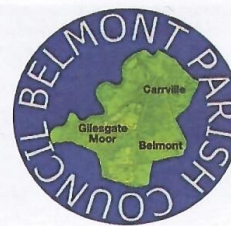


NEWSLETTER

Belmont Parish Council



SPRING 2022

STOP PRESS *If you would like to support Ukranians during this horrendous situation, the Parish Council would recommend monetary donations to be sent to the British Red Cross. If you could offer temporary accommodation to Ukranian refugees, please leave your contact details with the Parish office - this will not commit you to anything, we would contact you to discuss at a future date if needed.*

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



Carrville and Belmont Residents' Association in conjunction with Gilesgate Residents' Association and Belmont Parish Council are hosting a Platinum Jubilee event at Belmont Social Club on Thursday 2nd June 2022 from 1.00pm to 5.00pm to celebrate our Queen's 70th Anniversary. Tickets cost £5 and are available from the Parish Office during opening times, on a first come first served basis.

As part of the celebrations, we are asking for children in the Parish to do a portrait of the Queen to be entered into an art competition. These portraits will be displayed at the club during the event. Prizes will be in categories – pre-school, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3+

Please drop entries to the Parish Office no later than Friday 20th May. Please ensure name, age and contact details are included.

FRIENDS OF BELMONT SCRAMBLES (FoBS)

Like many areas of woodland in the North East, the Scrambles suffered considerable damage in recent storms. Parish Councillors and FoBS members have done regular checks to identify trees that need attention, with priority being given to the safety of the public. However, as the saying goes, "It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good".

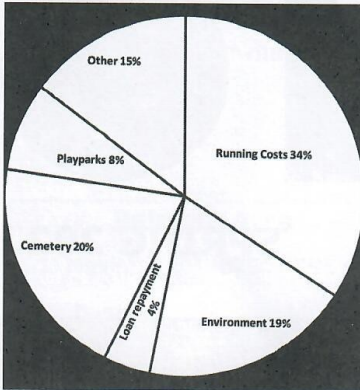
The Management Plan for the Scrambles woodland envisages gradually removing many of the pine trees and replacing them with mainly native deciduous species, and nature has done part of this job for us. In the opened-up areas of the woodland we now intend to plant a considerable number of saplings – Downy Birch, Oak, Wild Cherry, Hazel and Holly. If you would like to help with this, as well as other work on the Scrambles, please contact the Friends of Belmont Scrambles' Chairman Ken Neat (kp.neat@gmail.com), who will be pleased to add you to his emailing list.



As storms are occurring more regularly, we would ask that residents contact their County Councillors, Chris Fletcher and Eric and Lesley Mavin when trees are deemed unsafe – their contact details can be found on the back page.

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

HOW YOUR MONEY WILL BE SPENT



FINANCE MATTERS

For the 2022/23 financial year, households in Belmont Parish area will be asked to contribute an annual sum of £31.50 in Council Tax for our services (based on a Band D property).

PLANNING MATTERS

Belmont Parish Council is a statutory consultee for all planning applications within its boundaries. It is also able to comment on other applications that can affect the area. Weekly lists of applications received by Durham County Council, the decision-making authority, are considered and a monthly report presented to the Parish Council. Parish councillors consider material planning issues,

by which the application will be assessed. These are contained in the National Planning Policy Framework and the adopted County Durham Plan. Representations from residents are welcomed and local councillors, as appropriate, will seek local views. In making a judgement, parish councillors recognise opinions may vary about the merits of an application. Once a decision has been made, it is forwarded to the County Council. Many routine applications e.g. minor house extensions, are normally handled by county council officers under delegated powers. However, more strategic applications are considered by county councillors and the parish council can request an application is placed before them. As necessary a parish councillor will address the appropriate planning committee.

Useful links County Durham Plan www.durham.gov.uk/cdp

ENVIRONMENT



The Environment Committee (EC) believes that the health and well-being of our community is enhanced by a pleasant and well-maintained environment in which to live and work. To support this, we try to consider improving, maintaining and utilising the Council's urban open spaces and parks with planting beds/tubs/containers (e.g. coal tubs)/ triple planters and managing our woodlands. We support the Belmont Scrambles area, the Kepier Woods area, Belmont Cemetery, Belmont War memorial site and five Parish play parks. We support the conservation of trees, hedgerows,

River Wear and streams. We consider the conservation and promotion of local biodiversity in all our activities, but particularly regarding the management of any land in our ownership such as the Scrambles area. We support and encourage the groups that run the Belmont & Gilesgate Primary School allotments. The EC support our residents regarding appropriate street lighting, drainage, public benches and street furniture such as the recently installed WW2/Covid memorial benches. The Parish looks to encouraging community volunteer action to clear up mess via regular Community litter picks. We aim to think about climate change and how we can live sustainably. To support this aim we have tree planting projects, sustainable planting beds and a trial wildflower bed coming soon. Residents and Councillors recently planted 6,000 spring bulbs in our Parish and will be planting 6,000 more later this year. We recently planted a Rowan Tree and will be installing a plaque to commemorate The Queens Platinum Jubilee; (see photo on front page) moreover, all the Parish beds/tubs/containers will feature red, white & blue flowers.

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THE FRIENDS OF KEPIER WOODS

The Friends of Kepier Woods was formed by local residents in 2019. Their aim is to help look after Kepier Woods, through keeping the woods, river pathways and associated areas belonging to Durham County Council (DCC) litter free. We work together to protect and promote the natural environment in and around the woods by managing the natural environment carefully by planting tree saplings, spring bulbs and shrubs with permissions (within the constraints of DCC land), clearing invasive weeds, clearing footpaths of leaves, soil, debris and clearing or reporting to DCC obstructions to the footpaths where possible such as storm damaged fallen trees. We act as wardens to protect and promote the natural environment and wildlife in and around the woods and river areas by reporting anti-social behaviours, hunting and pollution issues. The group also report issues directly to agencies involved with Kepier Woods: Durham County Council, the Police, Neighbourhood Wardens, The River Authority, The Coal Authority and any other stakeholders. Membership is open to anyone who supports the aims and objectives of the Friends of Kepier Woods. To date, the group has planted 100s of tree saplings and 1000s of spring bulbs in Kepier Woods and the Parish. We have supported the Friends of Pelaw Woods to plant 100s of tree saplings. The group has taken part in Belmont Parish and Gilesgate Community Litter Picks. We have campaigned for the reopening of the Belmont Viaduct as a cycle way and foot path with a very positive response from DCC. We await the project to come to fruition.



SPONSORSHIP OF FLOWER BEDS/CONTAINERS/TUBS AND NEW PLANTING PROJECTS

Sponsorship from local businesses/residents will help towards the maintenance costs and new planting projects in the Parish. The scheme will feature in the Parish Newsletter, website, and notice boards and include a map of the Parish planting beds for businesses/residents to view with the business/resident's name indicated. Sponsors would also receive a poster to display in their shop/office/home window with the location marked. Cost to sponsors would be £50 minimum for a full year. A great start to the project is from Belmont Social Club which has donated £100 for sponsorship of the tub next to the war memorial, and an anonymous donor who has donated £500 to sponsor a flower bed!

BELMONT BOWLING CLUB, SUNDERLAND ROAD, MOORFIELD, GILESGATE MOOR

Tired of the Autumn and Winter months of restrictions? Encouraged by the vaccination and booster programmes, warm weather and the thought of wanting to try something new and different? Then what about outdoor bowls? Belmont Bowling Club is located adjacent to Belmont Community Centre and may have the answer to this question. During 2020 and 2021 and, operating under the government sanitisation and track and trace regime, members bowled from the start of the season until the end of September with no member being infected by Covid-19. Durham County Council (DCC) sets the date from which outdoor bowls can start and Belmont Bowling Club will continue to comply with any Guidance imposed on the club. Bowling normally starts in mid-April, as set by DCC, and club posters will be displayed in various locations around the parish, and in Belmont Library, giving the start/opening date. So, prepare to shake off the winter blues, think of a positive outdoor exercise open to all. Come along and enjoy an afternoon of bowling in pleasant surroundings. Others have in the past and are now ardent club members. Own equipment not necessary as the use of club equipment on the day is available, with friendly advice always available from members. Even if you are only slightly interested why not come along at the start of the season? Look out for the notices/posters giving the dates and times which will be displayed in the Community Centre, Belmont Library &, if possible, the Parish Notice Boards and local shops. **Please contact Mrs S. Overton on 0191 3860664 @ the Parish Office, opening hours 09:30 – 11:30am Monday – Friday; or Club Members Tom Dixon Tel. 0191 3862845 or Mike & Jean Duffitt Tel. 0191 3864221.**

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DATES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Held in Belmont Community Centre at 6.30pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month, excluding August.
Next meetings: 10th March 2022 / 14th April 2022 / 12th May 2022
Members of the public are welcome to attend.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Belmont Area		Carrville Area		Gilesgate Moor Area	
Eric Mavin	07507 095 616	Lesley Mavin	07944 471 749	Chris Fletcher	03000 269 096
Mick Bennett	340 7361	John Appleby	07960 241 576	Patrick Conway	07943 015 662
Kim Noble	07912 790 903	Patricia Conway	07943 016 225	Val Hawes	07920 145 442
Arthur Walker	384 6282	Joe Knight	386 2902	Carole Lattin	07813 937 725
Stephen White	07914 006 465	Ann Watkins	annwatkins261@hotmail.com	Mick Watson	07514 431 196

Parish Clerk Mrs S. Overton 0191 386 0664



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Front Street, Ludworth, Durham, DH6 1NE




SUSTAINABLE BELMONT

Belmont Parish Council has set up a working group with the aim of helping residents and businesses to become more aware of issues around domestic sustainability, and to understand the steps we can all take to make a positive impact within our own community. It's about focusing on what we can do as individuals and communities to positively affect the global "climate crisis". Let's be part of the solution, not just the problem; it's not as difficult as you may think. If you would like to get involved with the working group, or you want to offer your views or helpful suggestions, please get in touch by email belmontpc@btconnect.com, phone 0191 386 0664 or by returning the slip below to the Parish office. All contributions welcome!

To kick start your sustainability journey, why not complete a "carbon footprint" calculator, then you can monitor your progress and see the difference you are making.
Here are some you can try • WWF footprint: wwf.org.uk • Climate Hero: climatehero.me/calculate

SUSTAINABLE BELMONT

Name

Contact details (Phone / Email)

I would like to get involved

My views / suggestions are

.....

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