

**Present:** W Bates, M Bell, J Blackburn, J Blakey, R Cowen, S Featherstone, K Griffiths, G Kitson, B Little, M Little, D Paget, A Richardson, S Thompson, S Walworth

**In Attendance:** M Ridley

**1. Apologies for absence:** D Chambers, J Chambers, PC Cockburn, J Geyer, K Haigh, Cllr M Plews, S Raine, F Salisbury, M Syer,

**2i. Police:** PC Cockburn sent an emailed report this month.

I am aware of some problems reported by a resident in Norton Avenue. This has been looked at by extra patrols, by officers and council wardens with a resident living there given suitable advice as well as her landlord.

I have checked our records and found that we have had 3 incidents reported in relation to anti-social behaviour in Norton Avenue. These are – 2 reports of youths throwing snowballs in January and 1 of noise in the street in June. The first two reports are from the resident in the street with the third being anon, but from the same telephone number as the first two reports. We will be giving attention to the area as a matter of course during our patrols.

*Crime report over the last month. Bowburn: 3 Burglaries, 1 at the Industrial Estate and 1 at Clever Clogs; 12 Thefts, 5 from vehicles, 3 from the petrol station, 4 from the Co-op two have been detected and the police have the registration plate for one other; Public Order 1 arson incident on a phone box and an arrest for a public order offence. Park Hill play-park an incident involving damage to two sofas.*

*Ongoing operations: Currently a PACT priority is in Bowburn play-park which is given regular attention by our team. We have talked to the persons present on numerous occasions and have obtained their details.*

**2ii. PACT meetings:** Next meeting in Bowburn Community Centre is on 18 September at 6pm then 16 October.

**2iii. Neighbourhood Wardens:** Contact Neighbourhood Wardens on 03000 261 018; Option 3. Report incidents of enviro-crime and anti-social behaviour by contacting the Council on 03000 261 000.

**3. Minutes:** >The minutes of 16 July were approved as a true record and agreed by members.

**Matters arising:**

Item 3: S Longstaff has not replied with an answer on the query about who is legally responsible for flooding issues.

Item 10i) There has been no further information about the lighting columns on the C12a.

At this meeting it was agreed to ask for a meeting with the chief officer for lighting at County Hall to ask if the work had been done to cater for a possible housing estate in the Daisy Field and if so why hadn't the work been paid for by a future developer.

Item 10ii) See Item 2i above for PC Cockburn's report.

**4. Finances:**

> Income Tea/raffle - £7.60, net of £1 costs.

> Raffle prize: The prize was won by A Richardson and kindly donated by M Syer.

> Quiz: Winners of "Green matters" were First P Salisbury, Second S Raine, Third M Banks.

The new quiz at £1 for prizes of £20, £10, and £5 is "It's hot out there". Please support your Partnership.

**5. Item for Any Other Business:**(i)Speeding, (ii) MW bridge, (iii)Tip, (iv) Lamp posts (v) War Memorial, (vi) Training

**6. Current Masterplan:**

**6A. Regeneration Fund: Project updates:**

001 Parkhill play equipment: The application has been submitted.

002 Youth Club: The equipment has been installed and the gym is now in use.

004 Community Chest: The project is on hold depending on the funds remaining.

005 Drain an area of footpath on the far side of the pit heaps. The application has been submitted.

006 Improve access to the bus stop at Romaine Square:

*There have been two site meetings and Julie Anson is awaiting advice and drawings.*

**6B. Reports**

i)Highways: There has been no meeting of the sub-group.

45,000 street lights in Co Durham are to be replaced with LED lights in a 6 year programme, now underway, saving around £24m over a 25 year period; and carbon emissions reduced by 73% over the same time span.

Alongside this DCC is revising its street lighting policy there is a public consultation (July to Sep) on proposed changes which includes

> Getting rid of redundant street lights in some rural unpopulated areas where it is safe to do so;

> A dimming programme in times of low pedestrian and road traffic usage; this is proposed between the hours of 10.00pm–12.00midnight by a 25% reduction, and 12.00midnight–05.00am by a 50% reduction.

Trials have shown that dimming at these levels is usually not perceptible to the human eye.

(Make your views known by going to [www.durham.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.durham.gov.uk/consultation) follow the link to the consultation page.)

It was agreed at this meeting to complete the consultation on behalf of the Partnership.

(Richard Cowen)

**ii) Parkhill:** See Item 7A above.

The AGM is on 8 September in Bowburn Community Centre at 6.30pm.

**iii) Community Centre:** New signage is in place. Check the timetable for events from September.

The Partnership along with other groups will put information about their group onto the TV screen in the reception area to give users of the centre more information about the groups running there.

**iv) Youth Centre:**

The gym is open and being well used with favourable comments from customers.

**v) Environment:** >Paul Armstrong (Technical Director Dunelm Homes) is to organise a consultation prior to submitting a planning application for the Coal Column.

>There has been a problem with anti-social behaviour in the bowling green area of the Park, and it has been suggested that the benches be taken out.

At this meeting it was agreed that if the benches went into the main park it may reduce the problem. (Cllr Blakey)

Councillor Jan Blakey declared an interest in the following items.

**vii) Planning:** Persimmon proposes to provide 137 more starter homes on the Cape site. These will replace other homes rather than be additional buildings.

A member mentioned that a planning application for an opencast coal mine at Pitlington had now appeared in the weekly planning lists. Although not in our area, it is reasonably close.

**viii) Housing:** A walkabout took place in the main Bowburn Estate with members of the police, neighbourhood wardens and housing officers, and concerns have been dealt with.

**C. Future Masterplan/County Durham Plan:** The County Durham Plan should be produced in October.

It was agreed to remove the item 'Big Society' from the agenda.

## **7. Correspondence:**

> Check4Life will deliver free health checks at Coxhoe Active Life to screen for risk of cardiovascular diseases for men and women aged 40-74 who are not already being treated for certain health conditions, and mini health checks on those who do not meet the criteria including people from 17 years. Check4Life team start in August and continue through September and October; contact 01913771789 or email: [info@activelifecoxhoe.co.uk](mailto:info@activelifecoxhoe.co.uk).

>Limestone Landscapes: Events and information in our area are available on [www.limestonelandscapes.info](http://www.limestonelandscapes.info)

## **8. Reports and matters arising:**

**8(i) AAP – Key Messages** from the Board Meeting on 17 July at Sedgefield Methodist Church Hall.

- Rachael Swales Chaired the meeting
- Emily Edwards, Derwentside Enterprise Agency is the new business rep on the board.
- Christine Scollen, Clinical Commissioning Group is the new health rep on the board.
- Lynsey Garraghan, DCC gave an update on the Targeted Business Improvement Scheme. £33,879 of our Area Budget was allocated towards this project. This scheme is aimed at improving shop fronts and boosting the appearance of town and village centres.
- We received a thank you letter from the Environment Task Group of the Chester-le- Street and District AAP for an excellent experience they had when visiting our AAP to see our environmental and regeneration projects.
- At the last meeting, it was noted that to assist the AAPs to resource the Participatory Budgeting events in October/November, the Council will make an additional £5,000 contribution increasing it to £125,000. Shealagh Pearce considered that there were sufficient funds in the budget to resource the event and agreed to seek clarity as to where the additional £5,000 could/should be spent.
- Anna Lynch, Director of Public Health delivered a presentation on Public Health Team Offer.
- Next meetings – 11 Sep Kelloe Primary School; 9 Oct Bowburn Community Centre from 5.00pm – 7.00pm.

**The It's Up 2 U** scheme is a Participatory Budget that allows people to decide the allocation of a specific portion of public money. Community groups/organisations must deliver projects that address the priorities of Activities for Children and Young People, and/or Community Aspirations, including projects to support those affected by the Welfare Reforms. Applicants can apply for up to £4,000. *Closing time/date is 12 noon on Friday 13 September 2013.*

**ii) Parish Council:** The Parish discussed the possibility of modernising the Parish Council website. Cllr. Salisbury to investigate options. Parish agreed to help fund anti-bullying initiatives at Bowburn Infants & Junior Schools, as bullying had been mentioned as a problem in the Parish Plan questionnaire responses. Agreed to pay £250 to each school (n.b. Cassop School had not replied to the Clerk's letter)

Repairs to headstones at the Cemetery were now complete. Councillors expressed concern at the costs involved (£2,250), and agreed to consult CDALC (County Durham Association of Local Councils) as to how other councils dealt with such recurring costs (inspections every 5 years). The feasibility of a Security Bond to cover repairs in addition to the normal monument fee was discussed, though no action would take place without public consultation.

At this meeting it was said that a second round of consultation has taken place to decide if the Grange Estate, former Cape site, should be in the parish of Cassop cum Quarrington rather than the parish of Shincliffe at present.

*Litter picks* Saturday 7 September, 5 October – meet in Bowburn Community Centre Car Park at 9.30am.

iii) Quarry Liaison: There has been no meeting.

Rocks are being donated to Quarrington Hill cemetery to screen off an area of commemoration.

## **9. Group Noticeboard:**

>Banner: The next meeting is on Monday 9 September.

>BVC: The next Interchange is being prepared to go to print. Thanks were given to deliverers who would be asked to collect their round from the Community Centre in future as it worked well last time.

>Credit Union Bank: The collection point is open for banking and information on Fridays from 11am to 12 noon in Bowburn Community Centre, when new members can also join.

>Football:

Bowburn FC now have lots of players but made a bad start to the season with 3 games and 3 heavy defeats hopefully we can improve.

### Bowburn Athletic

The club started the Durham & District Sunday League on 11 August, we have moved to Mainsforth Sports Complex due to Quarrington Hill having no changing rooms; we now run from the Cooperage Public House.

Bowburn Youth have registered 11 teams for the new season; purchased new strips due to the kind donations from local businesses. Thank you to all our supporters who help to keep our subs to a minimum to allow all children to participate in team sport – Bowburn Barber's, Davison's fish shop, Coates butcher's, John from Olive and Bill's, Lee Lindsay from Commercial Road Garage, Pearn antiques. Children train at Bowburn football pitch from 5 years of age; contact Warren Rumney 07799711873 or Paul Carr 07932109144.

>Durham Times Updates can be sent to the same address [bowburnnews@aol.com](mailto:bowburnnews@aol.com)

>Fun Day: The Fun Day organised by the Youth Club and the Community Centre is on 28 September from 11am to 3pm. There will be: a table top sale - £5 each, food, activities and information booths.

>History: The talk on "Civil Wars in Durham" was very interesting; the last meeting was a walkabout to discuss the historical facts of Bowburn. We hope to have Gary Bankhead at a future meeting.

Next meeting in Bowburn Community Centre is on 19 September at 7pm. Contact [www.bowburnhistory.co.uk](http://www.bowburnhistory.co.uk)

>Radio: The station will be back on air but, because of lack of information on Bowburn alone' other areas have asked to be involved and have been accepted so it is now a local Internet Radio Station.

>Website: It is up and running where news of events etc. can be sent to [bowburnnews@aol.com](mailto:bowburnnews@aol.com)

## **10. Any Other Business:**

i) Speeding: Concern was expressed about speeding on the C12a at Grangepark Crescent.

ii) MW Bridge: The contractor needs to examine the expansion joint in the bridge which continues to leak.

iii) Tip: Members were upset about the attitude of the staff at Coxhoe 'tip' refusing an exchange of waste and refusing entry a few minutes before closing time. A member asked if the purpose of the permit scheme can be checked, as refusing to take an item that is not listed on the permit seems to add considerably to bureaucracy and potentially lead to an increase in fly tipping. **(Janet, Cllr Blakey)**

iv) Lamp posts: It was asked who made the order for two lamp posts to be erected on the land opposite the 'daisy field', instead of following the C12a footpath?

It was agreed to make enquiries to the head of lighting.

**(Janet, Cllr Blakey)**

v) Memorials at the entrance to Prince Charles Avenue: A member felt that the memorials were in a great position, in the open and not subject to vandalism. The main problem was keeping the area tidy.

vi) A course for trainers of guided walks is being held in Bowburn Community Centre on 4 September at 6.30pm.

## **11. Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

**17 September 2013 at 6.30pm in Bowburn Community Centre**