

Life in Ashington



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Although we are now well into 2016, the early months are always a good time to both reflect on the year we left behind and to look forward and plan for the challenges that lie ahead. As you read through the newsletter you'll see that 2015 was a time of major activity and news in Ashington with the start of new build and physical change. It should certainly now

be clear to all residents that the next two to three years will see significant development of the town with much further investment and improvements due to take place. All in all it does in my view add up to a key moment in the town's history and certainly in relation to the town centre where much of the high profile work is scheduled to take place.

Ashington has been in the local and regional headlines recently with the decision to re-locate a new Northumberland County Council Corporate Headquarters to the town; all being well and subject to planning and formal contract procurement procedures, that work will commence in late 2016/early 2017. I share the view of fellow council members in seeing this particular project as critical in shaping the future of Ashington as a major Northumberland town. I do though admit to being somewhat saddened by press and social media comments that the town is not worthy of such significant investment in relation to other large towns in Northumberland. As a positive person and advocate for the town that is obviously not a view that I share. Together with my fellow Council members I look forward to working with all partners in helping to bring forward ambitious projects that will help improve the built environment, image and perception of Ashington. I am sure that many residents will share that view.

There's obviously going to be some town centre disruption in coming months but hopefully that will be short-lived and we will see the real benefits of the investment in coming years.

2015 was also the second year of the Neighbourhood Services Partnership with Northumberland County Council with the aim of trying to deliver environmental improvements in the town. While improvements have been made in relation to grass cutting and footpath edging there are still many challenges to face and much work to be done in difficult financial times for the public

sector. Sadly, litter continues to be a major factor in the town and particularly in the town centre itself. We get many requests for new bins, larger bins, dog bins, street sweepers etc and many residents understandably also get frustrated and annoyed by dog fouling and irresponsible dog owners. While Northumberland County Council street cleansing employees and our own Neighbourhood Services Officer work hard to keep the town clean and most residents act responsibly, sadly a minority continue to drop litter without due care or thought for others. Litter doesn't just arrive so, as a bit of a 'heads up' we have requested that targeted enforcement action be taken against litter offenders and those who continue to allow their dogs to foul footpaths and grassed areas; I make no apology for supporting this enforcement and I genuinely hope that residents will support such a course of over due action.

Since becoming Mayor in 2015 I have had the honour and privilege of formally representing the Town and also meeting many residents at community and social events. I've also visited schools where we have some outstanding young children and talent emerging at all age levels. I remain convinced that we have in this town lots of community spirited, enthusiastic, hard-working, tireless and talented individuals and groups who really do want to make the town a better place to live and work for the benefit of all.

The town currently advertises events under a banner of 'Proud Past Bright Future', I couldn't agree more and I would ask you to join me in continuing to do our bit to make sure it stays that way!

Cllr. Ely Turnbull
Mayor of Ashington

'STOP PRESS'

event dates for the diary

- 11 June** Northumberland Miners' Picnic at Woodhorn Museum
- 26 June** Fayre Day (possible new location!)
- 30 July** 1966 World Cup Celebration Event (details to follow!)



You can keep up to date with all things Ashington by regularly visiting Ashington Town Council's website www.ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk where you can find news articles, a what's on section as well as information on the work of the Town Council including all of the latest meetings.

ASHINGTON WELCOMES NEW BUILD DECISION

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL'S DECISION TO RE-LOCATE ITS CORPORATE HQ TO A NEW PURPOSE BUILT BUILDING ON LINTONVILLE IN ASHINGTON HAS BEEN WELCOMED BY ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL.



Northumberland County Council made the decision in February and a detailed planning application will be considered by the Planning Department in April. The business case for the move has been backed by an independent audit, carried out by Ernst and Young, with the overall economic benefit to the North East possibly being as high as £93m.

The new smaller more cost efficient headquarters, which is financed on an invest to save basis, is set to save Northumberland County Council £630,000 each year or £16million over the next 25 years. It will also enable more council staff to be based in towns across the county in one-

stop shops, improving services for residents.

The move to a new HQ is only a part of a much wider regeneration strategy by Northumberland County Council, with the authority ensuring it does all it can to drive and encourage growth in all market towns.

Councillor Stephen Fenwick, Leader of Ashington Town Council, adds 'I would firstly like to formally place on record the full support of Ashington Town Council for investment in the town which I see as being absolutely critical in both regenerating Ashington and

shaping its future as a major Northumberland town. Ashington, despite its proud history and plans for a bright future, is not a first port of call for private sector retail investment. The town, like others in South-East Northumberland, does face significant challenges with levels of high unemployment and difficulty in accessing the regional jobs market. We commend the current administration of Northumberland County Council on its foresight and recognition that the town requires major investment and support to kick-start regeneration.'

If the planning application is successful it is envisaged that work will start on the Portland Park site, opposite the Asda supermarket, in late 2016 or early 2017.

SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HAS RECENTLY SUPPORTED TWO ORGANISATIONS BASED IN THE TOWN THROUGH OUR SMALL GRANTS SCHEME.

Headway Central Northumberland meets at the Hirst Welfare Centre for people and their families who have acquired brain injuries or neurological conditions. Over fifty people regularly benefit from activities which include arts, crafts, cookery and guest speakers. Treasurer Julie Cordon said 'We are grateful to Ashington Town Council for its financial support. The activities provided are really valued by our members and contribute greatly to their emotional and psychological well-being'. The group would welcome anyone from the town who has an acquired brain injury or neurological condition to take part in its activities. They meet on the last Thursday of the month from 11am till 1pm at the Centre. For more information call Julie on tel: 07903 046 290.



Ashington is also the home of the Northumberland American Lightning Football Team (pictured). The Club were formed in 2012 and are based at Ashington Rugby Club and compete in the sport's national league. The Club are looking for players as well as volunteers to help with activities - you can find more information at www.northumberlandlightning.wordpress.com

GARDEN UNVEILED

THE NEW ASHINGTON MEMORIAL GARDEN WAS UNVEILED IN NOVEMBER 2015 AT A WELL-ATTENDED REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE.

This was a major project for the Town Council who took over responsibility for the Garden in 2014. Over 1,000 people from the Ashington community gave their lives in the World Wars and the Garden fully recognises those from the town who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country.



At the centrepiece of the new Garden is the relocated war memorial which now stands the 'Unkown Soldier' originally created by local sculptor Tom Maley. A new memorial recognising service given in conflicts after 1945 has also been developed and sited within the garden as part of the project.

The project was developed and financially supported by Ashington Town Council working with key partners including the Ashington Branch of the Royal British Legion, the Western Front Association and local historians. The Town Council has also worked with local schools to develop military themed information boards that are placed within the Garden with this work supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

For more information on the project visit the Town Council website www.ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk.

ASHINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

3 May	Full Council Meeting	7.00pm
24 May	Finance & General Purposes Committee	6.00pm
14 June	Environment & Amenities Committee	6.00pm
28 June	Finance & General Purposes Committee	6.00pm
5 July	Full Council Meeting	7.00pm
26 July	Finance & General Purposes Committee	6.00pm
6 September	Full Council Meeting	7.00pm
13 September	Environment & Amenities Committee	6.00pm
27 September	Finance & General Purposes Committee	6.00pm
25 October	Finance & General Purposes Committee	6.00pm
8 November	Full Council Meeting	7.00pm
15 November	Environment & Amenities Committee	6.00pm
29 November	Finance & General Purposes Committee	6.00pm

Please note

1. All meetings will be held in the Council Chamber at Ashington Town Hall (NE63 8RX).
2. Meetings of the Planning & Regeneration Committee will be called as and when required.
3. Agendas for Council meetings will usually be circulated 5 days in advance. Any change in the times will be noted on agenda document available from the Town Council's website.
4. Prior to a Full Council Meeting a Police And Communities Together Meeting (PACT) will take place with local Northumbria Police Officers at 6.00pm



OPERATION COMMUNITY PRIDE CONTINUES TO GATHER PACE IN ASHINGTON AS NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AIMS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE IN THE TOWN.

The enforcement phase of Operation Community Pride commenced in October 2015 following widespread consultation that identified issues impacting on the well-being of the local community. Operation Community Pride is a multi-agency approach with Northumbria Police working in partnership with Northumberland County Council and Ashington Town Council as well as the private and voluntary sectors.

The operation has been a huge success with a number of arrests of key individuals who were concerned in the supply of illegal drugs. Out of the 32 persons arrested all but four have pleaded guilty to supplying drugs and other offences.

The operation has also targeted suspected burglars and thieves whilst addressing community concerns about graffiti, waste accumulation, litter, dog fouling, rogue landlords and nuisance tenants. Action has also been taken with both private and social landlords to evict individuals that have been convicted of offences in Ashington. The local Neighbourhood Policing Team have recently stepped up their fight through seizing a number of untaxed and uninsured vehicles in the town.

A large number of properties have had their personal belongings marked with Selecta DNA which places a unique personal code to the property which cannot be seen by the naked eye. Officers are able to check property when conducting warrants and house searches which will enable them to re unite stolen property with the rightful owner.

Ashington has seen an increase in offences over the year which is in line across the Force area but is also in areas where we have sought to increase reporting such as offending linked to domestic abuse. However, the Neighbourhood Policing Team are keen to continue in making a difference to the local community and will continue to work with local agencies to tackle the issues residents say affect them the most. We are committed to targeting offenders and reducing the risk to vulnerable members of our community.

Please call 101 to report non urgent incidents and in an emergency always call 999. Alternatively you can contact the local Neighbourhood Policing Team via email at: ashington.npt@northumbria.pnn.police.uk or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

David Harris
Ashington Neighbourhood Inspector

HIRST PARK REVIVAL



ASHINGTON'S HUNDRED-YEAR OLD HIRST PARK WHERE INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL LEGENDS USED TO TRAIN IS ON THE WAY TO BEING TOP OF THE LEAGUE AGAIN.

The Hirst Park Revival project where the Charlton brothers and Jackie Milburn played as youngsters has been awarded a first round 'Parks for People' grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund.

The project led by Northumberland County Council, supported by Ashington Town Council, is working towards revitalising the park and proposed works include rejuvenating the flower park, landscaping, wildlife and water play zones, restoring greenhouses and buildings to provide enhanced spaces and new training facilities for the community.

Work on the development phase will start in the next few weeks with a view to a full application being submitted in autumn 2016.

If successful, the major improvements and activities will begin in 2017.

England football star Jack Charlton OBE was spotted playing at Hirst Park by scouts from Leeds United. He said: *'Hirst Park was a precious place where me and Bobby learned our craft, training and playing for fun, before going on to join Leeds and Manchester United and then playing in the world-cup winning England side in 1966. Hirst Park made it all possible for us and we would play all day if we could and we often did.'*

Sir Bobby Charlton welcomed the news, saying: *'Hirst Park is as necessary and valuable to the youth of today as it was for me. Thanks to the generosity of the funders, may it continue to flourish for the benefit of the community.'*

Development funding of £139,300 has been awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund, and Northumberland County Council and Ashington Town Council are contributing £12,400. The Round 2 bid if successful will see over £2m invested into the Park.

Ivor Crowther, Head of HLF North East, said: *'Our parks are where we play some of our first games, where we make some of our first discoveries and where some of us take our first steps to stardom. Thanks to money raised by National Lottery players we are delighted to support plans to renew and restore Hirst Park so it can continue to play an important role in Ashington and community life, as it has for over a century.'*

Keep an eye on Ashington Town Council's website as the plans develop including a 1966 World Cup celebration event, which will take place at the Park, on the 30 July.

Ashington
FARMERS
and
CRAFTS MARKET
Saturday 30th April
10am - 3pm

**Celebrate International Jazz Day with the
The Paul Skerritt Band**

- **Local Food, Drinks And Crafts** •
- **Animal Antics** • **The Face Painting Lady** •
- **Street Entertainment** •

Ashington 
PROUD PAST BRIGHT FUTURE

 Ashington
Town Team 

STATION ROAD DEVELOPMENTS

MANY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN ASHINGTON HAVE TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT PLANS FOR THE FUTURE LAYOUT AND USE OF THE TOWN'S STATION ROAD.

Working with Ashington Town Council, the Northumberland development company Arch and Ashington Town Team, Northumberland County Council is working to re-establish Ashington town centre as a thriving heart to the town and improve the vitality of Station Road.

The County Council held public drop in events during 2015 and in January this year to consider options to improve the street. Taking on board previous feedback and the views and needs of businesses and residents, the Council has looked in detail at three options.



The three options considered were retaining but upgrading a pedestrianised street, opening the street to two-way traffic; and opening the street to one-way traffic, westbound. The exhibition provided details of all three options and the advantages and disadvantages of each.

From the responses of over 200 attendees at the January consultation event **92% preferred the one way traffic system**. The advantages of opening up the road to one way traffic will provide passing trade through 30 short stay parking spaces on the street; allowing space to keep the market as well as other events to take place. A bus service would be possible and as part of the scheme quality landscaping and seating will also be provided.

Work on finalising the scheme is now underway with the improvement works planned to commence in 2016.

ASHINGTON'S NEW LEISURE CENTRE OFFICIALLY OPENS

ASHINGTON'S NEW £21M LEISURE CENTRE WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED IN FEBRUARY BY WANSBECK MP IAN LAVERY.



The MP was joined on the day by Ashington sporting legends Jack Charlton and Steve Harmison. Ian Lavery said 'This superb new leisure centre is an excellent facility for people in Ashington and for the wider community and I am honoured to perform the official opening. The project is an example of how targeted investment in key infrastructure can create real benefits for everyone and boost health and economic wellbeing'.

The flagship leisure facility is a regional centre of excellence for sport with facilities including indoor cricket nets, a six-lane 25-metre swimming pool, exercise studios, a six-court sports hall and a spa. The Centre also hosts the town's library which has moved from Wansbeck Square. Northumberland County Council invested £20m in the centre which is managed by Active Northumberland. The facility is also funded by Sport England through a contribution of £1m of National Lottery funding.

For more information on the wide range of activities at Ashington Leisure Centre call: 01670 542 222 or visit the website: www.activenorthumberland.org.uk



Ashington's Town Councillors

There are three Town Councillors for each ward in Ashington, giving us a total of eighteen elected members representing the residents on the Town Council.

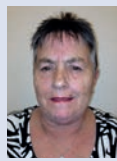
Your Town Council Ward Councillors are:-



Bothal Ward

Councillor Les Alderson

E: lesalderson@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01670 857 951



College Ward

Councillor Vicky Brown

E: vickybrown@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01670 856 852



Hirst Ward

Councillor Victor Bridges

E: victorbridges@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01670 223 515



Bothal Ward

Councillor Marjorie Chambers

E: marjoriechambers@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01670 817 206



College Ward

Councillor Kris Lavery

E: krislavery@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 07786 194 854



Hirst Ward

Councillor Mark Purvis

E: markpurvis@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01670 815 270



Bothal Ward

Councillor Bob Walkinshaw

E: bobwalkinshaw@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01670 811 450



College Ward

Councillor Liam Lavery

E: liamlavery@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01670 855 508



Hirst Ward

Councillor Pauline Thompson

E: paulinethompson@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 07757 776 517



Central Ward

Councillor Avril Chisholm

E: avrilchisholm@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01670 818 013



Haydon Ward

Councillor Keith Chambers

E: keithchambers@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01670 817 206



Seaton Ward

Councillor Louis Brown

E: louisbrown@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01670 856 852



Central Ward

Councillor Lawrence Henderson

E: lawrencehenderson@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01670 815 057



Haydon Ward

Councillor Stephen Fenwick

E: Fenwick.stephen@gmail.com
T: 07873 674 861



Seaton Ward

Councillor Glyn Davies

E: glyndavies@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01670 814 857



Central Ward

Councillor Ely Turnbull

E: elyturnbull@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 01670 812 140



Haydon Ward

Councillor Wyn Stewart

E: wynstewart@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 07515 330 438



Seaton Ward

Councillor Maggie Lang

E: maggielang@ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk
T: 07977 816 878

Keep right up to date with all things Ashington by regularly visiting Ashington Town Council's website www.ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk where you can find news articles, a what's on section and meeting dates as well as further information on the work of the Town Council.

Ashington Town Council

Town Hall, 65 Station Road, Ashington, Northumberland, NE63 8RX

Tel: 01670 624 520 / 624 521 / 620 533 Website: www.ashingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Ashington's Northumberland County Councillors

In addition to Ashington's Town Councillors, the town is also represented by six elected representatives serving on Northumberland County Council.

Your Northumberland County Councillors are:



Bothal Ward

Councillor Lynne Grimshaw

E: Lynne.Grimshaw@northumberland.gov.uk
T: 01670 810 827



College Ward

Councillor Mark Purvis

E: Mark.Purvis@northumberland.gov.uk
T: 01670 815 270



Hirst Ward

Councillor Ken Parry

E: Ken.Parry@northumberland.gov.uk
T: 01670 855 085



Central Ward

Councillor Tom Wilson

E: Thomas.Wilson@northumberland.gov.uk
T: 01670 811 915



Haydon Ward

Councillor Brian Gallacher

E: Brian.Gallacher@northumberland.gov.uk
T: 07769 304 319



Seaton Ward

(with Newbiggin by the Sea West)

Councillor Jim Lang

E: Jim.Lang@northumberland.gov.uk
T: 01670 856 911