

Tow Law Town Council News



LITTERFREE DURHAM BIG SPRING CLEAN 2013

The Millennium Green in Tow Law was a hive of activity on Sunday 28th April 2013 thanks to the hard work of the Millennium Green Volunteer Group.

The group which includes Town Councillors Michelle Hird, Clare Umpelby and Lynne Rowland and Ward County Councillor John Hart, spent four hours collecting forty five bags of litter from the Green, as part of Litter Free Durham's Big Spring Clean 2013 campaign supported by Durham County Council.

There were a total of eighteen people on the Tow Law litter pick including 7 small children between the ages of 3 and 8 who worked as hard as any of the adults on the team. The other team members were Amanda Rowland, Susan Major, Olly Thorpe, Harley Thorpe, Winifred Hird, Jeff Hindmoor, Tommy Hindmoor, Archie Hindmoor, David Laing, Billy



S. Major, L. Rowland, J. Hart, C. Umpelby and M. Hird

Laing, Sonny Laing, Natasha Shaw, Karla Mae Shaw and Paul Jones.

The two month long Big Spring Clean campaign, now in its third year, saw a total of 85 litter picks take place in County Durham, involving nearly 1400 volunteers, who collected a total of 1086 bags over a period of 4000 hours of work.

Support for the volunteers was provided by the Neighbourhood Wardens, the County Council's Civic Pride team (who provided equipment for the Tow Law event), Clean and Green, Durham Constabulary, Durham Heritage

Coast, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

To find out about the Durham County Council Civic Pride initiative call 03000261000 or visit the website at www.durham.gov.uk/civicpride For further information on Litter Free Durham visit www.litterfreedurham.org

Editors note:

When the Volunteer Group meet on the green on the last Sunday of every month they will be giving out free dog bags to any dog walkers passing by.

**Editor
Lynne Rowland**

Submit items for future newsletters to:
lynne.rowland@langley-park.org.uk

Any photographs should be 300dpi and we reserve the right to edit text.

Come and join Litterfree Durham's
big spring clean 2013
Millennium Green, Tow Law
Sunday April 28th 2013
Email: litterfreedurham@durham.gov.uk
Call: 03000 266 083
Visit: www.litterfreedurham.org

COUNCILLOR'S

T. BATSON
01388 730257 – office

A. BLACKER
01388 731444

L. BROWN
07904971801

J. FOWLER
01388 731422

J. GALE
01388 731033

A. GREEN
01388 731025

R. GROGAN
01388 731969

E. HINDMOOR
07867697612

M. HIRD
01388 731844

L. ROWLAND
01388 731444

P. STOKES
01388 731124

C. UMPELBY
01388 731444

CLERK'S OFFICE HOURS

Town Clerk Geoff Smith will be available at the Community Centre between 1 – 5 pm Monday to Thursday and 1 – 4:30 pm on Friday. He can be contacted by telephone on 01388731444 or by email at towlawtc@hotmail.com

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I would like to thank the Council for their support during this year of office and present the Annual

Report outlining the main activities for the year, including:-

1. Councillors

Councillors Emma Hindmoor and Claire Umpelby were co-opted onto the Town Council. Councillors Grogan and Railton resigned from the Town Council.

2. Councillor Portfolio

Councillors hold the following Portfolios:-

Planning – Councillors Batson & Gale

Police – Councillors Green & Hayton

Young People – Councillors Rowland

Allotments – Councillor Blacker

Finance – Councillor Rowland

3. Residents attending Town Council meetings

Throughout the year 6 residents have attended Town Council meetings.

4. Planning Matters

Throughout the year the Town Council have responded to 23 Planning Applications.

5. N-Power Community Fund

The Town Council received £3177.12 for the financial year 2012/13.

Funds were allocated to the following organisations:-

1st Tow Law Scouts – set up costs

Community Association – bus trip to Blackpool

Community Association – bus trip to Leeds

Community Association - Pantomime

Brad Hopps – Quad Bike equipment

Tow Law Parent/children group – transport to SAFC match

Michael Walker – art course

Christmas competition in Tow Law – prize money

6. Activities 2013

The Town Council arranged a number of coaches for residents

to go to South Shields in July. Thanks to Christine Emmerson for organising this event.

7. Christmas Trees

Due to financial constraints the Town Council were unable to supply Christmas trees this year but are hoping to provide them for Christmas 2013.

8. Millennium Green

The Town Council continue to manage the Millennium Green and act as Corporate Trustees. A volunteer group has been set up to look at funding, tidying up and litter picking the area.

9. Policies

The following Policies have been agreed/reviewed by the Town Council: -

Freedom of Information – Publication Scheme

Anti-Fraud and Corruption

Risk Management Statement

Protocol for Members/Officers relations

Management of Records

Code of Conduct for Members

Standing Orders

Financial Regulations

Complaints Procedure

Copies can be viewed on the Council's web site or are obtainable from the Town Clerk.

10. Town Council Precept 2012/13

The Precept for the year 2012/13 was £29606.00 plus £52.00 Double Taxation (for allotments)

11. CCTV in Tow Law

The Town Council continues to look at enhancing/replacing the present 3 camera CCTV system which is operational and is regularly checked by Durham Police.

12. Three Towns AAP

The Town Council is represented on the Board of the AAP which meets bi-monthly.

The Town Council received a Participatory Budgeting allocation of £8,700 to support local groups in the area. The following were successful:-

Stanley Crook Primary School £1100

Peases West Primary School £1100

Durham Agency Against Crime £1000

Tow Law Millennium Primary School £1125

Mad Alice Theatre Company £995

Tow Law Community Partnership £1080

Tow Law Millennium Toddlers £1567.60

Balance £732.40

13. Council's Committee Structure (Membership)

The Council have the following committees:-

Car Park committee (Councillors Gale, Rowland, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

Millennium Green committee (Councillors Brown, Rowland, Taylor, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

Power of Well Being committee (Councillors Batson, Brown, Hayton, Rowland, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

School Liaison committee (Councillors Gale, Rowland, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

Windfarm committee (Councillors Gale, Rowland, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

Finance & General Purposes committee (Councillors Blacker, Brown, Hird, Rowland, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

Allotments committee (Councillors Batson, Blacker, Rowland, Taylor, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

Planning committee (Councillors Batson, Gale, Chair & Vice Chair of the Town Council)

14. Christmas Competition

This year the competition was judged by the Chairman of the Town Council and the winners were:-

1st prize (Mrs J Hope, 48 Alpine Way)

2nd prize (K. Duffy, 6 Hill Crest)

3rd prize (Mr & Mrs Robson, Meadows Edge)

4th prize (C. Hurton, 14 Deerness Estate)

Prize winner (M. Hobson, 69 High Street)

Prize winner (A. Rowland, 49 High Street)

Prize winner (A. Wilkinson, 73 High Street)

Prize winner (N. Heatley, 12 Pennine Way)

Prize winner (J. Birnie, 31a Wolsingham Road)

Prize winner (I Paterson, 17 Deerness Estate)

15. Footpaths

The public notice board has been delivered and is awaiting

Tow Law Town Council unaudited Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013

		Expenditure (Unaudited)	£.p
		Details	
		Staff Costs	
		Salary	12683.32
		Tax	5982.66
		Admin Expenses	
		Clerk's Expenses/Office Supplies	263.79
		Postages	200.00
		Broadband Charges	120.00
		Office Rent	3400.00
		N-Power Community Fund	2215.00
		Audit Fees	
		Internal Auditor	73.25
		External Auditor	400.00
		Holiday Activities- Hire of coaches	390.00
		Donations	
		Great North Air Ambulance	50.00
		Poppy Appeal	19.25
		Councillor/ Staff Training	67.00
		Allotments	
		Fencing	250.00
		Water Charges	47.67
		Padlock keys	5.98
		Grants	10268.60
		Miscellaneous	
		Subscriptions	514.35
		Jubilee Medals	1002.00
		Trex Gym	90.00
		Dog Bags	164.60
		Insurance	682.60
		Sports day/Cup and Medals	281.67
		Printing/Delivery of Annual Report	300.00
		Delivery of Leaflet (Xmas Competition)	75.00
		VAT	373.65
			39920.39
Balance as at 1st April 2012	51.18		
Precept	29606.00		
Other Income	18754.02		
	48411.20		
Less Expenditure	39920.39		
Balance as at 31st March 2013	8490.81		
INCOME (UNAUDITED)			
DETAILS	£.P		
Precept	29606.00		
Double Taxation	52.00		
N-Power Community Fund	3177.12		
DCC-Participatory Budget Grant	8700.00		
Holiday Activities - Bus Fares	275.00		
Allotment Rents	556.61		
Sale of Jubilee Medals	119.64		
DCC - AAP Grant	5500.00		
VAT	373.65		
	<u>48360.02</u>		

to be put in place in High Street.

16. Trex Gym

The Town Council still continues to discuss with Durham County Council on the possible management handover of the Gym and surrounding areas.

17. Allotments

The Town Council's Allotment committee continue to carry out site inspections and the provision of a water meter to the site at Dan's Castle and repair/inspection of flooding problems affecting the site on Millennium Green are still outstanding.

18. Town Centre Plan

Discussions are still ongoing regarding an off-street parking scheme close to the Doctors surgery (progress is very slow).

19. Neighbourhood Planning

The Town Council have applied to Durham County Council for Tow Law to be designated a Neighbourhood Area in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 and will be discussing the outcomes with residents in the near future.

20.Thanks

My thanks go to the Town Clerk (Geoff Smith) and Assistant Town Clerk (Lynne Rowland) for their help and guidance throughout the year.

Jeff Gale
Chairman 2012/2013
Tow Law Town Council.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

2013

Tuesday 18th June

Tuesday 16th July

No Meeting in August

Tuesday 17th September

Tuesday 15th October

Tuesday 19th November

No meeting in December

2014

Tuesday 21st January

Tuesday 18th February

Tuesday 18th March

Tuesday 15th April

Tuesday 20th May

Meetings start at 6.30pm and are held at Tow Law Community Centre

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application for designation of a neighbourhood area for Tow Law Town Council

Under the Neighbourhood Planning (General Regulations (2012) Durham County Council has received an application for the Designation of a Neighbourhood Area from Tow Law Town Council as a relevant body under Section 61G of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990:

1. The area of the plan is based upon the Town Council boundary, which is seen as appropriate due to common issues important to the communities within that area.

2. The Town Council comprises the settlement of Tow Law.

If you wish to comment on this application, representations regarding the proposed Neighbourhood Area can be made via Email to: spatialpolicy@durham.gov.uk or alternatively by letter to Regeneration and Economic Development, Spatial Policy Area Planning Team, Room 4/24, County Hall, DH1 5UQ and should be received no later than **Closing Date 23 September 2013**

GIVING NATURE A HOME (RSPB)

Earlier this year a group of 25 conservation and research organisations published The State of Nature report, painting a picture of how well our wildlife is doing. The news was not good with six out of 10 plants and animals in the UK having declined over the past five decades.

As part of its Giving Nature a Home campaign, The RSPB has come up with a list of different things you can do in your garden to help wildlife. Why not give your mower a rest and leave an area of your lawn to grow wild. This will provide homes for lots of bugs and mini-beasts, which in turn are great food for birds. Making log piles and growing flowering plants are also easy

ways to attract insects like bees, while the more adventurous of you might want to dig a pond or build a home for swifts, house martins or bats.

For more visit www.rspb.org.uk/homes or call 01484868405 for a free guide.

