

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	0191 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	0191 384 6282	Joe Knight	0191 386 2902	Carole Lattin	07813 937 725
Stephen White	07914 006 465	Ann Watkins	annwatkins261@hotmail.com	Mick Watson	07514 431 196

NEWSLETTER

Belmont Parish Council



WINTER 2024

WELL DONE AND MANY THANKS TO BELMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL

On behalf of all who attended the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party and excellent production of Snow White, 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 refreshments. 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.



BCA FACILITIES FOR HIRE

Belmont Community Association is a busy and successful centre. Rooms are available to hire for family celebrations, public meetings, training events, exhibitions, leisure and recreational activities and much more. Please contact centre manager Jacqui Miller on 0191 386 6659, belmontca@live.co.uk for prices and further details.

DATES FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

held in
Belmont Community Centre
at 6.30 p.m.
(Second Thursday of the month, excluding
August and January)
Next meetings on
8th February 2024 / 14th March 2024 /
11th April 2024
Members of the public are welcome to attend.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Durham County Council
General enquiries 03000 260 000
Highways, Lighting
and Streetscene 03000 261 000
County Council Help Desk 03000 123 7070

Community Police Officer can be contacted on the
police non-emergency number 0345 606 0365

Parish Clerk Mrs S. Overton 0191 386 0664

BELMONT LOCAL HEROES 2023



During summer 2023 Belmont Parish Council asked for nominations for local heroes and we were both delighted and highly impressed with the responses. On 18th November 2023 we held our second Belmont Local Heroes Awards and enjoyed an afternoon of celebration.

Medals and certificates were presented to the following:

- Supporting young people:** Robyn Hill, Sarah and Mike Dodds, Matthew Foskett
- Local businesses:** Belmont Library and Friends of Belmont Library, Daisy Rose Coffee House, Bainbridge Fresh Produce Ltd
- Community advocates:** Fred Smith, Robin Chapman, Kierin Boeru and Lizzie Fox from Belmont School
- Community lunch clubs:** The Table, Lunch Club, Belmont Parish Hall, and St Joseph's Church
- Sport and leisure:** Tom Dixon, Tony Reynolds
- Community champions:** Anna Harvey, Mark and Sarah Tallentire, Carol Newton

We also took time to recognise the wonderful efforts of residents involved in Northumbria in Bloom and Beautiful Durham.

We look forward to receiving nominations for future Local Heroes Awards.

YOUR FEEDBACK REQUESTED

We would be very interested to hear feedback from residents about how they feel we as a parish council are doing, or whether you have any issues / concerns / support needed or any feedback on items in this newsletter. Please complete the slip below and return to the parish office or email to the address below.

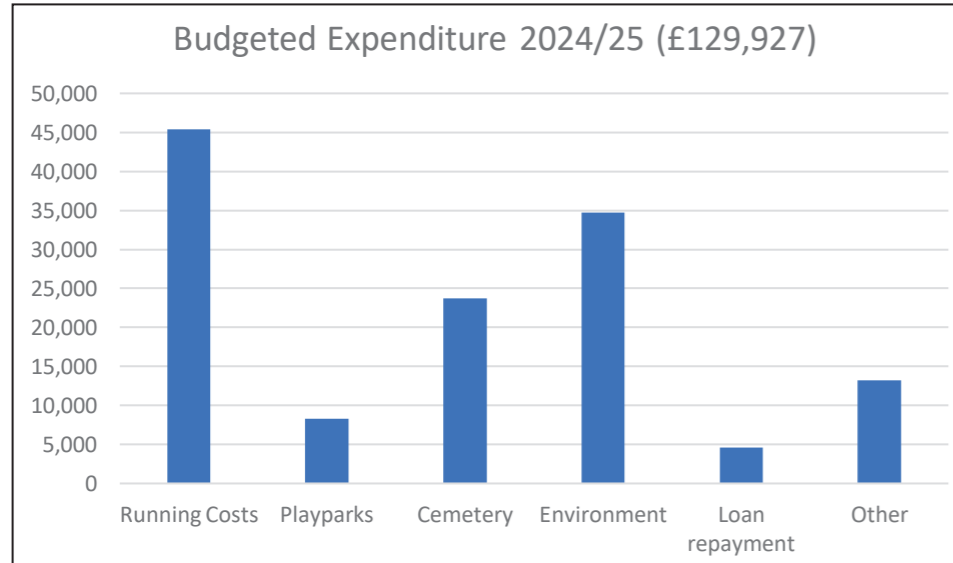
Name Contact details (phone/email)

My views / suggestions are

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PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2024 / 2025

Our budget for 2024/25 was set at a public meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 Dec 2023.



Expenditure will be financed by income, as shown below:

- Council Tax (83%)
- Grants (6%)
- Charges (3%)
- VAT re-claim (7%)
- Miscellaneous (1%)

BELMONT AND GILESGATE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

In association with Gilesgate Residents' Association the Neighbourhood Plan working group has been meeting regularly and progressing a narrative on the five themes previously discussed in Parish newsletters. One of those themes, Housing, has been a key topic of discussion following the preparation of a draft Housing Needs Assessment of the area, funded with a government grant. Broadly speaking the draft endorses views expressed by residents that there is an urgent need for affordable housing, both to rent and buy. It is also recognised there is a shortage of housing suitable for the elderly and those with special health needs.

A dedicated newsletter providing fuller information about the Neighbourhood Plan is expected to be circulated in the late Spring.

BELMONT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Parish Council, with effect from the 1st January 2024, became sole trustee of the Community Association with responsibility for the Community Centre and the close working relationship with Belmont Community School. Should any resident wish to become involved with the management of these much-used community facilities please get in touch with Councillor Lesley Mavin (details on the back page).

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

Parish Council elections will take place in May 2025. There are 15 Parish Councillors, five each for Belmont, Carrville and Gilesgate Moor. Serving on the Parish Council is a great way of working for our communities and ensuring democratic accountability. Why not get in touch with any of the present councillors (details on the back page) to find out more.

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

FRIENDS OF DRAGON PARK

Dragon Park is situated off the public footpath which leads from Sherburn Road up to Laurel Avenue Community Primary School. It provides a route up to the disused sports field, from which there is one of the best views of Durham cathedral and down to Pelaw Woods and the Riverbanks. In 2023 it was designated as a Nature Reserve. The 'Friends of Dragon Park' are a volunteer group who have been running for the past year. They aim to clear paths, plant trees and improve the park for the local community. Anyone is welcome and if you'd like to get involved send them a message on their new Facebook page, or contact Councillor Carole Lattin (details on back page).

BOUNDARY REVIEW FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

In November 2023 the Government published their final recommendations for new electoral arrangements in County Durham. Their proposals are that County Durham should be represented by 98 councillors, 28 fewer than there are now, and County Durham should have 51 divisions, 12 fewer than there are now. The boundaries of all divisions should change.

For Belmont, the unparished area around Habgood Drive and Cuthbert Avenue will be transferred to new Elvet, Gilesgate and Shincliffe division and the unparished Gilesgate area north of Sunderland Road will be transferred from Elvet and Gilesgate division to Belmont division. Belmont Parish Council had previously requested the retention of the current division boundaries and the current allocation of three councillors. However, the final report states it is 'an unavoidable consequence that we must reduce the allocation of councillors per division and redraw division boundaries across the county to achieve an effective balance of our statutory criteria' They are therefore recommending a two-councillor Belmont division as part of their final recommendations, which now excludes the unparished area around Habgood Drive and Cuthbert Avenue but includes the unparished Gilesgate area.

BELMONT BOWLING CLUB SUNDERLAND ROAD, MOORFIELD, GILESGATE MOOR

Make 2024 the year you try something new. In April Belmont Bowling Club will open the gate for the start of the 2024 outdoor lawn green bowling season and welcomes all who wish to try their hand at this leisurely and not too strenuous sport. New, experienced and novice players are all welcome. Those who came in 2023 found that this was just the sport and social gathering for them, joined the club, and now wear the club shirt. Look out for our posters in April showing the opening date/times and for information on free practice seasons.

The main practice days are Monday and Thursday afternoons, but we also compete in leagues every week against other clubs. So, if you are prepared to shake off the winter blues and want to try a positive outdoor exercise open to all, then come along and enjoy an afternoon of bowling in pleasant surroundings. Own equipment is 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 posters giving the dates and times of opening and free practice sessions which will be displayed in the Community Centre, Belmont Library, the Parish Notice Boards and local shops.

Please contact Mrs S. Overton (details below) or Club Members Tom Dixon 0191/386 2845 or Mike & Jean Duffitt 0191/386 4221.

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