

WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL



WEST BEDLINGTON  
TOWN COUNCIL

# RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016 Issue



© Graeme Ogle photography

## In this issue ►



Bedlington  
Picnic



New Bus  
Shelters



Bedlington Youth  
Voice

# Forward

## by the Mayor



Well it's been an interesting time since our last newsletter. As well as introducing a corporate colour scheme and logo we will soon see our new gateway features (subject to planning!) and have a new media package for council in place. We have also had a Dog Show, Street Fair, Brass Band Concert, Xmas light switch on event as well as the whole Tesco/Arch/NCC reveal. On top of that we have put a new budget into place and taken up the offer of a potential site for a new sports development.

### Let's look at those in a bit more detail.

First of all putting council into a workable structure has taken several months but finally we have something fit for purpose and which can now deliver significant savings, be cost effective and deliver quality services on behalf of residents. Aligned with this year's budget the foundations are now in place to enable this council to drive progress in our Town and that's not just events these days!

Speaking of events, the Street Fair we pulled off last year was a huge success, thanks to Paul Taylor and John Houghton for their help. It resulted in more positive comments coming back into council than anything which has taken place before and it's something we obviously want to replicate. However because of the Tesco redevelopment we are not going to be able to use the same site and the footprint of our street fair this year will look very different. Hopefully we will still be putting on a quality event on for residents and visitors alike.

The Xmas light switch on event was very professional and a great time was

reported by all. This time thanks go to Leah Bell and her "elves". Determined to have one of the best Xmas trees in the area we bought a larger tree and new lighting garlands. Our Xmas tree and its lighting did look very impressive until some mindless jobs decided to rip off half the lights! Are some people just determined to live in squalor? It certainly shows the level of intelligence we have to deal with sometimes! We are now seeing vandalism at the Attlee and Plessey Woods Country Parks...why?

(BTW, Council now has a 'Zero Tolerance' policy in place... if we find anyone vandalising our community owned assets we will prosecute to the full extent of the law and seek punitive damages!)

The dog show and brass band concert were events council wanted to try and I will be first to hold my hand up and say they were not advertised as well as we hoped. Mainly because our last newsletter had to be postponed so when it finally went out the dog show had already just taken place! It was still quite a success with the dog owners who turned up. Thanks go to Bedlington Terrier owner and

Crufts winner Craig Richardson for his invaluable help and advice. Also many thanks to the Northumberland Brass Band Association, especially Tony Griffiths for all his help and to the event sponsor Mr Ken Beattie of the Techflow Group.

Getting down to the nitty gritty now and the main reasons we have decided to publish two newsletters a year, one in spring to tell everyone about summer events and explain our budget and one in Autumn recalling how the summer events went and making sure we are on track with our budget.

As I explained at the time, the budget this year has been challenging, not because of constraints but because of the ambitious nature many of us wanted to see included. To set council on a sensible track for next year and beyond we had to get all of our core assets into the best shape we could and most were in pretty dire need because of years of underinvestment. So we agreed a budget which will renew or update all of our bus shelters, renew all of our children's play equipment in the parks we are responsible for, and bring in

a rationalisation programme for litter bins and street furniture.

This made this year's budget requirement the largest but most prudent this council had ever set with around £250,000 worth of new purchases but one which required a pretty small increase in the precept. Most people, band "A", will pay around 13p a week extra, band "D" 20p a week extra, and remember this is only for one year so whilst the upgrades will last 10/15/20 years we will pay for them all this year! That sets council on a proper path for future budgets and if properly addressed and accounted for over the few next years the money should be there for future upgrades without the need of an increase, it's called budgeting for a reason!

### The Main Points:

- WBTC Precept...+16% giving us a precept total of £214K.
- We have cut £50K out of last year's budget and actually maintained all service deliveries in real terms by renegotiating contracts, shrewd forward planning and competitive tendering.
- With Steven's help (our Clerk) we have reduced the core costs of council by over 10%.
- Member's expenses, including training and the Annual Town meeting have been reduced by about 25%. Only one member has claimed any expenses since last May and he was perfectly entitled to do so.
- We have taken around half the costs of the new bus shelters and play equipment out of reserves BUT we will be applying for funding for them as well. The total cost of these replacements alone is in the order of £200K.
- We renegotiated our SLA with NCC and capped the cost for 2 years.
- We are rationalising NCC service deliveries to make them more cost effective.
- We still want events on in the Town and they have been allowed for. However I am keen to see

that as seed funding and we need to replicate last year's events management and drive income from them, so we can do even more.

- Xmas lights and switch on event will still happen and we hope to see Xmas lights down Glebe Road for the first time ever!
- Still supporting Bedlington in Bloom and our entry into the Northumberland in Bloom awards scheme.
- Still supporting voluntary groups and worthwhile causes.
- Still maintaining support for schools and our young people.

In previous years the costs of having a Town Council cost you approximately 80% of what you were paying in as a precept with only 20% actually being spent on delivering services into the town. That was utter madness in my view and something I was determined to change. Going through the costs of the council and rationalising them with our clerk enables us to put more into service deliveries, which means we are now looking at a much healthier 40/60 split with 40% of costs going into running the council. That's impressive and already beats the national average of 60/40, but if we factor in the new purchases and their cost in this year's budget we see that relationship down to 24/76! That's 24% of what you pay in now goes towards the cost of running this council and its purchases and with that everyone will understand when I say this Town council is now offering the very best value for money for ratepayers probably in the North East region!

So an ambitious budget but we weren't finished there. We had been offered an option on a parcel of land by Mr A. Rutherford who farms the land at the west of our area. It was a very generous offer and one which was eagerly taken up because it might finally address one of the biggest issues this Town has had over the last 50 years, the lack of a dedicated Bedlington community sports facility. My personal wish is for "Sporting Club Bedlington" with a multi-use adaptable facility and playing fields around the outside. I am firmly convinced we

potentially have 'Olympic' quality athletes within Bedlington who have never played the sport they might well excel in. We need to give them that chance.

There are no promises and it's going to take a lot of hard work to pull this off but there is a team being pulled together to lead on this and it won't fail because of a lack of commitment or effort! We do need your help and we need everyone to be honest. We need to know what sort of facilities people want to see but especially what facilities they will support and use, and that means pay to use! See this later section and please send in your thoughts and needs, we will need them for funding applications because this will be a Bedlington project and Bedlington will own it! Make no mistake, to succeed here is down to us, every one of us, there is no help forthcoming from anywhere, we are going to have to do this for ourselves!

Remembrance Day and once again a very well attended poignant and evocative service, held commemorating our past "Fallen". Many thanks to all who helped organise this emotional annual event, especially Councillor Graham who oversaw our contribution.

On a happier note I also want to mention our Youth Council and its youngest members. I have been so very impressed by their commitment and determination and the way they have been exceptional ambassadors for their respective schools. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to each one of you for all your hard work and it's been a real pleasure to work with you. Thanks Ryan Fisher, Charlotte Standing, Emily Gair, Lewis Cochrane, Lily Donaldson, Georgia Dunn, Katie Thornton, Aiden Forrest, Hannah Lott and Sam Livingstone, your contribution has been first class!

Finally the Tesco redevelopment.

Hopefully we have all seen and commented on the designs for the Tesco site redevelopment. First let me thank all the community representatives who gave up their time to attend meetings and presentations,

Russ, John and Brian and not forgetting our delegate too, Adam! Let's hope the decision makers take on-board all and everything we have told them through our comments both face to face and in the written replies to this consultation exercise.

The final presentation gave us two architectural practices and their designs, one with a single design the other with two designs.

I can't really comment on what my personal choice was but I would like to reply personally to the many people who voiced their opinion that housing should not be included in this development.

Firstly and probably most importantly is that put simply this is not a funded development, it has to find its own financial backing! Now we can shout that other Towns have been handed their regeneration funding on a plate and why does ours have to fund itself, well that's a question I can't answer that's a question for NCC and Arch they claim to be backing redevelopment in all the principle Market Towns in our county, of which Bedlington is one! The simple fact remains however that the housing requirement is part of that self-funding package and has to be included to get this scheme off the ground!

Leaving that to one side another very important part of this particular jigsaw is the retail offer and what retailers will demand before they come and invest time and money into Bedlington. That may well produce significant differences to what we have been looking at given the commercial reality

which has to be mixed in too.

So all in all a very organic development and one which will inevitably change and evolve through time. It's a complex and somewhat multifaceted development for the reasons stated above (and others) and requires a certain level of professionalism and if I may say emotional detachment, which I believe Arch does offer. I am certainly willing to give them the support needed to see this huge inward investment come into Bedlington!

If this does happen it will inexorably change and shape Bedlington for the next 50 years. Let's get it right this time!

To clarify the Town Council's position, after a very open debate we have agreed the following as being representative of what we, as a council, are promoting for this redevelopment..... "a youth facility, public conveniences, leisure use, retail use, a community space, a public mall or exhibition area, specific retail units that would encourage businesses on the fringes of the town to relocate into the proposed development and car parking (the Council would like to see as much car parking provision retained as possible)".

Speaking of public conveniences, the council like many of our residents are less than happy about the fact that NCC decided to close all of our public loos in one of their cost cutting programmes. We examined the one next to the library but found it was a wholly uneconomical repair due to the adjacent trees and their roots, the one in the old Tesco car park was

going to be demolished and the land there built on which left us with only one realistically to look at, the one in Attlee Park. We decided because of the huge cost in hiring in loos for any events down in the park and the fact that this park was becoming more and more used, thanks in no small measure to our new safe pathway, that we would explore the option of refurbishing these public loos. We now have planning permission for this refurbishment and are currently awaiting building regs, and then we can get some firm costings. I hope to be able to bring some good news about this development and some fantastic financial support soon!

In closing, Bedlington now has a Town Council willing to invest in its infrastructure, its promotion and its community. We are taking that lead wherever we can and asking for your support and your understanding because things don't happen overnight. 50yrs worth of inequalities cannot be put right in a heartbeat however much we want them to, but it is starting to happen and with your help we will succeed! Is this not one of the most exciting times in our recent history? We finally stand a chance, if we get it right, of rejuvenating our main shopping street and in fact the centre of our Town, putting half a century of bitterness to one side and working on our own sporting facility, putting our stamp on the region with a combination of branding and innovative design and giving us yet more reasons to be proud Bedlingtonians!

**Malcolm Robinson.**

---

## Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

**We are looking to recruit volunteers to run Neighbourhood Watch in your area. We will provide information and support to anyone wanting to set a scheme up in their street.**



Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are run solely by residents and are headed up by a coordinator from within your street, the rest of the residents then become members of that particular scheme. Coordinators are invited to quarterly meetings with neighbourhood Police officers and coordinators from other areas. There are several schemes already running very successfully in the Bedlington area and we are hoping to add even more.

If you would like to join us or require information on how to set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NHW) in your street you can contact us via email [bed.nhw@btinternet.com](mailto:bed.nhw@btinternet.com) or Telephone me Steve Armstrong (chairman of Bedlington NHW) on 01670 825029

If you wish to speak to a Neighbourhood Police officer ring 101 ext 63726 ask for Bev Sellars.

# The 2016-17 Budget:



The Budget for the Town Council is set annually and lasts for one year. We normally begin discussions and considerations before Xmas and should have something in place to send off to the County Council, who collect the 'Parish Precept', in February at the latest.

This year was no different as far as timings went but very different as far as what members wanted to see in this year's budget.

After many hours' worth of meetings we had to make a decision and that was to get our priorities and core deliveries in as good a condition as possible so next year we can look into some of the more ambitious proposals which had been suggested this year.

Look at this budget as a twofold delivery, one which gets rid of things like leaking bus shelters and broken play equipment and the other strand

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Management and support	53,349	53,599	47,423
Recreation & Leisure Services	33,200	35,500	62,000
Environmental Services	0	10,000	6,600
Cemeteries	0	0	0
Grants & Subsidies	5,000	9,500	8,600
Other Services	89,413	71,100	88,881
<b>Total Cost (Net)</b>	<b>180,192</b>	<b>179,699</b>	<b>214,414</b>
Less Balances and Grants	0	0	0
Precept	180,192	179,699	214,414

which sets council on a course for proper budgeting accountability in the years to come.

It can't be stressed enough that yes we have imposed a small rise in precept

but it will now all go on improving the assets we as a community and residents need as lasting town infrastructure and it's all paid for within a single year.

## Sporting Club Bedlington!

(Because our kids deserve local chances too!)

As many people now know the Town has been presented a fantastically generous offer by Mr Rutherford who farms to the outskirts of the western side of Bedlington. This council had no hesitation in taking the option of land for a sports development up! We have five years to find the funding to enable this to happen.

Some of the most important things a funder will be looking for are community backing and commitment. I'm going to take that as a given owing to the amount of verbal's we have been giving firstly Wansbeck District Council and latterly Northumberland County Council over the years for us not having anything like this sort of community facility!

What we really need now is to find out exactly what residents want available within such a facility. Please remember we need to know what you will support and that means pay to use, because this has to have an extraordinary amount of sustainability built in. This

will not be an NCC owned facility run by Active Northumberland, this will be our facility run by us!

Anyone going outside of Bedlington to access their chosen sports please let us know and also what sort of activities people are willing to support at this location.

**Email**  
westbedlingtontowncouncil@gmail.com

**Telephone**  
01670 457070

**Website**  
www.westbedlington.org.uk

# Doctor Pit Park Improvement Project

By Emma Evan, Northumberland County Council

A project to put the heart back into Doctor Pit Park has begun in early 2016.

Funding to make improvements to the play area and to install a new multi-use games area has already been awarded by Northumberland County Council's Section 106 Housing Developer Funding Scheme.

Subject to more successful funding bids, further planned improvements include:

- Planting more bulbs, flowers and trees throughout the park for colour and wildlife value
- Removing overgrown conifers
- Widening the footpath through the Toddler's play area to the Gordon Terrace entrance (by the school)
- Improving footpath surfaces throughout the park
- Removing barriers by taking out the hedge by the wheeled spots area, and the fence between the two play areas

- Improving the entrances at Park Road at Gordon Terrace
- Improving the Rockery and making it a space to be explored and played on

To help us make these improvements happen we would really like your views and ideas about the park. Please click here to complete our survey of the park. By completing the survey you could win £25 of Garden Centre vouchers.

If all funding is secured, work on improving the park should begin in Autumn 2016.

Volunteers are required for a "friends of Dr Pit Park group" if you would like to be involved or require more information please contact Emma Evans, Parks Monitoring and Development Officer on 01670 623852

Link to Live survey -

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=145769356029>

---

## CHURCH LAUNCHES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE FOR PEOPLE IN DEBT

By Dennis Francis Hope Church

PEOPLE stuck in the debt trap can now get free help thanks to a local church opening a Debt Help centre.

Hope Church Bedlington is partnering with national charity Christians Against Poverty to bring its award-winning service to South East Northumberland. It follows the recent "What Hurts Most" survey by the church which revealed that debt and financial worries were one of the top concerns for people in the area.

The new CAP Debt Centre is available for anyone living in the Bedlington, Ashington, Morpeth, Blyth and Cramlington areas. There is no need to be religious or have a connection

with the Church to benefit from the in-depth, face to face service that CAP provides.

Bedlington Centre Manager Kay Fancett said: "The Church has always been about offering hope and we're really pleased to be able to give a tried-and-tested route out of debt. In our society a lot of poverty is debt-related, so Hope Church has been working hard to get our new CAP centre so we can help get people back on track."

CAP offers people a uniquely in-depth, caring service to people with spiralling personal debt regardless of their age, gender, faith or background. Every client is visited in their own home, the charity does all the negotiating with creditors and local volunteers offer support to each person face-to-face

until the day they are debt free.

Statistics show that one in three callers seeking debt help are feeling suicidal but find huge relief through the non-judgemental service that treats every person as an individual.

Kay added: "Typically, debts can build up when a relationship breaks down, or someone loses their job, or through bereavement - so often when people are least able to cope with a financial headache."

Anyone wanting help should phone 0800 328 0006. The call is answered at CAP's Bradford office and the trained staff will make an appointment for volunteers from the Bedlington centre to visit you.

# Bedlington Gateway Features

In the course of the next few months we hope people will see the new gateway features planned for each of the main routes into Bedlington Town.

This is to once again reinforce the Bedlington Town area and along with our new corporate livery present a positive, ambitious and proactive image to the world.

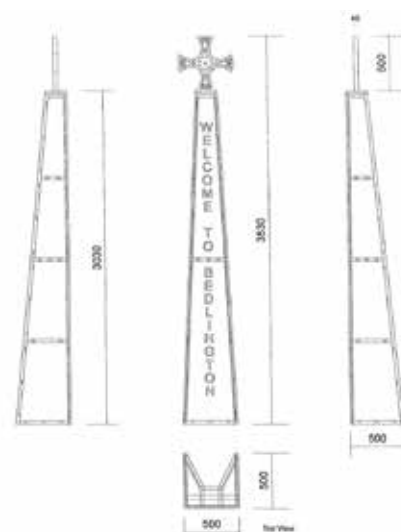
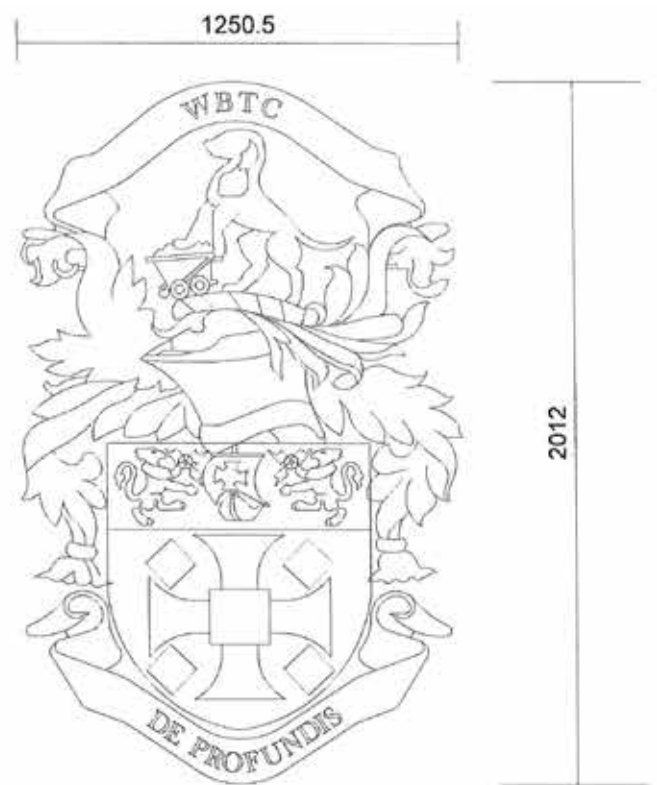
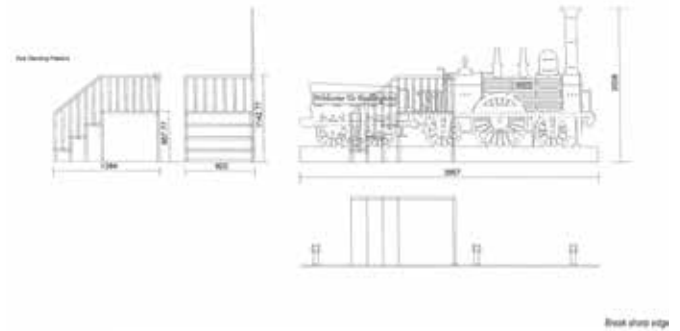
The designs are based on the long heritage Bedlington has to offer and its place in the industrial revolution. At that time Bedlington was synonymous with the iron and steel trade and of course the very early railways. Our features are made of steel with reference to that important link.

Starting at the western entrance we will see the Bedlington coat of arms and many thanks to the Bedlingtonshire Development Trust for unearthing this poignant piece of Bedlington history which had hitherto been thought lost.

At the southern entrance we will see our world renowned dog the Bedlington Terrier. We firmly expect this will become THE place for dog owners to get pictures taken with their dogs.

The Northern entrance will boast a St Cuthberts Cross denoting the significance Bedlington played in the St Cuthbert story.

Lastly the eastern entrance into the Town and probably the most ambitious feature. At this entrance we will be mounting a scale replica of the first steam train in Holland, the Arend, which was built in Bedlington. As this will be situated in Attlee Park right next to the car park we hope people will be able to stop and take in the historical significance we are trying to promote.



# Bedlington Picnic

By Bedlington resident Vic Thompson

Bedlington has a long tradition of events on the Picnic Field in Attlee Park. However with no events planned there for 2016, the Bedlington community came together and are working together with the support of West Bedlington Town Council to keep the spirit of the old Picnic alive.

Thus, it is with great pleasure that we are able to present the Bedlington Picnic, a new and exciting festival, celebrating everything the town has to offer. The Bedlington Picnic is to revive the spirit of the old picnic fields, showcasing a community led festival, organised by the community for the community. Community groups, organisations, businesses and individuals will have the opportunity to come together for a day of fun and enjoyment, with entertainment, stalls, games, food and even a dog show, providing something for all ages.

The main stage at the bandstand will provide a setting for music and entertainment from the finest acts that Bedlington has to offer, while marquees around the site will allow local people, community groups and businesses the opportunity to give taster sessions of the amazing things that they are doing in our town!



Stalls, traditional rides and street food will allow visitors to revel in nostalgia while experiencing a celebration of the town and showing off our community spirit at its finest!

A few stalls and slots for taster sessions are still available and if you would like to contribute to the day, do not hesitate to contact us on [bedlingtonpicnic@gmail.com](mailto:bedlingtonpicnic@gmail.com)

---

## Commemorating the Battle of the Somme and the Bedlington Connection

At 7.30 am on the 1st July 1916, the men from the Tyneside Scottish Battalions “Went over the top” for an attack through “No Man’s Land”, towards the village of Contalmaison. This was the start of the Battle of the Somme.

It was to be one of the bloodiest battles of the First World War. It is difficult to get accurate numbers of casualties, but by the end of the day, it was reported that the Tyneside Scottish alone, had lost 940 men killed, with a further 1600 injured.

2016 is the centenary of that fateful day, and to mark the occasion. The “Tyneside Scottish” Branch, Royal Artillery Association, St Cuthbert’s Church, and Northumberland County Council, supported by West Bedlington Town Council are to hold a parade and service of commemoration on Sunday 10th July 2016, with the service commencing at 3.00pm, to recognise the sacrifice and bravery of the men who were involved in the battle and the families who waited anxiously to hear the news of, or from their loved ones.

The commemoration, which will commence with a parade, led by a corps of Pipes and Drums down Front Street to the church. will include, veterans, serving military personal and military cadets. It will represent all ages, as a fitting memorial to those who gave their lives so bravely on that fateful day.

The Tyneside Scottish Battalions consisted of some 5000 men, a great number of whom were recruited from Bedlington and the surrounding areas. Many had been employed in the mining industry and signed up as “Pals” unit, that were men who had worked together, lived in the same street, joined up together, fought together and unfortunately died together. The Coal Companies (Bedlington and Netherton) commissioned memorial boards, with the name of 418 men. These are displayed in The Memorial Chapel in St Cuthbert’s together with the “Colour” of the 2nd Battalion, which was presented on the Town Moor on 10th July 1920 and has been in the church ever since.

As we prepare for this event, the planning group are anxious to hear from anyone who has any family or historic connection with the events of 1916, which could be used in the presentation of this special occasion. Please e-mail Michael Eldridge at [dormich@btinternet.com](mailto:dormich@btinternet.com) or Phone 07976985612



# **Bedlington in Bloom 2016.**

**Your invitation to be involved in enhancing the look  
of our much loved town.**



Following on from Bedlington's success in attaining Silver Gilt Status, as part of the Northumbria in Bloom Competition, over the past two years, we would like to further encourage the involvement of even more Residents, Businesses, Schools, Retirement Homes, Care Homes, Sheltered Housing and other organisations, throughout West Bedlington.

The more areas that are enhanced by floral displays will help to make our town more beautiful than last year and hopefully, the Northumbria in Bloom Judges will be even more impressed to see the results of additional proud community involvement, when they visit our town on judging day.

## **Our contact details are as follows:-**

Bedlington in Bloom Post Box which is situated in the Reception area of Bedlington Community Centre. Bedlington in Bloom Face Book Page. E-Mail. [BIB@BEDLINGTON.CO.UK](mailto:BIB@BEDLINGTON.CO.UK)  
Tel. 7444344592



# Bedlington's Defibrillators

Asked by a couple of members of another local organisation to look into the possibility of providing a community accessible defibrillator.

West Bedlington Town Council took the decision to back not just a single unit but putting as many as possible into our Town. The protection and well-being of our residents is of paramount importance and anything which gives us more of a chance in a lifesaving situation is something the council wants to be involved with. Instead of just one being placed in our Town there will be 3 permanently available to the general public and one mobile unit carried by Bedlington Town FC.

Huge vote of thanks goes to the Bedlington Masonic Lodges and Barry Elliott and Darren Taylor from the new Baedling Court care home for sponsoring a unit each.

Soon we should see one on the Masonic building at the Top End roundabout, one on the exterior of the new care home in the middle of Town and one on the exterior of the Johnny Johnson sheltered housing, Wansbeck Court, at the bottom end of the Town. Many thanks to each one for agreeing to position one of these defibrillators on their buildings so they are truly accessible and should offer unparalleled coverage for Bedlington.

Having just been informed about the use of a defibrillator only recently at a RTA on the crossing on Glebe Bank the sooner we can get these potentially lifesaving bits of kit installed the better! Thankfully I have seen the guy who was involved in the accident and he looks back to normal to me.



# Bedlington Neighbourhood Plan

By Chair of Bedlington Partnership  
Vic Thompson

The Bedlington Partnership are currently working alongside West Bedlington Town Council to create a Neighbourhood Plan for our town.

A Neighbourhood Plan gives us an opportunity to influence planning decisions in our town by creating a legal document that has to be given consideration when these decisions are being made. Although any NP will need to keep in line with points in the Northumberland Core Strategy document, it will give us much more of an opportunity to guide decisions on aspects of planning such as where the houses are located, facilities that come with housing or design and heritage features when new buildings are considered, to name a few. To create a Neighbourhood Plan is a great opportunity for local people to genuinely have our say on the future of our town!

Sadly, this document cannot be prepared overnight and has to go through a series of stages to become a legal document. The first stage, which is to create a boundary area for West Bedlington, has been done. Now a boundary is in place, policies can be drawn up for the plan in consultation with the local community. After a series of legal checks the plan can go to a local referendum for the community to decide if they want the plan to become a legal document. A straightforward majority of positive replies means that the document will have the direct power to shape development and growth of our local area.

This is our chance to make a significant difference and, unlike other consultations affecting Bedlington, this can only happen with the approval of the majority of voters.

Before we begin our in depth community consultations, it would be great to hear from residents about how they feel. Please give us opinions here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PFCHSXG>

Should anyone wish to get involved in the Neighbourhood Plan, please get in touch either through WBTC or via [bedlingtonneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com](mailto:bedlingtonneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com)

Further information about the Neighbourhood Plan can be found here:

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Planning/Planning-policy/Neighbourhood.aspx#whatisneighbourhoodplanning>  
(All links can also be found through the WBTC website)

# Bedlington Partnership - Bedlington's Residents Panel

By Residents Panel Chair - Bedlington Resident Vic Thompson

For a number of years, Bedlingtonians have requested a resident's panel and in the summer of 2015 this idea came to fruition.

The Bedlington Partnership has been formed as an opportunity for residents, businesses and voluntary sector organisations to work alongside West Bedlington Town Council to discuss and work on projects relevant to our town. The Partnership gives WBTC an opportunity to discuss issues with those who matter most - the people of West Bedlington. So far, we have been involved in giving WBTC feedback on a number of their exciting new projects and we are currently working together

in partnership to move forward on the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan (see our separate article).

We are currently looking for new members, from residents, business or voluntary organisations, who feel that they have something they can offer to the group. Our meetings are a friendly opportunity to get involved with positive change of the town. For further information, please contact [bedlingtonpartnership@gmail.com](mailto:bedlingtonpartnership@gmail.com)

## Bedlington Dog Show 2015

On the 12th August 2015 WBTC held its first Dog Show and even though there were problems with advertising the event, we were pleasantly surprised by the turn out. It would seem everyone was very happy just to see and chat with other dog owners.

Many thanks to Craig Richardson for his help and advice and also the time he gave to do the actual judging.

The overall winner was Deborah Dolby and Poppy.

We also have to thank Keith Fitsimmons of Synergy Healthcare for his very kind sponsorship of the Trophies.



# Working to improve the Town

West Bedlington Town Council have implemented a rolling improvement programme to upgraded the Town's assets. This includes Bus Shelters, replacing lamp post mounted litter bins with floor standing bins and of course children's play equipment in Westlea and Meadowdale play areas.

## Bus Shelters

Earlier this year we commenced the bus shelter refurbishment by replacing older shelters like this one near Nedderton and replacing with them with new, modern and safe shelters like this one at Red House Farm in our corporate colours of green and gold, creating a positive image for our town.

In addition we have also agreed to install two new Bus shelters at North Ridge and Ridge Villas, this is a busy bus route and residents now have a shelter to enable them to take cover when waiting for a bus.



Freshly painted railing in West Bedlington Town Council Colours at West End School Bedlington.

## Play Areas

We have planned a full refurbishment of all play equipment in both Westlea and Meadowdale play areas. We are keen not just to replace this equipment but to upgrade and potentially introduce more adventurous play areas to aid our children's development. It is our aim to commence these renewals later in the year when the parks are less busy which will hopefully minimise disruption for the children.

## Litter Bins

We have also made a commitment to replacing most of our lamp post mounted litter bins with new floor standing bins, these are more environmentally friendly, hold more waste and are easier to use and quicker to empty, freeing up Neighbourhood Services time to provide us with additional cleaning services.



## Seating

We have replaced several seats in the area and have installed several new ones, using our signature Bedlington Terrier seats in prominent places where possible. This will continue in the new financial year along with the cleaning and staining of several other seats to bring them back to life.

# Our new Bus Shelters

Bus shelters are one of the physical things (assets) the Town Council has to look after. These along with certain street furniture and playground equipment are the main assets we have an 'upkeeping' responsibility over.

As most of the bus shelters in our area have been in place for many years they were requiring more and more attention and maintenance. Also a lot of them being painted black did nothing for their aspect or our civic appearance.

With years of neglect and underinvestment there was nothing for it but to commence with drastic surgery! Every one of them not up to a very good standard was condemned.

Once we had the numbers needed to be changed we then proceeded to negotiate with various suppliers, local and national, in an effort to find best value for ratepayers. One such supplier gave us that return we were looking for and indeed we negotiated extra discounts based on the quantities we would order. This brought costs per comparable unit down to around 30% of what they had been and allowed us to put in a rationalisation programme for all of our bus shelters in the financial year 2016-17.

This has been so successful other larger councils have asked us for advice regarding their own bus shelter requirements.

These costs savings not only allowed us to examine existing shelters for replacement we were also able to put new ones in places residents had been asking about for many years!

Because we also wanted to keep any rise in the precept to a minimum we were able to bring forward a limited amount of our renewal programme into the 2015-16 year as we continued to examine our working budgets and identify any underspends. That's why we saw some new shelters fitted in February and March but none more until after April and the start of the new financial year.

A couple of the shelters which were fitted early did have the wrong sides and one was fitted the wrong way around. These should now have been rectified!

Look out for our new playground equipment projects this year too!



## Spring Jobs Fair

On 18th February 2016 West Bedlington Town Council along with partners DWP and JCP held our first Jobs Fair.

The event was well received and was very well attended and means we can think about doing similar again. Over 300 people came through the door looking for career opportunities.

Some of the comments received off visitors when I asked how they found the event, "I'm coming away with some new interviews."..... "I have a job offer!" ...."Better than I expected!".....and one young woman said she now knew what "way she would be going so she now had a clear route to take."

WBTC would like to thank our partners in DWP for their diligence and hard work helping to put this event on for residents.





# BEDLINGTON TOWN UNDER 9 VIPERS CROWNED DOUBLE CHAMPIONS AT NATIONAL TOURNAMENT!

Bedlington town Vipers returned home from North Yorkshire crowned Filey Cup champions and Filey Easter League champions.

The Vipers played 11 games over two days with only three goals conceded and they didn't lose a game. The Vipers played some fantastic football and were in a strong position throughout the tournaments. One of their players received the prestigious "Player of the Tournament" award.

Team Coach and Club Chairman David Langhorne said "The players were magnificent all weekend. Their football was a joy to watch and admired by spectators from around the country. We all had a great time away watching the boys represent Bedlington in such a positive way. The Club is very proud of them. I would also like to thank the Town Council and other local businesses who helped us fundraise for the trip."

Bedlington Town FC was established in 2010 with an aim to bringing access to sport for girls and boys of all abilities in a fun and safe environment. As a Chartered Standard Club all coaches are unpaid volunteers who are FA qualified along with safeguarding and first aid qualifications. The Club will also welcome its first senior team in 2016/17 adding to the 16 happy teams of girls and boys.

**BEDLINGTON TOWN F.C.**

**PAX CHRISTI**  
ST BENET BISCOPE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
A CO-OPERATIVE BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE COLLEGE

**NEWCASTLE UNITED FOUNDATION**  
Building a Second Future

**FUTURE STAR**  
**4-5**

**Soccer Tots!**

Bedlington Town FC has teamed up with St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy and Newcastle United Foundation coaches to expand their popular "Soccer Tots" programme to provide fun football skills for kids ages 4 - 5 in a safe environment

**10AM SATURDAY**   **ALL ABILITIES**   **ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS**

**RECEPTION & YEAR 1**   **FREE TASTER SESSION**   **HURRY SPACES ARE LIMITED!**

email: [info@bedlingtontownfc.org](mailto:info@bedlingtontownfc.org)

Sessions are held at St Benet Biscop Catholic Academy, Ridge Terrace, Bedlington, Northumberland NE22 6ED

<https://www.facebook.com/bedlingtontown/>   [@bedlingtontown](https://twitter.com/bedlingtontown)



## Bedlington Fair 2015

Sunday 23rd August saw us once again bring Bedlington Front Street to life with our Town Fair. Many thanks to Paul Taylor and John Houghton for helping to organise such an outstanding event.

Crissy Rock opened it for us and afterwards spent time with everyone who wanted to talk to her. What a consummate professional.

The Fair was an outstanding success with many thousands of people attending and the most positive comments coming back into our office. This is something we obviously want to do again but at the time of writing this it is clear the footprint of this year's fair will be vastly different as we can't use the Gap Site because of the Tesco redevelopment. Further details will be made available as soon they are known on the Council website.

**Bedlington**  
**Town Fair**

**The Fabulous CRISSY ROCK**  
Star of  
"Benidorm" and "I'M A CELEBRITY GET ME OUT OF HERE!"

Will appear as our very special guest On Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August  
11.00 am until 4.00 pm Come along for a Great Day out for the whole family

**Bedlington Front Street**  
**LIVE MUSIC & Fun and Games on Stage**  
Street Entertainment . Fun Fair Rides  
Classic Bikes and Cars  
Local Community Groups  
Small Animal Petting Area  
Arts and Crafts Stalls  
Great Food and much More...

**A FREE BUS SERVICE PROVIDED BY WAT BUS WILL BE RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE DAY FROM: CHOPPINGTON . GUIDEPOST . STAKEFORD AND BEDLINGTON STATION**

**This Event has been Supported by West Bedlington Town Council**

And managed By Community Works

For More Information Contact Paul Taylor at [Communityworks@sky.com](mailto:Communityworks@sky.com) or 01670 363994

# COMMUNITY GRANTS

West Bedlington Town Council has a 'Community Chest' scheme which gives local voluntary groups and organisations a chance to bid for funding.

This might be to help establish a new group or to carry out extra activities that they wouldn't otherwise be able to do - e.g. sporting activities, arts, music or craft group, new equipment for a youth club - but these ideas will be coming from the community themselves.

To qualify for an award the applicant must be able to demonstrate clearly that any funding from West Bedlington Town Council will benefit the Town, or residents of the Town.

Grant applications will be dealt with by the Full Council. In determining the validity of an application, the Council will refer to the following guidelines:

Applications will be considered for the following purposes:

- For the purpose of purchasing equipment or materials either in part or in full.
- For the purchase of services e.g. venue hire or transport that will enable group members to partake in a group trip or outing regardless of their incomes.
- For running costs (but not wages) of a viable group that is experiencing a period of hardship.
- For the provision of recreational activities and facilities.
- For activities that raise the profile of the area.

There is £5,000 available for community grants in the current financial year.

Application forms are available from the Council's web page or from the Council's Office



## Brass Band Concert 2015

On the 5th of September last year the Town Council commissioned a Brass Band Concert which was held at our bandstand in Attlee Park.

An outstanding day was reported by all who attended as several bands came to play and entertain all present.

Thanks to everyone who attended the event, and our event sponsor Mr Ken Beattie of Techflow Group.

## The Garden Association Shop

Open Saturdays and Sundays - 10am to 12pm only

For the sale of Compost, Fertilisers, Weed & Bug Killers, Poultry Feed Pots, Canes etc.

Find us at:

### The Old Scout Hut

Behind Burdon Terrace/Deanery Street (between The Wharton Public House and Swarland Motor Parts)



## Northumberland Live 2016

Northumberland Live in Bedlington will take over the beautiful setting of Gallagher Park, where families will be able to stay for the full day and even bring along a picnic.

Asides from the music there will be a fun selection of family entertainment and things to do from street theatre through to stalls selling locally-made goodies.

The organisers have some other big announcements up their sleeves so watch this space.

Councillor Val Tyler, Cabinet Member for Arts, Leisure and Culture at Northumberland County Council said: "Northumberland Live in Bedlington promises to be great event. Events and festivals are a proven way of highlighting an area as being a great place to live, work or setup business; whilst also providing an opportunity for communities to celebrate together.

"With live music, street theatre and family entertainment - it should be a day both for the residents of Bedlington and visitors to enjoy.





# Chester Court Easter Eggstravaganza

If you didn't get a chance to visit Chester Court Residential home over the Easter weekend you missed a real treat, Pam Towers the Manager arranged an Easter Egg competition for residents, staff and their families and they responded with a fantastic array of entries from traditionally decorated eggs to undersea Egg divers and Egg's driving cars to name but a few.

I was delighted to be asked to go along and judge the entries and was really surprised by the number of entries and the obvious effort, time and imagination that had gone into producing the eggs. To ensure fairness all the entries were anonymised and laid out to view.

After much deliberation I awarded the following, first, second, third and fourth places:



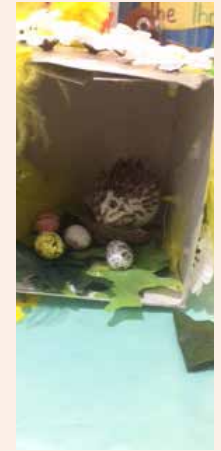
First Place  
Joanne Towers



Second Place  
Angela Egan



Third Place  
Shelia Rochester



Fourth Place  
Sarah Walton

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

You can attend Town Council meetings (usually the second Thursday of the month at Bedlington Community Centre at 6:30pm)

Before each Town Council meeting there will be a 15 minute open Session. The Chair will invite members of the public present to put questions to, or draw relevant matters to the attention of the Council prior to commencement of business.

Council and Committee Meeting Diary

All meeting dates are subject to Council approval

Provisional dates for 2016/2017 are shown in the table below.



Year	Month	Full Council 6.30PM	Services Committee 6.00PM
2016	June	9	23
2016	July	14	28
2016	August	11	25
2016	September	8	22
2016	October	13	27
2016	November	10	24
2016	December	8	22
2017	January	12	26
2017	February	9	23
2017	March	9	2
2017	April	6	27

# Bedlington Voice

## Bedlington's Youth Council



West Bedlington Town Council have always been keen to listen to resident views and as part of that interaction decided to set up a Youth Council so the views, hopes and aspirations of our younger community members could also be given a voice.

Commissioning Leading Link to facilitate this new improvement in community interaction the Mayor and Deputy Mayor have been working closely with the younger members of this new group and both agree what a fantastic bunch of youngsters we have here and ones who are truly exceptional ambassadors for their respective schools.

One of the first real tasks was to get them to produce lists of their wants and needs as far as developing the Town goes. We also asked what sort of things did they do now. Not only did we get lists off them personally they also petitioned all of their schools too, so now we have a very in depth directory based on popularity of choice by over 500 of our youngsters.

WBTC is pleased to welcome this new addition to our representative processes and a big vote of thanks to....

Ryan Fisher, Charlotte Standring, Emily Gair and Lewis Cochrane (Meadowdale); Lily Donaldson and Georgia Dunn (St Bede's); Katie Thornton and Aiden Forrest (Whitley



Memorial; and Hannah Lott and Sam Livingstone (West End).

Not only did we put together a youth council (Youth Voice) for our youngest members we also included our older young people too. The age range these young people represent is 11-18yrs. Again I am overwhelmed by their zeal and commitment as not only did they take part in a presentation to council and our Town Champion, Mr Dean Jackson who I know was also suitably impressed, they have also done their own in depth study into what their age range would like to see available in Bedlington.

Once again here are those unadulterated lists with the most voted for first:

Fast Food 231, Cinema 182, Social space

130, Bowling 129, Open Air Sports 83, Swimming pool 74, Fast Food restaurant 64 with 40 others.

Lesser votes were recorded for, Zoo 1, shooting range 1, Soup kitchen 1, Indoor sport 1, Astroturf 1, trampolining 9, Paintball 10, Asda 1, Arcade 2, Hospital 1, Comic book store 1 and better transport links 11.

What can't be stressed enough is that this represents well over 900 votes but coupled with the 500 plus from the younger group too, we can see for the first time ever what the vast majority of our youngsters would like to see available in Bedlington. As they will become the users for whatever is built here I would advise anyone who is currently working, or who will work, on Bedlington redevelopment to take their suggestions seriously!

Many thanks for your hard work, Charlotte McAndrew, Patrick Shields, Meagan Leightley, Lydia Barrass, Emily Wallace, Aidan Wallace and John Strassenburgh. Again you are a credit to your school, your family and your Town, well done!

## Regular Classes at the community centre

### Monday

**5pm - 6pm Kids Freestyle Dance Age 3+ yrs**

Contact Joanne Gray at Dance Delicious (North) on 07889 464 039 or email [xjoanne\\_geex@hotmail.com](mailto:xjoanne_geex@hotmail.com)

**7.30pm - 9pm Bedlington Sings Community Choir**

### Tuesday

**4.30pm - 5pm Tiny Tots Age 2/3 yrs**

cost £3 contact Laura [lilijanesod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lilijanesod@hotmail.co.uk)

**5pm - 6pm Mini Stars 4+ yrs**

cost £3 contact Laura [lilijanesod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lilijanesod@hotmail.co.uk)

**7pm - 8.30pm Community Brass Band Practice**

Northumberland Music Partnership  
01670 824039

### Wednesday

**10am - 11am Pilates**

cost £4 contact Gill Glass on  
07742 885165 or just turn up

**7pm - 8.30pm Yoga**

cost £7 per class or £36 for 6 weeks  
contact Pauline on 07969 887561 or  
email [pauline@prana-yoga.co.uk](mailto:pauline@prana-yoga.co.uk)

### Thursday

**11.30am - 12.30pm Ukulele**

cost £18 for 6 weeks contact Diane  
on 07950 406223 or email  
[dianerobson2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dianerobson2003@yahoo.co.uk)

**5pm - 7pm Slimming World**

contact Jill Heslop on 07906 896166

**8pm - 10pm Modern Jive for beginners**

cost £4 per class (no partner required)  
contact Sue Rowley on 07971 909083 or  
[dancingforcharity@gmail.com](mailto:dancingforcharity@gmail.com)

### Saturday

**10am - 11am Brass Band Practice**

1st Saturday of the month

Some classes run term time only - please  
call the relevant numbers above to check!

# International Relations

## Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité

In the face of that horrific terrorist attack in Paris back in November I wrote offering our condolences and support to the Mayor of Paris. Here is that correspondence:

### Chère Madame,

Le Conseil Municipal et les résidents de Bedlington, Northumberland (Angleterre) se joignent à moi pour exprimer nos condoléances aux familles des victimes, au gouvernement et aux Parisiens à ce moment tragique. Nous exprimons également notre solidarité dans le combat contre le terrorisme. Votre combat est le nôtre. Veuillez croire, chère Madame, en l'expression de nos sentiments les meilleurs.

**Malcolm Robinson**

And a reply, thanking us, came back:

### Dear Mayor,

You conveyed to Anne Hidalgo your deep emotion after the tragic events that took place in our capital. The Mayor of Paris sincerely thanks you for your expression of sympathy towards the relatives of the victims of these alarming acts and French people.

Less than a year after the appalling attacks of this past January, Paris is again bathed in blood by an outburst of bestial violence devoid of the slightest hint of human feeling - a violence that reflects the hatred of life and the detestation of freedom.

On Friday evening it is in neighbourhoods where all generations, all languages, all cultures are coexisting that the terrorists tried to impose silence through weapons.

In order to show her solidarity with the victims and her total condemnation of these horrendous acts, Anne HIDALGO convened the Paris Council on Monday morning to allow Paris elected representatives to render a solemn homage to the victims and to join together in the defence of democracy in the face of barbarity.

**Sincerely, The Office of the Mayor of Paris**

Regrettably I had another letter to write this time offering our condolences to the Mayor and people of Brussels as they confronted their own worst fears.

### Yvan Mayeur, Bourgmestre du Brussels.

Une fois de plus nous nous trouvons à écrire une lettre de sympathie pour un autre de nos amis européens face à de telles attaques barbares et brutales.

Je vous écris au nom du conseil municipal et les résidents de Bedlington dans le Northumberland pour offrir nos sincères condoléances à toutes les personnes touchées par ces actes atroces contre des cibles civiles.

Nos pensées et nos prières sont avec vous pendant que vous reconstruisez votre belle ville.

**Malcolm Robinson**

I hope that's the last one we ever need to write!



# WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

## COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS



**David Graham**

Central

32 Ravensworth Street, Bedlington, NE22 7JP  
01670 828907  
david.graham@westbedlington.org.uk



**Christine Taylor**

Central

3 High Ridge, Bedlington, NE22 6EF  
07591 621 238  
christine.taylor@westbedlington.org.uk



**Jim Tyler**

Central

4 Hirst Villas, Bedlington, NE22 5QQ  
jim.tyler@westbedlington.org.uk



**Simon Tyler**

Central

98 Burnside, Bedlington, NE22 7JJ  
07455 099959  
simon.tyler@westbedlington.org.uk



**Joe Dobie**

Park Road

12 Hollymount Avenue, Bedlington, NE22 5AJ  
01670 824113  
joe.dobie@westbedlington.org.uk



**Keith Dalton**

West

8 Forster Avenue, Bedlington, NE22 6EP  
01670 825858  
keith.dalton@westbedlington.org.uk



**Paul Hedley**

West

19 Shields Road, Hartford Bridge, Bedlington, NE22 6AN  
01670 530566  
paul.hedley@westbedlington.org.uk



**Adam Hogg**

West

14 North Ridge, Bedlington, NE22 6DE  
07572 912 485  
adam.hogg@westbedlington.org.uk



**Malcolm Robinson**

West

23 Ridge Terrace, Bedlington, NE22 6ED  
07564 517 735  
malcolm.robinson@westbedlington.org.uk

## OFFICE

You can contact the Town Council office by post, telephone or email.

### By Post:

Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5TT

### Telephone

(01670) 457070

### E-mail

westbedlingtontowncouncil@gmail.com

### Office Opening times:

The office is generally open Monday Wednesday and Friday (9.00am - 5.00pm) - However and regrettably due to staffing levels we cannot guarantee any fixed opening times.

We would advise that in the first instance you contact us via telephone or email and we will endeavour to answer your query or if you prefer we can arrange an appointment at the office.

## OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Allotments
- Bus Shelters
- Children's Play Areas
- Grit Bins - if the County Council won't supply the Town Council may supply
- Litter Bins
- Public Seating
- War Memorials
- Christmas Lights
- Christmas Tree
- Notice board Provision
- Flower beds and bulb planting
- Town gateway features
- Additional grass cuts - The County Council does not cut grass in April and October so we may pay for additional grass cuts in those months
- Any entry into the Northumbria in Bloom completion
- Support of Community Events.

All other local Council Services (e.g. Housing, Refuse Collection, Council Tax and Housing Benefits) are the responsibility of Northumberland County Council.

**www.northumberland.gov.uk** or call **0345 600 6400**

Councillor	Council Sub Committees/Working Group			Number of full Council Meetings attended this year	Number of Services Meetings attended this year
	Services Committee	Finance & Governance	Events & Communications		
Adam Hogg	Deputy Chair	Member	Member	12/12	9/9
Christine Taylor (Deputy)	Chair	Member	Member	11/12	9/9
David Graham	Member	-	Chair	10/12	8/9
Jim Tyler	-	-	-	3/12	Not a member
Joe Doble	Member	-	Member	11/12	6/9
Keith Dalton	Member	Member	Member	12/12	9/9
Malcolm Robinson (Mayor)	Member	Chair	Member	12/12	9/9
Paul Hedley	Member	Member	Member	12/12	9/9
Simon Tyler	-	-	-	5/12	Not a Member

External Groups	Councillor									
	Adam Hogg	Christine Taylor (Deputy)	David Graham	Jim Tyler	Joe Doble	Keith Dalton	Malcolm Robinson (Mayor)	Paul Hedley	Simon Tyler	
Northumberland In Bloom		✓						✓		
Gallagher Park Steering Group						✓	✓			
Friends of Redhouse Farm	✓									
Bedlington Community Centre		✓								
Bedlington Steering Group	✓									
Bedlington Partnership		✓					✓			
Town/Parish Council Liaison Committee							✓			
LMAPS									✓	
NALC						✓				
Joint East/West Council Meetings							✓			
Dr Pit Stakeholders						✓				

# If you go down in the woods today, **YOU'RE IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE!**

## From Leading Link Bedlington

Plessey Woods Country Park is a beautiful and popular Country park within West Bedlington and is favoured by thousands of families and dog walkers. However in April 2016 an exciting creative project was launched in the park which drew thousands of more people from Newcastle and beyond to see the new Plessey Woods Art Trail.

The young people from Leading Link together with professional artists have been working since the Summer of 2015 to create permanent art installations within a one-mile trail.

The installations include Enchanted Hollow, Quarry Henge, Bog House Swamp, Mystical Avenue, OXO, Marra and his Bone, Cherokee Whee, Why Eye, Wood U Play and The Wise One.

In addition to the main art installations there are owls pointing the way around the trail using their wings and many animals and snakes that have been created by the young people are hidden in the trees.

The whole project, a partnership between Leading Link and Northumberland County Council, has been funded by Sita Trust to enable the young people to put their

community project into action and the Foyer Federation have been running a Project Management course alongside to give them the added skill and recognition via certificates for all their hard work. The young people have learned lifelong skills such as event management, willow weaving, wood carving, budgeting, time planning and team work.

Northumberland County Councillor, Valerie Tyler and Kath Nisbet, the County Councils Civic Head officially opened the art trail on 2nd April 2016. Leading Link and the young people organised family activities to make the event a great day out for all the family. Despite the rain and the mud, over a thousand still turned out and again the following day.

Due to the overwhelming interest in the lantern parades an additional two



more were added over the holidays and were very well received with people saying it was magical to see the trail in this way. Over the year, there will be more opportunities to experience this.

John Percival from the Foyer Federation said, "Staff and young people from Leading Link should be immensely proud of what they have achieved with this project. Hundreds of young people have been engaged throughout the process from the initial idea right through to installation of their piece. The results are an amazing creative space and resource for the local community to use for many years to come. This is another example of young people showing what talent they have and why we should continue to invest in young people in the future"

Bedlington has a great new tourist attraction on their doorstep and the council and Leading Link hope that the trail will continue to be added to over the years. Already there is a chance for the community to 'make their mark in the park' as the public are being invited to paint their own rounded cobble stone (approximately 9cm big) and drop it into the Lodge before May 15th. These stones will then become part of 'Cobbled Avenue', the fourteenth art installation within the trail.

The art installations are permanent and can be seen anytime and most can be seen from the bridle paths for disabled access.



# 2015 EVENTS

## A Review by Chair of Communications and Events Working Group - Councillor David Graham

Before looking forward to this year's up and coming events let's take a brief look back at our 2015 events.

On the 16th of August 2015 the Council held its inaugural dog show, which took place on the 20 acres field. We appreciate that this event which was not advertised as well as we would of liked (please see our plans for this year's event) but nevertheless still created a fair level of interest from competitors' and spectators alike.

The overall winner of the show was Debra Dolby with her Labra Doodle named Poppy who received their trophy from our kind sponsors Keith and Emma Fitzsimmons of Synergy Health Care of Front Street Bedlington.

The Council's second event in last year's calendar was the eagerly awaited street fair, which took place on a very sunny Sunday 23rd August 2015. (Note weather courtesy of the Council and a further sunny day has been pre booked for this year's event - fingers crossed). The day got off to a great start with television celebrity Chrissy Rock of "I'm a celebrity get me out of

here" and "Benidorm" fame formally opening the event.

It was a great day, enjoyed by many with a varied programme of entertainment, trade stands, fairground equipment, musical acts and displays of cars and motorcycles for all to enjoy. The event was very well supported and the Council would like to place on record its thanks to all those residents and visitors who attended in such large numbers.

Thanks to Paul Taylor and his team at Community Works for putting on such a memorable day.

On a cool and overcast September morning Atlee Park was brightened by the sound of brass from the Council's first Brass Band Concert. The concert was a great success attracting residents and visitors together with brass enthusiasts from as far away as South Yorkshire. The day consisted of six local bands, performing their own musical sets to a hardy audience, who despite the inclement weather thoroughly remained upbeat and enthusiastic throughout the whole day. Many thanks for perseverance to all those who came along on the

day, hopefully this year's weather will be kinder. The Council would like to thank Northumberland Brass Band Association for managing and promoting the concert on its behalf, and finally the Council would like to express its sincere thanks to Mr Ken Beattie of Techflow Group for his sponsorship of the event.

Finally on Friday 4th December 2015, a cold but dry day with a forecast of exceptionally high winds the Council hosted its annual Christmas Lights Switch on Event. Regrettably the planned Christmas Market was a victim of the expected high winds and it was decided to cancel the erection of market stalls for safety reasons at a late stage which was a great disappointment to the Council. Nevertheless the rest of the event continued as planned with a great night of entertainment. We were treated to shows from local dance groups and the professional entertainment. There was a free give away of selection boxes to children from a special guest with a white beard wearing a red suit. The Council would like to express its thanks to Leah Bell of Entertainment Unlimited for making the event so successful.

---

## BEDLINGTON SALVATION ARMY - COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

Hartford Road West, Bedlington, 01670 829356  
[bedlington@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:bedlington@salvationarmy.org.uk)

Home league—a varied programme, including guest speakers Mondays 2-3pm

- Parent & Toddlers—Tuesdays 12.45-2.45pm, Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.15-11.15am (call for places).
- Luncheon Club—two course meal for people over 60. Wednesdays 12.15-1.30pm (call for places).
- Over 60s—a relaxed meeting for both men and women.

Wednesdays 1.30-2.30pm

- Games Club—open to all ages. Wednesdays 1.30-2.30pm.
- Seated Aerobics—a gentle exercise workout for all ages. Wednesdays 2.30-3.30pm.

Ladies' Fellowship—open to all ladies. Monthly on 1st Wednesday of the Month. Please call for details.

- Men's Fellowship—open to all men. Monthly on 3rd Wednesday of the month. Please call for details.
- Film Club—open to all ages. Every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month 5.30pm. Please call for details.
- Film Club Afternoon—aimed at adults. Every 2nd & 4th Thursday of the month 2pm. Please call for details.
- Cameo Club—a craft club for all ages. Thursdays 2-4pm.
- The Soup Spot - drop in for tea & coffee, soup & roll with hot/cold pudding. Every Friday 11am-1.30pm

