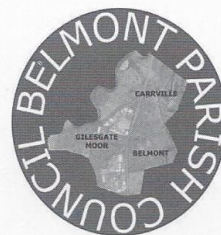


NEWSLETTER

Belmont Parish Council



SUMMER 2017

CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION

Every year, Belmont Parish Council organises an Art Competition for all the primary school children in the parish. The children were, as always, very enthusiastic and the standard of the artwork on the theme of "Natural World" was very high. Judging such varied and attractive pictures was extremely difficult. The Award Ceremony took place on the 22nd of June in Belmont Library and the prizes were awarded by the Mayor, Councillor Bill Kellet, accompanied by the Mayoress, Councillor Jean Chaplow. From each school the individual winners won a gift voucher and the overall winners in each of four age groups were rewarded with plants for their schools.



BELMONT PARISH COUNCIL LEADING THE WAY ON SPEED CONTROL

In our Spring 2017 newsletter we reported that Parish Councillors had given permission to have 20mph speed limits and 20mph speed zones in all residential areas within the Parish and three speed indicators. The initial public consultation has been concluded and there were no objections to the scheme moving forward. The Parish Council have therefore instructed the County Council, who have designed and will be installing the signage and road markings, to go ahead with the scheme.

Residents have questioned the difference between 20mph speed limits and 20mph speed zones – to clarify:

20 mph Speed Limits: These involve 20 mph traffic signs only. They are suitable for residential estate roads and side streets, where the nature of the road tends to result in naturally low average speeds of less than 24 mph.

20 mph Speed Zones: These involve 20 mph traffic signs plus traffic calming measures to ensure that the 20 mph limit is self-enforcing.

In order that drivers are aware of the zones, traffic signs must be erected at every entrance/exit to the zone.

20mph limits and zones are not just road safety measures. When assessing their value and effectiveness, it is important to consider increases in walking and cycling and improvements in quality of life indicators, such as health improvements, community cohesion and better air quality, as well as reductions in vehicle speeds and road accidents and casualties. A strict new set of rules that came into force on April 24th could see fines for those caught significantly over the limit increase by up to 50%

There will also be speed indicators on the High Street in Carrville, one on Broomside Lane, Belmont and also on Sunderland Road in Gilesgate which have been supported by the Police and Police Crime Commissioner.

LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

Thank you to all applicants who put their names forward as candidates to stand for Belmont Parish Council in the wards of Belmont, Carrville and Gilesgate Moor. The following members were successful. Thank you for taking the time to vote:

Belmont Ward:

Eric Mavin
Sandra Lowes
Rosemary Murphy
Eileen Finlay
Philip Langley

Carrville Ward:

Barbara Howarth
Lesley Mavin
John Appleby
James Sykes
Oli Wear

Gilesgate Moor Ward:

Sydney Inglis
Dennis Southwell
June Corrigan
Maurice Leggott
Stephen White

PARISH PLANNING DEVELOPMENT

In recent months there have been several applications to change the type of use of units in retail and industrial centres in the parish. These have brought premises back into use that have been standing empty for some time, helping with regeneration and offering new facilities. The parish council has usually viewed such development as beneficial.

We did raise concerns and object to an application to allow a sales office for a car trading company to operate from Dragonville Retail Park. Although sales, and the number of cars standing on the shopping parking lot, were expected to be limited, we considered the introduction of car dealership into a retail shopping area to be inappropriate and additional car movements unacceptable in such a busy car park. However, the application was approved by Durham County Council Planning Department.

Parish Councils can express opinions on planning applications but the decisions are made by Durham County Council. DCC Planning applications can be viewed at – County Durham Planning, Public Access, and representation can be made by any member of the public.

NORTHUMBRIA IN BLOOM

The Northumbria in Bloom judges visit the parish twice a year. In April they seemed very pleased with spring planting and gardening throughout the area and the early summer judging also went very well. Our special gardening and wild life groups always do us proud and we are ever grateful to our dedicated cemetery contractor and his team, who also produce such attractive flower beds across the parish. We would also like to thank the many residents who take pride in their gardens and floral displays and make the parish such a pleasant place to live. Last year Belmont Parish won silver gilt in the Northumbria in Bloom competition and this year we are hoping to do even better.

BELMONT WAR MEMORIAL

The Friends of Belmont War Memorial are researching the possibility of additional dedications to recognise the sacrifice of victims of war whose names have not been inscribed on the memorial. This is time consuming and sensitive work and we will update you with the outcomes of decisions as appropriate.

REFURBISHED FACILITIES BUT SAME OLD PRICES

Belmont Community Centre has continued its improvement programme throughout the year thanks to a wide range of funding successes and solid hard work.

Enquiries for bookings for Parties, meetings, social events and Badminton to
Sue Smith on **0191 386 6659**

Council Office : Belmont Community Centre, Sunderland Road, Gilesgate Moor, DURHAM, DH1 2LL
Open 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Monday to Friday. Tel 0191 386 0664 Email belmontpc@btconnect.com

NEW ACTIVITY EQUIPMENT

Belmont Parish Council works tirelessly to improve the area we live in.

The playground development committee under the umbrella of the parish council have just spent £35,000 to improve the play areas in our parish, including installing new gym equipment at Moorfield. We are very lucky to have such thought provoking and up-to-date equipment for all ages of people to use. However, a small minority of young individuals have been going around doing their best to litter the play areas and break equipment. However, we assure you we will carry on working hard to improve and maintain the play areas.



CHANGES IN ENFORCEMENT POWERS FOR IRRESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS

On 1st June 2017, a new public space protection order (PSPO) for dog control came into effect. Before implementation, the County Council carried out a consultation in late 2016, and eighty per cent supported the order, agreeing that it would promote responsible dog ownership.

The new PSPO details that it is an offence in County Durham if you:

- Allow a dog to foul without picking it up
- Allow a dog to stray (allowing a dog to wander without a responsible owner)
- Fail to put a dog on a lead when asked to do so by an authorised person (council staff, neighbourhood warden or a police officer)
- Allow dogs in designated fenced off play areas (where the area is completely contained by a fence and gate)

Neighbourhood wardens, trained council staff and police officers will have the power to issue a fixed penalty notice of £100 for breaching any of the above aspects. This is reduced to £60 if paid within a fortnight. If not paid, the council will take the offender to court and prosecute, where the maximum fine issued is £1000. Prosecution may also occur for repeat offenders or serious offences. The only exemptions to this PSPO apply to those who use trained assistance dogs.

More information regarding this PSPO is available at www.durham.gov.uk/dogcontrol where any breaches of the PSPO can also be reported.

BAT WALK ON THE SCRAMBLES

Late on a pleasant summer's evening a couple of weeks ago a group of 30 local residents, including many youngsters, enjoyed a fascinating bat walk on Belmont Scrambles.

Organised by Alistair Lockett from the National Trust, who fielded questions about bats and then loaned out special detectors, enabling the bats' radar-like calls to be picked up. Asked later how his family had enjoyed the evening, one father replied "brilliant!"

JUST TO SAY:-

CARRVILLE & BELMONT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Meets at 6.00 p.m. at

BROOMSIDE LANE COMMUNAL HALL

Every second Thursday of the month (excluding August)

Everyone welcome, so why not call in to discuss local issues and share ideas for activities.

For details contact **Eric Mavin** on **0191 386 9031**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please support our local events

Belmont Parish Hall

Christmas Fayre Saturday 18th November 2017

Bad Apple Theatre Company Saturday 9th December 2017

"The Elves and the Carpenter"

Details from website: **www.belmontparishhall.org.uk**

or by contacting **Harriet Pritchard** on **0191 384 8348**

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
Dates for Parish Council Meetings held in Belmont Community Centre at 6.30 p.m. (first Thursday of the month, excluding August) Next meetings on: 7 th September 2017 5 th October 2017 Members of the public are welcome to attend.	<i>Durham County Council</i> 03000 260 000
	<i>General enquiries</i>
	<i>Highways, Lighting</i> 03000 261 000
	<i>and Streetscene</i>
	<i>County Council Help Desk</i> 0300 123 7070
	Community Police Officer Can be contacted on the police non-emergency number 0345 606 0365 <i>Web</i> www.durham.gov.uk <i>Email</i> help@durham.gov.uk

Parish Councillors

Belmont Area		Carrville Area		Gilesgate Moor Area	
Eric Mavin	386 9031	Barbara Howarth	384 2224	Sydney Inglis	384 6023
Eileen Finlay	386 9754	Lesley Mavin	386 9031	Dennis Southwell	386 4838
Philip Langley	384 8421	John Appleby	375 0371	June Corrigan	659 1014
Rosemary Murphy	07747 077690	James Sykes	07418148946	Stephen White	680 6602
Sandra Lowes	386 1185	Oli Wear	07761042221	Maurice Leggott	386 1892

PARISH COUNCIL INFORMATION

To find out more about what's going on in the parish, read the minutes of our monthly meetings
& see the agendas for upcoming ones then visit our website at
parishes.durham.gov.uk/Belmont

Parish Clerk Mrs S. Overton 0191 386 0664

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