

## BELMONT PARISH COUNCIL

# NEWSLETTER

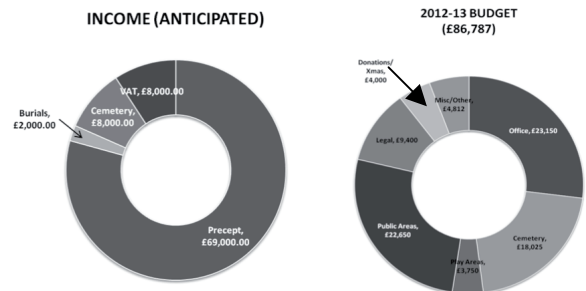
Winter 2012

### 2012-13 Parish Precept

The Parish Council has agreed to a precept of £69,000 – unchanged from 2011-12.

Additional income of £18,000 (£8,000 double taxation refund from Durham County Council for Cemetery), £8,000 VAT recovery and £2,000 burial fees is expected to bring the income to £87,000.

A budget of £86,000 for 2012-13 has been agreed.



### ◆ Change of Venue for Parish Council Meetings ◆

**Future meetings of Belmont Parish Council are to be held at Belmont Community Centre, on the first Thursday of the month (excepting August), at 6.30p.m.**

The council agenda covers a wide range of topics. Members of the public are always welcome to attend.

Local Police Officers and Neighbourhood Warden, Tom Walton regularly attend Belmont Parish Council meetings where they give reports and answer questions from councillors and members of the public. Why not come along?

### Play Areas

We are in the final phases now of updating all the play areas in the parish. Cheveley Park's revamp will probably start in April, the bottom end of Moorfield is nearing completion and we are in the planning stages for work to be carried out at Ashdown Avenue and Poplar Drive. Members of the playground committee have worked really hard over the last couple of years to make sure the play areas in our parish are up to date and are able to be enjoyed by everyone who visits them.

### Belmont Cemetery Improvements

Work on the extension of Belmont Cemetery is almost complete with just grass seeding to do when the weather is warm enough. A new notice board has been erected giving a much smarter appearance to the entrance and an additional seat has been installed near the area reserved for the burial of ashes. In recent weeks all other seats in the cemetery have been painted. The small building known as the Robing Room has been tidied up with painting of the door and rear wall. More attention is planned for screening and planting behind the Robing Room in the spring.

### Special Traffic Meeting

A recent special Parish Council meeting gave councillors and residents alike the opportunity to ask a Durham County Council Senior Traffic Engineer about traffic concerns in our parish.

Many of the questions and issues raised came from the Public Survey reported in the Draft Parish Plan. These were wide ranging. They will stay on record and be followed up as the Parish Plan progresses.

Some issues discussed are to be actioned by the DCC officer and others to be followed up by the Parish Council in association with Durham County Council or the police. We will report on outcomes in subsequent Newsletters or through the Parish Plan.

## Planning Applications

Whilst the Parish Council has a consultative role on planning matters, Durham County Council is the decision maker.

There have been a number of significant Planning Applications since the last Newsletter and thanks to all of you who attended Parish Council Meetings to input your concerns.

APPLICANT	PROJECT	PARISH COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION	COUNTY COUNCIL PLANNING COMMITTEE
Ramside	Outline application for 34 dwellings	Refusal.	Minded to approve.
Petch	New Showroom, Belmont Road	2 metre minimum height of layering to hedge. Hedge to slip road/Belmont Road to be left untouched.	Approved. <i>(Subject to hedge remaining untouched)</i>
7 Warwickshire Drive	Variation of planning approval conditions	Refusal.	Approved. <i>(Significant conditions retained).</i>
Land Adjacent 81 High Street	Alter style of windows	Approved.	Approved. <i>(Noted – conditions not yet complied with).</i>
Durham County Council	Extension to Belmont Park and Ride	Parish Council not informed of planning application.	Approved.
Elvet BMW and Mini	Formation of Car Park	Concerned at demolition of trees.	Pending. <i>(Tree Preservation Order recommended)</i>
15 Leicestershire Drive	Erection of 1.8 metre high fence	Refusal	Pending

### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

WFS Telecom	Mobile phone mast at Broomside Lane (Belmont Road)	Urge relocation to rear service road.	Moving mast would compromise coverage.
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Your Parish Council is passionate about community involvement and has established a Planning Committee to draft responses as resolved by the Parish Council and react to important planning matters between Council meetings.

### THINK CHEVELEY

Over the next five months some 40 students at Belmont Community School will be helped to develop community projects and improve their skills and business awareness by Melody Hossaini of InspirEngage International.

PC Waheed Mughal invited Melody to become involved in the scheme which he expects will bring benefits to the whole community. The project is funded by Belmont County Councillors, the Safe Durham Partnership and Durham Agency Against Crime.

Melody Hossaini reached week ten of the last series of the popular BBC show *The Apprentice* in which people compete for a placement or partnership with Lord Alan Sugar.

### Aladdin's Lamp brought Christmas Cheer to Senior Citizens



Once again Belmont Parish Council was pleased to be able to hold its Senior Citizens Christmas Party at Belmont Community School.

The afternoon started with an excellent, bright and breezy production of Aladdin. The music and humour delighted the audience and there were many congratulations in appreciation of the work and

talent that had gone into the production.

Residents were also very complimentary about the kindness and consideration of students helping to serve the buffet tea which followed the panto. Not only were they courteous and efficient but they showed great warmth and care in their assistance to guests.

So on behalf of Belmont Parish Council and senior residents of the parish 'Well done and many thanks Belmont Community School!'

## Dog fouling



Ask about people's concerns in any residential area, and dog fouling invariably comes high on the list. The majority of owners responsibly clear up after their dogs, but a small less considerate minority decline to do so.

### **The Legal Position**

The law states that owners are obliged to pick up after their dogs in all residential areas and open spaces (in our Parish this includes Moorfield and Belmont Scrambles). Otherwise they risk being issued with a fixed penalty notice of £80 or prosecuted and fined up to

£1000. *Wardens makes patrols in our Parish, and fixed penalty notices have already been issued.*

**Free dog bags are provided for the use of all local residents by Belmont Parish Council and are available at Belmont Library and Belmont Parish Office in Belmont Community Centre.**

### **Health Hazards**

Apart from being disgusting and smelly, dog faeces can cause Toxicariasis, an extremely distressing illness, especially in young children. Dog dirt can easily be brought into a house on a shoe or the wheel of a pram, and if a young child is crawling around on a carpet...

### **What can YOU do?**

1) If you are a dog owner, please ensure that you always carry bags with you and always pick up after your dog. Better still, join the **Green Dog Walkers** scheme – leaflets are on display at Belmont Library, Belmont Community Centre, and other centres. If you ask someone else to walk your dog, make sure that they will also pick up.

2) If dog fouling is a problem in your particular area, report this to the police using the non-emergency number

**03000 26 0000**

If you know an owner who allows their dog to foul, report this to the police using the same number, giving as much detailed information as you can. *Such reports will be treated in the strictest confidence.*

Together let's try and eliminate dog fouling from our Parish!

### **Reinstatement following Flood Alleviation Work**

[Report by Northumbrian Water Ltd.]

Construction work is now complete on Northumbrian Water's latest flood protection scheme, to protect more than 90 properties in Belmont and Carrville from flooding.

Work has now started to reinstate roads, footpaths and grassed areas, in accordance with the relevant specifications.

The current status of the work is summarised in the table below:

Area	Current status (as of 19 January 2012)
Brackendale Road compound area	Reinstatement work is complete with the exception of stone picking and the cultivation and seeding of topsoil areas.
Grange Court storage tank area	Reinstatement work is complete with the exception of stone picking and the cultivation and seeding of topsoil areas.
Grinstead Way compound area	(a) Perimeter fencing and all materials have now been removed from this site. Ripping of the subsoil is complete and reinstatement of the topsoil is currently underway. (b) The pavement area around the entrance to the compound will be reinstated, prior to highway reinstatement work. (c) Stone picking and the cultivation and seeding of topsoil areas is still to complete.
Carrsway compound area	Reinstatement work is complete with the exception of stone picking and the cultivation and seeding of topsoil areas.
Dene Drive storage tank area	Some small settlement areas need to be filled in this area, and seeded.

A small compound area has been set up at Grange Court in Carrville, adjacent to the storm water storage tank. This will be used by the contractor while final reinstatement work is taking place.

Northumbrian Water has invested a total of £4.3 million since 2009 to reduce the risk of flooding in the Belmont and Carrville areas, offering protection for more than 170 properties.

The water company would like to thank customers in Belmont and Carrville for the patience and understanding they have shown during this essential work.

Residents can find more detailed information on reinstatement works in their area at [www.belmontflooding.co.uk](http://www.belmontflooding.co.uk).

### Vicar leaves

The Reverend Canon Di Johnson, vicar of St. Mary Magdalene, Belmont, and St. Laurence, Pittington, left at the end of January. On behalf of all in the parish we would like to thank her for her caring work over the past few years and wish her a very happy retirement.

### Carrville Resident Awarded MBE



Ian Crampton, Higher Executive Office at the Durham Passport Office has been awarded the MBE.

With the support of his colleagues and fellow members of Durham City Harriers, during the last 12 years Ian has raised £57,000 for several charities.

The Parish Council congratulate Ian on his achievement.

### Useful Community Numbers to note

Police Non-Emergency <b>101</b> to report non-urgent incidents or ask for information. <b>In an Emergency always ring 999</b>	Environmental Issues – <b>03000 26 0000</b> ◆ <b>this is a new number</b> ◆ to report damage, nuisance or dog fouling incidents.
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### PACT Meetings

Police And Community Together meetings are held:-

<b>Gilesgate/Sherburn</b> 11.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon 1 <sup>st</sup> February 7 <sup>th</sup> March 11 <sup>th</sup> April 9 <sup>th</sup> May 6 <sup>th</sup> June Tesco Restaurant	<b>Belmont/Carrville</b> 6.00 p.m. Second Thursday of each month Communal Hall Broomside Lane (near the Travellers' Rest Pub)
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Members of the public are welcome to raise issues or discuss neighbourhood policing.

### PARISH COUNCILLORS

<u>Belmont Area</u>		<u>Carrville Area</u>		<u>Gilesgate Moor Area</u>	
Eric Mavin	386 9031	Ken Holroyd	386 1627	Tom Baxter	384 9036
Beatrijs Muylaert	375 7844	Barbara Howarth	384 2224	Bill Graham	386 8829
Ken Neat	386 4795	Walter Meikle	386 1966	Maurice Leggott	386 1892
Arthur Walker	384 6282	Christopher Pattinson	375 0964	Dennis Southwell	386 4838
Irene Walker	386 4534	Milly Robinson	386 6839	Les Thomson	386 1052

Parish Clerk – Mrs C. Atkinson

Council Offices: Belmont Community Centre, Sunderland Road, Gilesgate Moor, Durham, DH1 2LL.

Open 9.30 a.m. - 11.30 a.m. Monday to Friday

Tel. 0191 386 0664

Email: [belmontpc@btconnect.com](mailto:belmontpc@btconnect.com)