

Great Aycliffe Town Council

Winter 2023 Newsletter



Great Aycliffe
Town Council

Big enough to matter small enough to care



Budget Setting Survey

We want your
views!

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elves have put the
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MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As the festive season approaches it gives me the opportunity to reflect on my year so far as the Mayor of Great Aycliffe. I am so proud to represent the people of Great Aycliffe, and I have had the honour of carrying out many varied functions.

There has been so much going on this year and it has been wonderful to be a part of it all, including Aycliffe's special 75th birthday in July, the many anniversaries and special birthdays I've been lucky enough to be invited to. The Remembrance Day parade and service was a very special day for me to take part in.

There is plenty to look forward to in 2024 including the Civic Dinner on February 16th and I would like to take this opportunity to invite residents to come along, please contact the Council offices for details.

Thank you to my fellow councillors for the support they have given me towards fundraising for All Disabilities Matter and to the team at Great Aycliffe Town Council who work hard behind the scenes to help keep our green spaces looking so good and organise so many events for all our residents throughout the year.

Special thanks to the Mayoress, my wife Carol, for her support accompanying me around the town and beyond.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all season's greetings and I hope you have a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The Town Council offices are closed from Friday 22nd December and re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.



GREAT AYCLIFFE TOWN COUNCIL MAYOR HEADLINES

- ✳ **Civic Carol Service** - On Sunday December 3rd, the Mayor will be joined by the Shine and M.A.D. choirs for the annual Civic Carol Service at St Clare's Church. The Service starts at 4pm.
- ✳ **Mayor's Civic Dinner 2024** - The Mayor will be hosting the Civic Dinner at Redworth Hall Hotel County Durham on Friday 16th February 2024. Tickets are available from the Council offices.

ALLOTMENT WINNERS 2023



The Mayor, Councillor Carl Robinson, presented the annual allotment awards to deserved winners and thanked them for their hard work. This year's winners were: -

Aycliffe Village	1st	9	Mr. M. Talpoi	
Aycliffe Village	2nd	10 & 11	Mr. & Mrs Fox	
Aycliffe Village	3rd	8	Mr J. Hannan	
Byerley Park	1st	15	Mrs N. Bulmer	
Byerley Park	2nd	8b	Mr. D. Foster	
Byerley Park	3rd	9	Mr. N. Harrison	
Clarence Chare	1st	17	Mr. K. Green	
Clarence Chare	2nd	10	Mr. K. Cooper	
Clarence Chare	3rd	33	Mr. J. Kennedy	
Finchale Road	1st	9	Mr. N. A. Wheadon	
Finchale Road	2nd	4b	Mrs B. Bojda	
Finchale Road	3rd	5a	Mr. M. West	
St. Oswalds	1st	94	Ms A. Rutkowska	Angela Fleming Memorial Trophy
St. Oswalds	2nd	30	Mr. B. Fletcher	
St. Oswalds	3rd	27	Mr. D. Taylor	
	Best Newcomer/			
St. Oswalds	Most Improved	15	Mr. C. Kay	Edward Hubery Memorial Trophy
Clarence Chare	Best Plot Overall	17	Mr. K. Green	Ken Woodhall Memorial Bowl

TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET SETTING SURVEY

Let's Talk About the Budget....

2024/25 Town Council Budget Setting Consultation

The Town Council is in the process of developing its Revenue and Capital Budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

Clearly the budget that we set is important to our local community, both in terms of how our spending plans may impact on the provision of services and investment in assets for the benefit of the town, and in terms of the level of Council Tax that we need to raise from local taxpayers in order to fund these plans.

In overall terms, the Council is proposing a 2024/25 Revenue Budget that protects and maintains all of our current services, facilities, and events next year.

The Council is also aiming to maintain some surplus resources in the budget which will allow it to replenish its balances and reserves. This will help ensure that we can continue to make capital investment in valued community assets such as cemeteries, allotments, parks and play areas, for the benefit of the community, in the coming years.

In order to do so, the Council is proposing that it raises the core Town Council proportion of the Council Tax bill by around £4.85 (2.65%) next year for the vast majority of local taxpayers i.e. those living in Band A properties.

However, as a direct consequence of the cut in Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant funding being imposed by Durham County Council, the proposed increase will regrettably need to rise to around £8.00 (4.38%).

The core Council Tax increase being proposed is significantly below the current rate of inflation and as a result of the Council's ongoing efforts to cut costs, increase income and deliver value for money services.

We hope you will agree that a monthly increase of £0.40 in the core Town Council element of the Council Tax bill, increasing to £0.67 as a result in Durham County Council grant cut, is a small price to pay to ensure that all the existing services provided by the Town Council can be protected for another year.

There is more information on the Council's draft 2024/25 budget proposals, should you wish to read this, on the meetings section of the Council's website.

Have Your Say

The Town Council completely understands the financial problems and worries people are continuing to face at this time and has worked hard to restrict the required increase to the Town Council Tax next year, balanced against the need to protect the future financial viability of the Council and continuing to provide all of the services, facilities and events valued by the community.



In light of the continuing difficult times, it is important that the Town Council hears your thoughts and feelings on the priorities we need to focus on in the Town Council budget for 2024/25.

Our annual Budget Survey is your opportunity to tell us what you think.

You can access the survey via this link:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AVDU8G/>

The survey is also available in paper form at various community facilities around the town including the Oak Leaf Sports and Golf Complexes, the Town Council Offices and via our website at www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk or on our social media pages.

The survey will close at 12 noon on Sunday 31st December.



Opening	Hours
Monday	9am - 11.00pm
Tuesday	9am - 11.00pm
Wednesday	9am - 11.00pm
Thursday	9am - 11.00pm
Friday	9am - 11.00pm
Saturday	9am - 11.00pm
Sunday	9am - 10.30pm

OAKLEAF SPORTS COMPLEX BAR AND CATERING OPEN DAILY - RING 01325 300600

Scan the QR Code for more information:



Oakleaf Sports Complex - Become a member!

Join in at the Oakleaf Sports Complex with great value annual joining fees of £26.50 for adults and £17.50 for juniors and senior citizens, there are no monthly payments, becoming a member at the Oakleaf Sports Complex could not be easier.

We pride ourselves on keeping things as easy as possible, and with this in mind we only offer 3 types of membership:

Junior Membership 0-17 yrs

Adult Membership 18-59 yrs

Senior Citizen Membership 60 yrs plus

Even better, memberships run from 1st April to 31st March annually, so you always know when your renewal is due. Get in touch on 01325 300600

OAKLEAF LIVE PANTO - CINDERELLA!



A festive poster for the OakLeaf Live Panto 'Cinderella!'. The central image shows Cinderella in a white ball gown and tiara, surrounded by her prince and two fairy godmothers in elaborate costumes. They are positioned in front of a large clock face with Roman numerals. The background is light blue with yellow stars. A string of colorful Christmas lights (red, yellow, blue, green) is draped across the bottom and sides. In the top left, the 'OakLeaf' logo is in red with a green leaf icon, and 'Live Panto' is written below it. In the top right, the date and time 'Saturday 2nd December 4pm' are written in red. At the bottom left, a red starburst contains the text 'Only £5 per ticket'. The title 'Cinderella' is written in large, pink, glittery letters across the middle.

OakLeaf
Live Panto

Saturday
2nd December
4pm

Only £5
per ticket

Cinderella

OAKLEAF CHRISTMAS EVE QUIZ



A festive poster for the Oak Leaf Sports Complex Christmas Eve Quiz. The background is white with a subtle pattern of pine needles and snow. The word 'Christmas' is written in large, elegant, gold cursive script. Below it, 'EVE QUIZ' is written in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. Further down, 'SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH' is written in bold, gold, sans-serif capital letters. Below that, 'STARTS 8PM . TICKETS £3.50' and 'INCLUDES A HOT MEAT SANDWICH' are written in black, sans-serif capital letters. At the bottom, 'TICKETS ON SALE FROM FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER' is written in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters. The poster is decorated with gold bows and gold and white striped Christmas ornaments. The 'Oak Leaf Sports Complex' logo is in the top right corner.

Oak Leaf
Sports Complex

Christmas

EVE QUIZ

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

STARTS **8PM** . TICKETS £3.50
INCLUDES A HOT MEAT SANDWICH

TICKETS ON SALE FROM FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER

Christmas Eve Santa Tours

Please check the Newton News Christmas issue on Friday 15th December for updated times of his visits, or visit www.great-aycliffe.gov.uk or Great Aycliffe Town Council's facebook page from mid-December.

Santa has asked that you congregate at locations that are easy for him to access on his sleigh, as on Christmas Eve some streets can be too narrow to enter due to parked cars. You can check Santa's progress with live updates on GATC's Facebook page.

Please remember, because Santa and his helpers don't know how many people will be out to see him, the times are only a guideline.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers and the companies that loan us their sleighs: J & C Coaches, Aycliffe Fabrications, Sabre Rail, Ashcourt Skip Hire and Gardner's Yard

**This year Santa Tours has been
sponsored by:**



Route 1



Route 2 to 12



Letters to Santa



Each year Santa's Elves put special post boxes in Newton Aycliffe so that all of the children from Newton Aycliffe can post their letters to Santa.

When everything is quiet, and nobody is looking, the elves empty the boxes and take the letters to Santa's palace in the North Pole. Santa replies to so many letters each year from the children of Aycliffe, and as he is very busy he 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 Wednesday 29th November at the following locations:

- Post Office/Youngs Newsagents Beveridge Way
- John's Your Very Own Mini Market, Neville Parade
- Horndale Post Office, Silverdale Place
- Sainsbury's Cobbler's Hall
- Morrisons Daily at Simpasture
- Reds Fish Bar, St Elizabeth Close
- Aycliffe Village Hall, North Terrace



The boxes will disappear on Wednesday 13th December, but e-mails will be answered from today, right up to noon on 21st December. Santa has a special e-mail address santa.northpole@great-aycliffe.gov.uk.



With special thanks to the event sponsors:

John's Mini Market, Young's Newsagents, Phil and Andy at Around the Town Radio Show

Morrisons
Daily



The County
Restaurant with Rooms

PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS

Over recent months Great Aycliffe Town Council have completed replacement of the safety surfacing at St Oswald's Park and have secured external grant funding to refurbish Byerley Park play area



CHRISTMAS OFFICE OPENING TIMES

Council Offices Christmas
Opening Times

* Closed Monday 25th December 2023

Re-opens Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Councillors and Staff would like to wish you all

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



St. Oswalds Pre School and Tots in the Park



St Oswald's Pre school

- 15 hours free funding available from the term after a child's 3rd birthday
- Two year funding for children in receipt of a play and learn eligibility code
- Non funded sessions at available at a cost of £15 per 3-hour session

Please contact Julie Gale
(Pre School-Manager) on
07968 379009 for further
information



Firework Safety Poster Competition Winners

We had a fantastic response to the Poster Competition this year, over 300 entries were received and the Mayor Councillor Carl Robinson and the Mayoress Mrs Carol Robinson, had the difficult task of judging the posters on 3rd November 2023.

The presentation took place on Thursday 23rd November in the Council Chamber where the winners were awarded their prize and certificate by the Mayor and Mayoress.

Thank you to everyone who entered from 'home', Byerley Park Primary School, Sugar Hill Primary School, Stephenson Way Academy, Woodham Burn Out of School Club, Little Cubs Day Nursery, Tots in the Park and St Oswald's Pre-School. Well done to all of you - don't forget to try next year!

Pre-school/Reception

1st Joseph Young, 2nd Mila Coglan, 3rd Freya Waters

Year 1/Year 2

1st Oliver Haszeldine, 2nd Lacey-Jo, 3rd Ruben Washington

Year 3/Year 4

1st Louisa Hope, 2nd Jack Easton, 3rd Aurora Fasia

Year 5/Year 6

1st Jaxon Shaw, 2nd Sahasra Patha, 3rd Nathan Kilinan



Merry Christmas from OakLeaf Golf Complex

Christmas lesson vouchers now available
from Steven Carpenter PGA

Shop the latest range of golf equipment
from leading brands

Get Custom Fit for Christmas with
Andrew Neasham PGA

TaylorMade PING SRIXON Cleveland **skechers GOGOLF**

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