

**Basic Parish Allowance and Expenses**

Northumberland NALC will poll all Northumberland T&P Councils as per the Council's request.

**Annual Grant Aid Awards**

Members will have seen the publicity relating to awards on our website and Facebook page. We will investigate plaques, but in the meantime, we have ensured all groups have been requested to take part in cheque presentations, and they have been asked to ensure there is public acknowledgement of the Council's contribution.

**Children's Lighting Features**

The Council suggested that we might like to invite those who designed lighting features, which have been removed from the scheme due to failure, to have the lights at home. Administratively, this should be possible when time allows, however there are transport costs and safety factors to consider, so before any action is taken, this will be brought back for proper consideration.

**Hirst Park Liaison Meeting**

No further update.

**Enhanced Neighbourhood Services Partnership Meeting**

A report of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June is on the agenda. A meeting of the Negotiating Group is scheduled to be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August. Those Cllrs attending are Cllrs Mark Purvis, John Tully and Pauline Thompson, and from NCC, Greg Gavin, Stephen Wardle, Ray Wealleans, and Peter Bowman.

**ATC Neighbourhood Services***Floral Planting*

Work to replenish the planting on Station Road was completed w/c 19 June.

The dry weather is continuing to provide challenges in terms of the watering of the summer and some of the sustainable planting as well as a number of recently planted trees that are now out of the maintenance schedule.

*Play Areas*

Work to install the new play areas at Aintree Close and Epsom Drive commenced w/c 19 June with works expected to be completed in early July in preparation of the school holiday period.

Disappointingly, there has been significant graffiti at People's Park Play Area which has required significant NSO time to address and we have appreciated NCC support in providing specialist equipment to address some of these issues. We are liaising with Northumbria Police, our CCTV providers (Assetwatch) and a local school in trying to tackle this issue.

*Bus Shelters*

We are continuing to have significant damage to bus shelters with graffiti and windows being broken. Disappointingly, a number of the recently installed shelters have been targeted with graffiti. The Police have been informed and NSO's are addressing issues.

Given the demands of watering and the recent vandalism and ASB issues some non-urgent tasks, such as cleaning of bus shelters, are behind schedule but will hopefully be addressed in coming weeks. Work will also take place to repaint a number of shelters that have suffered from recent vandalism.

### *Litterbins*

Twenty-four litterbins have recently been purchased and NSO's have commenced a programme of replacing ageing and damaged bins across the town. If members are aware of any issues with ageing litterbins, please inform the Assets & Facilities Manager who will add to the programme.

Additionally, as with other ASB issues in the town, NSO's have been addressing significant graffiti on litterbins as well as a number that have been pushed over and now require new bases.

### *Public Seats*

A summer programme to repaint public seats in the town is underway with all public seating on Station Road having recently being repainted. Work to repaint public seating in the College Shops area will take place in July as part of the improvement works in the area, as agreed.

Works to install new public seating, as previously agreed, has recently been completed, adjacent to the B1334 cycle path. Works to install a further memorial set, in the Seaton Ward, will also take place in coming weeks.

### *Allotments*

Work to install a new water system at Green Lane Allotment Site has been completed. This has identified an unusual pipe system that NWL have been asked to investigate.

Work to Woodhorn Allotment site water system will commence shortly.

Sarah and Stephen have meetings scheduled with all allotment site representatives on 14<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July. We expect to bring some finality to both management agreements with associations and site representative, and tenancies and rules, to the September FGS meeting.

## **Events and Engagement**

### *Ashington Fair Day*

Verbal update will be given.

### *Ashington Hirst Running Club – Fell Em Doon (5 miles)*

A reminder that this race is being held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July at Ashington Woods and we are co-hosting/helping Ashington Hirst Running Club. The event starts at 6:00pm if anyone would like to be there to give out prizes and water.

### *Northumberland Miners Picnic*

Sharon and Sarah are meeting with Woodhorn on 14<sup>th</sup> July to review the event. If members have anything to feedback, as per the email sent on 8<sup>th</sup> June, please let us know.

## **Annual Governance and Accountability (AGAR)**

All 2022-23 year-end responsibilities have been completed and our return has been published and sent to the external auditor.

### [Ashington Town Council - Search](#)

## **Grass cutting for Biodiversity**

All members received an email reminder after the meeting, with a request to send any suggestions for discussion with NCC.

**Bulb planting and wildflowers**

Those suggestions received for bulb planting will be discussed with NCC, and if supported costs will be sought and will be brought back to the September CCE Committee meeting, in time for planting in October.

Any wildflower suggestions received will also be discussed with NCC, if on their land. Due to capacity, bulb planting, which is generally supported and less divisive, will be prioritised.

**Carbon Literacy Training for Sports Clubs**

We expect to be able to progress speaking with the town's sporting representatives towards the end of July/August.