

Tow Law Town Council News

newsletter@towlawtowncouncil.org.uk

A NEW PLAYGROUND FOR TOW LAW

We reported in the previous edition that pending permission from Natural England a new children's playground will be built at the Millennium Green in the near future.

We are delighted to report that permission has now been granted subject to the following conditions:

- The playground will be built as per the specification submitted
- The total of the Green covered by the playground will be no more than 300 m²
- Any future alteration to the Green or building of a permanent structure would be subject to further consent by Natural England
- The building of the playground will not disturb any other area of the Green
- The Green will continue to be maintained and used in accordance with the Grant Conditions and Trust Deeds
- The Council will use reasonable endeavours to prevent any unnecessary public disturbance on the Green due to the playground



Plan of the new Playground

Other advice received:-

- That the Town Council consider the possible health and safety risks and put in place appropriate policies and signs on the playground to mitigate such risk of personal injury on the playground
- That the Town Council check the liability insurance to see that the Council is fully covered should someone be injured on the playground seek to claim against someone responsible for it.
- That the Town Council consider seeking agreement on who would be responsible for the resurfacing and repair of the playground when required so that this would not be a burden and impact the ability of the Town Council to manage the Green.

ITEMS LIST

Toddler Area

A. Speed Gyro	Ref: J2400
B. 1.2m Crawl Tunnel & End Panels	Ref: UKX2593
C. 3LM 300mm log stockading	
D. Diabolo Multiplay Unit	Ref: J3836
E. Anti Wrap Cradle Seat Swing	Ref: J480
F. Gemini Springer	Ref: J833
G. Spring Seesaw	Ref: J852
H. 4x Picnic Table	Ref: J2880
I. 67LM Bowtop Fence 1.2m high ppc green	
J. 1.2m high Prosafe combination gate ppc yellow	
K. 1.2m high Prosafe Gate ppc yellow	

Groundworks

Area to be surfaced with 126m² envirosmart grassmat as shown.

Pathway for toddler area created using 25m² self binding gravel path (including all groundworks and timber edge).

Creation of mounding for tunnel (8m²) as shown including topsoil and seed.

Subject to further site survey.

Areas of long grass shown as indicative only.

The play equipment has since been ordered and it looks like work on the project will be underway by the end of September.

We will of course have the latest news on this in the next edition.

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.

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.

Upcoming meetings are 19th September, 17th October and 20th November. There is no meeting in December.

Agendas 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.

New Councillors

At the recent Council Elections a number of sitting Councillors made the decision not to stand again creating vacancies on the

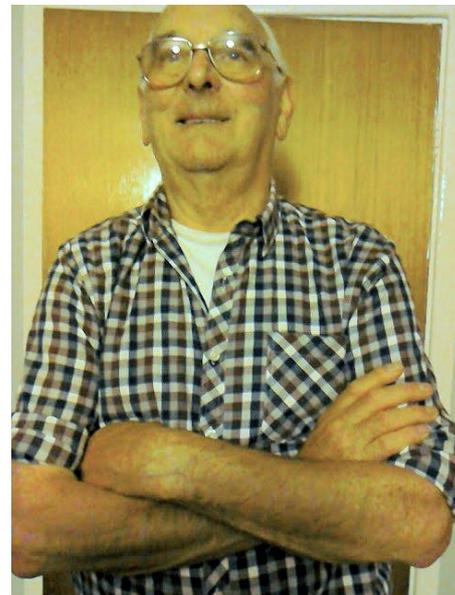
Town Council. These were partially filled when three new candidates put themselves forward and were elected as new members. We would like to thank the former Councillors for their service and warmly welcome the new faces recently elected. As this issue goes to press there are still vacancies however three more people have been nominated for co-option and if elected would bring the Council up to full strength. The three new members recently elected to the Council have each put together an introduction for this newsletter.

Harold Wilshire

Age 75, I was born in Stanley (Crook) in 1942, married Mary Gillson a Tow Law girl in 1962, we have a daughter Allison and 2 grandchildren. We moved to Billy Row in 1972.

I played football with Tow Law lads at Waterhouse's Junior's until 1960 and started playing cricket for Stanley at 11 years old for over 20 years.

I joined the Neighbourhood Watch in 2000 with the intent of



Councillor Wilshire

doing some good for the community and I am still going strong 17 years later. I hope the community thinks I have helped in some small way. Five years ago I joined up as a Police Support Volunteer. I am also an active member of the local community Speedwatch group, who cover the whole of the old Wear Valley area going out up to 3 times a week. My reason for joining the Town Council is that I love working for People and wish to do good things for the people of Tow Law.

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1 APRIL 2016 TO 31 MARCH 2017

Balance as at 1 April 2016	£37980.41
Precept	£33834.71
Other Income	£19694.85
Sub Total	£91509.97
Less Expenditure	
Staff Costs	£16266.71
Other Expenditure	£16556.80
Total	£32823.51
BALANCE AS AT 31 MARCH 2017	£58686.46
Co-op Bank Current Account	£59816.46
Less un-presented cheques	£1130.00
TOTAL	£58686.46

Colin Hemingway

My name is Colin Hemingway and I have been a resident of Roddymoor Village all of my 68 years.

I strongly believe in local communities working together for the benefit of their areas and environment.

During my younger years I was secretary of my village Youth Club for eight years, which myself and another resident of the village founded in 1972. As well as looking after the Friday night youth club we organised other outings for local residents and their children to places like Billingham Forum, Durham Ice Rink and day trips to South Shields and the Lake District. I was also Secretary of Roddymoor Football Club for thirteen years before going on to be a football referee and achieving Class One status in 1985.

Other positions in my recent past include the formation of the Roddymoor Allotments Committee for which I was Secretary and oversaw the transformation of the site from a disorganised run down site into what it is now a fully occupied site with a proper tarmac car park and fully furnished community room.

I am presently Secretary of the Billy Row & District Community Association. Along with others on the committee we have organised fund raising village fairs and various parties. Such as Christmas, Halloween and Easter parties for the children of our local area and beyond.

I have become a Councillor with TLTC with the intentions of helping to achieve the community aspirations of other like minded Councillors and to

do my best for the residents of Tow Law and local areas.

Kevin Geraghty-Shewan

I've lived in Tow Law for three years now, originally from the North East but I lived in London and the South East for nearly 30 years after leaving University.

I am married to Sarah and between us we have 5 children although only the youngest Ben still lives with us. I've worked in the conference industry for the past 30 years, currently for a company in Newcastle but before that with a company I helped start in South London.

I started out as a Project Manager but more recently have worked in content creation - Camera work, video editing and production of on-screen graphics for conferences and award ceremonies.



Councillor Geraghty-Shewan

When I lived in Kent I was the Chair of Governors for the Infant School my wife worked at and was previously a Governor at my daughter's primary school. My hobbies include photography and music!

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Before I begin, I would just like to say a quick thank you to everyone who has placed their trust in me to be your County Councillor. It's an honour to be elected, and I hope that we can all work together to make Tow

Law one of the best places to live and work in County Durham.

One of the most common questions I've been asked since being elected in May is 'what does a County Councillor actually do?' It's a difficult question to answer, as every day is very different. County Councillors are allocated a budget which we can use to direct funds into our community. So far I've been able to help fund the Tow Law Flower Festival, which took place at St Philip and St James Church at the end of July, and was a great success thanks to all the dedicated volunteers that worked on it.

I'm also working to secure funding for Tow Law Football Club and for the Friends of Tow Law, so that they can continue with all their great work.

Most of the work I do is in partnership with other groups or organisations. In Tow Law, this means there is a great deal of cooperation between myself and the Town Council. Over the past few months I have been working to obtain approval to build a new play area on the Millennium Green - I was successful and it should be built later this year, paid for by the Town Council.

We are also working together to maintain and preserve the Bee-Hive Coke Ovens which are a significant part of our town's heritage, and to replace the inadequate bus shelter on Park Terrace (Roads End). However, these are larger projects. By far the most challenging and rewarding aspect of this job is to support the people who live in this division. The problems faced by our local people vary greatly and there is rarely a quick or easy solution.

(Continued on page 4)

If you want to get in touch with any concerns, please feel free. Although I can't always guarantee I will be able to help, I can guarantee that I will try.

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TOW LAW TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

Tow Law Town AFC, formed in 1890 currently play in the EBAC Northern League, Division 2. Last season we finished a disappointing 13th in the League but we are expecting better things this year. We won our first game, at home to promotion fancied Northalerton and at the time of going to press we are top of the league with 24 points.

During the close season, we added a number of new faces, some familiar lads who are returning to the Club to play under our management team of Steve Murray, Dave Littlefair and Kevin Dixon.

Pre-season started in early July, with the team coming together to ensure fitness and preparation for the new season. Friendlies were organised, but some of the preparation was disrupted by the unpredictable summer weather.

Behind the scenes, the committee were working diligently to obtain enough sponsorship to improve the team. Paul Chollerton, Tow Law Plastering Services continued his sponsorship of the strip, traditional black and white stripes. He then went one better and agreed for his company logo to go on the away kit, a brand new bright orange shirt, with white shorts and socks, shades of the Holland team in the 70's. If anyone



Tow Law Town FC Stand

wants replicas of the kits, contact the club for prices and orders. Paul, Tony and Joe Ridley agreed to sponsor the canteen facilities so watch out for Ridley's Exhausts logos when you get your food on match days. It's great to see 2 local companies supporting their local football club, remember to give something back to them when you need some work doing.

The ground is also looking great, thanks to the hard work of Michael Bevills, Lee Cullinan and Steven Blacket, among others who freely give up their time.

The Clubhouse continues to thrive, open every night, match days and Sunday lunchtimes



Tow Law Town FC Clubhouse

with a wide and varied choice of very reasonably priced drinks.

We also have Sky Sports for those of you who like a pint while watching your TV sport.

The games are publicised on posters around the town, Twitter (@Towlawtown), Facebook (Tow Law Past and Present) and (Tow Law Town).

Keep an eye out for our fixtures, pop along and support the lawyers, you'll be most welcome.

TOW LAW LUNCH CLUB

In addition to meeting on the last Wednesday of the month for a 2 course meal for the over 50s Tow Law Lunch Club hosts a number of other events throughout the year.

Upcoming for the remainder of 2017 are a Health Beauty and Well Being afternoon at 2 pm on 8th October, a Halloween event with Lunch Club at 10 am on October 24th, the Skapones band at 7.30 pm on the 4th November and a New Years Eve Family Party at 7 pm on December 31st. For more information please email thelunchclubtowlaw@hotmail.com