

NEWSLETTER

Belmont Parish Council



SPRING 2017

SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY AND PANTO AT BELMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

WELL DONE AND MANY THANKS TO BELMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

On behalf of all who attended the senior citizens' Christmas Party and excellent production of Aladdin, Belmont Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to Belmont Community School!

Once again we were treated to a very enjoyable afternoon with first class, talented entertainment, and superb party refreshments provided by school cook Mrs Allison Tindale.



Inclusion and community teacher Mrs Anita Stephen was ever helpful and enthusiastic in her organisation of the event, supported by other members of staff. Guests were full of praise for the care, politeness and efficiency of students who helped serve the refreshments and were a credit to the school.

The assistance of "Friends of Belmont" was much appreciated. The Parish Council held a Free Prize Draw and winners seemed delighted with their prizes.

BELMONT, CARRVILLE AND GILES GATE MOOR IN BLOOM

Belmont Parish Council is looking forward to our participation in Northumbria in Bloom and Beautiful Durham.

We appreciate the efforts of all who work to improve our environment and of residents who maintain attractive and varied gardens. May we encourage you to enter the Beautiful Durham competition; new entrants are always very welcome.

Entry is free and details regarding the 2017 competition will become available on the DCC website (www.durham.gov.uk) in the near future or you can contact the council on 03000 261000.

Children's calendars based on "the living world" have raised £63 for the Great North Air Ambulance – well done to the pupils of our primary schools and Belmont Community School.

BELMONT PARISH COUNCIL LEADS THE WAY ON SPEED CONTROL

Belmont Parish Council leads the way in County Durham in being the only Parish Council to have all its residential estates with a speed limit of 20mph which will be enforceable. There will be signage and road markings on all estates in Belmont, Carrville and Gilesgate Moor. There will also be a speed indicator on the High Street in Carrville, one on Broomside Lane, Belmont, and also on Sunderland Road in Gilesgate Moor.

Residents for many years have complained about cars travelling too fast on our residential roads and Parish through roads. The Parish Chairman took residents' concerns to the Full Council at Durham County Hall and asked questions regarding speed, car emissions, motor bikes, buses and wagons in our Parish. There was support from the Cabinet Member.

Parish Councillors gave permission to move the scheme forward. A meeting took place with County Council Officers regarding all the residential estates from Gilesgate Roundabout through to the Motorway Interchange at Carrville. The Parish Council paid £3,000.00 for a feasibility study which included the full area of Belmont Parish Council (Belmont, Carrville and Gilesgate Moor) and the unparished area of Gilesgate.

The whole area met the criteria for 20mph Zones and 20mph Speed Limits in residential areas. Belmont Parish Council applied for a Grant to achieve 20mph on the residential estates but the H.M.R.C. declined our application because the County Council are the owners of the roads and they should pay for any works. There was a proposal for the Parish Council to progress the whole scheme by using some reserves and obtaining a low interest loan to cover the rest of the cost.

A Named Vote was taken for the 20mph Zones and 20mph Speed Limits and the result was:
Councillors voting **FOR 8** Councillors voting **AGAINST 4**
THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

*For details of named vote see Parish website: belmont.parish.durham.gov.uk
Parish Council Minutes for 1st December 2016 also available at the Parish office.*

Regarding the three Speed Indicators which are to be installed, a named vote was taken.

THE MOTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The 20mph and 30mph schemes both have the full support of Mr Ron Hogg; the Police, Crime and Victims Commissioner for Durham and Mr David Orford Assistant Chief Constable on behalf of Durham Constabulary.

Indications for the scheme are mentioned in the Chairman's Statement for the Budget Precept for 2017/18, the Finance is available.

Such limits are not only self-enforcing but can be enforced by law. It is relevant to note that in High Grange, Gilesgate Moor, where 20mph Speed Limits are in place, a recent "Speed Watch" revealed that approximately one third of vehicles were breaking the speed limit. Drivers recorded as speeding will receive warning letters or fines, dependant on how fast they were travelling. The Parish Council's aim is to bring down the speed of vehicles on our roads to improve road safety and help prevent accidents!

NEW LOOK PARISH WEBSITE

Since it was launched over two years ago our website has become a valuable resource for both residents and visitors to the parish wanting to check on local news and events as well as allowing easy access to the agendas and minutes of Parish Council meetings. Now thanks to recent updates by Durham County Council to make sites more secure we have a new look, easier to use website with an easier to remember web address: **belmont.parish.durham.gov.uk**.

We hope you'll add it to your favourites and if you have any suggestions for improvements or other information please let us know.

PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET AND PRECEPT

2016/17 Budget Precept £74,196.75

2017/18 Budget Precept £76,750.01

Precept increase £2,553.26 (2.01 per cent). After adjustment this increase amounts to 53p per Band "D" property per year.

Belmont Parish Council has always been prudent with any increase in our Precept. Historically we used to receive £8,000.00 from Durham County Council for Double Taxation (because we own Belmont Cemetery), we now receive nothing. The Local Council Grant for 2016/17 was £3,882.00, we will receive £2,632.00 for 2017/18, a reduction of a further £250.00.

The Chairman and Parish Clerk presented a Budget for 2017/18 to the Finance Sub Committee and then to the Full Council for a 2.01 per cent increase in our Precept. The Budget included income from a Loan for £42,000.00

from The Public Works Loan Board at 1.71 per cent over 10 years. This is required with £31,000.00 from Reserves to Finance Belmont Parish Residential areas to be 20 mph zones or 20 mph speed limits. We are also purchasing 3 Speed Indicators, inclusive of supply, fixing and maintenance. Various costings have been increased or reduced in our 2017/18 Budget which includes a yearly repayment for our loan. In a named vote on the Precept increase of 2.01 per cent the outcome was as follows:-

Councillors voting **FOR 8**
Councillors voting **AGAINST 4**
THE MOTION WAS CARRIED.

*For details of named vote see Parish website:
belmont.parish.durham.gov.uk
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also available at the Parish office.*

PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE PARISH

The Parish Council has successfully applied for £46,000.00 to spend on the play areas in our Parish. The money comes from 106 agreement for new housing developments.

CHEVELEY PARK TODDLER PLAY AREA is to have a new sputnik and new climbing apparatus.

POPLAR ROAD CARRVILLE is to have new tarmacked paths, a new seat, and the grid at the entrance will be replaced by a gate.

MOORFIELD TODDLER PLAY AREA will have a new roundabout to replace the old one.

NEXT TO THE MOORFIELD TODDLER PLAY AREA new fitness equipment is to be installed.

POPLAR DRIVE GILESGATE will have some new play equipment.

The Parish Council is very proud of the Play facilities in our Parish and members work hard all year round to maintain and improve them.

FRIENDS OF BELMONT SCRAMBLES

Dog-fouling, which among other things poses a significant health risk, is a significant problem on the Scrambles, and efforts to combat it are being made by spraying dog mess with pink paint, which gives warning of its presence and may hopefully deter owners from allowing their dogs to spoil the environment for other people.

There is an exciting development involving the National Trust. They are currently working with a group of pupils from Belmont Community School on a Green Academy Project, which aims to help young people become more passionate about the environment and their local green spaces. The Trust hopes to arrange for the pupils to work with the Friends of Belmont Scrambles to help protect and enhance this lovely wild-life site.

BELMONT BOWLING CLUB SUNDERLAND ROAD, MOORFIELD, GILESGATE MOOR

Lawn Green Bowls is a sport for all, male or female, young or old, and members of the Belmont Bowling Club are looking forward to the 2017 season with "club friendlies", Inter-club, League and Club Competitions. New members are always very welcome, so why not come along and enjoy an afternoon, evening or weekend of bowling in pleasant surroundings, or for the more competitive, hone your skills in the club competitions in the Durham and District Areas.

Come and join us, our season starts in mid-April through to mid-September. Own equipment not necessary as the use of club equipment on the day is available, with "Free Lessons" and advice always available. If you are interested why not come along to the "Open Weekend" at the start of the season; look out for the dates and times.

Please contact Mrs S. Overton 0191 3860664 @ the Parish Office, opening hours 09:30 – 11:30 Monday – Friday, or Club Members Mr Tom Dixon tel: 0191 3862845

Mrs Christine Budd tel: 0191 3845870

MASTER MUSICIANS AT BELMONT PARISH HALL

The next season of recitals is to begin on Thursdays in Belmont Parish Hall at 2.30pm, doors open from 2.00pm on the following dates:

16 th March	Gulsin Onay, Turkey, Piano
6 th April	Mark Viner, UK, Piano
11 th May	Tyler Hay, Piano, Ben Westgate, Clarinet
1 st June	Bockeng Weng, China, Piano
22 nd June	Giulio Tampalini, Classical Guitar

<p>Dates for Parish Council Meetings held in Belmont Community Centre at 6.30 p.m. (first Thursday of the month, excluding August)</p> <p>Next meetings on: 2nd March 2017 6th April 2017</p> <p>Members of the public are welcome to attend.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</p> <p><i>Durham County Council</i> 03000 260 000 <i>General enquiries</i></p> <p><i>Highways, Lighting and Streetscene</i> 03000 261 000</p> <p><i>Neighbourhood Wardens</i> 03000 261 000</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Police Contacts</p> <p>Non-emergency calls ring 101 Always dial 999 in an emergency</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Web</i> www.durham.gov.uk <i>Email</i> help@durham.gov.uk</p>
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Parish Councillors

<u>Belmont Area</u>		<u>Carrville Area</u>		<u>Gilesgate Moor Area</u>	
Eric Mavin	386 9031	Barbara Howarth	384 2224	Sydney Inglis	384 6023
Beatrijs Muylaert	375 7844	Katie Corrigan	03000 268700	Dennis Southwell	386 4838
Arthur Walker	384 6282	Tom Charlton	386 8557	Patrick Conway	03000 268698
Rosemary Murphy	07747 077690	Joe Knight	3862902	June Corrigan	659 1014
Graham Lundy	07598 960649	Lesley Mavin	3869031	Diane Waggott	386 3701

Parish Office 0191 386 0664