, Ushaw Moor, Esh Winning and Waterhouses. Local Ward Members attended the annual service of remembrance at St. John's Church, Meadowfield, followed by a parade to Brandon Village War Memorial. The Council had arranged the services of Durham University Brass Band once again, who played to their usual high standard at the Memorial. The service was also attended by the British Legion, Brandon Carrside, Brandon Brownies and local residents and wreaths were laid to commemorate the fallen.



8. DURHAM CHRISTIAN PARTNERSHIP – DURHAM VINEYARD

The Parish Council has supported the above with a donation of £3,600 to assist with the weekly drop-in sessions in Brandon. The drop-in opens every Tuesday from noon and is based at the Welfare Hall in Brandon. The service provides support for anyone from Brandon and the surrounding villages and is a vital service for our local communities, especially in these times of austerity when residents may need specialist advice.

9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council has been consulted on numerous planning applications during the year for proposed developments in our area. Comments of support or opposition were conveyed to Durham County Council. These comments can be viewed on the County Council's website. Weekly lists of applications can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

10. NEWSLETTERS

The Council has produced quarterly newsletters which are distributed to various locations within the Parish.

Council Offices	-	6 Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor
Brandon	-	Communal Hall, Library, x2 Doctors Surgeries, Silver Courts, The Orchards, The Newsagents, St Andrews, Sycamore Park and Brandon Village
Meadowfield	-	British Legion Club, Health Centre, Meadowfield WMC and Browney WMC
Langley Moor	-	Newsagent, Post Office, The Play Pit, RSPCA and Tysons Butchers
New Brancepeth Hall	-	Post Office, Village Hall, Nursery, Newsagent and Church
Ushaw Moor	-	Post Office, Cricket Club, Surgery, R & B Convenience Store, Broompark and Catholic Club
Esh Winning & Waterhouses	-	Post Office, Library, Woodland Road Comm Hall, Florists, Residents Group, Newsagent, Waterhouses Village Hall and Black Horse

The newsletters are also available to view on the Parish Council website www.brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk and a copy is sent to Durham County Council's Chief Executive.

11. DURHAM MINERS GALA

The Parish Council has continued to support Durham Miners Association by contributing to the publication of the Durham Miners Gala Brochure. The Gala continues to be enjoyed by local residents as a celebration of the mining history of our area.

12. POLICE

The Parish Council liaises with the local Police on issues affecting our local community. Details of PACT meetings can be found on Durham Police website and on the Parish Councils Facebook page.

13. YOUTH SERVICE

Since Durham County Council withdrew funding in March 2016, the Parish Council has contributed towards the youth service delivered by Brandon Carrside Youth & Community Project. The closure of the youth club would have had a massive impact on the young people of our Parish who have benefited from this service for many years, gaining confidence and enjoying opportunities many may otherwise not have. The Council felt that the loss of this provision would have a detrimental effect on our young people and therefore made the decision to contribute to the continuation of the service.

14. 'FLY A FLAG' FOR THE COMMONWEALTH

The Parish Council was proud to be part of the celebration for Commonwealth Day on 11th March 2019. An event was held at Brandon Carrside Youth & Community Project. Following the reading of the Commonwealth Affirmation by the vice Chairman Cllr Susan Nelson the Commonwealth flag was raised. Children from schools in Ushaw Moor and Esh Winning and church representatives also attended.



15. MID DURHAM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP (AAP)

- **Parish Councils Committee**

The Parish Council Committee is made up of representatives from the 10 Parishes within the Area Action Partnership area. The Committee meets bi-monthly and has continued its close working relationship with the AAP.

- ***Summer Activities Scheme***

The Parish Council once again supported the summer holiday play scheme in 2018 with a contribution of £900. The scheme is managed by Durham County Council's Culture and Sport and the sessions were free to attend.

- ***Deerness Valley into an 'Active Valley'***

The AAP's Health and Wellbeing task group have been focusing upon improving physical and social activity and getting more of our residents involved. Not just getting out and walking or running, but looking at other activities that are going on that residents could get involved in ie youth clubs, arts and crafts and gardening.

- ***Friends of Langley Moor***

The community group continues to meet monthly at the Parish Council offices. The Christmas tree light switch on was once again a big success and enjoyed by members of the local community and local Councillors.

- ***Community Safety Events***

The AAP have worked with Police, Fire and Rescue and Housing to target 4 villages affected by anti-social behaviour and other community safety problems. Awareness sessions took place on an afternoon with pupils in schools, then after school with parents, guardians and grandparents in October and November, to raise awareness of how to combat these problems.

- ***Dementia Friendly Communities***

The Dementia Friendly Communities coordinator commenced work in May 2018. The worker is paid for by 4 AAP's (including Mid Durham) and 3 Housing Associations. The new post is to increase awareness and understanding of dementia within targeted

communities. The targeted communities for this project are Brandon, Esh Winning, Ushaw Moor, Castleside, Cornsay and Lanchester.

16. DOG POOH BAGS

The Council continues to provide 'dog pooh' bags free of charge. The Council would encourage dog owners to be responsible and make use of this service. The bags can be collected from the Council Offices and the following locations:

Brandon Library
M & M Chemists, Meadowfield
Langley Moor Post Office
R & B Convenience Stores, Ushaw Moor
The Hut, Ushaw Moor
Esh Winning Library
Village Hall, New Brancepeth

17. BEAUTIFUL DURHAM AWARDS 2018

The Parish Council were delighted that the following areas were recognised in Durham County Council's Beautiful Durham Awards:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| The Orchards, Brandon | - Best sheltered accommodation - Special Commendation
- Best floral containers – Special Commendation |
| Langley Moor | - Best floral containers – Certificate of Merit |
| M Morrill J Ritchie
Ushaw Moor | - Best medium house garden – Certificate of Merit |
| Broompark | - Best large village – Certificate of Merit |
| D Snowdon, Waterhouses | - Best allotment or kitchen garden - Winner |

18. CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY

The Chairman's Charity evening was held in March 2019 at Ushaw Moor Catholic Club. The Chairman, Councillor David Clegg also took part in the Boxing Day Dip at Seaburn and held an Afternoon Tea and Tour in Ushaw College. The final total raised was £2642 for his chosen charity which was St Cuthbert's Hospice. Councillor Clegg would like to thank all who contributed to his charity, to help raise this fantastic total.

19. NEW SEATS IN PARISH AREA

- Three new benches have been installed on the Brandon to Durham walkway and funded by the Parish Council.
- A memorial seat in memory of Councillor Bill Firby has been installed at The Roundy, Ushaw Moor.

20. CONSULTATIONS

The Parish Council has responded to numerous consultations throughout the year. These include the following:-

- County Durham & Darlington Fire and Rescue Authority Integrated Risk Management Plan
- Durham Plan, Crime and Victims Commission – on policing precept.
- NHS Durham Dales, Easington and Sedgefield Clinical Commissioning Group – changing 7 day access to Primary Care Services
- Statement of Licencing Policy review
- Local Councils Charter
- Durham County Plan

21. SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Parish Council is aware that in such times of austerity local community groups and organisations are finding it increasingly difficult to survive. The Council believes these groups and organisations work hard for our local communities and provide a vital and beneficial service to all sectors of the community. The Council tries to assist these groups financially with their special events and community projects. The Council has received numerous requests for donations and below is a selection of groups or projects which have benefitted:

County Durham Talking Newspaper
Ushaw Moor Cricket Club
Kidhugs, Ushaw Moor
New Brancepeth WMC FC
Durham's Fybro Haven
Great North Air Ambulance Service
Spa Tuesday, St Andrews, Brandon
St Patrick's Social Committee, Langley Moor
Meadowfield & Langley Moor Over 60's
Salvation Army Toy Appeal, Langley Moor
Brandon Sports Club
County Durham Stroke Club
5th Durham City Scouts

22. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2018/2019

	Income		Expenditure
	£		£
Precept	187,160.00		
DCC – LCTS Grant	3,840.00		
Interest	1122.85		
Allotment Rents	21,557.90		
Parish Paths Grant	1,833.00		
Chair’s Charity – Cllr D Clegg +Cllr Mrs S Nelson	2,764.45		
Northern Powergrid-wayleave	51.86		
NAC-reimbursement for stationery	211.60		
DCC - towards play equipment	7,000.00		
6 Goatbeck Terrace			6937.80
Allotments			20492.64
Members Training			9433.29
Courses-travel expenses			2488.30
Training - Members/ Clerks			660.00
Salaries			23,463.86
Inland Revenue			6,024.70
Superannuation			8,215.10
General Power of Competence			65357.99
Other Donations			150.00
Office Stationery & office expenses			3,253.10
Office Stationery NAC			22.84
Subscriptions			2,861.59
Miscellaneous			30,550.03
Chair/ Vice Chair's Allowance			1,154.00
Beautiful Durham			21,949.75
Chair's Charity Evening - D.Clegg			2,377.02
Civic Functions			2,443.80
Rent of Land			75.00
Parish Paths/ Footpaths			1,833.00
Newsletters			1,300.00
Community Highways Worker			19,264.70
VAT on payments:-			15,443.01
VAT-NAC			4.57
VAT recovered	<u>13268.25</u>		
Totals	238,809.91		245,756.09
Balance at 1.4.18	<u>206,300.98</u>		
Balance at 31.3.19			199,354.80
	445,110.89		

