

AGENDA 7, Enc ii) OFFICERS UPDATE - 10th September 2024

Allotments (General)

First recycling day at North Seaton Colliery, with assistance from plot holders, metals were collected and recycled. We hope to roll this out at Nursery Park next.

Plans to trial our first glass collection at Nursery Park in October with assistance from NCC, plot holders will be advised on the weekend before the collection, I will be on site on the following Monday to dispose of any glass collected from each plot. We will look to roll this out across all sites in the future if the Nursery Park trial is successful.

Contact made with a regional company with regards to recycling window frames, minimum of 10 frames to be collected free of charge, these must be deglazed. Windowpanes to be recycled at the Suez site with the use of the Town Council van and permit obtained, however there is a limit, further research to be carried out. We hope to trial this at our North Seaton site in November/December.

We would like to have a glass, metal, and window frame collection once per site each year. We hope to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

Locks are now on the Nursery Park gates, I have visited the site on a few occasions, only one occasion whereby the gates were left open.

Hedge cutting is in full swing at Woodhorn Road, on walkabouts it has been noted that hedges are more than 10ft tall, these will be cut back in September after bird nesting season has finished. I have already had positive comments about the work.

New locks installed on the Woodhorn road emergency gates, Northumberland Fire and rescue have 2 copies.

New plot holders at HEE, massive improvements already with weeds, new gates and fences erected.

Work has now been completed on the Hirst East End site; we hope to get the plot allocated asap. Further work on the site to be completed on our allotment action week.

ATC Neighbourhood Services

Bus Shelters - Work to install new seating will take place this week with new seating at two shelters on Briardene (Campion Way and Alderwood).

Public Seats – a number of seats have been painted and repaired during the summer.

Play Areas – Vandalism at Alexandra Road Play Area – currently closed due to damage to soft pour. CCTV coverage passed to Police. Sarah has commenced an insurance claim. Damage and wear and tear to other equipment during summer season which NSO's have addressed.

Station Road Planting – Work taking place this week to planting, commence some pruning for the winter season.

Flower Towers & Planters – New winter planting will be installed by Wansbeck Garden Centre in early October.

Bulb Planting & Wildflower Schemes – meeting with our contractor WL Straughan and NCC staff, on 23 September, to look at 7 potential bulb planting sites across the town, thank you to members for their suggestions, and wildflower planting scheme at the Football Club.

Allotment Action Week – NSO will support this w/c 16 September.

AGENDA 7, Enc ii) OFFICERS UPDATE - 10th September 2024

Bus Shelter Action Week – NSO will lead on this w/c 30 September – deep clean of shelters around the town.

Projects

Ashington Memorial Garden

Meetings have taken place with Sarah & Stephen, Rachael & Karen, of NCC, regarding proposed connectivity works as part of the redevelopment of the Wansbeck Square area. The aim is to enhance access, visibility, and the overall aesthetic of the memorial garden linking to the new development.

Work requested to include.

- New robust paving and associated works from new public realm, from existing Memorial recognising conflicts after 1945 and around exiting War Memorial, to current entrance to the Memorial Garden on Kenilworth Road. This will create a smooth and durable connection between the newly developed public realm and the Memorial Garden.
- Resurface of existing Resin Bonded Gravel path around Garden the area which will be accessible and attractive, enhancing the visitor experience while maintaining the natural charm of the garden.
- Tidy & Reduction of North and South border hedging to approximately 1.5m in height and East border hedging (Next to Wansbeck Square) to 1m in height.
- New planting around Memorial recognising conflicts after 1945 (as part of connectivity to new public realm).
- The introduction of new plants in the two borders near the east border, as well as refreshed planting around the memorial recognising post-1945 conflicts, will beautify the space while considering the existing tree canopy. This will soften the transition between the garden and surrounding spaces, providing a more cohesive environment.
- Refresh and Improvements to two borders that adjoin Kenilworth Road. Enhancing the planting in these borders will create a welcoming entrance to the garden, improving its visual appeal from Kenilworth Road and making the memorial more engaging for passersby.

Stephen is attending Ashington RBL meeting on 11th September to discuss the proposals.

Ashington Cricket Club Commemorative Tree Project to Mark the 80th Anniversary of the ending of WWII

Funding applications have been sent and we are awaiting a number of replies from local trusts. £13,000 committed to the project, to date. Thank you to all six NCC County Councillors for their support. The funding target is approximately £20,000. The next Steering Group meeting is on 11th September.

Ashington Community Woods Improvements

The first Steering Group meeting of the Ashington Community Woods Improvements Project will take place on Thursday 3rd October, at Ashington Town Hall.

The formation of a steering group, made up of users of the woodland (FACWs / Ashington Running Club / Park Run / NCC Officers), to discuss and plan improvements and for the Town Council to assist in developing external funding bids with partners, as and when required. The initial focus on

AGENDA 7, Enc ii) OFFICERS UPDATE - 10th September 2024

addressing drainage issues, improving the Miners' Meadow area and looking to increase positive usage of the woodland through developing walking trails etc.

Skate Park Project

A meeting took place in July with Shred the North, who are the leading skating organisation in the NE and who are working with Blyth Town Council on their proposed new skate park. Sharon and I have visited the site in Blyth. Work with Bothal Ward Councillors in moving forward giving consideration to any possible location and design.

Town Twinning Update

Work is continuing for Town Twinning Civic Day on Friday 25th October, which members are all invited to attend, more details will follow at next meeting.

Events and Engagement

Hirst Family Fun Day and Walking Footie – Wednesday 3rd July 2024

The event was well attended and featured various activities. ATC communications and engagement officer hosted a tote bag decorating activity, where over 20 bags were made and taken home. The event was also attended by Councillors Marjorie Chambers, Gemma Hemsley, and Civic Head Councillor Caroline Ball.

Both parents and local residents appreciated having such a fantastic event in their community, especially enjoying the free activities provided. With it being the summer school holidays, this was a great opportunity to entertain the children.

The walking football festival was a tremendous success, raising £2,109.50 for the British Heart Foundation and the Stephen Carey Fund.

Ashington Town Council supported the event with a £2,000 contribution, which covered activities such as first aid, room hire, and 3G pitch hire.

[Ashington Town Council](#)

Summer Activities on Tuesday Market

Pride Action North, Northumberland Wildlife Trust, Mortal Fools, BREAK.NE, and Central Northumberland Family Hubs all played a role in participating in a lively summer activity schedule at Ashington Market.

Mortal Fools' animation workshop was particularly popular, and councillors can watch the final clip on the ATC YouTube channel under the title "Tuesday Market Community" [Tuesday Market Community \(youtube.com\)](#)

The sessions ran from 10am to 2pm and were well attended, with both adults and children participating in various crafts and activities, including breakdancing workshops. The first session, hosted by Pride Action North, attracted over 40 adults and children throughout the day, a much better turnout than the Saturday activities held last summer.

The budget for the activities was set at £2,000, but the total cost ended up being just £910.00. Both Pride Action North and Central Northumberland Family Hubs offered their services free of charge.

Additionally, NCC provided two market stalls for each session at no cost, and Northern Carpet Supplies donated vinyl for the breakdancing workshops free of charge.

AGENDA 7, Enc ii) OFFICERS UPDATE - 10th September 2024

Due to the popularity of the summer activity sessions plans are already underway for October Half Term, where it was agreed by the Youth Advisory Committee to arrange to have four market stalls at the Tuesday market on 29th October, these will facilitate Halloween crafts for children during the half term break. There are also plans to have a Halloween Trick or Treat Trail that same week and we already have 21 shops signed up to the Trail.

Free Swim Sessions

The free swim sessions agreed and funded by the Youth Advisory Committee have been hugely successful seeing 37 adults and children attend the first session on Saturday 17th August. A fantastic result considering the sessions were only advertised three days previously.

Another 60 adults and children at the second session on Saturday 23rd August, with final week to be updated.

Plans are already in place to organise free swimming for the October Half Term.

Small Grant Fund

The third round of the small grant fund was launched on Monday 2nd September 2024. The closing date for the fund is Friday 27th September with decisions being made in the October Finance and General Services meeting on Tuesday 8th October 2024.

[Ashington Town Council](#)

Opportunities Fair

The communication and engagement officer will be attending an Opportunity Fair on Monday 16th September at the Hirst Welfare.

Sharon will be present at the Fair to recruit volunteers to help in the planning, organising and delivering of ATC town events.

Sharon will also take the opportunity to promote the Youth Forum.

The event organised by Northumberland Communities Together, bringing together employers looking to hire, volunteer groups looking to recruit and training providers.

News Items

There have been so many news stories since the last FGS Meeting. Links are not included but all can be read in the news link <https://www.ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk/news/>

[Ashington Pride Picnic Celebrates Diversity and Community Spirit](#)

[Ashington Leads the Way in Wildlife Conservation with Town-Wide Bird Box Initiative](#)

[Ashington's Free Family Swim Sessions Make a Big Splash!](#)

[Safety advice released with Northumberland Line at its busiest in 60 years](#)

[Finance & General Services Committee Meeting on 10/07/24.](#)

AGENDA 7, Enc ii) OFFICERS UPDATE - 10th September 2024

[Northumberland Line Update: Passenger Services Coming Soon](#)

[Ashington Town Council Launches Third Round of Small Grant Fund for 2024/25](#)

[Exciting Pride Picnic at Hirst Park on Saturday, 7th September](#)

[Ashington Schools Inspire Community Action with Climate Change Poster Competition](#)

[New Pontoon at Cambois Rowing Club Marks a Milestone for Ashington's Water Sports Community](#)

[Alexandra Road Play Area](#)

[Ashington Lights Up with Community-Created Animation](#)

[Mrs Carol Brown - Heart of the Hirst](#)

[Mortal Fools Youth Employability Event Set for September, Backed by Asda Foundation](#)

[New Cricket Training Facility Bowls Over Ashington Community](#)

[Town Council Applauds Successful Metal Recycling at North Seaton Colliery Allotments](#)

[Ashington Town Council Launches Free Family Swim Sessions for Summer](#)

[Ashington Town Council Bird Box Initiative Helps Boost Local Wildlife and Community Engagement](#)

[Public Exhibition to Celebrate 70 Years Of Town Twinning](#)

[Wildlife Trust Engages Ashington Community in Nature Activities](#)

AGENDA 7, Enc ii) OFFICERS UPDATE - 10th September 2024

[Ashington Town Council Backs Campaign for New E-Bike Battery Safety Laws](#)

[Ashington Town Council Boosts Local Running Club with Grant](#)

[Ashington Family Fun Day and Walking Football Festival Scores Big with Community](#)

[Ashington Town Council Addresses Tree Removal Concerns: Quick Action Yields Facts](#)

[Ashington Town Council Elects New Leadership for Climate Change and Environment Committee](#)

[Ashington Town Council Backs Youth Ideas with Action and Funding](#)

[Summer Fun Coming to Ashington Tuesday Market](#)

[Engaging Craft Activity for Ashington's Tuesday Market](#)

[Local Scrapstore Transforms Waste into Creative Opportunities](#)

[Ashington Camera Club Receives Funding Boost from Town Council](#)

[Ashington Town Council Supports Local Scout Group with Grant](#)

[Local Rowing Club Shines at British Rowing Championships](#)

[Ashington Hirst Welfare Centre to Host Family Fun Day and Walking Football Festival](#)

[Ashington Town Council and Pride Action North Unite for 2024 Pride Picnic](#)

[As School's Out for Summer, Ashington Town Council Plans to Bring Youth Voices In](#)

[Ashington Community Fair Day 2024 Celebrates Success Despite Rain](#)

[Keeping Ashington's Play Areas Ship-Shape: Council's Summer Maintenance Drive](#)

[New Secure Gates Installed at Nursery Park Allotment Site](#)

[Summer Fun Awaits in Ashington and Northumberland](#)

[Ashington Town Council Approves Community Grants](#)

[Ashington Town Council Commends Northumberland County Council Neighbourhood Services Team](#)

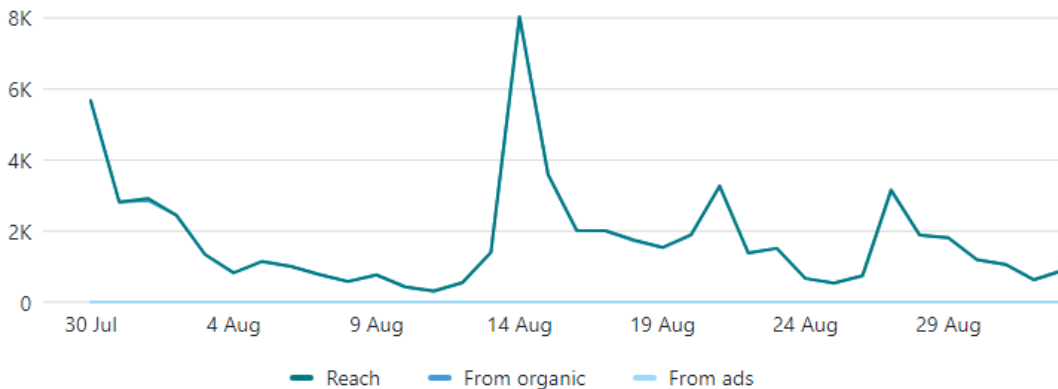
AGENDA 7, Enc ii) OFFICERS UPDATE - 10th September 2024

Content overview

Breakdown: Organic/ads

All Posts Stories Reels Videos Live

Reach 30.3K ↓ 0.6%
 3-second views 166 ↑ 295.2%
 1-minute views 1 ↓ 50%
 Content interactions 1.5K ↓ 26.2%
 Minutes viewed 55m 10s ↑ 49%



Reach breakdown






30 Jul - 2 Sep

Total 30,254 ↓ 0.6%
From organic 30,254 ↓ 0.6%
From ads 0 0%

Top content by reach

Boost content

See all content

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|  <p>SWIM SESSIONS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY Brought to you by Ashington Town Council's exciting new Youth Advisory Committee</p> <p>EVERY SATURDAY DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS 3.30 - 4.30 FROM 17TH AUGUST 2024</p> <p>SPLASH INTO SUMMER - JUST SHOW UP AND SWIM BE FIRST IN LINE - 80 SPOTS UP FOR GRABS - THE EARLY ONES DIVE IN -</p> <p>PLAY FOR ALL THE FAMILY AS YOU ENJOY A DIP IN THE POOL AT ASHINGTON LEISURE CENTRE</p> <p>Under 18's must be supervised</p> <p>https://www.ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk...</p> <p>14 August 03:05</p> <p>↗ 9K ❤️ 64 💬 30 📌 57</p> |  <p>https://www.ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk...</p> <p>14 August 09:12</p> <p>↗ 2.2K ❤️ 92 💬 4 📌 8</p> |  <p>Ashington Town Council has...</p> <p>21 August 05:10</p> <p>↗ 2.2K ❤️ 35 💬 29 📌 13</p> |  <p>Exciting news for Ashington and Sout...</p> <p>2 August 02:13</p> <p>↗ 1.6K ❤️ 26 💬 10 📌 5</p> |  <p>A HUGE thank you to everyone who...</p> <p>28 August 02:11</p> <p>↗ 1.3K ❤️ 13 💬 1 📌 1</p> |
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