

Tow Law Town Council News

newsletter@towlawtowncouncil.org.uk

WEAR VALLEY SPEEDWATCH

Residents of Tow Law and the surrounding area, especially those who drive regularly through the town, may have noticed a dedicated team of Speedwatch volunteers manning their posts in all weathers rain or shine.

There are currently 10 Speedwatch volunteers including Town Councillors Harold Wilsher and Liz Mather seen here in the photograph on the right of this page. Also shown is Town Council Chairman Jeff Gale who was observing the session. Liz Mather of Sunnyside joined the team three years ago in response to other residents complaining about speeding in the area. Harold Wilshire who had already been involved with Neighbourhood Watch for many years and was already doing Speedwatch teamed up with Liz and together with a small number of other volunteers built it up to the level it is at today.

Before a volunteer is accepted onto the team they must be vetted by the Police to ensure they have no criminal record. Between them the volunteers are



Jeff Gale, Liz Mather and Harold Wilsher

organised into groups and do four sessions per week, covering the whole of the former Wear Valley District Council area. Each session lasts for approximately one hour.

The Speedwatch sessions are overseen by Crook Police and can only be carried out after the proposed location of the session is safety checked.

Tow Law is covered twice a month and figures on average are 15 speeders per 100 vehicles. The registration, the manufacturer and model of the vehicle, the colour of the vehicle and the gender of the driver are all noted. All

information is then processed by the Police.

After the session there will be a visit to the Police station to prepare and send out warning letters to the speeders. Three letters gets the perpetrator a visit from a Police officer; however the object of Speedwatch is not to prosecute offenders but to inform and educate them.

The team is always on the lookout for new blood and anyone wishing to join them will be made very welcome. Contact Harold Wilsher on 07484785205 for more information.

THE TOWN COUNCIL

The Town Council is based at the Community Centre at Ironworks Road. The office is manned most weekday afternoons but may be closed occasionally so the Clerk can attend to other business.

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

Town Council meetings are normally held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6.30 pm in the Community Centre. Upcoming meetings for 2018 (all Tuesday) are 18th September, 16th October and 20th November.

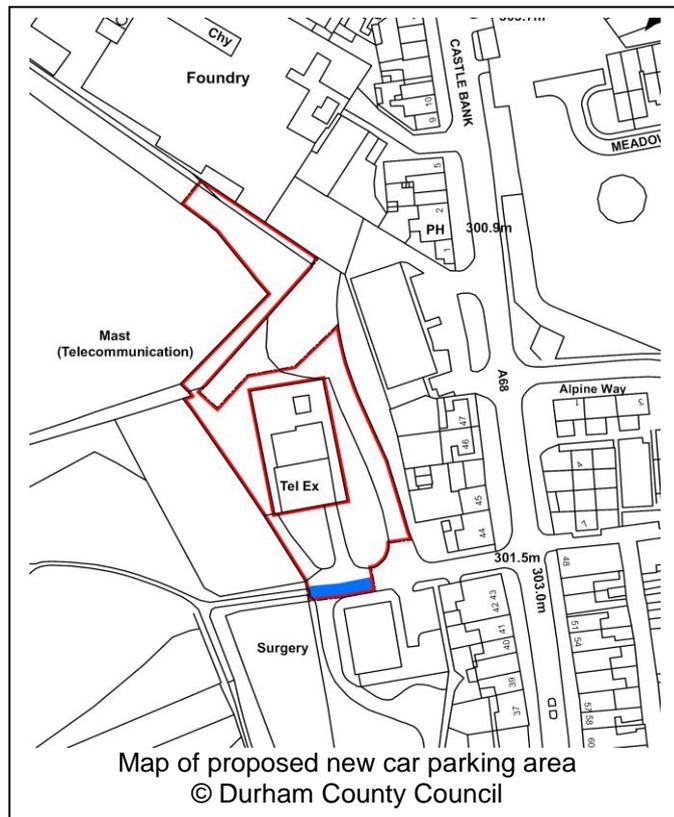
The public are welcome to attend the non-confidential part of the meeting but must provide at least 3 working days notice of any issues to be raised at the meeting. Failure to comply with the 3 day rule may lead to the Council not being able to hear the issue due to not having sufficient time to investigate and provide answers to the issue(s) raised.

Agenda's 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 (near Church Lane/Highfields) and at the entrance to Pennine View. In addition the latest

agenda is available on our website as well as minutes from previous meetings.

Car parking area to the West of High Street, Tow Law

The Town Council is in the process of purchasing three quarters of an acre of land from Durham County Council for the purpose of developing it into car parking space. In addition to the purchase price for the land the Town Council will be responsible for Surveyors costs, the County Council's legal costs and Open Space notice fees.



The Town Council will also be responsible for any other costs that may arise in the future.

Millennium Green Playground

Since the last newsletter fencing has been added

completing currently planned work on the Playground.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Finally I'm able to write an article for this newsletter that is almost entirely positive.

The government have allowed the County Council an extra £1.3 million from the 'pothole' fund for the purposes of repairing the roads after the prolonged and harsh winter we have just endured. The County Council has also added an extra £700,000 to this – so now is the time to report any potholes that are causing concern. You can report potholes on the County Council's 'do it online' service, or you can contact me to report them for you.

We have also seen the Big Spring Clean come to Tow Law, and the vast majority of comments from residents have been hugely complimentary to the team that came out to make our town a brighter and cleaner place to live. There are some niggling little things that I would like to be done, and I have reported this through

the usual Council means – if you have any concerns feel free to contact me and I'll see what I can do to help.

I'm also pleased to announce that I have secured a good amount of funding from the County Council and my own Neighbourhood budget that

should be coming to Tow Law over the next year for outdoor play and recreation. Hopefully this will look like around £10,000 going to the Community Centre to help repair and improve their play area and outdoor crèche. The County Council are also awarding approximately £15,000 to the Tow Law Town Council to support their scheme to add five pieces of outdoor gym equipment to the Millennium Green. These figures are, of course, subject to final quotes coming in.

The County Durham Plan recently completed a consultation period, in which members of the public were invited to comment on the preferred options. This will be repeated in early 2019. The County Durham Plan is a way for the Council to lay out its vision for the future of the County. Inclusions that are particularly relevant for Tow Law are the provision of a Western Relief Road out of Durham City and the designation of two Employment protection zones at the Tow Law Industrial Estate and the Inkerman industrial estate.

As per usual, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please get in touch. You can contact me on 03000 268 719, or you can email me at Richard.manchester@durham.gov.uk.

Durham County Councillor
Richard Manchester.

WHEELS TO WORK SCHEME

Wheels to Work is a moped-loan scheme which aims to help people access employment, training or education that would otherwise be inaccessible due to poor public transport connections or out-of-hour work patterns.



Adam Clarke with one of the Mopeds

The project was originally funded by Chester-le-Street, Stanley and Mid Durham Area Action Partnerships (AAP's) in partnership with Durham County Council. However due to a growing need to help local people get to work, apprenticeships or college, funding has also now been secured from Spennymoor, Bishop Auckland & Shildon, 3-Towns Partnership and East Durham Rural Corridor AAP's. People living in any of these 7 areas can apply for a moped loan.

Gina Davies, Wheels to Work Project Manager said, 'Limited access to transport can be a real barrier for many people living in rural locations and the ex-mining villages of County Durham; we aim to help tackle this problem by loaning individuals their own transport for a short period until a longer-term transport solution can be found'. Gina added, 'there are a number of conditions that applicants must meet in order to be eligible, such as holding a provisional driving licence and the means to pay the weekly fee of up to £30.

Mopeds of either 50cc or 125cc are available to people aged 16+ as long as they have a provisional or full driving licence. The cost is £25 per week for a 50cc and £30 per week for a 125cc moped. Riders are provided with brand new protective clothing (helmet, armoured jacket, gloves, waterproof over-trousers and high visibility vest) and a heavy-duty lock, and are also covered for bike insurance, road tax, breakdown cover, as well as regular servicing of the moped. There may be a chance to buy the moped from the scheme at the end of the loan period.

Ace Motorcycles in Pity Me, Durham provides the motorcycle training (also included as part of the scheme) which involves a full day's Compulsory Basic Training, followed by a 2 hour CBT plus session on a

separate day, when clients are provided with additional road time and are issued with their clothing and bike.

Over 70 people living in County Durham have already benefitted since the scheme began, using their new scooters to get to work on time.

Please get in touch to find out more and to ask for an application pack, or pass on our details to anyone who may experience difficulties getting to work – this scheme aims to make people more employable by helping them to be mobile and independent.

We're waiting for your call!

Tel: 0191 303 8442
Mobile 07460 068668 or
07472 668884.

Email: info@w2wcd.org.uk

Or message us through Facebook.

Submit items for future newsletters to:

newsletter@towlawtowncouncil.org.uk

Alternately leave the article in paper format at the Council office in the Community Centre.

Any digitised photographs supplied with the article should be a minimum of 300 dpi and separate from the document.

We reserve the right to edit articles due to space requirements.

REACHING OUT ACROSS DURHAM (ROAD)

Finding your potential

Durham Community Action (DCA) are one of eleven voluntary and community sector organisations working in partnership on the Reaching Out Across Durham (ROAD) Building Better Opportunities (BBO) programme. ROAD is funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery through the Big Lottery Fund. ROAD provides support to the most disadvantaged groups in Durham, who are furthest from the labour market and who experience significant barriers to work.

DCA have two full-time Navigators – Tara Hallimond and Karen Anderson – who cover the geographical areas of Teesdale, Weardale, Crook and Willington. Support is offered to those aged twenty-five and above in County Durham who are unemployed or economically inactive, to allow them to move forward into volunteering, training, job search and employment.



Tara and Karen from ROAD

Tara and Karen support Participants to access a range of opportunities and specialist support including developing IT skills, managing money and improving their health and wellbeing.

ROAD helps individuals to find their potential with:

- 1-to-1 support from specialist Health Trainers and Financial Coaches
- Access training and vocational courses to help improve confidence and learn new skills
- Guidance, support and advice on any area you feel will help you to make positive changes

Contact DCA Navigators:

**Tara: Tel: 01388 742 063 or
07496 461 966**

Email:

tara.hallimond@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk

**Karen: 01388 742 062 or
07496 461 961**

Email:

karen.anderson@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk

You can also visit the ROAD website at <http://www.reachingoutacrossdurham.co.uk/> for more information