

Planning the future of Broomley and Stocksfield

NE43 news

Issue 59 Summer 2016

Can you see **THE LIGHT**

Northumberland County Council (NCC) has embarked on a major programme of works across the county to replace all street lights with new units that use light emitting diodes or LED. Many will know that LED technology has developed significantly over recent years and they are becoming more widely used across all sectors - in cars, the home and leisure activities.

There are two major advantages: they use much less energy than traditional lighting and last much longer. One aspect that is being monitored during implementation is the potential for LED lights to be more focussed around the light source whereas traditional sodium lights can provide better diffused light and so light a broader area. The new lights will also automatically dim at midnight and overall NCC is spending £25m through to the end of 2017.

Whilst the work in Stocksfield will not begin

until the end of summer 2017, there is an opportunity to look at the existing lighting provision. New lights will not be installed where there is no existing street lighting. However NCC has asked the Parish Council's view about where there is existing provision; are there any specific areas where the current street lighting is not sufficient?

Many people live in places like Stocksfield because of its more rural feel and the relative absence of the hustle and bustle associated with an urban environment. There is therefore a need to strike a balance between these competing issues. If you have any views, please contact the Clerk (preferably by email) - the contact details are at the bottom of the last page. Remember this is not about installing new lights where none exist.

Any feedback will be considered by the Parish Council before it replies to NCC at the end of this summer.



Getabout is a scheme for people who have difficulty getting around Northumberland. From April 2016 the Getabout scheme changed - it still provides a transport service to everyone who has used Getabout in the past and for new users but is now delivered by Adapt (North East). Getabout will now seek to find the most appropriate way of solving your transport problem which could include connecting you to:

- existing public or community transport services
- shared affordable taxi services
- local lift share
- Getabout volunteer drivers

Who can use Getabout?

Many people in Northumberland who have trouble getting around might not be aware they can use Getabout. Getabout is for people who have no public transport available to them and:

- do not drive, either because they are too young, have never driven or are no longer able to; or
- have no access or limited access to a car as it is not affordable or not there during the day; or
- have a mobility difficulty which prevents them from using public transport.

Volunteer for Getabout?

The voluntary car service is an important element of Getabout - we are always looking for volunteer drivers to ensure we can offer a service across Northumberland. Getabout volunteers are paid 45p per mile for taking individuals in their car to a pre-booked destination. If you are interested in getting involved contact us on the Getabout number and we'll let you know how to sign up.

**Getabout can help
- to find out more call:
03333 441740**

Getabout is funded by Northumberland County Council and delivered by Adapt (North East) in partnership with Community Action Northumberland (CAN).



Twenty's going to be the limit

Northumberland County Council (NCC) has started implementing reduced speed limits in

the areas immediately outside schools across the county. At a cost of up to £1m, it is the intention to limit the speed of vehicles to 20mph for ninety minutes both at the beginning and end of the school day. The plan is to ensure that children are safe whilst travelling to and from school whilst encouraging others to walk.

In respect of Stocksfield, it is likely that the minimum area to be affected on the A695 at

Broomley First School will run between the junction with Hall Farm Close and the entrance to Merryshields Farm. This will provide a safer environment for children alighting from vehicles either side of the school. The Parish Council has been asked for its views on whether the proposed 20mph limit should be extended, perhaps to the pedestrian crossing at Guessburn and the junction with Birches Nook Road. If you have any views, please let the Clerk know, preferably by email. The contact details are on the last page. The Council will consider all feedback in determining its response to NCC.

Annual Parish Meeting

For the residents who attended the Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting (APM) in April, the presentation of Dr Colin Doig provided an informative and reassuring update on the most recent changes to hospital provision locally and across Northumberland. Whilst there are issues that need to be addressed, the performance information from the new Northumbria Hospital at Cramlington is very positive - admissions to hospital have decreased, there are improved outcomes for patients compared to the previous arrangements and a reduction in readmission rates. Hexham Hospital has seen the anticipated reduction in numbers as serious cases go straight to the Northumbria or Royal Victoria Infirmary

(RVI) in Newcastle. However Hexham is now used as a centre of excellence for planned surgery with good occupancy rates. The Parish Council is very grateful to Dr Doig for his time and further information about the APM can be found on the Council's website.

The disappointing aspect of this and earlier APMs was the attendance levels of local residents. As a result, the Council has decided that future APMs (which are a legislative requirement for Parish and Town Councils) will be held immediately prior to the Council's meeting in May and a guest speaker will no longer be invited. A report of the Council's activities during the previous year and the financial position will continue to be provided and residents who attend will be invited to speak about matters that are important to them.

SPOTLIGHT ON: The Planning Advisory Group

One of perhaps the least understood areas of Parish Council business relates to the complex world of planning. Northumberland County Council (NCC) has been formulating their Core Strategy Local Plan for some time and it is due for adoption in the summer of 2017. The document will fit into the National Planning Policies Framework (NPPF) and, taken together, they will govern decision making in all planning applications. Until it is in place NCC uses the NPPF and its residual policies to make planning decisions. The Parish Council and specifically the Planning Advisory Group have played a key part in responding to NCC's consultation about the Core Strategy. The Parish Council has the option of commissioning a Neighbourhood Plan which would also dovetail into the process. However it considered the value of such a document is outweighed by the development costs and, in any event, the combination of the NPPF and NCC's Core Strategy provides sufficient protection for the village and surrounding areas.

NCC treats the Parish Council as a 'statutory consultee' and informs it of all planning applications that are made. The role of the Parish Council though is relatively limited in that it cannot directly affect the ultimate decision. Each application is looked at by members of the Parish Council's Planning Advisory Group (PAG). This group consists of at least three councillors. By far the majority of planning applications considered relate to extensions and alterations to domestic buildings. The rules governing these applications are easily applied by NCC's planning officers and persons affected by the applications are always informed by the NCC. The Parish Council can object, support or make no comment about an application. Its policy is to support only those applications where there is a demonstrable benefit to the community and to object to those only where planning policy appears to be contravened or there is a clear detriment to the community. Objections must always have a valid basis within the planning legislation - simply not liking something is not sufficient. Whenever an objection to an application is proposed or one is supported, the application will first be considered by the full Parish Council.

Developers can also make a type of informal approach to NCC, known as a 'Pre-Application Enquiry', where a developer asks about its views on potential developments. Until recently these were private conversations between NCC and the developer. Now (unless there are defensible reasons why it should remain confidential) the Parish Council is notified immediately, giving it the chance to inform the process and be involved with discussion with developers. There have already been two such Pre-Applications in Stocksfield since October 2015. Due to the tight timescales, this work is also undertaken by the PAG.

In the final analysis the Parish Council has no direct involvement with any decision making but any views expressed by the Parish Council are always considered by NCC.



Artist Image of New Clubhouse

Cricket Club Plans - are in!

After the final approval of the relevant governing sports bodies, the planning application has been submitted to the County Council for the extension to Stocksfield Cricket Club's pavilion and changing rooms. At an earlier meeting of the Parish Council, the club's chairman and treasurer, Chris Catnach, had updated councillors about the planned development that would enhance the facilities for all sports using the sports field. The aim, he said, is to future proof the facilities, thereby ensuring the sustainability of the club.

The proposals include a new function room which is separate from the bar and separate enlarged changing rooms which will increase capacity and security. The potential to utilise the space for community purposes during the day is an added bonus. Chris said, 'We think these improvements will provide a great facility for the whole community'. Whilst the club inherited a significant sum of money from the sale of the former snooker club on Guessburn, a massive fund raising effort is needed and a range of grant funding is being pursued. The Parish Council, which owns or leases the land and manages the sports field, has awarded a grant of £5,000 towards the project. The Council is keen to improve the playing pitches and extend the existing car park and sees the proposed plans for the extension as complementary.

If you want to get involved with fundraising, please contact: Chris Catnach
email: stocksc@talktalk.net

Hedges, Edges & Dogs

The Parish Council has been delighted that so few issues have been raised in connection with overgrown hedges last year and asks that residents continue to maintain the border of their properties so that hedgerows do not obstruct public spaces, particularly footpaths.

On a similar note, the fly tipping of garden rubbish, usually grass and hedge cuttings, is another annual issue. Please ensure that garden waste is properly disposed of either in a 'green' bin or at Northumberland County Council's (NCC) recycling facilities. Better still, why not take up NCC's offer of a composting bin for the corner of the garden? They start at £17.98 for a 220 litre bin and can be ordered online from their website.

And a reminder that dogs are prohibited by law from the play areas at Branch End and Kate's Plain. Offenders are liable to a £1,000 fine on conviction at Magistrates' Court - the same penalty that applies to those who fail to remove their dog's waste from any publicly accessible place within Northumberland. Leaving it in a bag does not count as removal! Any information about offending dog owners can be passed to NCC using their website - they treat all reports in confidence.

Affordable Housing at Stobbarts Field, New Ridley

Construction of the new homes at New Ridley is well under way and they will be allocated in the late summer through the Northumberland Homefinder (Northumberland County Council's housing allocations scheme, operated in collaboration with Two Castles Housing). Having secured funding to deliver affordable homes for local people, Two Castles are keen to ensure that local residents, specifically those connected to Stocksfield, Mickley and adjoining rural parishes, who would not be able otherwise to resolve their own housing need in the village, are prioritised for these homes. The Common Allocations Policy would not prioritise these same groups hence a local lettings plan has been developed.

To make an application please complete a form online at: www.northumberland.org.uk or call 0345 600 6400 to request an application form.

Application and Advertisement Procedure:

- All allocations will be made through the Northumberland Homefinder. Applicants will be required to make a Northumberland Homefinder application in order to be considered for an allocation.
- Any Eligibility for the Housing Register will be assessed in accordance with the Northumberland Homefinder Common Allocation Policy.
- Housing need will be assessed in accordance with the Northumberland Homefinder Common Allocation Policy.
- Available homes will be advertised in accordance with the Northumberland Homefinder Common Allocation Policy.

If you would like further information please contact 0345 600 6400 and ask to speak to a Housing Services Officer (Private Sector and Homefinder).



Safe from Scams

No apologies for banging on a bit about this subject because the truth is anyone can fall victim to a scam if they are not vigilant. Whilst some specific scams have previously been highlighted, the range of ways that people are increasingly targeted expands continuously. To help you stay aware and safe, there is a website dedicated to giving expert advice to prevent scams. 'Safe from Scams' helps you learn about scams of all types: the classics like chain letters and cowboy builders to the relatively new ones like phishing and mobile phone scams.

Visit it at www.safefromscams.co.uk and don't be complacent.

Stocksfield Football Club Season update

Here at Stocksfield FC we have had another successful season with over 150 players from age 4 to 14 taking part in training and matches down at the sports fields. As with any community club, we are indebted to the amazing effort of our volunteer coaches, committee members and parents who continue to help build our club. We are delighted to announce we have more players, qualified coaches and volunteers than ever in our existence and this gives us sound pillars to continue to make our club one of the best in the area.

This season was an extra special one for the Griffins when we were awarded an amazing six figure sum from the Football Association thanks to the solidarity funds provided as part of the Fraser Forster transfer from Celtic to Southampton. This money opens up many opportunities which we will be exploring over the coming months and we can't wait to share our plans.

Furthermore, on the playing field we have had a number of successes including league and cup wins for our u14s and u11s. As an added bonus, many of the players taking part in these squads have been at the club since they were 6/7 years old.

Finally, we would like to thank all of the amazing volunteers who have supported the club this season and over the past number of years. With your help we aim to continue to provide a safe and fun environment for children and adults to play football at Stocksfield and look forward to next season.

If you are interested in being part of our club in any form please contact us via the website on <http://m.clubwebsite.co.uk/stocksfieldfc01>

Stride around Stocksfield with...

Stocksfield Striders are a friendly mixed ability running group based at the cricket club. We meet for a run around Stocksfield on a Tuesday night at 730 and a training session on a Thursday night at Prudhoe industrial estate. Both nights cater for an intermediate group and a faster group, led by England Athletic trained coaches. We have lots of fun social events throughout the year too. All new members welcome. Contact us through our website or just turn up. stocksfieldstriders.btck.co.uk



Audit Away

For those who are interested in the financial aspects of the Parish Council, its internal audit was completed without issue and the external audit is underway. As part of its legal responsibility, the Parish Council must make its accounting records accessible to electors and this period runs from 13 June until 22 July. To make arrangements for this, please contact the Clerk. Further details about the external audit will be available on the website and main notice board opposite the railway station when complete.

The Meeting House gets an upgrade

Stocksfield Quakers have recently transformed their semi-derelict back yard into a garden, which is now planted out and beginning to look established. There is a seating area in a sheltered corner. We would like to invite passers-by to come in and share this tranquil space for a moment or two of rest and repose.

The Meeting House (the former commercial premises on the corner of New Ridley Road) has been upgraded and our two comfortable rooms, kitchen and disabled-access toilet are available for lettings.

Enquiries to the Clerk of Stocksfield Quaker Meeting, telephone 01434 604 747.



Make a difference by volunteering

Volunteering for Citizens Advice has been described as 'the most rewarding experience of my life' by one of our current volunteers. Citizens Advice is a registered charity and we rely on volunteers to provide the invaluable service which helps so many people within your local community.

Last year, the Citizens Advice Offices in Hexham, Prudhoe and Haltwhistle helped over 2500 people on a wide range of subjects. The problems we are most often asked about concern employment, debt, housing or benefits, but we will help people who come to us with any enquiry including consumer rights, legal matters, and immigration.

Northumbrian Citizens Advice is currently looking for more volunteer advisers for our Hexham office. Training is available to help you develop the skills and knowledge you need and we are able to cover expenses such as travel costs.

All sorts of people volunteer with us for lots of different reasons, but one thing that our volunteers tell us is that volunteering with their local Citizens Advice is enjoyable, rewarding, challenging and varied. For many volunteers, the best thing is getting to meet a variety of new people, whilst for others it's learning new skills and gaining confidence.

There's a real team spirit and we provide a supportive environment to make sure that you get the most from your time with us.

Whatever your reason for volunteering, this is your chance to make a real difference to the lives of other people.

For more information, please contact:

Chris Broadhurst or Judith Davies
by telephone on 01434 607611

or by email: chrisbroadhurst@citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk

Silver Talk

is live and ready to take your call

The Silver Talk, the new Isos telephone befriending service, is run from the Isos office in Hexham, but is available to older Isos residents across Northumberland.

Residents can request one or more calls per week, so they always have a friendly, caring call to look forward to.

Lindsay Warren, team leader in the Supported Housing Older Persons team at Isos, said: "We want to help prevent our older residents becoming isolated, as we know it is an increasing problem which has a particular impact in smaller, rural communities."

The service is free to Isos residents. Most of the current volunteers are older people, and they are all trained, police checked, and properly supervised. Isos covers all volunteers' travel costs to and from the office on Burn Lane in Hexham.

A number of Isos residents are already receiving calls. One Silver Talk caller from Corbridge said: "I absolutely adore the phone calls. They help me relax and I find it very therapeutic. The volunteer I speak to is lovely and easy to talk to. I'm really pleased with the service."

As the service grows Isos is looking for more volunteers to join the team who staff the Silver Talk hotline.

If you'd like to volunteer and make a real difference to the lives of people living in your community, please contact a member of the Supported Housing Older Persons team on 0300 300 1505. Similarly, if you'd like to receive a Silver Talk call, you can call the same number to register your interest.



Silver Talk volunteers Val Gray (left) and Joan Shaw (third left) with Isos team leader Lindsay Warren and volunteering officer Tom North.

Grants Deadline

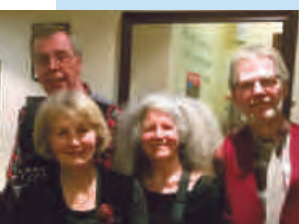
The Parish Council's grant application process runs each year and allows any club or organisation (but not individuals) to apply for a grant to fund a specific purpose. The application process is explained in the Council's 'Grant Awards Policy' which can be found on the Council's website along with an application form. The deadline for making a grant during this financial year is 30 September 2016. The Council also receives requests for donations from a variety of causes, mainly local charities, and can make small donations under powers granted by Section 137 Local Government Act. Whilst requests for such donations can be received at any time, to ensure that they can be considered in the context of the overall grant budget, it helps to comply with the same deadlines.

Bywell Arts Festival

Friday 24th - Sunday 26th June 2016

The Bywell Arts Festival transforms the churches of St Peter's and St Andrew's into an art exhibition, is well established as an exhibition for original works, and also includes the sale of numbered prints, which has proved to be very successful in recent years, creating a more affordable option and appeal to a wider range of buyers.

In addition to the visual art on display, there will be musical entertainment during the weekend, the highlight of which is the Saturday night concert in St Peter's Church. This year the concert features The Cherry Pickers, a Hexham-based band of five members who play no less than 14 musical instruments, as well as having fine vocal skills. Their music covers a range of styles from Americana through folk and country to jazz, and they are a witty bunch capable of adding as much entertainment between numbers as during them.



"We're very fortunate to have engaged the Cherry Pickers" says concert organiser Paul Oxnard, "They are heading the Corbridge Music Festival this year and are also engaged to play at Maddy

Prior's Stepping Stones Festival in Cumbria, so we're delighted that they were available to play at Bywell on the weekend of our festival". Tickets for the concert are available from Michael Allan, tel. 01661 843183.

During the exhibition hours there are excellent refreshments available, including a Pimms bar on the Friday evening and delicious cream teas in the afternoons, served in a marquee next to St Peter's church. There are also cakes and plants for sale and a variety of stalls. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the art and relax in this idyllic and peaceful rural setting.

Opening hours:

Friday	24th June	7.00pm - 9.00pm
Saturday	25th June	10.00am - 4.30pm
Sunday	26th June	10.30am - 4.30pm

Free parking and toilet facilities close to the churches.

Further information from

Clare Daltry: Tel. 07443 222 887
Email: claredaltry@hotmail.co.uk



Children's Holiday Club

Monday 25th - Friday 29th July 2016
10am - 12.30pm each day
at Stocksfield Baptist Church

Churches Together in Stocksfield & Mickley

Stocksfield Churches are once again working together to run our popular children's holiday club during the first full week of the school holidays. The programme features games, crafts and construction, drama, music and Bible stories. For more details and to book, ring Barbara on 01661 599 384.

Exercise to Music with Mary Huggin

Stocksfield Community Centre

For more information ring
Community Centre 01661 842346

Mondays 6.30 - 7.45pm
Low Impact Aerobics/Body Toning

Tuesdays 6.00 - 7.00pm
Step Aerobics

Thursdays 6.45 - 7.45pm
Pilates using Stability Balls

Fridays 9.30 - 10.30am
*Low Impact Aerobics/Legs,
Bums & Tums*

Minsteracres Summer Fayre

Saturday 9 July, 11am - 4pm

Minsteracres (DH8 9RT) is just off the A68, 5 miles south west of Stocksfield.

Many stalls: gift & bottle tombolas, cakes, plants, books, accessories & jewellery, toys; crafts, flowers; live music; children's games & cafés; Grand Draw. Entry £2/car

Bywell St. Peter's Church

Community ventures (held in a marquee) to raise money for charities.

All residents in Stocksfield, Tynedale & beyond are invited to these Special Events

Tables reserved for parties of 4 or more
- excellent food & enjoyable afternoons guaranteed!

Home-made Tea / Stroll around the Garden

Aston Greys, 25, Cade Hill Road
Stocksfield, NE43 7PT

3rd Sundays in June, July & August,
3.00 - 6.00pm; last serving 5.15pm

Sunday, June 19, in aid of Mind

Sunday, July 17

in aid of Tynedale Hospice at Home

Sunday, August 21

in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Tickets in advance: £5 adults, £3
(children under 16)

Please phone Philippa Harpin, 01661 842302 -
or on the gate: £6 & £4

Do come - first rate teas are a very enjoyable activity!

'Sit down' Meal/Stroll around the Garden

25, Cade Hill Road, Stocksfield, NE43 7PT

Sunday, July 31, 1.00pm.

Menu: Extensive selection of meat & salads, vegetarian quiches; home-made desserts; cheese & biscuits; coffee.

Tickets in advance in aid of major repairs to Parish Church.

Please phone Philippa Harpin, 01661 842302
£12 adults; £6 (children under 16) includes free glass of wine/fresh orange

Donation Bar & Raffle

Important Notice

This attractive marquee venue, which seats approx. 80 & includes all colour co-ordinated tableware & linen, is available free-of-charge for summer fundraising & charitable events. Please take up this offer - come & see for yourself. Philippa Harpin.

Tel: 01661 842302

Stocksfield Retired Men's Association

Meets in the Baptist Hall at 10.30am

New members and visitors are always welcome - more information David Guy 01661843390.

A £2 contribution is payable at each meeting.

16 June **Annual Day Outing**

17 July **Cars Pre-1935**
- Mr Julian Reisner

21 July **History of Postcards**
- Mr George Nairn

1 Sept **(Ladies' Day)**
Aspects of military aviation
- Mr Dave Tanner

15 Sept **Emperor Augustus of Romee**
- Prof. John Derry

STOCKSFIELD PLAYERS PRESENT:

Alan Ayckbourn's

TIME OF MY LIFE

Ayckbourn's exploration of life's tragic and comic moments.

If you're an Ayckbourn fan, this one is unmissable. If you're not familiar with his work, this is an excellent place to start.

At: **Stocksfield Community Centre**
Starting: **7:30pm**

On: **November 10th to
November 12th 2016**

Tickets: **£8**

Tickets available from:

Beth (Community Centre)
- 01661 842364

Karen - 01661 844119

Joy - 01434 682547

plus all cast members

**AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT
ON YOUR DOORSTEP!**

Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

The Parish Council meets in the Community Centre at 7.30pm. The agenda and minutes of the meetings are posted on the notice boards and on the website (www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk).

Next Parish Council Meetings in 2016:

Parish Council Meeting Monday 4th July

Parish Council Meeting Monday 5th Sept

Members of the public are welcome to attend any meeting of the Parish Council. Residents always have the opportunity to raise issues of concern during a public participation session at the start of the meeting.

Contact the Parish Council at:

Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council,
at Stocksfield Community Centre,
Mount View Terrace, Stocksfield
NE43 7HL. Telephone: 01661 844667
Email: clerk@stocksfieldpc.org.uk
Website: www.stocksfieldpc.org.uk