

NEWSLETTER

Belmont Parish Council



Autumn 2024

NEW DISABILITY ACCESSIBLE PLAY EQUIPMENT!



Belmont Parish Council has secured funding to install disability accessible play equipment at Moorfield Park. There is a new roundabout, swing and picnic table which are all wheelchair friendly, meaning children and young people with disabilities can now use play items in a shared space with their friends and siblings. Funding was secured from the Parish Council, Banks Group Ltd, The AAP (Area Action Partnership) and from the three local County Councillors. Wheelchair users with a RADAR key can open and use the swing. Spare keys are available from the parish office.

One well-known local group 'The Cheesey Waffles' enjoyed a happy and healthy Summer Programme, made more enjoyable by the newly installed equipment. Members and staff have given positive feedback stating that: "It ensures everyone can enjoy the park together, supports inclusivity and gives another

area for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities to enjoy."



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE 2024

Sunday 10th November 2024

ST. MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH 10.00 A.M.

BELMONT WAR MEMORIAL 10.35 A.M.

Following the services light refreshments will be available in Belmont Parish Hall.

Members of the public are very welcome. Please do join us.

There will also be a service on Armistice Day at the War Memorial

Monday 11th November 2024 starting at 11.00am

BELMONT PARISH IN BLOOM _____



Members of Belmont Parish Council Environment Committee, along with community volunteers attended the **Northumbria in Bloom Awards** in September. As well as visiting the specific competition entries, the judges were also impressed with the many attractive private gardens which they passed on their tour of the Parish, so a big thank you to all the residents who contributed towards us gaining the following awards:

Religious - Belmont Cemetery: **Gold**

Hotels - Ramside Hall: **Gold**

Allotments - Belmont Allotments: **Gold**

Conservation - Belmont Scrambles Nature Reserve: **Gold**

Schools - Gillesgate Primary School Allotment: **Gold and Best in Category**

Private Garden - Dinsdale Drive, Belmont: **Gold and Best in Category**

Urban Community - Belmont (Parish): **Silver Gilt and Best in Category**

It's Your Neighbourhood – Dragon Park – Improving

It's Your Neighbourhood – The Triangle, Sherburn Road - Advancing

It's Your Neighbourhood – The Duffy – Advancing

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE NEWS

Sadly, the BMX track at Moorfield Park has had to be temporarily closed. It requires some serious remedial work before it can be safely used again.

This parish council is busy looking into funding opportunities – grants etc that can be used to fund the immediate repairs and to further develop it for future use

We would be very interested to hear our residents' comments and feedback regarding this, and the types of improvements we can make. Please contact the parish office (details below) or complete the form at the back of this newsletter.

The Environment Committee have contracted DCC to manage the grass cutting, flower beds and to trim the Public Rights of Way (PROW) paths, following the grass and hedge cutting.

CEMETERY NEWS

Within a few years, the cemetery will reach full capacity. Councillors have considered various options, and due to financial implications and lack of available land, are not able to establish a new facility. To help prolong the life of the cemetery, some of the burial plots have been changed to ashes plots. When there are no plots left in the cemetery it will remain open, indefinitely, for residents to visit loved ones, but for new burials, other designated County Council sites would need to be used by residents, such as South Road. Other areas within the parish are being considered as possible 'Gardens of Rest' for the scattering of ashes.

The last plaque has been placed on the last bench within our cemetery. Our rules and regulations state only one plaque per bench, and as we will be becoming a closed cemetery, no further requests for plaques will be granted.

DURHAM COUNTY NEWS

Durham County News will no longer be delivered through your letters boxes but is now available online To ensure you never miss an issues you can subscribe at:

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/DCNsubscribe>

The Autumn 2024 edition is available now, with an interactive digital magazine and accessible PDF available from:

<https://durham.gov.uk/article/11335/Current-issue-of-Durham-County-News>

As part of the new arrangements, a limited number of printed copies of Durham County News will be delivered to all libraries, leisure centres, customer access points and family hubs for those who don't have access to the internet.

PARISH PLANNING MATTERS

As has been reported in previous newsletters, conversion of properties to houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) is the subject of much debate by residents. Belmont Parish Council is, in principle, opposed to these conversions which result in a reduction of badly needed family housing stock. Representations are made to the local authority, and the parish council, where it considers there are compelling reasons for refusal, refers applications to the appropriate county council committee for consideration by county councillors. However national planning policies, by which the local authority is bound, make it extremely challenging for refusal

Public opinion can make a difference and therefore residents should voice their opinion during the formal consultation. Households within the immediate vicinity of an application are informed by letter and all applications are on the county council website under 'Planning'. Any resident can review planning applications and comment directly by visiting the County Council website at

www.durham.gov.uk/article/3276/Planning-applications-and-advice

The parish council has formally requested a review of the policies in the County Durham Plan concerning HMOs but has been informed this will not take place until the overall Plan is examined.

AUTUMN 2024 SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

Belmont Community School are still planning to do a Christmas Panto this year, but it will be a little scaled down, as they are expecting to move into their new premises this term. Sadly, this means the Senior Citizen's matinee performance will be cancelled this year.

BCA FACILITIES FOR HIRE

Belmont Community Association is a busy and successful centre. Rooms at Belmont Community Centre are available to hire for family celebrations, public meetings, training events, exhibitions, leisure and recreational activities and much more. Please contact centre manager Jacqui Miller on 01913866659, j.miller@belmontcommunityassociation.org.uk prices and further details.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Quiz Night: Saturday 7th December at Belmont Parish Hall at 7.00pm (doors open 6.30pm)
 Maximum 6 people per team, £3 per person. Bring your own refreshments
 Contact the parish hall for further details 0191 38

Tree Lighting Ceremony: **Friday 29th November** at Belmont Parish Hall 6.00pm for lighting ceremony
 Refreshments afterwards in Belmont Parish Hall

DATES FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS	USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
held in Belmont Community Centre at 6.30 p.m. (Second Thursday of the month, excluding August and January) Next meetings on 14 th November 2024 /12 th December 2024 13th February 2025 Members of the public are welcome to attend.	Durham County Council General enquiries 03000 260 000 Highways, Lighting and Streetscene 03000 261 000 County Council Help Desk 03000 123 7070 Community Police Officer can be contacted on the police non-emergency number 0345 606 0365

PARISH COUNCILLORS

<u>Belmont Area</u>	<u>Carrville Area</u>	<u>Gilesgate Moor Area</u>
Eric Mavin 07507 095616 Mick Bennett 0191 340 7361 Kim Noble 07912 790903 Arthur Walker 0191 384 6282 Stephen White 07914 006465	Lesley Mavin 07944 471749 John Appleby 07960 241576 Patricia Conway 07943 016225 Joe Knight 0191 386 2902 Ann Watkins annwatkins261@hotmail.com	Chris Fletcher 03000 269096 Patrick Conway 07943 015662 Val Hawes 07920 145442 Carole Lattin 07813 937725 Mick Watson 07514 431196

Parish Clerk Mrs S. Overton 0191 386 0664

YOUR FEEDBACK REQUESTED

We would be very interested to hear feedback from residents about how they feel we as a parish council are doing, or whether you have any issues / concerns / support needed or any feedback on items in this newsletter. Please complete the slip below and return to the parish office or email to the address below.

Name.....Contact details (phone / email)

My views / suggestions are

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