

# Tow Law Town Council News

[newsletter@towlawtowncouncil.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@towlawtowncouncil.org.uk)

## NEW OUTDOOR GYM ON THE MILLENNIUM GREEN

Regular users of the Millennium Green may have noticed that new outdoor gym equipment has been installed down below the play area near the bottom of the green.

At the beginning of the project Proludic Ltd. who previously installed the playground on the Millennium Green were engaged to survey the site and provide various design drawings.

After some consideration members of the Town Council agreed to the five piece scheme and funding was sought. County Councillor Richard Manchester was involved in this process, filling in funding forms for Section 106 money. A quotation of £12,000 was agreed by the Council subject to approval of the Section 106 grant and the go ahead from Natural England to allow installation of the new equipment.

The Town Council agreed to assume responsibility on installation and insurance costs. This came to £12,000 plus VAT of £2400 bringing the total cost to £14,400. These costs were paid to the contractor by the Town



New exercise equipment on the Millennium Green

Council following installation of the equipment on site. The Council will eventually be reimbursed with the Section 106 grant money from Durham County Council.

The equipment installed consists of Proludic Urbanix Spinning Bicycle, Proludic Urbanix Hydraulic Stepper, Proludic Urbanix Hydraulic Shoulder Press, Proludic Urbanix Pendulum and Twister and Proludic Urbanix Chin and Dip.

The Gym equipment is suitable for anyone over the age of 14 and over 1.4 metres in height and is designed for one user at a time. Please make sure you keep you clothing free of all moving parts when using

the equipment. It is advised that users should exercise with care and consult a doctor before beginning a new exercise regime and should immediately stop if feeling unwell. Note that the Town Council will not be held responsible for any accident or injury when using the equipment.

Articles for the next edition can be sent to the email address listed in the above heading.

Alternatively leave it at the Town Council office at Tow Law Community Centre. The closing date for the next edition is October 18<sup>th</sup> 2019.

All articles should be in Microsoft Word format with accompanying photographs separate and not less than 300 dpi resolution.

## THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council is based in the Community Centre at Ironworks Road.

The Clerk Geoff Smith can be contacted by telephone on **01388731444** or you can email him at **towlawtc@hotmail.com**

Agendas for upcoming meetings are available on the notice boards at the Community Centre, on North Point Hotel in the High Street, opposite the Co-operative store in the High Street and at the entrance to Pennine View. In addition the agenda is available on our website see ([www.towlawtowncouncil.org.uk](http://www.towlawtowncouncil.org.uk)) as well as minutes from previous meetings and other information.

### **Donations to good causes**

In the last financial year (April 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019) the Town Council regularly made donations to good causes via the N-Power Community Fund and occasionally out of Council reserves. These include the following:-

- Four local Schools (Peases West Primary School, Tow Law Millennium Primary School, Stanley Crook Primary School and Blessed John Duckett RC Primary School) to take part in the Heartlands Initiative Project £250

- Hilltop Community Projects two donations of £250 each
- Tow Law Lunch Club £250
- Tow Law Town AFC for improving toilet facilities in the Clubhouse £250 from the Community Fund and £150 from Council reserves
- Blessed John Duckett RC Primary School for a donation towards a gardening project to replace existing raised beds £250
- Tow Law Millennium Primary School three separate donations of £250 each going towards an iPad to allow Facebook access to upload photographs onto the School's Facebook page, to provide First Aid training for KS2 pupils (5 to 11 years old) and to fund a parents and children outing to the Stadium of Light to obtain Community Awards and receive a tour of the stadium
- St. Philip and St. James Parish Church Flower Festival 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019 £250
- 1<sup>st</sup> Tow Law Scouts (Beavers) equipping beavers with LEGO stocks to build/challenge LEGO related projects (15 young children) £250
- Trex Gym contribution towards the cost of purchasing a techno gym, leg extension

£250 from the Community Fund and £250 from Council reserves

- Wear Jammin contribution towards the cost of making a community film and soundscapes for the hilltop community projects and to update film camera equipment £250.

If you would like more information on how to apply for a donation please contact the Town Clerk.

## COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Things have been progressing well in most areas of my work over the last few months, so I've had a hard time figuring out exactly what I can fit into this article.

The big success is the Outdoor Gym equipment the Town Council have installed on the Millennium Green. I was able to direct nearly £12,000 from County Council funds to support this project. This is one of three main outdoor sport and recreation projects I'm supporting, totalling an investment of £63,000, with £38,000 sourced from County Council funds. The other two are the Tow Law Community Association play area, which a number of people have contacted me about previously, and a brand new play area in Sunnyside. Hopefully these projects will both be completed over the summer.

Another major development has been the demolition of the Bonds Foundry site on Ironworks Road. It is disappointing to see it go, and although operations ceased a number of years ago, there is a feeling of finality in this. However, without the demolition there would have been a real risk of the buildings being left to rot – we've already got one building in the middle of the town where this has happened and I certainly don't want another! Some people have expressed concerns with what will happen with the empty land. Bonds still own this, and their intentions have been to use the land for housing with a preference to affordable housing. There is still a lot of work for them to do before this will be realised, but currently I'm hopeful.

People are also continuing to contact me with concerns around Weardale Crescent and Coronation Avenue. As many of you will know, eight houses were demolished. Homegroup have assured me that there are no further plans for demolition, and as a result of my pestering agreed to request new investment. At time of writing, four previously long-term empty houses have now been occupied, four more have been invested in and they are hoping to secure another round of funding for a further four houses. The issues on these estates are complex, and if you do have concerns please contact me and I will do my best to support you.

One more thing I'll mention in this article is the recent Mount Oswald History Centre consultation. The project was formulated around the need for a new location for the County Record Office, which is currently kept in unsatisfactory conditions. However it also includes an enhanced registration office, exhibition space and classrooms for school trips, a wedding and civil ceremonies venue. The part that is most exciting suggestion is for the DLI written and photographic records being reunited with the DLI object collection at this new location. The consultation ended on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [richard.manchester@durham.gov.uk](mailto:richard.manchester@durham.gov.uk) or call me on 03000 268 719.

Richard.

#### **TOW LAW COMMUNITY CENTRE FAMILY DROP-IN AND FOODBANK**

This service is available at the Community Centre every Thursday between 12 pm and 2.30 pm.

Get help and advice on Legal Issues, Consumer Matters, Employment, Benefits, Health or Immigration. We also operate a Foodbank.

We have refreshments available at our Community Café (rated 5 stars for health and hygiene) in case you

fancy a cup of coffee or a snack.

#### **Request for Volunteers**

Following a successful first year our drop in session and Foodbank Service is **looking for volunteers!** Maybe you can help? Just a couple of hours once a month would be invaluable.

Telephone 07833286496 for more information.

#### **WEAR VALLEY SPEEDWATCH UPDATE**

The Speedwatch team continue to volunteer their valuable time in an effort to improve road safety. The following data is from sessions between April and June 2019:-

- Between 2.15 and 3.15 pm on the 23/04/2019 at Smith Street, 42 vehicles were monitored with 15 exceeding the speed limit
- Between 10.25 and 11.25 am on the 03/05/2019 at Dans Castle, 98 vehicles were monitored with 8 exceeding the speed limit
- Between 10.25 and 11.25 am on the 31/05/2019 at Dans Castle, 215 vehicles were monitored with 14 exceeding the speed limit
- Between 08.30 and 09.30 am on the 03/06/2019 at Smith Street, 61 vehicles were monitored with 13 exceeding the speed limit.

Statement of Accounts April 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019

Balance as at 1/4/18		£33837.43
Precept		£33688.80
Other Income		£8210.14
Cheques out of date (2015/16)		£379.97
Sub Total		£76116.34
Less Expenditure		
Staff Costs	£16721.08	
Other Expenditure	£33766.92	
Total		£50488.00
BALANCE AS AT 31/3/19		£25628.34
Co-op Bank Current Account		£25884.33
Less		
Unpresented cheques	1929	£250.00
	1872	£5.99
		£255.99
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£25628.34</b>

INCOME (UNAUDITED) 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2019

DETAILS	£.p
Precept	33688.80
LCTRS Grant (DCC)	4262.00
N-Power Community Fun	3695.84
Allotment Rents	252.30
SUB TOTAL	41898.94
Cheques out of date (2015/16)	379.97
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42278.91</b>

EXPENDITURE (UNAUDITED) 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL TO 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2019

DETAILS	£.p
Clerk's salary	12591.16
HMRC (Tax & NIC)	4129.92
Admin expenses	104.81
Office Rent	3600.00
Community Fund	3250.00
Audit Fees	365.00
Christmas activities	1576.47
Donations (Reserves)	6219.25
Councillor/staff training	150.25
Allotments-water charges	63.00
Grass Cutting	1625.00
Millennium Green Play Area (fencing)	6755.18
Millennium Green - water charges	61.72
Dog Bags	442.50
Replanting 2 planters at the entrance to the Town	125.00
Web site	169.87
Road sign - Bee Hive Coke	168.80
Insurance	998.11
CDALC-subscription	304.74
CCTV	2600.23
Newsletter	325.00
Stationery	44.21
Remembrance Day events	1948.70
SUBTOTAL	47618.92
VAT	2869.08
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50488.00</b>