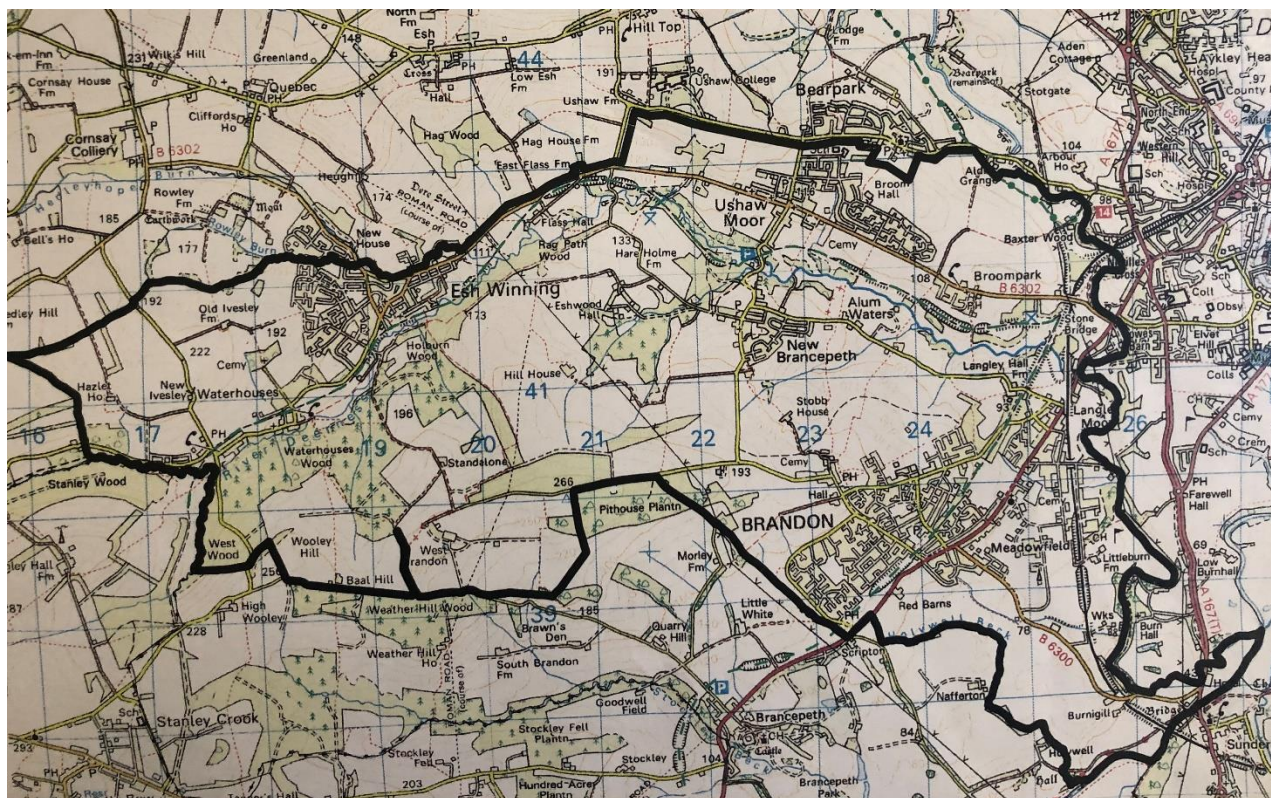


# **BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021**



### **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Dear Electors,

When I took the role of Chairman in May 2019, I did not expect to be Chairman for a second year, but this was due to Covid-19. The last year has been a really bad year for everyone. I would like to send my sympathy and condolences to those who have lost loved ones or know someone who has passed away, through this difficult time.

The last event held was my charity evening in March 2020. A total of £1,124 was raised which was donated to my chosen charities, The Salvation Army Toy Appeal and The County Durham Stroke Club. All further events had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. For my second year £1,000 was donated to my chosen charity Brandon Carrside Youth and Community Project.

I would like to thank the Clerk, Susan Howe and the Allotments Officer, Lauren Rutherford for all their hard work during these past months. Also a big thank you to all of the Councillors for their patience and support throughout the year, not forgetting my husband Brian. Let us hope for a much better year ahead.

The following overview of the Councils work shows how the Parish Council has assisted groups when it was most required, during an unusual time.

Susan Nelson  
Chairman

## **LIST OF MEMBERS**

Cllr Susan Nelson	Chairman	Tel: 07799706369
Cllr Anne Bonner	Vice Chairman	Tel: 07468895349
Cllr David Clegg		Tel: 07771591058
Cllr David Bell		Tel: 0191 3406086
Cllr John Turnbull		Tel: 0191 3780408
Cllr Brian Nelson		Tel: 07791574879
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: 07971053952
Cllr Derek Hindmarch		Tel: 0191 3739489
Cllr Philip Stoddart		Tel: 0191 3736698
Cllr Mrs Lynne Clegg		Tel: 0191 3734507
Cllr Jimmy Jamieson		Tel: 0191 3732440
Cllr Jean Chaplow		Tel: 07769239669
Cllr Barry Sims		Tel: 0191 3734576
Cllr Cecilia Wharton		Tel: 0191 4526760

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

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Fax 0191 3784076

[www.brandonandbyshottlesparish.durham.gov.uk](http://www.brandonandbyshottlesparish.durham.gov.uk)

## **STAFF**

Mrs Susan Howe

Mrs Lauren Rutherford

Mrs Diane Cassop

Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council serves a population of approximately 18,500 and had an electorate of 14,816 in December 2020. The Council encompasses the following 6 villages:

Brandon	- electorate	4372	4 ward members
Langley Moor	- electorate	1346	3 ward members
Meadowfield and Browney	- electorate	1975	3 ward members
New Brancepeth	- electorate	947	3 ward members
Ushaw Moor and Broompark	- electorate	3499	4 ward members
Esh Winning and Waterhouses	- electorate	2677	4 ward members

18 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.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic face to face meetings from March were cancelled, virtual meetings were held from July 2020.

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

The Parish Council have 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. 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 2020/21 follows:

**1. ALLOTMENTS**

Approximately £22,000 has been spent on the maintenance of the Parish Council's 16 allotment/grazing sites, this includes fencing, clearance, water consumption, tree cutting, asbestos removal and provision of skips.

**2. GRASSCUTTING**

The Parish Council has spent approximately £6,000 on its grass cutting 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 (CHW)**

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 has continued to work throughout the pandemic in all of our villages to make improvements to the environment and streetscene. This work includes pruning trees and shrubs; hedge cutting; helping with the Parish Council Allotments; removing weeds and weed spraying; litter picking; making path ways and bus stops accessible; strims around signs and planters. The CHW also carries out regular inspections of the equipment in the Play areas at Broompark and Waterhouses.

**5. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME (PROW)**

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**

Unfortunately due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Parish Council were unable to organise the schools art competition, due to schools being closed and lockdown. Brandon Primary School received funding of £150 towards their Beautiful Durham Quiz.

## **7. POPPY APPEAL**



Due to the Coronavirus the Remembrance Day Services had been cancelled. To pay respects without holding services, a number of poppy wreaths were displayed throughout the villages. Wreaths were laid by Members on Remembrance Sunday to commemorate the fallen.

## **8. GROUNDWORK UK – TESCO BAGS FOR LIFE**

The Parish Council was successful in obtaining a grant of £500 from the above. The money was divided between Esh Winning Primary School, Silver Trees Primary School and Brandon Primary School. This was to enable the schools to continue with the good work they were doing and provide food parcels during Covid-19.

## **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**

Due to the Coronavirus newsletters were not produced during the year, as the majority of the venues where the newsletters are left for the public to view were closed – following advice from the Government.

## **11. YOUTH SERVICE**

The Parish Council continues to assist with funding towards the youth service delivered by Brandon Carrside Youth and Community Project. The young people have worked extremely hard during Covid-19, by delivering the following to families and the elderly.

- Care packages for the elderly including afternoon teas
- Activities and cooking packs were given out to over 80 families

The club has recently been awarded the County Durham High Sheriff Award and received the following comments from the Lord-Lieutenant who stated 'Your award was well deserved,



you have made an immeasurable difference to many during what has been a difficult and challenging time. They have also won the Community Award from Durham Youth Council.

The Parish Council would like to congratulate the club on their awards and for all the magnificent work they have and are doing for the community.

## **12. FRIENDS OF LANGLEY MOOR – CHRISTMAS TREE**

Due to Covid-19 and following Government advice, members of the local community were not allowed to take part in the Christmas tree light switch on. The community group had once again arranged for a Christmas tree to be displayed, for all to enjoy over the Christmas period, through this difficult time. The Parish Council contributes towards this event by paying electricity costs.

## **13. MINERS TUB AT BROOMPARK**

The Parish Council has organised the installation of a Miners tub and lamp in Broompark.

The tub and lamp is a reminder for all those who worked in the mines. The new installation enhances the village.



## **14. CABLEWAY INSTALLED AT BROOMPARK PLAYAREA**

To enable young people to have more choice of equipment at Broompark play area, the Parish Council has organised the installation and part-funding of a cableway. The additional funding was through the Area Action Partnership, the Unitary Councillors budget. As schools were closed for quite a while throughout the pandemic, the addition piece of equipment has proved to be very popular and well used.

## **15. CONSULTATIONS**

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

Durham County Council – Public Footpath Diversion

Durham County Council – Improving Health and Wellbeing Across County Durham

Durham County Council – Making County Durham a Safer Place

## **16. CHAIRMAN’S CHARITY**

As venues were closed due to the Coronavirus the Chairman’s Charity Evening was unable to take place. The Chairman, Mrs Susan Nelson donated £1,000 to her chosen charity Brandon Carrside Youth & Community Project.

## **17. BEAUTIFUL DURHAM GARDEN & ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS 2020**

The Parish Council were delighted that the following areas were recognised in Durham County Council's Beautiful Durham Garden and Environmental Awards.

The Parish Council were very pleased that the awards still took place despite the pandemic.

Burnigill, Meadowfield	Best Sheltered Accommodation / complex / warden controlled area - Merit
Sycamore Park, Brandon	Best Sheltered Accommodation / complex / warden controlled area- Merit
Hamilton Row, Waterhouses	Durham's Best Kept Residential Area- Merit
Joyce Terrace, Ushaw Moor	Durham's Best Kept Residential Area- Merit
New Acres, Ushaw Moor	Durham's Best Kept Residential Area- Merit
Waterhouses Village Hall	Best Floral Containers- Merit
Barbara Hopper, Brandon	Best Floral Containers– Special Commendation Best House Garden – Small – Special Commendation Best Back Yard or Patio Garden- Special Commendation
Langley Moor High Street Commendation	Best Floral Containers – Special
Peter Thomson, Langley Moor	Best Floral Containers – Special Commendation Best House Garden – Small – Winner Best Back Yard or Patio Garden – Special Commendation
Richard Todd, New Brancepeth	Best Floral Containers – Special Commendation The WOW Factor - Winner Best House Garden – Medium - Special Commendation
Christopher Michael Horton, Brandon	Best Floral Containers – Winner Best House Garden – Small- Special Commendation
Alderman Phil Stoddart, Ushaw Moor	Best House Garden – Small- Merit
Mr & Mrs Warburton, Esh Winning	Best House Garden – Small- Special Commendation Most Improved Entry

Marie Morrith& Jean Ritchie, Ushaw Moor	Best House Garden – Medium - Merit Best Back Yard or Patio Garden – Merit
Alastair Hopps, Browney	Best Allotment or Kitchen Garden - Special Commendation
Diana Snowdon, Waterhouses	Best Allotment or Kitchen Garden - Special Commendation
Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council	Best Overall Parish Area- Special Commendation

Certificates have been awarded and where applicable, have received a letter of congratulations from the Parish Council.

## **18. SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

Brandon Primary School  
Brandon Sports Club  
Brandon Sports Club F.C.  
Browney F.C.  
County Durham Stroke Club  
Esh Winning Primary School  
Esh Winning Residents Group  
Great North Air Ambulance  
Meadowfield & Langley Moor Over 60's  
New Brancepeth Jazz Band  
New Brancepeth WMC F.C.  
Salvation Army Toy Appeal, Langley Moor  
Silver Tree Primary School  
St John's Ambulance  
Ushaw Moor Cricket Club



<b><u>19.SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2020/2021</u></b>	Income		Expenditure
	£		£
Precept	213,283.00		
DCC – LCTS Grant	0.00		
Interest	561.98		
Allotment Rents	19,896.15		
Parish Paths Grant	1,833.00		
Groundwork UK (Tesco's - Grant)	500.00		
NAC - reimbursement for Stationery	72.00		
Northern Powergrid-wayleave	54.29		
DCC - Section 106 Payment	2,100.00		
DCC - Cableway	5,000.00		
Planning App. Fee - Garage at Langley Grove	142.00		
Ushaw Moor Action Group - Mural	500.00		
6 Goatbeck Terrace			7425.74
Allotments			22257.15
Members Training			0.00
Courses-travel expenses			0.00
Training - Members/ Clerks			248.00
Salaries			25,469.24
Inland Revenue			6,681.80
Superannuation			8,856.60
General Power of Competence			51024.50
Other Donations			500.01
Office Stationery & office expenses			1,806.76
Office Stationery NAC			0.00
Subscriptions			2,895.74
Miscellaneous			47,769.00
Chair/ Vice Chair's Allowance			1,082.00
Beautiful Durham			0.00
Chair's Charity Evening - S. Nelson			2,124.00
Civic Functions			-100.00
Rent of Land			75.00
Parish Paths/ Footpaths			1,833.00
Newsletters			0.00
Community Highways Worker			39,991.66
VAT on payments			18,763.91
VAT recovered	<u>19,531.67</u>		
Totals	263,474.09		238,704.11
Balance at 1.4.20	<u>191,288.57</u>		
	454,762.66		
<b>Balance at 31.3.21</b>			<b>216,058.55</b>
	454,762.66		454,762.66

