

EV Van

The vehicle has been operational since Monday 21st November and to date is working well. The vehicle can travel up to 130 miles between charges, which is via an electrical point installed at the Unit prior to purchase. We will keep an eye on the financial impact on energy costs.



Bus Shelters

Following confirmation that £26,229 s106 Windfarm funding is available to be spent in Ashington, preferably in the current financial year, we are awaiting confirmation that this can be used to fund the proposed x3 bus shelters that the Council agreed at the last meeting. Because the quotes have been sought but the work not ordered, this is expected to be straight-forward.

The funding available is for capital projects that benefit the community and in view that previous funding has been used towards play areas, it is suggested that an alternative capital project would be preferred. There is expected a further £14k in 2023/24 that the Council can access, therefore it would be good to think about this sooner rather than later.

A deep clean of the town's bus shelters will take place in the run up to Christmas.

Christmas Lights Switch-On

Event

The Christmas Lights switch-on event that was scheduled for Thursday 24th November (from 3:30pm) was cancelled at 3:00pm in view that gazebos were moving with the wind and had to be taken down quite quickly. This meant the stall holders who were part of the event, had to pack up. Planning for the event engaged over 30 businesses and community groups, all of whom were disappointed but understanding.

Ashington Girlguiding Division, planned to make Christmas tealight lanterns with decorated jam jars. They are now going to offer the activity to the Girl guides as part of their Christmas activities.

Ashington Veterans and Elders Institute, guess the price of the hamper game was given away to a lucky winner at their coffee morning on Saturday 3rd December, and the 80 Christmas trees decorations were given to a school and 20 to the local beavers and cubs.

Cambois Rowing Club have extended their row to the North Pole Challenge until February 2023.

Koast Radio have welcomed the opportunity to work with Ashington Town Council more closely through the event.

Ashington Hirst Running Club stayed a while and got a few new members for the running

The Sewing Machine Guy will be offering their activity of fairy and fairy house making free of charge in the shop.

Cooplunds donated the biscuit raffle prize to the ATC staff and commented that the lights were fantastic this year.

Asda were only there a short time but commented that it was lovely to catch up with community groups they work with, as well as meeting news one, and giving out some activity booklets. Asda hope to be included in any future events.

Real Deal Plus commented that the event would have been amazing, but that safety must come first especially with so many children about. Friends of Ashington Community Woods echoed this but were pleased to have been part of planning and future events.

Ashington Hirst Running Club enjoyed staying around and made the most of the exposure. With new members signed up.

Morpeth Lions stayed for as long as people wanted to see Santa and were very grateful to be involved.

Girl Guides passed on thanks to those who tried to get the event up and running in the conditions, and for the organising. Cambois Rowing Club echoed these comments and especially praised Ryan 'described as a star', for his help with the rowing machines.

Selection boxes and Christmas Trail

The Christmas Trail has proved popular not only for children, but businesses were delighted to be involved in the Christmas activity. We gave out 30 selection boxes on the night to children who had taken part in the Christmas Trail.

Mark and Ryan delivered a supply of selection boxes to the businesses taking part in the Christmas Trail on Monday 28th November. A post was put out on the ATC Facebook page that the Trail date had been extended to Saturday 3rd December and completed sticker cards could be handed in for their prize at any of the participating stores.

More cards and sticker were requested and we should have numbers of participants by the end of this week.

Christmas Lights

Feedback for the Christmas Lights has been positive with a post on Facebook gaining 125 likes and 25 positive comments.

“the lights are fantastic this year”

“best ever Christmas Lights”

“better than [REDACTED]” (another town)

“the Christmas tree is beautiful this year, love the baubles”

Schools Involvement

The following schools have all taken part in recording carols and Christmas songs, some have also sent in photos and videos. These will all be added to the video that is being produced by LukLuk Films.

- Ashington Academy
- Bothal Primary
- Central Primary
- James Knott Primary
- Bishops Primary
- Dukes Primary
- William Leach Primary

There are also recordings from Ashington Music Society.

Christmas Window Display Competition

Ten businesses took part in the competition and the winner is The Salvation Army Shop, with their lovely festive fireside scene.

They will receive a poster that can be displayed and will be presented with a hamper that can be shared or kept for the staff room.

Wansbeck Road Planning Application - 22/04216/OUT

The planning application will likely come to the NCC Strategic Planning Committee on 7th March 2023. The Planning Officer aims to have reports completed one-month in advance, therefore Tuesday 7th February is the last date that Ashington Town Council can schedule a meeting to agree their response and comments.

Agree to schedule a meeting on Tuesday 7th February at a venue large enough to fit those members of the public wishing to attend.

Allotments

Tap Works

We have 111 taps on our 8 allotment sites. In August the Council agreed to replace x50 tap units as per the regulations enforced by NWL. There was a request for an additional 5 taps from Allotment Associations but only 3 taps were installed, paid for by the Associations (Woodhorn and Green Lane). Hirst East End decided against the additional taps (2).

7 sites have been visited by Northumbrian Water and conform to water regulation standard. The final inspection of Woodhorn Road is on 13th December.

Advice from Northern Counties Allotments Association (NCAA) – Tenancy Agreements and Rules & Regulations

To develop common tenancy agreements, rules and regulations across the allotment sites in the town, advice is being sought via Mr David Banks, Advisor at NCCA. Mr Banks has met with each allotment association in the town and drafts will be developed for discussion and hopefully agreement in coming weeks.

Advice is also being sought on management agreements between the associations and the Town Council, via Mr Banks, but priority is being given to Tenancy Agreements and Rules & Regulations.

Play Areas

Following the recent completion of the Alexandra Road Play Area, work will commence with Haydon Ward Councillors in identifying improvements to Aintree Close and Epsom Drive Play Area. These two play areas are recognised as priorities requiring improvements.