

Tow Law Town Council News

newsletter@towlawtowncouncil.org.uk

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

After a long wait Tow Law finally has a new playground on the Millennium Green.

Soon after the go ahead was given by Natural England, the contractor Proludic began work on the project and had completed the majority of the work by December 2017 (just in time for the Christmas Holidays).

As this issue goes to press there is still a small amount of work to do to complete the project such as fencing and signage and this is hoped to be completed early in the New Year.

Tow Law Town Council will be responsible for arranging insurance for the play equipment and public liability and for any maintenance that may be required to the equipment.

The Town Council would like to extend its thanks to former County Councillor John Hart and current incumbent Richard Manchester for their invaluable help with funding, and to everyone else who has had a hand in bringing this very worthwhile project to a successful conclusion.



The new playground at the Millennium Green



View of the Playground from the entrance to the green

You can submit an article for this newsletter by email (see above). Alternatively you can leave a printed copy at the Town Council office at Tow Law Community Centre. The closing date for the next edition is May 25th 2018.

All articles should be in Microsoft Word format and any accompanying photographs should be separate from the article and not less than 300 dpi resolution.

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 20th February, 20th March, 17th April, and 15th May.

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.

Donations

The Town Council make many donations throughout the year to worthwhile causes. We have listed some of these from the period 1st April 2016 onwards.

| Tow Law Town Council Donations from April 2016 | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| £ | Group | Activity |
| £250 | 1 st Tow Law Scouts | Setup Costs |
| £250 | Art Group TLCC | Setup Costs |
| £250 | Friends of Tow Law | Street Party |
| £250 | Wear Jammin CIC | Advertising |
| £250 | CAB | Running Costs |
| £250 | Millennium Primary School | Holiday Activities |
| £250 | 1 st Tow Law Beavers | Bus & Activities |
| £100 | Community Association | Trip to Leeds (Youth Group) |
| £250 | Community Association | Trip to Redcar |
| £250 | Community Association | Trip to South Shields |
| £250 | Skills Club TLCC | Equipment |
| £250 | John Parkin Mem. Fund | Defibrillators |
| £250 | Friends of Tow Law | Bonfire Night |
| £250 | Community Association | Xmas Party |
| £250 | Weardale Holiday Activity Group | Family Trips |
| £250 | Millennium Primary School | Pantomime |
| £250 | Tow Law Lunch Club | Trip to Beamish |
| £250 | Community Association | Trip to South Shields |
| £250 | Castlebank Care Home | Trip to Beamish |
| £250 | Tow Law Choir | Setup Costs |
| £250 | Millennium Primary School | Holiday Activities |
| £250 | Art Group TLCC | Equipment |
| £250 | Tow Law PCC | Flower Festival |
| £250 | 1 st Tow Law Brownies | Running Costs |
| £250 | Trex Gym | CCTV Equipment |
| £250 | TLCC | Marquee |
| £250 | 1 st Tow Law Scouts | Shelter |
| £250 | Tow Law Salamander Taekwondo | Mats |
| £102 | Speedwatch Group | Body Camera |
| £250 | Friends of Tow Law | Bonfire Night |
| £250 | Friends of Tow Law | Xmas Activities |
| £270 | Community Association | Acoustic Tiles |
| £250 | Community Association | Curtains |
| £50 | CAB | Running Costs |
| £3,000 | Community Association | Running Costs |

New Councillors

In the previous edition we mentioned that three people had been nominated to fill vacancies on the Town Council. All of these nominees were co-opted onto the Council and as with the previous new members they have been asked to provide an introduction for the newsletter. One Councillor has provided details in time for this issue the others will be added at a later date.

Elizabeth Mather

My name is Elizabeth Mather. I was born in Gateshead in 1950 and have lived in the Gateshead and Newcastle area all my

working life. I moved into Gladstone Terrace Sunnyside on my retirement six years ago, next door to my daughter and granddaughter. I have no political persuasion but feel that local government should be run by local people and that it is now time for me to help.

I worked as a Manager/Partner in General Practice for 35 years and while not afraid of conflict, I like to work in a positive and co-operative style where ever possible. I would like to contribute to Tow Law council as an effective team member.

I was co-opted on the council in December 2017 but have been involved in other local activities.

As a Police volunteer I have attended over 100 hours on Police Speed Watch. I am also an active member of the Sunnside Community Association for the past two years as Treasurer and recently became a member of the newly formed Hill Top Partnership.

I have a keen interest in the environment and local and family history. I am an ordinary person with the same concerns that we all have at one time or another and hope to put these forward as one of your Town Councillors.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

It's been a relatively quiet few months in Tow Law lately, and only a few new issues have arisen since the last Town Council Newsletter.

The most common issue raised with me has been Anti-Social behaviour. I've personally reported 16 incidents since September, and many local people have informed me that they have also reported some incidents to the Council. The Anti-Social Behaviour officers at the County Council are excellent, and they are working with victims, the Neighbourhood Wardens and the Police to try to find a resolution. If you feel affected by anti-social behaviour, you can report it on the Council's website or you can contact me (my details are below) and I will report it on your behalf. If you witness an incident occurring, the advice is to call 101 and report it to Durham Police.

In lighter news, I'm pleased to say that the Three Towns Partnership – which covers the areas of Tow Law, Crook and Willington - has awarded a grant of £7,000 to the Tow Law Community Centre to help in

their efforts to install a much needed new heating system in the Hall. I also provided a Neighbourhood Budget grant of £1500 to the Friends of Tow Law to support their incredible efforts to fundraise for a Christmas tree, which is now up and looking excellent. I'd just like to thank them for all their hard work, there are many other towns and villages in our area that are very envious of what you've achieved! I'm also working with the Tow Law Football Club and the Brownies/Girl Guides group to provide grants to support some of their projects, and hopefully those applications will be completed soon.

In cooperation with the Town Council, we have also been able to complete two important projects. The first is a replacement bus shelter which The Town Council funded on Roads End – replacing one that was in serious disrepair and provided little shelter from the weather. Another is the Millennium Green Play area, which is very nearly finished – we're just waiting on a fence to be put up around it.

One major issue that will be affecting our area over the next few months is the Government's rollout of Universal Credit which will replace Income Support, Income-based Jobseekers Allowance, Income-related Employment and Support Allowance, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. During the switch-over, claimants won't receive credit for a minimum of six weeks. Other changes include moving to a solely online system and claimants will receive monthly credit payments rather than weekly payments. We expect that many affected claimants will struggle over the next few months as a result. If

you, or anyone you know, needs advice, help or support you can contact Durham County Council on 03000 260 000, or feel free to contact me and I will find the best person for you to speak to.

My details are below if you want to get in touch if you have an issue you feel I might be able to help with, and thank you for taking the time to read this.

Richard Manchester.

03000 268 719
richard.manchester@durham.gov.uk

3 TOWNS AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIP

Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) cover all areas of the county and have been set up to give people in County Durham a greater choice and voice in local affairs. The partnerships allow people to have a say on services, and give organisations the chance to speak directly with local communities. By working in partnership we help ensure that the services of a range of organisations - including the county and town and parish councils, police, fire, health, and voluntary organisations - are directed to meet the needs of local communities and focus their actions and spending on issues important to these local communities.

How AAPs work

Each of the 14 AAPs is made up of an Area Forum and an Area Board to identify and tackle issues in local communities. Each AAP puts plans and actions in place to deliver services where they are needed most and has a budget of £100,000 for local projects and investments, as well as an administration budget for staffing. This is in addition to a

Neighbourhood Budget which each County Councillor has to use for local initiatives, informed by the AAP's.

Get involved in making a difference in your community

if you would like to have a say and influence decisions that affect your area why not join your local AAP the **3 Towns Partnership**. As a local forum member you'll be invited to meetings and events to discuss community issues, receive regular e-bulletins with useful information from partners and information on events and activities going on in your local area.

Forum members are asked what the key themes and issues they think their local AAP's and partners should be tackling. This year, 3 Towns Partnership is working on the key themes of Children Young People and Families, Health and Wellbeing with a cross cutting theme of Community safety.

Task groups meet regularly to work on these specific themes and to look at the key issues highlighted under these themes. If you're interested in any of these themes the 3 Towns Partnership is working on, why not get involved in a task group.

Tow Law Area

Some projects the AAP funds or develops with partners are 3 Towns wide projects and others are geographically specific to an area.

Funded projects in 2017 with partners in the Tow Law area from both the AAPs Area Budget and the Neighbourhood Budget included, developing new Car Parking, installation of new CCTV and an under 5s Play Area. Funding was also given to Tow Law Community Association for a programme of

summer activities and trips for Children and Families.

The 3 Towns partnership also host its own Youth Forum where young people aged 10 to 18 can get involved. One of the main roles is to make decisions on applications for funding from organisations working with Children and young people. The Youth Forum has grants available up to £500 for ideas for projects from Children and young people, organisations from Tow Law have received grants from the Youth Forum in the past few years. Application packs are available from the 3 Towns Team. If you know a young person who may be interested in becoming a member of the Youth Forum then please contact the 3 Towns team.

To become a forum member, get involved with a task group, find out more about grants or the 3 Towns Youth Forum please contact the 3 Towns Team
03000 267539
threetownsap@durham.gov.uk

TOW LAW TOWN FC UPDATE

As this issue goes to press Tow Law Town currently find themselves second in the Northern League Second Division 6 points behind the leaders with 2 games in hand.

There have been changes to the squad and management since the previous newsletter, with the team fully focused behind Steve Murray, the team manager.

We lost in the Durham Challenge Cup to a very professional Gateshead FC team of the Vanarama Conference League, and in a 2nd round FA Vase tie against 1874 Northwich. Although the league remains our priority the FA Vase was a welcome distraction, with many supporters making the 320 mile round trip to Cheshire last November.

Up front, Lewis Teasdale and Dean Thexton have been scoring regular goals.

Our shirt sponsor, SIMON CHOLLERTON of Tow Law Plastering Services is continuing to support the team and with improved performances, attendances are on the up. We are averaging gates of 115 at home which is 5th highest in the league, but would love to see even more.

We offer quality football and the clubhouse has a wide variety of drinks at very reasonable prices.

Support the Lawyers in what we hope will continue to be a successful season.



Tow Law Town FC Clubhouse and Goalmouth