

Haughton North Ward

Newsletter

SPRING 2013

Your Councillors are :-

Tom Nutt - 01325 360953 email thomas.nutt@darlington.gov.uk

Bev Hutchinson - 01325 262015 email beverley.hutchinson@darlington.gov.uk

POLICE NON EMERGENCY NUMBER – 101

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – 346832

DOG WARDEN – 388799

WHEELED BINS

The new wheeled bin service starts in the week commencing 17 June 2013. The Council is introducing the new service following advice from the Health and Safety Executive. The HSE reviewed the Council's current refuse arrangements (black bag collections), and advised that we should run the new service with wheeled bins to minimise the risk of musculo-skeletal and needle stick injuries to refuse collection staff.

You will receive your wheeled bin in May or June. If you haven't got one by Friday 7 June, please call 01325 388777. **Please do not put your wheeled bin out before w/c 17 June as it will not be collected. Continue to use black bags up until that date.**

When you receive your bin, mark your house number on it with pen or paint and store it away on your property.

When putting your bin out for collection please put it :-

- At the end of the track if you live in a rural area
- Where you normally put your black bags out for collection or on the edge of your property
- With the handle facing the road for quicker and easier emptying

Please don't leave wheeled bins on the pavement as this can be a problem for people with visual impairments or wheelchair users.

A leaflet explaining in greater detail will be circulated to all households in the next few weeks. The bins are light and easy to move, however, if, when you have had your bin delivered, you are having difficulty, you can ring 01325 388777 to request assisted delivery. All those residents already receiving this service do not need to re-apply.

BEECH WOOD

Residents may already be aware that we have had a few major incidents of anti-social behaviour in Beech Wood. The Police have worked with residents and Councillors to eradicate this problem. We have now removed the log from inside the wood where youths tended to gather, and have managed to identify most of the perpetrators and their parents have been informed and appropriate action has been taken. As this is an inherent problem, it has been kept as a PACT priority and the Police are continuing to monitor the situation.

POLICE NOTICES

The police are looking for volunteers to help with Speedwatch. This entails attending a busy area or stretch of road with an officer and a computerised speed tracker and recording details of speeding traffic. If you wish to help out, please contact PCSO Liz Harley or PCSO Rachel Small on 101.

Our Police beat team now do a walkabout with Councillors at least once a month to identify any problems in the area and to speak to residents about their concerns. You may see us out and about and your views on issues regarding our area are welcomed. PCSO Liz Harley is on a daily patrol throughout the Ward and also can be contacted on 101.

SHOPPING TROLLEYS

Work is progressing with regard to finding a solution to the problem of abandoned trolleys within the ward. We are currently working with Darlington Borough Council and the Police, and report is to be put before DBC Cabinet at the May meeting. More details to follow.

DOG FOULING

As part of the crack-down on dog fouling in the area, you may receive a visit from Cllr Hutchinson or PCSO Liz Harley reminding you (if you have a dog!) to pick up. Certain areas have been identified as particular "hot spots" and these have been reported to our Dog Warden who will also be out and about in the area.

AROUND THE TOWN

Volunteers are invited to join Darlington's Friends of South Park to help out with monthly gardening at the town's historic Victorian park. If you are interested, please contact John Throw at johnthrow@btinternet.com or visit www.southparkdarlington.co.uk

As of 31 March, the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) at NHS County Durham and Darlington will close. Anyone contacting the service after this date will hear a recorded message directing them to alternative sources of support regarding queries, concerns, comments and compliments. Information on alternative source of advice and support to follow.

WARD SURGERIES

A reminder that ward surgeries take place in the foyer of ASDA, on the first Saturday of every month. Alternatively, your Councillors can be contacted on the numbers or e mail addresses at the top of this letter.

Northgate News

Get in touch!

This is the regular News-letter of your local Borough Councillors

Ward Surgeries are held on the first Wednesday of every month at Reid Street School between

6pm and 7pm

Please also contact us any time by 'phone, letter or email.

Contact details overleaf o



Spring 2013

Get in touch with your community

The recent Community Survey, commissioned by the Community Partnership found that upwards of 150 people from all over the ward expressed an interest in getting involved with all sorts of community activities.

We would love to hear further from you –what your ideas are, what sort of things interest you and what you had in mind when you completed the survey. There was a meeting to go through the outcomes of the survey, but not many people managed to come along and we do not want all that useful work to go to waste.

The next meeting of the partnership is on March 13th and is the AGM. Please come along whether you wish to be involved, at what ever level, or you just want to see what happens and meet some of the people who are already working for the Northgate community.

Before this, at 6pm the Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting is held, which is an opportunity to meet your local police, hear what they have been up to, and to let them know where you would like to see them focus their priorities– also very informal!

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Wheeled bins are on their way, we have had various comments and questions, but if you need information or help with a problem PLEASE get in touch and we will arrange for someone to visit you to see what can be done to solve the problem— everything from assisted collections to where to store the bin.

GET IN TOUCH!**Cllr Eleanor Lister**

01325 254091

Mob. 07976226580

15 Larchfield Street

DL3 7TF

eleanor.lister@darlington.gov.uk

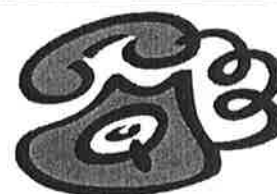
Cllr Dorothy Long

01325 355755

19a Vane Terrace

DL3 7AT

dorothy.long@darlington.gov.uk

**THERE IS NO NEED TO WAIT FOR A SURGERY TO GET IN TOUCH!****Welfare Reform Act.**

This will mean major changes to many benefits, including:

From April 2013

- The amount of Housing Benefit some people can claim will be reduced;
- Council Tax Benefit system will be replaced with a localised service.
- A Benefit cap will be phased in, single people and couples, with or without children will only receive a certain amount of benefit, all those due to be capped will be capped by September of this year.
- Disability Living Allowance will be replaced by Personal Independence Payments.
- The Social Fund (Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants) will transfer to the Local Authority.

From October 2013

- Universal Credit will begin to replace Jobseeker's Allowance (income based), Tax Credits, Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance (income related) and Housing Benefit. This should be completed in September 2017.

The Council is working with partners to raise awareness of these issues.

Haughton East Newsletter - January/ February 2013



COUNCILLOR MARTIN LANDERS
 98 Welbeck Avenue, Darlington, DL1 2DP
Tel: 07709804580
 Email: martin.landerson@darlington.gov.uk
 Facebook: Cllr Martin Landers



COUNCILLOR CHRIS MCEWAN
 8 Millrace Close, Darlington. DL1 3SQ
Tel: (01325) 283262
 Email: chris.mcewan@darlington.gov.uk
 Facebook: Cllr Chris McEwan

NEW BUSES

Bus passengers in Darlington will benefit from 'greener' transport thanks to Arriva's plans to introduce new Low Carbon Emission buses to its fleet after a successful bid by the company to the government's Green Bus Fund, supported by Darlington Council. Eleven new Ecocity gas buses will operate on the busy local services 2, 11 and 12 in April 2013. These state-of-the-art buses will operate using 100 per cent biomethane. The buses were trialled in Darlington last year and passengers were impressed with how quiet the buses were as well as the high standard of comfort for passengers.

WELL CHILD CLINIC

Are you a parent? - Did you know there is a weekly Well Child Health Clinic held at Red Hall Community Centre every Tuesday morning from 9am until 10.30am. The Clinic provides a friendly and relaxed session where you can weigh your baby, have immunisations and receive practical support from your local health team.

WARD SURGERY

Our next ward surgery will be at Red Hall Community Centre on Wednesday 6th February from 6.00pm until 7.00pm.

ALCOHOL RELATED HARM

Did you know that Alcohol related harm costs Darlington an estimated £42m per year, whilst less than £1m of resources is available locally to tackle it. Darlington's largest alcohol issue is the binge drinking culture with latest national estimates suggesting this is as high as 28% of our adult population. There is a further estimated 4% of our community who are classed as severely dependent on alcohol and requiring specialist treatment. Year on year more people are being admitted to our hospital for alcohol related conditions and more are dying early from alcohol related diseases.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO BENEFITS

The Government has introduced the Welfare Reform Act and this will mean major changes to many benefits, including:

From April 2013

The amount of Housing Benefit some people can claim will be reduced;

- The Council Tax Benefit system will be replaced by a localised service;

- A Benefit Cap will be phased in, meaning single people, couples (with or without children) and single parents will only receive a certain amount of benefit, it is anticipated that all those due to be capped will be capped by September 2013;

- Personal Independence Payments will be introduced to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA), and

The Social Fund (Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants) will transfer

to the Local Authority.

And from October 2013 Universal Credit will begin to replace Jobseeker's Allowance (income based), Tax Credits, Income Support, Employment and Support Allowance (income related) and Housing Benefit. The process is due to be completed in September 2017.

The Council is working with partners to raise awareness of these issues over the coming months.

Family Quiz

1) Who was the legendary Benedictine monk who invented champagne?

2) Name the largest fresh water lake in the world?

3) Where would you find the Sea of Tranquility?

4) What is someone who shoes horses called?

5) What item of clothing was named after its Scottish inventor?

6) What kind of weapon is a falchion? .

7) Which word goes before vest, beans and quartet?

8) What is another word for lexicon?

9) Name the seventh planet from the sun.

10) Who invented the rabies vaccination? *Louis*



1. Dom Perignon
2. Lake Superior
3. The Moon
4. A farrier
5. A machintosh
6. A sword
7. String
8. Dictionary
9. Uranus
10. Pasterur

Sunday

Dance

10.00 - 4.00pm
Call 07876682754

Monday



**Youth
Club**
6.30 -
8.00 pm

Tuesday

Well Child Clinic

9.30 - 11.30 am
Tel: 01325 406032

Family Prize Bingo

6.30 - 8.30pm
Contact Denise
485295

Wednesday

Zumba

6.00 - 7.00pm
10.30 - 11.30 am

Fun Factory

Age 5 -11 years
4.00 - 5.30 pm

Thursday

Credit Union & Tea & Toast

9.00 - 10.00 am

Bingo

1.30 - 3.00pm



Friday

Prayers - Everyone Welcome

6.30 - 7.00 pm

Craft Club for Age 5 -11 years

4.00 - 5.30 pm

Tool Library

10.30 - 11.30 am

FUNDING CUTS

The Council continues to face a significant financial challenge and since 2010 has agreed plans to reduced expenditure by £24m. The recent Local Government Finance Settlement has given more certainty on the size of reductions the Council needs to make, and by April 2014 it is estimated the Council needs to save a further £10.5M with an additional £5M the following year. These are huge figures when compared to the existing budget. The Council is now developing further proposals to reduce spend and will be conducting a full review of it's services leading to public consultation later this year. We will make some immediate savings of approximately

£3m and although these cuts will reduce services they will not impact directly on front line services so will not be consulted upon.

COMMUNITY CENTRE GETS A LICK OF PAINT

On Sunday 27th January Volunteers got busy at Red Hall Community Centre with paint brushes and paint and freshened up interior rooms, toilets and corridors. Ten volunteers give a helping hand with a project made possible because of a grant from DULUX paints. Those who attended had a great time but more work is still to be done so the group are planning on spending a further day finishing the task. If you want to help call 462979 and ask for Martin.

LEARN TO USE A COMPUTER

Red Hall Community Centre provides advice and support for people over 50 who want to get more out of using a computer. The support sessions take place every Thursday morning from 9.30am until 10.30. The sessions provide help and advice on using computers, email and the internet. Those who attend can receive support tailored to their individual needs, so if you're looking for work we can help with that too - with CV writing, letter writing or support with job searches!

Residents are encouraged to just drop in and met the session leader Jill Rhodes or call on 07925806603 for an informal chat.

PACT MEETINGS GET A MAKEOVER

Red Hall PACT meetings are changing times and venue - From February meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of every month at 6pm at Haughton Education Village.

PACT meetings are really important and we would encourage as many people to attend these monthly meetings as possible.

PACT

Partners and Community Together

What is a PACT meeting?

Your neighbourhood policing team regularly hold PACT meetings (Police and Communities Together) in your local community to give you the opportunity to have some influ-

ence on the policing in your neighbourhood. The purpose of these meetings is to talk to your neighbourhood policing team about issues that concern you and to receive updates from the team about progress they have made in resolving issues. The meetings involve all members of your community in improving quality of life in your neighbourhood.



FUTURE OF COMMUNITY CENTRE IN DOUBT

The Management Committee at Red Hall Community Centre are encouraging local people to show how much they value their community building by using it more often and telling their friends about the services it offers. A financial review of the Centre was carried in Janu-

ary which focussed on income and expenditure over the past two years and revealed that the building is currently making unsustainable losses. Unless more groups use the building, and those that do start paying a realistic room hire rate the building may be forced to close.

Trustees are meeting in early February to look at a series of recommendations which if adopted may provide the centre with a chance of a brighter future. Recommendations include:

Adopting a strict room hire charge of £13.50 per hour.

Forming a partnership with another community Centre to manage and take room bookings

Purchasing a Bouncy Castle suitable for adults and Children to generate new income from parties.

Developing a Website and marketing the centre as a training venue to attract new customers e.g. GP Practices, Unemployment Projects etc.

If you wish to hire a room at the centre call 462979

COLLEGE WARD

WINTER 2013

Flood relief scheme

We have already written to approximately one hundred houses in the Ward to let residents know about the impending works in Elton Road, Neville Road and Clareville Road. There is a change in start date from that stated in our letter.

This work is the final stage of the scheme which Northumbria Water plc has put in place following the flooding of a few years ago. This final part will cost over six hundred thousand pounds, bringing the total cost of the scheme to almost three million.

The contractors, Messrs Lumsden and Carroll will move on site on Monday 18th February and there will be a succession of road closures for the work to be completed. The first road to close will be Elton Road, from Dale Road to Milbank Road, between February 18th and 12th April. From 18th March until 10th May, various parts of Neville Road, between Clareville Road and Elton Road will be closed. Finally, between 29th April and 28th June, there will be a closure in that part of Clareville Road which is nearest Neville Road. It will not be possible to use these roads for through journey's during that period. Special arrangements are being made for residents' access, waste collection and recycling.

There will be some inconvenience, particularly for residents of these roads during the four and a half months of the scheme, but the outcome will be a much safer Ward for us all in exceptional weather conditions. Previous phases of the scheme have been completed on time and on budget and there have been very few complaints about the considerate contractors.

Wheeled bins

In our last newsletter we told you about the introduction of wheeled bins in a few months' time. You will be kept informed of details about the implementation of the scheme in good time. Some of you had reservations and questions and we asked you to submit them to the Council. Please be assured that we shall do all we can to help you adjust to the changes the scheme will bring. From time to time we receive complaints about bag-slashing and rubbish being strewn about when a vehicle has run over sacks. I think we can all agree that such things are less likely to happen when we are using the new bins. By the time of our next newsletter in spring we should have more detail about the new bins and their collection.

Boundary review

As we told you last time, boundaries of the Ward are reviewed every ten or fifteen years as populations in our own and other Wards change. College Ward has seen an increase of several hundred residents in recent years because of developments such as Leconfield, Chesterfield, and most significantly Glaisdale Court.

The first stage of this review is now under way, which is to decide how many elected Councillors there should be in Darlington Council. When that decision is made, there will be a review of every ward boundary. If the number of Councillors remains the same, the number of electors in College Ward will have to reduce. Whatever is decided will be implemented by May 2015 when elections to Council and Parliament will coincide.

Crime in College Ward

The continuing decline in reported crime is encouraging, but difficult to explain in a time of economic uncertainty, when the lesson of history might be to expect it to rise. Factors such as better home security, new policing tactics and greater awareness of risk by home and property owners must all contribute. We should be grateful for the far smaller risk we all face when compared with the fairly recent past. We can report a mercifully small number of forced entry house burglaries. Most are now opportunistic, when doors are left unlocked. One type of crime which continues to rise is theft from outbuildings, sheds and garages. Please think carefully about what you leave in such places. College Ward also suffers from malicious damage to parked vehicles, usually caused at weekends by people who have drunk too much alcohol. Please remain vigilant and call the police if you see anything suspicious.

Changes in benefits

The government has introduced a considerable number of changes to benefit levels. Of particular interest to many ward residents will be those concerning housing subsidies. If you are concerned about how such changes will affect you, either get in touch with us or contact the Council's specialist officers on 01325 388374.

They can also be contacted by e-mail on hbenquiries@darlington.gov.uk.

You may enquire about assistance regardless of whether you live in a home owned by a housing association or one rented from a private landlord. Even if you are already in receipt of benefits, it is well worth checking to ensure that you accrue neither under- or over-payments. We are here to help with any benefits which are the responsibility of the Council. If we don't know the answer, we know someone who does!

Dog fouling: a request

Nothing makes people angrier than dog fouling. Residents are being asked to take pride in the Borough by cleaning up after their dogs. The Council's dog wardens and Street Scene teams have seen an increase in reports from residents of dog fouling across the Borough. Dog-owners are reminded to clean up after their dogs and that they can put bagged dog dirt in any bin, not just special dog bins. You can report dog mess – either by using the Council's online system (www.darlington.gov.uk/reportit) or by calling 01325 388777. Either can be done anonymously. The council's Street Scene team will respond and clean up the area as soon as possible.

A fine of £75 can be issued for owners failing to clean up after their dogs. Residents can e-mail dishthedirt@darlington.gov.uk or call 01325 388777 to report offenders.

New arrivals

Unlike some other parts of the Town, College Ward's resident population is growing steadily, largely because of new houses being built (and babies being born in them!). If you have recently moved into the Ward, we warmly welcome you. This is a popular and attractive Ward in which to live, most of which is within easy walking distance of the Town Centre. As Ward Councillors we do our best to keep in touch with every house by distributing five newsletters every year.

We are always available by e-mail and usually by phone, too, but if you would prefer to meet, please come to one of our surgeries, held on the second Wednesday of every month (except August) in the foyer of Abbey Junior School, which is at the westernmost end of Abbey Road.

To all residents we wish a happy, healthy and prosperous 2013.

Best wishes

Ian and Tony

Haughton North Ward

Newsletter

Winter 2012

Your Councillors Are:

Tom Nutt - 01325 360953 email thomas.nutt@darlington.gov.uk

Bev Hutchinson - 01325 262015 email beverley.hutchinson@darlington.gov.uk

POLICE NON EMERGENCY NUMBER – 101

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – 346832

DOG WARDEN – 388799

RECENT FLOODING

Thank you to all residents for your patience during the recent unprecedented flooding around Darlington. Haughton North Ward did not suffer as much as other areas, however, roads were closed and small scale flooding occurred in some streets. Street Scene worked around the clock to reduce water levels where possible and deliver sand bags to residents. We have also identified some areas where work needed to be done to ensure that flooding will be minimal in the future, one of which is the beck that runs parallel to the golf course which has had new drainage put in.

WHINFIELD/PLACES FOR PEOPLE ESTATE

Landlords, Places for People very kindly donated money in order for us to Smart Water every property on the estate. Smart Water is a new and clever way of making sure that your property has the best chance of being recovered if stolen. Each item is brushed with a solution that is unique to every household. The details are then registered centrally with the Police and items that are stolen, but Smart Watered, can then be placed under an ultra-violet light to reveal the owner of the goods. This

has been hugely successful and we would urge all residents on Places for People estate, that if you haven't already done so, please make sure that your property is protected. If you require a kit or need help in using the product, please contact Cllr Bev Hutchinson on the number at the top of this letter. If you are not a resident of the estate but interested in buying a kit, please contact the Police on 101.

BEECH WOOD

The Friends of Beech Wood currently have a large project underway, looking at ways to improve the wood, and applying for funding to help with improvements. They are looking at re-planting, adding more seating, notice boards, improved lighting etc. They would like to hear your views and will be putting some questionnaires in ASDA, Whinfield Medical Practice and Whinfield School for you to fill in. This will take place in January 2013. If you wish to get more involved with the group or want to become a member of Friends of Beech Wood, please contact your councillors on the above number.

POLICE NOTICES

The police are looking for volunteers to help with Speedwatch. This entails attending a busy area or stretch of road with an officer and a computerised speed tracker and recording details of speeding traffic. If you wish to help out, please contact PCSO Liz Harley or PCSO Rachel Small on 101.

Residents are urged not to leave Christmas shopping in unattended vehicles. Please remove all valuables from your car and ensure that your vehicle is locked.

WHINFIELD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of Whinfield Residents Association will be the AGM and will take place in February (date to be confirmed), at Oban Court. We also incorporate our PACT meetings and meeting of Friends of Beech Wood. All residents are welcome to attend.

DOG FOULING AND SHOPPING TROLLEYS!

Two of the main problems in our area! Just a reminder that not picking up your dog mess is an offence and can bring a hefty fine. Our dog warden does a regular walk about in the area and anyone caught not cleaning up will be prosecuted. If you know of anyone who is not regularly cleaning up after their dog, please do report them to our Dog Warden. The number is at the top of this letter.

We have had a meeting with Peter Short, Manager of ASDA to address the ongoing problem of abandoned shopping trolleys around the ward. We are currently working with Peter to come up with a solution as to how we can address this once and for all.

WARD SURGERIES

A reminder that ward surgeries take place in the foyer of ASDA, on the first Saturday of every month. Alternatively, your councillors can be contacted on the numbers or e mail addresses at the top of this letter.

**IT ONLY REMAINS FOR US TO WISH YOU A VERY
HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON!!**

