



# Great Aycliffe Town Council

Council Offices - School Aycliffe Lane - Newton Aycliffe - Co. Durham DL5 6QF

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## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2012

23rd November 2012

### MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As the festive season is upon us it gives me a chance to reflect on the first half of my year in office.

During this time I have enjoyed meeting people who participate in various forms of voluntary work and couples celebrating 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries. I have visited schools and viewed their artwork along with attending performances by our talented singers and dance groups at Greenfield, Woodham and the Xcel Centre.

'Step into Gold' an aptly named dance presentation, I was amazed by their professional performance and wonderful costumes. Another young children's choir 'Shine' are a delight to listen to. Many congratulations to all involved in nurturing the talents of our young people.

I have attended many other interesting engagements throughout the Town and especially the opening of the factory extension of Tallent Automotive by The Duke of York.

The pride and honour I feel in representing you is sincere as are my thanks to all who have supported me and donated to my charities which are the Butterwick Hospice (Bishop Auckland), Combat Stress and donations to some of our local good causes.

Finally, may I warmly wish you, on behalf of myself and Great Aycliffe Town Council, heartfelt greetings for a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

*Councillor Val Raw*



Councillor Val Raw  
Mayor of Great Aycliffe  
2012 - 2013

### BMX PUMP TRACK OPENED AT WOODHAM PARK

The new purpose-built BMX Pump Track at Woodham Park is now open. The facility was provided as a joint venture between Great Aycliffe Town Council, Durham County Council and the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP). It received funding from Durham County Council Members' Neighbourhood Budget from County Councillors' Joan Gray and Paul Gittins, with the Town Council providing on-going inspection, maintenance, signage and insurance cover.



The track was designed and constructed by professional riders and includes a start hill, berms, jumps and obstacles which provide a challenging and enjoyable facility and, of course, it is free to access. Due to the time of year that the construction took place landscaping and seeding to the surrounding banked areas will not be undertaken until the Spring.

### Outdoor Fitness Equipment Available In West Park

A range of new outdoor fitness equipment aimed at improving general health and fitness levels, is now available for use in West Park. It has been provided by a partnership between Great Aycliffe Town Council, Durham County Council and the Great Aycliffe and Middridge Partnership (GAMP) and has received funding from Durham County Council Members' Neighbourhood Budget from County Councillors Enid Paylor and Mike Dixon. Great Aycliffe Town Council will be providing maintenance and insurance cover for the equipment. There are five units providing eleven activities, with displayed instructions and use of the equipment is free. It is generally aimed at ages 14 and above.



### LETTERS TO SANTA

Each year Santa's Elves put special post boxes in Newton Aycliffe so that the boys and girls can post their letters off to Santa.



#### SANTA'S PALACE

When everything is quiet, and nobody is looking, the pixies empty the boxes and take the letters to Santa's palace in Greenland. Santa receives and replies to about 800 letters each year from the children of the Parish, so he is very busy and has asked that you remember to put your full name and address on your letter.

We have been told that the **post boxes will appear on Thursday 29th November at the following locations:**

- ☉ Stevens Newsagents Beveridge Way
- ☉ Post Office Neville Parade
- ☉ Redhouse Post Office
- ☉ Woodham Post Office
- ☉ Joy Marie Hairdressers Aycliffe Village
- ☉ Simpasture Shopping Area

The boxes will disappear on **Monday 17th December**, but e-mails and forms submitted from the Council's website will be answered right up to noon on the 21st December. Santa has a special e-mail address [Santa@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:Santa@great-aycliffe.gov.uk) and the website address is <http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk/events/santa-letters.html>

### SANTA'S COMING

Santa and his helpers will be touring the town as usual on Christmas Eve. Watch out for more information on routes and times. These will be advertised in the **Newton News** and on the Council Website [www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk).



### Office Closures

THE COUNCIL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON:

**Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day**

*Councillors & Staff wish you a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year*



## “TOWN COUNCIL AIMING TO FREEZE THE COUNCIL TAX FOR A FOURTH YEAR IN A ROW”

The Town Council is currently in the process of setting it's 2013/14 Revenue and Capital Budgets and is working on the basis of a freeze in the level of the Town Council Tax.

This would be the fourth consecutive year that the Council Tax has not been increased.

The 2013/14 Revenue Budget has been prepared on the overriding principle of safeguarding services and avoiding reductions to staff and this has been achieved with the proposed budget maintaining and protecting existing service and staffing levels.

This has been possible due to the continued efficient management of the Council's finances, the on-going freeze in officer pay and delivery of a number of savings during the current year, most notably on the new insurance and brewery contracts.

This has been achieved despite accounting for the likely withdrawal of Double Taxation Grant by Durham County Council, providing for inflation on running costs, an assumed officer pay award next year, falls in sports and golf complex income, as well as an increase to the contingency sum to provide protection against unforeseen issues.

However it is still quite early in the budget setting process and the Council will need to keep a close eye on any further developments e.g. issues arising from the localisation of support for council tax, government announcements, and respond to these as necessary.

The Council is due to set its 2013/14 Precept and the Town Council Tax in January and will keep local tax payers informed of future developments via its website and in the local press.



## Why should Great Aycliffe have a Neighbourhood Plan?

The new planning legislation is 'in favour of sustainable development'. If a planning application is submitted to Durham County Council and there are no guidelines or policies in place that development will be granted planning permission regardless of the needs of the local people.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be your plan. The Town Council will only facilitate the work needed to prepare it. Everything which eventually makes it into the final document must have evidence to support its inclusion.

In short it is:-

- The opportunity for **YOU** to shape **YOUR** neighbourhood and Great Aycliffe.
- Having a say about what **YOU** want to see in the future.
- Putting forward improvements **YOU** think should be made.
- It will become part of the planning guidance for Great Aycliffe.

If you wish to comment on this application, representations regarding the proposed Neighbourhood Area can be made via Email to: [spatialpolicy@durham.gov.uk](mailto:spatialpolicy@durham.gov.uk) or alternatively by letter to Regeneration and Economic Development, Spatial Policy Area Planning Team, Room 4/24, County Hall, DH1 5UQ and should be received no later than Friday 14th December 2012.

## MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

28th Nov. 2012	Environment	7.15 p.m.
28th Nov. 2012	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
5th Dec. 2012	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
12th Dec. 2012	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
16th Jan. 2013	Environment	7.15 p.m.
16th Jan. 2013	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
23rd Jan. 2013	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
30th Jan. 2013	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
27th Feb. 2013	Environment	7.15 p.m.
27th Feb. 2013	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
6th Mar. 2013	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
13th Mar. 2013	Full Council	7.15 p.m.
10th Apr. 2013	Environment	7.15 p.m.
10th Apr. 2013	Recreation	* 7.15 p.m.
17th Apr. 2013	Policy & Resources	7.15 p.m.
24th Apr. 2013	Full Council	7.15 p.m.

\* The **Recreation Committee** will commence immediately after the Environment Committee Meeting.

**WED, 15th MAY, 2013 - COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - 7.15 p.m.**

**(\*\*\*) THURSDAY, 23rd MAY, 2013 - PARISH MEETING - 7.15 p.m.**

**(\*\*\*) (N.B. – this is not a meeting of the Town Council but a meeting of local government electors in the Council's area. Any queries about the Parish Meeting can be made to the Town Clerk on 01325 300700).**

### PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

A period of up to 20 minutes has been also set aside for an elector to ask questions, give evidence or make representation on any item of business included on the agenda of the Council, its Committees and the Planning Sub-Committee. With the exception of the Annual and Extra-ordinary Council Meetings members of the public can submit a written question for the Council Agenda as long as it is submitted 7 clear days before a meeting. If members of the public have any questions it would be appreciated if they could make them known prior to the start of the meeting. Agendas / Reports are available on the Council's Website on the Friday afternoon preceding the meeting. ([www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)) **The Public and Press are cordially invited to attend. "The Public Entrance to the Council Chamber will be open 30 minutes prior to the commencement of meetings".**

## KNOW YOUR COUNCILLOR

### AYCLIFFE VILLAGE

Councillor W.M. Blenkinsopp 1 St. Andrews Close 01325 788893

### BYERLEY PARK, HORNDAL & COBBLERS HALL

Councillor Mrs. D. Bowman 4 Eskdale Place 01325 308094

Councillor V. Crosby 18 Hambleton Court 01325 315083

Councillor I. Gray 1 Cestria Way 01325 313770

Councillor B. Hall Malbri Neath, Middridge 01325 314105

Councillor Mrs. I. Hewitson 233 Rowan Place 01325 318763

Councillor Mrs. A. Palmer 25 Emerson Way 07785 924341

### NEVILLE

Councillor G.R. Gray 80 Bury Road 01325 304480

Councillor Mrs. S.J. Iveson 12 Wilkinson Road 01325 319759

### VACANCY

### SHAFTO / ST. MARY'S

Councillor R.S. Fleming 18 Welbury Grove 01325 310025

Councillor B. Haigh 52 Shafto Way 01325 318303

Councillor Mrs. W.P. Hillary 23 Ross Walk 01325 313273

### SIMPASTURE

Councillor M. Iveson 12 Wilkinson Road 01325 319759

Councillor A. Warburton 21 Butler Road 01325 315182

### WEST

Councillor S. Bambridge 56 Elmfield Place 01325 300195

Councillor T.R. Bowman 4 Eskdale Place 01325 308094

Councillor B. Curtis 14 Bakewell Place 01325 320291

Councillor G.C. Gray 35 Stephenson Way 01325 314934

Councillor Mrs. K. Hopper 3 High Barn Road 01325 314697

Councillor Mrs. E.M. Paylor 23 Wycliffe Close 01325 313697

### WOODHAM NORTH

Councillor Mrs. B.A. Clare 25 Haslewood Road 01325 318333

Councillor J.D. Clare 25 Haslewood Road 01325 318333

Councillor Mrs. M. Dalton 17 Sunningdale 01325 320499

Councillor Mrs. J. Gray 45 Pemberton Road 01325 313778

Councillor Mrs. S. Haigh 52 Shafto Way 01325 318303

Councillor K. Henderson 15 Lowther Drive 01325 319542

### WOODHAM SOUTH

Councillor P. Gittins, J.P. 29 Aylmer Grove 01325 317666

Councillor W. Iveson 35 Westmorland Way 01325 312490

Councillor Mrs. V.M. Raw 3 Morton Walk 01325 311447

## CONTACT THE SENIOR OFFICERS WITHIN THE TOWN COUNCIL:

Town Clerk	Andrew Bailey	<a href="mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk">info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk</a>
Corporate & Policy Officer	Christine Walton	<a href="mailto:christine.walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk">christine.walton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk</a>
Finance Manager	Dan Austin	<a href="mailto:dan.austin@great-aycliffe.gov.uk">dan.austin@great-aycliffe.gov.uk</a>
Works Manager	Don Thompson	<a href="mailto:don.thompson@great-aycliffe.gov.uk">don.thompson@great-aycliffe.gov.uk</a>
Complex Manager	Judith Thexton	<a href="mailto:judith.thexton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk">judith.thexton@great-aycliffe.gov.uk</a>
Environment Officer	Steven Cooper	<a href="mailto:steven.cooper@great-aycliffe.gov.uk">steven.cooper@great-aycliffe.gov.uk</a>
Early Years Officer	Jackie Swainston	<a href="mailto:jackie.swainston@great-aycliffe.gov.uk">jackie.swainston@great-aycliffe.gov.uk</a>
Senior Admin Officer	Christine Ryder	<a href="mailto:christine.ryder@great-aycliffe.gov.uk">christine.ryder@great-aycliffe.gov.uk</a>

## NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING CIVIC EVENTS

### CIVIC CAROL SERVICE

**The Mayor of Great Aycliffe, Councillor Mrs. Val Raw, will hold her Civic Carol Service at St. Clare's Church on Sunday, 16th December 2012 commencing at 6.00 p.m.**

Following the service refreshments are available in the church hall and members of the congregation are invited to join the Mayor and other civic guests for the Christmas Festivities.

## MAYOR'S CHARITY DINNER AND DANCE

**Friday, 22nd February 2013**

**Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre**

Arrangements have now been made for the annual Charity Civic Dinner and Dance. The venue for this years' event will be Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre. Entertainment and Dance Music provided by 'John Melvin' until 12.30 a.m. Tickets are on sale from the Council Offices and are priced at £25.00 each. Proceeds from the event will be for the Mayor's nominated Charities, The Butterwick Hospice, Bishop Auckland and Combat Stress.





## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Council Elections

#### How to Register Your Vote

To vote in any election you need to be registered to vote. To get on the electoral register contact the electoral services at Durham County Council or visit [www.aboutmyvote.co.uk](http://www.aboutmyvote.co.uk) to download a registration form. You can register to vote when you are aged 16 years or over but you need to be 18 or over to vote.

To vote in a parish or town council election you need to be a British citizen, Irish citizen, European Union citizen or citizen of a Commonwealth country (including Cyprus and Malta).

#### How to Become a Councillor

As a councillor you can become a voice for your community and affect real change. Councillors are community leaders and represent the aspirations of the public that they serve. Parish and town councils are the most local part of our democratic system and are closest to the public. Why don't you stand for your local parish or town council and see what difference you can make to your local community?

#### Am I qualified?

Most people are. However there are a few rules. You have to be:

- a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union, and
  - 18 years or older on the day you become nominated for election
- You cannot stand for election if you:
- are the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order
  - have, within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a prison sentence (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine
  - work for the council you want to become a councillor for.

### Joint Council Initiative to Improve Local Environment

The Town Council has entered into an agreement with Durham County Council to take on the day to day maintenance of over 33 hectares of County Council owned environmental areas around the parish of Great Aycliffe. These areas include Bluebell Wood, Local Nature Reserves at Byerley Park and The Moor and woodland areas around the western and northern fringes of Cobbler's Hall housing development, and most of them are adjacent to the Great Aycliffe Way.

Town Council staff carry out the maintenance work, with considerable assistance from volunteers and community groups, such as the Byerley Park Friends Group, plus the National Probation Service. Local schools have been encouraged to use the areas and have already been involved in tree planting, bulb planting, themed nature walks and the Town Council's Town Pride Environment Week. Further public events are planned, contact the Town Council's Environment Officer, Steve Cooper for further information.

### ADDING A SPLASH OF COLOUR FOR THE NEW YEAR

Over recent months Great Aycliffe Town Council has been working with various community groups to help brighten some of the towns' most prominent nature sites for the Spring. Groups such as local schools, the Council's volunteers, and members of the public have been busy planting over 20,000 native Spring Bulbs including Snowdrops, Bluebells and Daffodils on sites including Woodham Burn, Byerley Park Local Nature Reserve and Woodlands near Bluebell Wood.

## AYCLIFFE YOUTH COUNCIL

Aycliffe Youth Council elections were held in October and created lots of interest. The Town Council is happy to report that 16 young people were given the chance to be elected to the position of Youth Councillor.

The Youth Councillors this year are a great mix of existing youth councillors and new representatives. This certainly helps with the work of the Youth Council, particularly in the continuity of projects, with the existing members helping the newly elected ones find their feet.

Don't forget Aycliffe Youth Council have a small pot of money available to give grants to local youth or children's groups within the Great Aycliffe area.

If you would like to apply, please state the name and activities of your organisation, how much money you are requesting, what you are currently doing to raise funds yourself and what the money will be used for. The Youth Council will also need to see your recently audited accounts and/or most recent balance sheets.

Please put your requests in writing to Aycliffe Youth Council, c/o Great Aycliffe Town Council, Council Offices, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QF.

**If you would like to know more about the Youth Council Contact 01325 300700**



### Aycliffe Youth Council



Thomas Burn



Meghan Cumming



Andrew Fittes



Sarah Hird



Charlotte Kirton



Jordan McAteer



Anna Morgan



Shaunie Mounsey



Marie O'Hanlon



Jordan Oliver



Kane Shaw



Callum Smith



Konrad Szymanski



Amir Treifi



Kara Ward



Amy Watson

## ALLOTMENT ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Allotments Meeting took place on Thursday, 15th November 2012 at the Council Offices.

The meeting was well supported with tenants from all allotment sites in attendance.

During the meeting trophies were presented by the Chairman of the Environment Committee, Councillor Vince Crosby, to the Best Allotment Garden on each of the Council's sites – results were as follows:-

Finchale Road - Mrs. C. Clarke  
Clarence Chare - Mr. K. Cooper  
Byerley Park - Mr. G. Cherrie  
Aycliffe Village - Mr. E.G. Leadbitter

St. Oswald's - Mrs. V. Hickson  
who also received the 'Angela Fleming' Memorial Trophy.

The Overall Winner of the 'Best Allotment Garden' was Mr. K. Cooper at Clarence Chare Allotment Site and he was presented with the 'Ken Woodhall' Trophy.







**Oak Leaf**  
SPORTS COMPLEX  
**01325 300600**  
[www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk](http://www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk)

THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS . . .



WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CUSTOM IN 2013.

**Sports Complex Christmas and New Year Closures**  
The Complex will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Years Day.

### Traditional Christmas Lunch

On Sunday 2nd, 9th and 16th December  
we will be serving Christmas Lunch  
in the Function Room  
between 12noon and 2pm.

**Two Course Menu**  
for only £9.95 per adult £6.95 per child  
(main meal and dessert)  
Waitress Service, Please Pre-Book,  
Payment Required on Booking

#### Main Meal

Choose from the following;  
Roast Turkey with all the Trimmings  
Roast Beef - Roast Pork - Nut Roast

#### Dessert

Choose from the following;  
Christmas Crumble - Sherry Trifle  
Christmas Pudding

We will be creating a festive atmosphere with  
Decorations, Table Cloths and Christmas Crackers

Relax  
Celebrate  
And  
Enjoy



We Have  
Christmas All  
Wrapped Up  
For You

Normal Sunday Lunch will still be served in the Bar  
on these days. A warm friendly welcome guaranteed.

## Magical Christmas Party with Santa at the Oakleaf Sports Complex!

on SATURDAY 22nd DECEMBER between 2.00pm-4.00pm

Children will enjoy a festive tea party, meet Santa and if they have been good - get a gift!  
Plus seasonal 'make & do' activities.

**ALL FOR ONLY £4.00 PER CHILD** - Age 4-7years (Parents must stay in the building)

Tickets available from Reception and places are limited, so collect yours soon!

## Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve - QUIZ NIGHTS

? Tickets £2.00 - See Bar Staff for Tickets - On Sale 1st December

Buffet Food and Quiz included in ticket price

? Food will be served at 8.00pm - Quiz starts at 8.30pm

? 1st and 2nd place prizes also spot prizes

Come & join the fun!

(Tickets are limited so get yours now!)




## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS ENHANCEMENT AWARDS

The Town Council wishes to receive nominations from local residents within the Great Aycliffe area for the awarding of Enhancement Awards for residential Christmas Lighting displays which portray the spirit of Christmas.

Please return this nomination form to Great Aycliffe Town Council, School Aycliffe Lane, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6QF or e-mail the details of your nomination to: [info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk](mailto:info@great-aycliffe.gov.uk).

Closing date for applications: - Monday, 17th December 2012.

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**I would like to nominate the house below for a Christmas Lights Enhancement Award for its display of Christmas Lights 2012.**

Address .....

.....

Householder Name.....  
(if known)

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT MOORE LANE ECO CENTRE

### CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

Friday 14th December 5.30pm – 7pm

Every child enjoys making something special for their family at Christmas. There will be all sorts to do during this session including being able to make their own personalised bauble to hang on the Christmas tree or send as a present to their favourite relative.

### CHRISTMAS GARLANDS

Sunday 16th December 10am- 12 noon

Here's the perfect antidote to the Christmas mayhem! Make the best garland in town by spending a few relaxing hours making a perfectly natural, locally sourced Christmas wreath to decorate your home with. This activity is NOT suitable for smaller children and all children should be accompanied by an adult. Please feel free to bring additional decorations from home to personalise your creation.

Both events are free of charge but booking is essential as places are limited. To book contact Great Aycliffe Town Council on 01325 300700.

