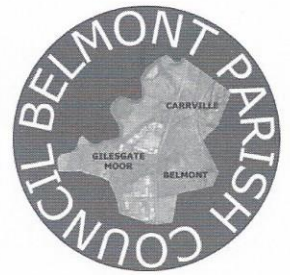


NEWSLETTER

Belmont Parish Council



WINTER 2016

SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY AND PANTO AT BELMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL



SPECIAL THANKS TO BELMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Once again senior citizens were treated to an excellent afternoon of panto fun and Christmas party delights at Belmont Community School. The production of Snow White was highly entertaining and showed the talent and enthusiasm of all concerned.

Special thanks are due this year because in addition to hosting the event, the school provided all of the party refreshments. We are particularly grateful to the newly appointed head teacher, Mr Paul Marsden, and wish him every success here in Belmont. Assistant head teacher, Mrs Anita Stephen, was ever helpful and enthusiastic in her community liaison role and there was great praise for the excellent party food provided 'in house' by school cook Mrs Allison Tindale. The school's 'Friends of Belmont' group also gave much appreciated support and assistance.

As always there was a great deal of praise for the care, politeness and efficiency of the students who helped serve refreshments and look after the guests. They were a credit to the school.

Well done and many thanks from Belmont Parish Council and on behalf of all who attended. Due to the generosity of the school the Parish Council was able to provide a well-stocked free draw and we hope everyone enjoyed their prizes.

CHILDREN'S ART CALENDARS RAISE £45 FOR CHARITY

For a number of years the Parish Council has organised a Children's Art Competition, originating from our involvement with Northumbria in Bloom. One great outcome has been the combining of primary school children's artwork with the reprographic skills of students at Belmont Community School, to produce very attractive calendars for charity.

This year the calendars raised £45 for the Great North East Air Ambulance service, the pupil's chosen charity. We would like to thank all members of the public who made a donation for a calendar and of course all of the children and young people who contributed to their production.

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

PLANNING APPLICATIONS OF NOTE

Application decided since our last edition.

CHEVELEY HOUSE, Brackendale Road, Belmont, Erection of 26 residential dwellings.

Application DM/15/01743/FPA:

The Parish Council objected to the original application and recommended REFUSAL and referral to DCC Committee. They strongly criticised the close proximity of the entrance/exit to the Broomside Lane junction and the number of trees to be removed.

An amended application showed an improved entrance position but we expressed reservation that it was not even further away from the Broomside Lane corner and once again we supported the recommendations to retain more trees.

APPROVED by DCC Committee

Applications still awaiting decision at time of writing

RENNY'S COURT, Gilesgate Moor - Variation of Condition 2 to reduce scale of student accommodation. Application DM/15/02170/VOC by Bam Connislow:

The Parish Council asked for REFUSAL as this application did not involve the demolition of Ernest Place and there would have been no improvement of neighbourhood amenity.

Application - WITHDRAWN

Subsequent application: DM/15/00355/VOC by Studio US (Durham) Ltd:

As this variation encompasses Ernest Place and councillors agreed not to oppose it.

Pending – committee decision

ANGERSTEIN COURT, Broomside Lane, Carrville, Conversion of an Existing Cycle and Maintenance Store into Studio Apartment. Application DM/15/02276/FPA:

The Parish Council strongly objected to this application and asked for it to be REFUSED and referred to DCC Committee.

Pending – committee decision

A690 SPECIALIST CARS LTD. Belmont Bridge, Carrville, Durham. Extension of garage to form workshop. Application DM/15/03186/FPA:

The Parish Council objected on highway safety grounds, loss of onsite parking and parking congestion. They expressed some continuing highway concerns about an amended site plan involving creation of additional parking spaces on grassed verge land.

Pending – delegated decision

The Parish Council welcomes and always considers the views of residents on planning issues. DCC Planning applications can be viewed at – County Durham Planning Public Access and representation can be made.

INFORMATION ABOUT DURHAM CAB

Durham Citizens Advice Bureau is now operating from new offices at 54 North Road Durham DH1 4SF, where the office is open 10am - 4pm Mon to Fri and there are drop in sessions from 10am – 1pm where you don't need an appointment on Mon, Tues or Thurs.

County Durham Debt Advice line: 0300 323 2000 (Mon – Fri, 9am – 1pm)

General Advice line: 03 444 111 444 (Mon – Fri, 10am – 4pm).

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE PARISH WEBSITE

We would still welcome photos for our parish council website, maybe a favourite view, building, winter scene or Belmont in the past. For more information and to find out how best to do this, visit our website - parishes.durham.gov.uk/Belmont

BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2016/17

Budget 2015/16 Precept £72,277.50

Budget 2016/17 Precept £74,196.75

Precept increase £1,919.25 (2.1%) - after adjustment this increase amounts to 55p per Band 'D' household per year.

Residents will appreciate that 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 was projected to be £4,124.00 but we actually only received £3,788.00 for 2015/16. The Local Council Grant projection for 2016/17 is £3,882.00.

There will be an increase in costs for:- Stationary, Telephones, Electricity, Water, Insurance, Printing, BMX Track, Greens (extra cut path edges) and more.

Various other costings have been reduced to accommodate our Budget for 2016/17 and the Budget can be viewed by prior arrangement at the parish office.

PARISH COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR THE D.L.I.

In November the Parish Council sent a letter to Durham County Council expressing support for retention of the D.L.I Museum saying what a tragedy it would be for all who served in the Durham Light Infantry and their families if the museum was to close. Members of the parish council expressed the sincere wish that there could be a positive move forward to preserve the museum on its present prestigious and historic site.

BELMONT, CARRVILLE AND GILESGATE MOOR IN BLOOM

With the first spring flowers starting to raise their heads above the ground, Belmont Parish Council is starting to look forward to spring and summer and our participation in the Northumbria in Bloom and Beautiful Durham competitions. We would however like to look back one more time to honour our residents whose garden were recognised in the Beautiful Durham Competition 2015.

Small Garden: Merit A. Rowell (Belmont) and Merit J. Taylor (Carrville)

Patio Garden: Merit A. Rowell (Belmont)

Allotment and kitchen garden: Winner A. Rowell (Belmont)

Belmont Allotment Club received the Horticultural Award and the Judges Special Discretionary Environmental Award.

Belmont Parish was awarded Best Large Village.

Belmont Parish has an abundance of beautiful gardens and we would like to encourage residents to register for the Beautiful Durham competition in recognition of the hard work they put in throughout the year. The competition is free to enter and details regarding the 2016 competition will become available on the Durham County Council website (www.durham.gov.uk) in the near future. Or if you would prefer to speak to someone, you can contact the council on 03000 261000.

APPRECIATING OUR PARISH

Belmont Parish has much to be appreciated, such as: a range of good quality shops, a post office, library, schools, medical practices, a wide variety of community groups, a number of community meeting places, play facilities and open spaces, good transport links including the park and ride, well established churches, pubs and clubs. This list is not complete, apologies for any omissions, but access to them for ALL of us is vital, but particularly for the elderly and mobility challenged residents. Please show consideration for others, in maintaining this access when we park up.

BELMONT AND CARRVILLE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

We organise many events and activities within the local community, such as: Bus trips, Special events, Theatre trips, Bingo sessions. Promoting our library, Community concerns, Working closely with the police and neighbourhood wardens. Have you any ideas? Would you like to join us? We are a non-political organisation We meet every second Thursday of the month at 6.00p.m. at Communal Hall, Broomside Lane. **Please feel free to pop along!**

'THE THANKFUL VILLAGE'

This is to be performed in Belmont Parish Hall on Saturday 16th April at 7.30pm. Tickets (not yet available) will be available from the Parish Hall later at £8.50 • Tel: 0191 384 8348.

An original comedy – drama by Kate Bramley with songs and music by Jez Lowe. Set against a backdrop of World War 1, the quiet village backwater of Bottledale is changed forever by the advent of the Great War in Europe. But the 'roll of honour' stone in the village square remains empty and un-etched as the years pass, and folk start to wonder. This is a story of hope, humour and humanity.

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR at BELMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

EASTER FAIR - SATURDAY 19th MARCH 11.00AM.TO 2.00PM.
Stalls, paste egg competition, hot and cold food and lots more.

MUSIC RECITALS

The next season of recitals are to begin on Thursdays in Belmont Parish Hall at 2.30pm on the following dates: 10th March, 14th April, 5th May, 23rd June.

The musicians, all with International Status, have still to be confirmed. Master Musicians have commented:-Belmont Parish Hall facilities provide a musical environment of 'recording studio' quality with a Grand Piano and Audiences to match. No need to book – you can pay at the door - £7

<p style="text-align: center;">Dates for Parish Council Meetings</p> <p style="text-align: center;">held in Belmont Community Centre at 6.30p.m. (first Thursday of the month, excluding August)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next meetings on 3rd March 2016 (6.00p.m.) / 7th April 2016 5th May 2016</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Members of the public are welcome to attend.</p> <p>Durham County Council 03000 260 000 Highways, Lighting, Streetscene 03000 261 000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Police Contacts</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Non-emergency calls ring 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PACT Meetings</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Police and Communities Together) ALL to be held at 7.00p.m. at Broomside Lane Communal Hall, Carrville on: Thursday 18th February 2016 Thursday 14th April 2016 Thursday 23rd June 2016</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	Katy Corrigan 03000 268 700	Dennis Southwell 386 4838
Arthur Walker 384 6282	Tom Charlton 386 8557	Patrick Conway 03000 268 698
Rosemary Murphy 07747 077 690	Joe Knight 386 2902	June Corrigan 659 1014
Graham Robinson-Lundy 07598 960 649	Lesley Mavin 386 9031	Diane Waggott 386 3701

Parish Office 0191 386 0664

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