

**BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022**

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Dear Electors,

It has been my utmost pleasure to be Chair of Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council for the last year, especially following two years of lockdown and illnesses throughout our communities. I am delighted that we are now coming out the other end stronger and brighter.

The past few years has seen our communities join together to support one another in ways that we would never have thought possible. Groups and individuals have supported those who were isolated, ill and vulnerable with visits, food parcels, shopping, prescription deliveries and in many other ways that saw us all working together to ensure that life went on as normal as it possibly could during those difficult times.

Given what we have been through these past few years and the increasingly high cost of living rises, including gas, electricity and fuel, my chosen Charity this year was the Community Food Bank based at Brandon. The food bank work tirelessly throughout the year ensuring that those in need receive the support and help they need. The very successful Charity Night was held at the Browney Club and raised £1,050.70.

It was a pleasure to hold the Parish Council's first extremely successful Community Awards event that saw thirty four awards given to individuals and groups throughout our Parish area to celebrate their tremendous work over the past few years. All our Parish Councillors supported the Awards and they hope to continue recognising this excellent work in years to come.

We continued to support our community groups throughout the year with grants to allow them to continue their great work. Examples of the groups supported included Ushaw Moor Community Garden Scheme, Esh Winning Residents Group, Waterhouses Community Association, Brandon and Carrside Youth Project, Friends of Addison Park Browney, Friends of Langley Moor, New Brancepeth Parent and Toddler Group and the Salvation Army Toy Appeal.

I received great support from all my fellow Parish Councillors throughout the year, especially with their insight of the many community groups and individuals who work within their particular Wards. Thank you to you all.

I would particularly like to give my thanks to the Vice Chair, Councillor Jimmy Jamieson for his great support throughout the year.

None of this work would have been possible though without the support of our Clerk, Susan Howe and our Assistant Clerk/Allotments Officer Lauren Rutherford. They both work tirelessly for the Council and are the first port of call for residents looking for support or information.

Last, but not least, I would like to give my personal thanks to my husband Frank for his support throughout the year.

The following overview of the Council's work shows that the Parish Council continued to be proactive throughout the year and, as always, responsive to the needs and wishes of all our Residents.

Anne Bonner  
Chairman

### **LIST OF MEMBERS**

Cllr Anne Bonner	Chairman	Tel: 07468895349
Cllr Jimmy Jamieson	Vice Chairman	Tel: 0191 3732440
Cllr Susan Nelson		Tel: 07799706369
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 Priscilla Elmer		Tel: 07775605125
Cllr Frank Bonner		Tel: 07775395970
Cllr Lesley Catterson		Tel: 0191 3789901
Cllr Derek Hindmarch		Tel: 0191 3739489
Cllr Philip Stoddart		Tel: 0191 3736698
Cllr Mrs Lynne Clegg		Tel: 0191 3734507
Cllr Jean Chaplow		Tel: 07769239669
Cllr Barry Sims		Tel: 0191 3734576
Cllr Cecilia Wharton		Tel: 0191 4526760

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### **STAFF**

Mrs Susan Howe

Mrs Lauren Rutherford

Mrs Diane Cassap

Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council serves a population of approximately 18,500 and had an electorate of 14,870 in December 2021. The Council encompasses the following 6 villages:

Brandon	- electorate	4379	4 ward members
Langley Moor	- electorate	1334	3 ward members

Meadowfield and Browney	- electorate	2023	3 ward members
New Brancepeth	- electorate	969	3 ward members
Ushaw Moor and Broompark	- electorate	3479	4 ward members
Esh Winning and Waterhouses	- electorate	2686	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.

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.

## **OVERVIEW OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING 2021/22**

### **1. ALLOTMENTS**

Approximately £30,000 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 has been in the final year of a 3 year contract with Durham County Council to provide floral displays throughout the Parish with both summer and winter bedding. In addition flower beds beneath the village name plates in Broompark, Ushaw Moor, Esh Winning and Meadowfield have also been planted. 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 the majority of the cost. The CHW carries out regular inspections of the equipment in the Play areas at Broompark and Waterhouses. The Worker has continued to work 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; strimming around signs and planters.

**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 for a second year, the Parish Council were unable to organise the schools art competition, due to the Coronavirus pandemic and lockdown, consequently schools were closed.

**7. POPPY APPEAL**



A Remembrance service was held at St John's Church in Meadowfield. Following the service wreaths were laid at Brandon War Memorial in Brandon Village to commemorate the fallen, a number of poppy wreaths were also displayed throughout the villages.

**8. 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.

**9. 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.

**10. 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.

- Presents and food parcels were delivered to families in need before Christmas
- 20 hampers were delivered to older members of the community prior to Christmas
- A total of 121 presents were given to residents in Brandon's Care homes, including Christmas cards which had been designed and created by the young people
- Four weeks' worth of activities in the Summer holidays took place
- 100 families were provided with cooking packs and essentials, snack packs were also distributed

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

**11. BRANDON CARRSIDE YOUTH & COMMUNITY PROJECT**

The Parish Council has assisted the youth group in purchasing and installing a Christmas tree and also funded the cost of the Christmas tree lights. The light switch on took place in November and was a great success.

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

Due to Covid-19 the group had not been able to meet until October 2021, when discussion took place on how to move forward. The group once again, meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Parish Council Office to discuss how to develop the village. The Parish Council continues to assist the group by paying the electricity costs.

**13. MEADOWFIELD – NEW CHRISTMAS TREE**

The Parish Council arranged the electricity supply for the new Christmas tree opposite Meadowfield W.M.C. The Parish Council have also agreed to pay the electricity costs for the Christmas tree.

**14. NEW BRANCEPETH AND ESH WINNING – CHRISTMAS TREES**

The Parish Council continues to pay the electricity cost for both of the above mentioned Christmas trees.

**15. USHAW MOOR**

The Parish Council ordered and financed the Christmas tree for the village and made the necessary arrangements for Durham County Council to dress and undress the tree.

**16. CONSULTATIONS**

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

Durham County Council	-	Future of Local Library Services
Public Health Durham County Council	-	Local Pharmacy Assessment
Durham County Council	-	Our Big Econ-versation
Durham County Council	-	Area Action Partnership (AAP-Community Priorities)

**17. CHAIR'S CHARITY**

The Chair's Charity Evening an Irish Night, took place in Browney Social Club. The Chair, Mrs Anne Bonner raised £1050.70 for her chosen charity which is Brandon Food Bank. The Chair would like to thank everyone who attended, donated prizes or assisted in making the evening a success.

**18. COMMUNITY AWARDS**



**Alderson's Family Funerals**  
Established 1921  
Ushaw Moor - Langley Moor - Coxhoe  
0191 373 1828

The Parish Councils first Community Awards took place in March 2021 in St. Johns Hall, Meadowfield. The event was sponsored by Aldersons Family Funerals and Brandon and Byshttles Parish Council. Certificates were awarded to each

participant, who were nominated by the Members. Trophies were awarded to the overall winners:

Support work during the Pandemic	Brandon Carrside
Young Persons Award	Neve Mortimer Bethany Burton Art Group Members at Brandon Carrside
Sports Clubs	Brandon Boxing Club
Working with the Elderly	St. Johns Hall
Environmental Projects	Ushaw Moor Action Group



Well done to everyone for their hard work in the Community and for making the first Community Awards event successful.

**19. STORM ARWEN – BRANDON VILLAGE**

Due to the damage caused by Storm Arwen in Brandon Village, five new trees have been planted and funded by the Parish Council.

## 20. **DOG POOH BAGS**

The Council continues to provide ‘dog pooh’ bags free of charge. The bags can be collected from the following locations:

Brandon Library  
Esh Winning Library  
New Brancepeth Village Hall  
Parish Council Office  
R & B Convenience Store, Ushaw Moor  
St. John’s Hall, Meadowfield  
The Hut, Ushaw Moor  
Waterhouses Village Hall  
Woodland Road Communal Hall

## 21. **BEAUTIFUL DURHAM GARDEN & ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS 2021**

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.

Best sheltered accommodation	Burnigill, Meadowfield - Merit New Acres, Ushaw Moor - Merit Sycamore Park, Brandon – Merit
Durham's best kept residential area	Hamilton Row, Waterhouses - Merit Joyce Terrace, Ushaw Moor - Merit
Best floral containers	Waterhouses Village Hall - Merit Mr John and Mrs Deborah Bell, Esh Winning - Special Commendation Langley Moor High Street - Special Commendation Peter Thomson, Langley Moor - Special Commendation Richard Todd, New Brancepeth - Special Commendation Christopher Michael Horton, Brandon – Winner
Best house garden – small	Phil Stoddart, Ushaw Moor - Merit Mr John and Mrs Deborah Bell, Esh Winning - Special Commendation Barbara Hopper, Brandon - Special Commendation Christopher Michael Horton, Brandon - Special Commendation



	Peter Thomson, Langley Moor - Special Commendation
	Richard Todd, New Brancepeth - Special Commendation
	Mr and Mrs Warburton, Esh Winning - Special Commendation
Best house garden – medium	Marie Morritt and Jean Ritchie, Ushaw Moor - Merit
	Mrs Wells, Broompark - Special Commendation
Best back yard / patio garden	Marie Morritt and Jean Ritchie, Ushaw Moor - Merit
	Emma Snowdon, Waterhouses - Merit
	Peter Thomson, Langley Moor - Special Commendation
	Barbara Hopper, Brandon - Winner
Best allotment / kitchen garden	Christopher Michael Horton, Brandon - Merit
	Diana Snowdon, Waterhouses - Special Commendation
Best village	Broompark - Special Commendation
Keen to be green	Peter Thomson, Langley Moor
Best new entry	Mrs Wells, Broompark
Best Believe Housing entry	Mr John and Mrs Deborah Bell, Esh Winning

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

## **22. SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

Brandon Community Hall  
 Browney Social Club  
 Buzzy Bees, Ushaw Moor  
 Durham Haven, Ushaw Moor  
 Esh Winning Residents Group  
 Great North Air Ambulance  
 New Brancepeth Parent & Toddler Group  
 New Brancepeth WMC Football Club  
 Salvation Army, Langley Moor Toy Appeal  
 County Durham Stroke Club  
 Waterhouses Community Association  
 St Andrews Methodist Church, Brandon