

WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

# RESIDENTS NEWSLETTER



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Bedlington in Bloom  
2014-2015

Your questions -  
answered

Join us at Bedlington  
Town Fair

# Forward

## by the Mayor



Hello my name is Malcolm Robinson and I have been elected in May by councillors to be chairman of West Bedlington Town Council this year. Because we are a Town Council the chairman is called a Mayor, other than that there are no differences between our Town Council and a Parish Council. West Bedlington Town Council has no official regalia and no special expenses or salary for the Mayor's post. Basically we are not a metropolitan borough or a city so we don't have a directly elected (by the townspeople) paid Mayor.

At my election I stated I had two principle aims for my term, firstly transparency and secondly a renewed engagement with the community.

One of my first jobs was to reinstate the working groups and subcommittee system which had been disbanded. We now have elected members who can examine in much greater detail any proposals which are brought to council and offer suggestions of their own based on the appropriate committee they are working on.

I believe if run correctly this system offers a much better return for ratepayers based on value for money and the other normal checks and balances associated with running what is in effect a sort of business.

The working groups are Events/ Publicity and Governance/Finance along with the subcommittee called Services. Like our monthly full council meetings the Services meetings are open to the public to attend.

Also there is now a 'residents group' meeting and it has held its first get-

together. With this now in place if other West Bedlington Town residents would like to work within a residents group please get in touch. See the later section.

With full council support I have also began setting up a Youth Council because I believe we really need to be listening to what our young people tell us they want to see in our Town in the future. This has to be a priority surely? Also engaging with our youngsters has to be the right way to treat them in the 21st century.

We are also working to make our digital offer, web site, Facebook etc, much more user friendly and capable of carrying so much more information. For instance we will now be recording our meetings and I would like to see those recordings capable of being played back, in full, on our website.

I hope you can see in this newsletter we are starting to see the investment we as a Town Council can make into our community both in terms of the physical landscape and social inclusion.

We can all see the fantastic efforts and results made by the Bedlington in Bloom team but these have been potentially thwarted by persistent vandalism. This seems to be most prevalent at weekends. I would urge the people responsible to just stop and think about what they are doing and to anyone witnessing this damage please report it.

To close, as for the future who can tell, but we have all seen and heard about potential regeneration plans for Bedlington. I believe your Town Council should be in the thick of those plans, making sure they happen, are sympathetic with the needs of our community and we all do get the chance to take part in a genuine community consultation exercise so the least heard as well as the most heard get their say.

**Malcolm Robinson.**

# YOUR QUESTIONS

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## **Marc Cox...** When are they going to build or provide anything for the kids?

Can't really answer for 'they' Marc but WBTC do try and provide for kids. This administration has always supported the Salvation Army's summer holiday programme which gives 6 weeks' worth of activities for our younger children. We also financially support reduced costs swimming access for youngsters at the pool in St Bennets where for just £1 children can have up to 45 minutes in the pool. We have also started a Pupil's Fund where our schoolchildren can apply into for things not covered by the school curriculum. Also we fund events and were one of the main sponsors of the Big Event we have just seen. This year look out for a Bedlington Street Fair, Bedlington Dog Show and a Brass Band competition!

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## **Dawn McLaughlin...** When are they going to open the public conveniences?

Again the ominous 'they' Dawn but to give you some idea of what we are trying to do with regard to the total lack of public toilets provision in the town. The toilets down at Attlee Park have been closed for some time but these are really needed not just for people parking in the adjacent car park and using Attlee Park but also for any events which take place down in Attlee Park. The cost of hiring in toilets to event organisers is excessive. WBTC are pricing up getting these toilets repaired and reopened if not fulltime then at least for the duration of any events which take place in the Park. The Tesco one has been out of bounds as Tesco took control and closed it when they acquired the car park. Of course now we can see a potential new owner of that whole site (NCC) and I would hope it makes reopening this toilet block a priority. If we are talking strategic toilets only, then this has to be the one in my view! Lastly the one opposite the library was closed because of faults, one being pipe damage cause by tree roots. We are actively negotiating with NCC to see if this toilet block can be reopened ASAP!

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## **Abbie Millar...** It's not really a question, but why can't Bedlington have a 'water park' for children like Blyth or Morpeth?

It's all down to cost Abbie. Essentially that cost would have to be borne by West Bedlington council tax payers and it means starting from scratch. I believe we do need that's sort of facility so Bedlington can become a destination Town rather than the current crossroads it is now. This sort of idea along with others is now being considered by a new group council have just put together.

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## **George Hurrell...** I would like to know what the town councillors actually want for the people of Bedlington and how there are going to implement them also what their views are on getting Bedlington a leisure centre complete with swimming pool.

George don't know if there is enough space to answer all that in this issue! I will say at the Annual Meeting of the Town held on (WHENEVER?) I did ask councillors to stand up and introduce themselves and tell everyone what they were doing in the community. Most did and it is obvious a lot of councillors are working with and on various community groups trying to improve the Town and surrounding area for the benefit of everyone. As for the Leisure Centre question I am sure each and every councillor will have his or her own view.

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## **Geoff Day...** What is their strategy on planning applications for new residential developments? And is it true they are approving developments to help meet North Tyneside and Newcastle CC demands as suggested in other media?

Geoff please remember you are asking the Town Council and not the County Council who are the planning authority. The Town Council does not have a planning strategy as such; we consider each application based on its relative merits for our area. We can only pass a comment; we have no right to turn down or recommend applications that's the job of the planning authority, NCC. Until recently we could recommend an application goes to the planning committee but that, along with quite a few other planning rules, is changed now. As for your other point, like I said we don't 'approve' anything to do with planning applications.

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## **Angie Morgan...** Why is the grass behind Tesco not getting cut I was always told Tesco didn't own the car park.

Angie, currently Tesco do own the car park and the vast majority of the grassed area surrounding it. That will hopefully change very soon as NCC and Arch take control. That grass has just been cut because of the possibility of the people parking in the car park and walking down to the Big Event, the whole area looked unkempt. The Town Council decided to have it cut, even though it isn't our responsibility, we just weren't prepared to give potential visitors a bad first impression of the Town!

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# Baedling Manor

(That's the name of the new care home being built in the middle of Bedlington by Mr Barry Elliott.)

Because of the protracted nature of this build and the amount of public concern it attracts, WBTC asked Mr Elliott to come back to one of our council meetings and explain what's going on.

He immediately agreed and because of the public interest, WBTC decided to hold that part of the meeting in the large concert room upstairs in the community centre.

Mr Elliott didn't disappoint and turned up on time with all the documentary evidence needed to back up his claims. The crux of the problem seems to be twofold.

Firstly there was a problem actually building to the architect's design specifications, notably the dormer windows. Once that was resolved and a variance to the planning application

for that change was duly submitted, planners came back with other conditions, which claims Mr Elliott, he had already discharged and had agreed with the planners. Because there is a sizable cost implication with regard to these new conditions Mr Elliott has been fighting this apparent unfairness.

However now taking a pragmatic view Mr Elliott has undertaken to resolve these new conditions and will now instigate works to that end.

WBTC would like to thank Mr Elliott for taking the time and trouble to come along and explain to us and the community what has been going on and why this care home has taken so long to build.

In the spirit of fair representation, answering criticism and allegations and not forgetting trying to get to the bottom of the problem for residents I asked NCC planning department if they would like to reply to Mr Elliott's statement. They agreed and the case officer's reply is below:

**Thank you for the opportunity to respond on this matter.**

I cannot agree with Mr Elliott's comments regarding the reasons for the delay in the implementation of the planning permission for the Care Home.

The council has worked proactively with Mr Elliott and others to progress the development of the care home and to ensure that all relevant planning decisions have been fully discharged in accordance with the terms of the planning permission. The reasons for the lack of progress on this development are not in any way attributable to the council.

The care home was granted consent in 2007. Construction has been on-going since that time with long periods of inactivity on the site. The planning permission was granted subject to a number of planning conditions including one relating to potential contamination on the site in relation to its former use as a petrol station. That condition required a contaminated land survey to be submitted and appropriate remediation measures to be agreed and implemented before any development started on the site. To date this very important condition has not been discharged by the developer.

The council was contacted by Mr Elliott in 2013 as he was seeking to get construction underway again on the site. He needed to make changes to the roof structure which required a formal submission to the council. This was duly submitted and approved without delay in August 2013. Work subsequently re-commenced on the site for a short period of time. In 2014 Mr Elliott again contacted the council regarding some further changes to the approved plans in relation to doors and windows. Again a formal submission was made to the council and again this was approved without delay in August 2014. There was no further re-commencement of work on site at this time.

Mr Elliott contacted the council yet again in 2015 seeking confirmation that all planning conditions had been discharged as he was seeking to sell the care home to another company who would complete the development. The council advised that the contamination condition had not been discharged. Mr Elliott initially disputed this but following further discussions with the council subsequently commissioned a contaminated land survey report. This was submitted to the council for comment but did not fully meet the requirements of the planning condition. Following some further discussion with officers an alternative proposal was put forward which was considered to be acceptable in terms of the requirements of the condition. Mr Elliott was advised of this on 10 July 2015 by email. The email also informed Mr Elliott that that he needed to formally submit this information to the council to allow the condition to be discharged. A further email was sent on 14 July advising that the discharge of condition application would be processed without delay once received. To date no application has been received to discharge this condition.

I note that Mr Elliott advised the community at the WBTC meeting that he was expecting a decision from the council on this matter the following day. However the council cannot proceed to discharge this condition as no formal application has been submitted. This condition therefore remains outstanding. Notwithstanding Mr Elliott has notified the Council of his intention to re-commence work on the site on 27 July.

I hope this clarifies the role of the council in this matter.

Regards

**Judith Murphy**

Case officer NCC Planning Department.

# Handrails or barriers?

Some people might have seen the new paint being applied to the railings around the Top End roundabout. Always looking for ways to enhance our Town, WBTC decided to repaint these railings.

Seeking the most cost effective way to enable this to happen the council decided to use underspends on renegotiated contracts from last year's capital projects so there was no need to ask residents for any more money in this financial year!

What we did want was to see these rails in the same colours as the rest of our street furniture, green and gold! So as well as the planters, bus shelters, bollards and waste bins along Front Street we now

have hand rails in the same theme.

A huge round of thanks to Mick for doing such a fine job for us, sometimes not in the best of circumstances.

With a 5.00am start time at weekends this early bird is certainly up with the larks!

Oh and he wants to collect all those pennies he gets when someone shouts..."Hoy Mick, you missed a bit!"



## BEDLINGTON MARKET

Tell us what you would like from a market in Bedlington.

Let us know what you would like to see in the market, would you like specialty markets? When should the market should take place, day times / evenings, weekdays or weekends? How often would you like a market to be in the town?

The Council is seeking to work alongside Northumberland County Council (who provide the market), together with traders and residents to look at how the market can be improved.

The Council would like to gather the thoughts and ideas of the community with regard to improving the current market.

Send your letters or e-mails to the Council Office. Our contact details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.



**BARNESBURY CYCLE CLUB**



**OWMG!!!**

**COACHING EVERY SATURDAY**  
AT  
**GALLAGHER PARK**  
**MTB - 10<sup>AM</sup> till 11<sup>AM</sup>**  
**BMX - 11<sup>AM</sup> till 12<sup>NOON</sup>**



## The New Parking Bays on Glebe Road

The new parking bays on Glebe Road have proved an instant hit. Designed to stop the double parking there and the problems associated with customers parking to use the businesses on Glebe Road, the situation has at last been resolved. One side of the road is now clear of parallel parking so residents living at the bottom of Glebe Road and delivery vans etc. can have easy access.

# Dr Pit Park

Do you enjoy using the Park, do you want your children/grandchildren to use it, and do you want to see other facilities there?

We are looking for people to help regenerate the Dr Pit Park with the creation of a new...

“Friends of Dr Pit Park Group.”

The Park has a national Green Flag status (<http://www.greenflagaward.org/park/summary/?ParkID=1227>) but with the recent vandalism there that may be under threat.

“That can't be allowed to happen and it won't with your help.”

Please if you are willing to be part of a Friends of Group for this park get in touch with the Council office to register your interest.

## The new path down into Attlee Park.

The start of the new path down into Attlee Park is next to the bus stop at the top of the Attlee Park bank. For years pedestrians had to step out onto the main road at the top of the hill to continue walking down the narrow footpath.

WBTC felt this was far too dangerous, especially for young families with push chairs, and with the continuing usage of this Park as an events venue this was something council wanted to put right.

Estimates were sought and a budget prepared then it was just a matter of picking the company which offered best value for money. The weather was a bit of an obstacle but the new path soon took shape.

Along with the path came new seats, supplied by the Bedlingtonshire Development Trust, and these have proved extremely popular with residents and visitors alike.

Look out for more upgrades to this footpath soon.....



# Bedlington Cycle Hub



*All things bikes and cycling  
in & around Bedlingtonshire*



Bedlington Cycle Hub is your community resource for all things bikes & cycling in & around Bedlingtonshire. Whatever your age, experience, or discipline, we want to encourage you to get out & about enjoying the local tracks and trails throughout the area.

[www.facebook.com/bedlingtoncyclehub](http://www.facebook.com/bedlingtoncyclehub)



## Bedlington



in



Bloom.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
TO HELP US MAKE  
BEDLINGTON EVEN  
PRETTIER.**

E-MAIL... [BI@BEDLINGTON.CO.UK](mailto:BI@BEDLINGTON.CO.UK)  
TEL... 07444344592  
GRATEFUL FOR ANY OFFERS OF HELP!

# BIG EVENT 2015

RECORD BREAKING BEDLINGTON AT IT AGAIN



**More than 6000 people descended upon Bedlington last weekend as one of Northumberland's biggest family fun days had yet another record breaking year.**

The Big Event 4, organised by local charity Leading Link and funded by West Bedlington Town Council, took place at Attlee Park in the town, with 4000 people enjoying the early summer fun throughout the afternoon – a new record for the event.

Later in the day, more than 2000 locals enjoyed an evening of summer fun as Bedlington played host to its first ever open-air cinema, with the musical classic Grease entertaining the crowds from a giant inflatable screen on the park's bandstand.

The covering of core costs by the Town Council allowed for another record year of fundraising, with vital funds being raised for the charity's continuing work with young people and the local community.

Lyn Horton, manager of Leading Link, said: "Overwhelmed is the only word I can use to describe The Big Event this year – Bedlington certainly did us proud!"

"We are absolutely delighted with the

support we have received yet again from West Bedlington Town Council."

"We have always been humbled by the support of the local councillors, who have never hesitated in providing vital financial support towards our community projects.

"We are proud that together we have produced another large-scale community event in the town."

The event was supported by over 80 volunteers, both young and old, who manned stalls, stewarded the car parks and ran the BBQ.

Lyn added: "For those who worked their socks off from 8am until well past midnight - what can I say? We are extremely privileged to know, and work with, some truly amazing and special people."

"From local councillors manning our information point and transporting tables in a donated van, to residents giving up their time to help man the barbeque and litter pick, The Big Event is the epitome of the community spirit that exists in this area."

"We are a core staff team of just three people and we couldn't pull off something as amazing as this without the help, support and pure dedication of the local community."

As well as fun fair rides, a sizzling BBQ, mini golf, pony rides and a host of local businesses and organisations, the event also saw the highly anticipated final of Northumberland's Got Talent.

Once again the final was decided by a public vote, 13 year old musician Brook Miller edging out Shania Gleghorn and Demi Lynass to the Got Talent crown.

In the evening Attlee Park was transformed into an open air cinema, with a crowd of thousands making their way down to the bandstand with picnic blankets and deck chairs in tow.

The 8m x 4m inflatable screen featured the hit musical Grease, with many families dressing for the occasion and singing and dancing the night away to some of film's classic numbers.

Jonny Hall, Assistant Manager of Leading Link, said: "The open air cinema is an idea that we have been floating around the office for a number of months – but we really could not have anticipated what the public reaction would be."

"I have to say every person on that field was a credit to the local area – despite concerns, there was not a single issue in the crowd at all."

"It was just a nice feel-good family night, and there have already been calls for us to do it again!"

# Bedlington in Bloom 2014-2015



**Bedlington in Bloom was formed in November 2013 at the invitation of West Bedlington Town Council. In November 2014, however, the members of the Group voted to become an independent group and officials were appointed and a constitution agreed. This has meant that the Group can now be eligible for funding that would be otherwise unavailable if it were an integral part of the Council.**

The Group maintains strong links with WBTC and has been very grateful for the support shown for Group activities and initiatives this year. In April a Service Level Agreement was agreed with WBTC and, as a result, the Group has been able to fulfil many of its plans and to plan ahead with the confidence of knowing that funding is available for them. Some West Bedlington Town Councillors are also Group members.

Bedlington in Bloom has been happy to participate in many community events over the year including Heritage weekend, the Christmas Lights event and the Big Event 4. West Bedlington Town Council sponsored a Christmas concert which was organised by the Group. This took place at St. Bede's Catholic Church in early December and was a wonderful lead up to the festive season and enjoyed by over a hundred people.

Bedlington in Bloom continues to work to promote activities involving every sector of the community regardless of age, ability or race. Young people and schoolchildren have carried out tree planting at Schalksmuhle Road,

at Attlee Park, Netherton Lane and the Twenty Acres. West Bedlington's First School pupils were invited to create a logo for Bedlington in Bloom. A selection of the logos were then displayed in Tesco and the prize winners presented with their prizes at St. Cuthbert's Christmas Fayre.

The charity Leading Link works closely with the Group and has offered a variety of horticultural activities to youngsters and children. St. Bede's First School pupils and West End First School pupils have planted railing troughs with students from Leading Link. West End First School's troughs are attached to the railings outside their school making a very attractive sight.



Mrs Lesley Tweddell, a Group member and the coordinator of the Community Allotment, provides regular activities, volunteering opportunities and events on the site on a weekly basis. There is also a gardening related craft course every fortnight. Local Care homes, schoolchildren, work experience students and a young people's employability scheme, Tomorrow's People, attend the allotment regularly for a variety of horticulturally linked activities. Bedlington in Bloom members and volunteers were also able to use the poly tunnel there for planting baskets and storing them before installation outside businesses on Front Street. The Group were also fortunate to have the support of some of the Dr Pit Allotment members who also cared for the baskets before they were put up.

The local St. Cuthbert's Church Brownie Group have been offered support by Bedlington in Bloom members and have grown flowers and vegetables from seed. The flowers have been planted at St. Cuthbert's by the Brownies.

Bedlington in Bloom approached all the Churches in West Bedlington and asked if they would like to have oak tubs and baskets provided by the Group. These are now in place and are cared for by the Church members. Some oak tubs are also sited outside business premises and two are in place at the entrance to Hartford Bridge. These were planted and are cared for by a Group member.

Chester Court Nursing Home has entered the Best Care Home category in the Northumbria in Bloom competition. They achieved a gold medal last year. Their garden is a great source of pleasure to its residents some of whom are involved with planning and planting baskets. Mrs Pam Towers, Manager of Chester Court, is the Group's chairperson.

Bedlington in Bloom purchased new railing troughs and two large flower towers on behalf of WBTC. These were assembled and installed by Group members. Group members then planted them. Sadly vandalism destroyed the original planting of the troughs but with the support of Leading Link Ambassadors and



local residents the troughs have been replanted and are thriving. The Group were delighted with the show of community spirit and support offered during, and after, this event. Throughout the year Bedlington in Bloom have also received support from businesses with compost donations and also horticultural advice. Residents have volunteered to help with basket and railing installations, with assembling the flower towers, with planting and weeding activities and with litter picking. The Group are immensely grateful for their support.

This year the second Bedlington in Bloom Gardening competition has been launched. Judging is taking place in July and there will be a presentation evening for winners later in the year.

The hanging baskets, oak tubs and railing troughs are now installed which we hope enhance the Front Street of our attractive town. Bedlington in Bloom members hope that the community of West Bedlington recognises that the Group aims to provide opportunities for all residents to participate in a wide range of communal and horticultural activities, hopes to nurture and encourage a proud sense of community and hopes to make every resident feel proud of their town.





# Bedlington

# Town Fair



## The Fabulous CRISSY ROCK

Star of

“Benidorm” and “I’M A CELEBRITY GET ME OUT OF HERE!”



Will appear as our very special guest On Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August

11.00 am until 4.00 pm Come along for a Great Day out for the whole family

Bedlington Front Street

LIVE MUSIC & Fun and Games on Stage

Street Entertainment . Fun Fair Rides

Classic Bikes and Cars

Local Community Groups

Small Animal Petting Area

Arts and Crafts Stalls

Great Food and much More....



**A FREE BUS SERVICE PROVIDED BY WAT BUS WILL BE RUNNING THROUGHOUT THE DAY FROM: CHOPPINGTON . GUIDEPOST . STAKEFORD AND BEDLINGTON STATION**

**This Event has been Supported by West Bedlington Town Council**

And managed By Community Works 

For More Information Contact Paul Taylor at [Communityworks@sky.com](mailto:Communityworks@sky.com) or 01670 363994



lovya' Bedlington This Summer

# Event Programme

**11.00 am Fair Opens with Miss Crissy Rock Live on Stage**

**in the Market Place**

**Fun Fair, Food and Craft Stalls open**



**11.15 am Kidz Character Show on Stage in the Market Place**

**11.45 am First Live Band on Stage in the Market Place**

**12.25 pm – 12.55 pm Street Entertainers in the Market Place**

**12.30 pm Small Animal Petting Zoo on Front Street**



**1.00 pm Kidz Character Show on stage in the Market Place**

**1.30 pm Second Live Band on Stage in the Market Place**

**2.10 pm Infusion Dance & Fitness in the Market Place**

**2.35 pm – 3.00 pm Street Entertainers in the Market Place**

**3.00 pm Kidz Character Show on Stage in the Market Place**

**3.30pm Third Live Band on stage in the Market Place**



**4.00 pm Fair closes**

DON'T FORGET THE FREE BUS SERVICE BROUGHT TO YOU BY WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL, PLEASE SEE THE MAP BELOW FOR THE BUS STOPS



# Community does a street clean ahead of the Northumberland in Bloom judge's visit.

Once again the Bedlington community responded to a call for help with litter picking on and around Front Street ahead of the Northumberland in Bloom judge's visit.

Armed with pickers and plastic bags these volunteers and others marched up and down our High Street picking up every bit of litter they could find. They paid particular attention to the Market Place and the area behind the Market Tavern.

While a team from Bedlington in Bloom tendered the new bed next to the Market Place club others did a litter pick up and down the street. Others did the side streets which lead off Front Street.



All in all a very productive couple of hours spent ensuring our Town is viewed in the best possible light. ....and how much litter did they pick..... more than 9 full bags!

## Bedlington Market

**Tell us what you would like from a market in Bedlington.**

Let us know what you would like to see in the market, would you like specialty markets? When should the market should take place, day times / evenings, weekdays or weekends? How often would you like a market to be in the town?

The Council is seeking to work alongside Northumberland County Council (who provide the market), together with traders and residents to look at how the market can be improved.

The Council would like to gather the thoughts and ideas of the community with regard to improving the current market.

Send your letters or e-mails to the Council Office. Our contact details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

## Bedlington fights back!

In a stupid act of wanton vandalism on the night of 26th of June someone or a group decided it would be fun to destroy the new planters the BiB team had just put up on the railing outside St Cuthberts church.

This caused many hundreds of pounds worth of damage and made all the time and effort put into these planters by the volunteers seem valueless.

However in a magnificent reply the Bedlington community has once again rallied around and we will see those planters redone and reinstated! From the e-mails and letters received offering help to the replies on the BiB Facebook page certain things shine out: this is a resilient community who values the work done by the volunteers and we won't allow some mindless hooligans to spoil our Town.

Well done one and all and we might not win Britain in Bloom but if there was an award for the Town with the most community spirit I am sure we would be walking off with the first prize!



## Meadowdale Play Area

West Bedlington Town Council have recently undertaken a major refurbishment of the Meadowdale children's play area.

This park will now be open between 09.00 and 18.00 hours daily, but will remain locked outside of these hours. A very community minded local resident has very kindly agreed to be a custodian of a key to ensure

this facility remains a clean and safe place for our youngsters to use.

WBTC received a number of complaints from nearby residents following damage to the facility and the Council felt it had an obligation not only to repair but to ensure this park would remain open and be available in the future for children to use. In addition we have also provided a more secure fence and entrance gate which enable's the park to remain secure and free from vandals.

## And the winners are...

The girls in the Craft Hive (Sarah and Jennet) were so inspired by the Bedlington in Bloom group efforts they decided to hold their own 'Make a Bloom for The Craft Hive'.

They decided to have 3 groups based on age ranges. These were 2-8 years, 9-15 years and 16 years & above.

They asked the Mayor to come and pick first and second in each category and he duly obliged. After much deliberation due to the quality of all of the entries the choices were made.

The winners are:

### 2-8 years

1st place Ellie Richardson.  
2nd place Sofia Eleni-Mae Wilkinson.

### 9-15 years

1st place Aidan Barker.  
2nd place Lyla Bensley.

### 16 +

1st place Yvonne Drake  
2nd place Jane Kirkham



So if you are into your shabby chic furniture or the more usual range of craft pursuits this newish Bedlington business is right up your street and well worth the visit. Great place to get some ideas for entertaining youngsters over the summer holidays!



(Left to right...Christine Taylor, Andrea Atwell, Guy Stoker, Amanda Mavin and Malcolm Robinson)

## Grand Opening Day for centre

Less than 2 weeks after being elected as Mayor and deputy Mayor of West Bedlington, Malcolm Robinson and Christine Taylor officiated at the Family Fun Day at the Light Well Being Centre in Vulcan Place in Bedlington.

Opened by Amanda and Andrea the Light Well Being Centre has a team of experienced, professional and caring therapists who are committed to working in an integrated way to help with a variety of needs, either by individual 1:1 treatments for specific personal requirements or in group therapeutic and creative workshops for an enjoyable enlightening experience.

Malcolm Robinson said, "This is exactly the type of new niche business Bedlington needs. Once word gets around I have no doubt this will draw people from all over the region not just our locality."

Also in the picture is Guy Stoker who has composed and penned a Bedlington Song, which had it first public airing on that day.

# Brass in Bedlington

## Saturday 5th September

### Attlee Park

JAYESS NEWBIGGIN BAND  
HEXHAM BRASS  
BEDLINGTON BRASS  
BEDLINGTON UKULELE BAND  
ELLINGTON COLLIERY BAND  
BACKWORTH COLLIERY BAND  
ASHINGTON COLLIERY BAND

ATLEE PARK BEDLINGTON NORTHUMBERLAND  
FUN AND MUSIC FOR ALL THE FAMILY  
FIRST BAND 11-00AM



## OUR THANKS

Thanks to a number of supporters and sponsors who have contributed to enable the Town Council to produce its summer events programme.

Paul Taylor (community works).

Ken Beattie (Techflow Group).

Keith & Emma Fitzsimmons (Synergy healthcare). Tony Griffiths (Northumberland Brass Band Ass.)

Neighbourhood Services Team at Northumberland County Council.

Brian Conroy (Crescent Printing).

Leah Bell.

Bedlington Salvation Army

## HARTFORD BRIDGE GETS SUPPORT FROM BEDLINGTON IN BLOOM

At last a gateway feature at Hartford Bridge thanks to the help of Bedlington In Bloom Group.

The Residents Association at their last meeting requested something along the lines of the gateway feature at Nedderton Village so Bedlington In Bloom group members got involved with the support of the town council to put in two floral tubs on the southern approach to the hamlet.



## WEEKLY CLASSES

### Monday

9.30am - 11am

#### Autism Group

3rd Monday of every month

07932 835094

[www.autismnorthumberland.co.uk](http://www.autismnorthumberland.co.uk)

5.45pm - 6.45pm

#### Kids Freestyle Dance age 3+

Joanne Gray at Dance Delicious - 07889 464039

[xjoanne\\_geex@hotmail.com](mailto:xjoanne_geex@hotmail.com)

7.30pm - 9pm

#### Bedlington Sings Community Choir

### Tuesday

4.30pm - 5pm

#### Tiny Tots 2/3 yrs

£3 contact Laura at

[liliajanesod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:liliajanesod@hotmail.co.uk)

5pm - 6pm

#### Mini Stars 4+ yrs

£4 contact Laura at

[liliajanesod@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:liliajanesod@hotmail.co.uk)

7pm - 8.30pm

#### Community Brass Band Practise Northumberland Music Partnership 01670 824039

### Wednesday

10am - 11am

#### Pilates

Gill Glass 07742 885165

£4 per class - just turn up!

7pm - 8.30pm

#### Yoga

Pauline 07969 887561

[pauline@prana-yoga.co.uk](mailto:pauline@prana-yoga.co.uk)

£7 per class or £36 for 6 weeks

### Thursday

10am - 12pm - **Craft class** (FREE for 12 weeks supported by bait)

11.30am - 12.30pm

#### Ukulele

Diane 07950 406223

[dianerobson2003@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dianerobson2003@yahoo.co.uk)

£18 for 6 wks

5pm - 7pm

#### Slimming World (Contact Jill Heslop 07906 896166)

8pm - 10pm

#### Modern Jive for beginners

Sue Rowley 07971 909083 [dancingforcharity@gmail.com](mailto:dancingforcharity@gmail.com)

£4 per class - no partner required)

### Friday

No regular classes at the moment.



## WHAT'S ON? at Bedlington Community Centre

### Rag Mama Rag

Sunday 25th October

Back by popular demand!

20's & 30's Blues based, but extremely varied, encompassing Mississippi Blues, East Coast Ragtime sounds and more!

Doors/bar 7.30pm, show 8pm

Tickets £8

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/165965](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/165965)

### Sleeping Beauty

Saturday 5th December

Performed by The Panto Company

Join Giggles the Jester and his friends for this magical tale!

6.30pm - 8.30pm (approx.)

Adults £8, 12 & under £4

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/164835](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/date/164835)

## Salvation Army Film Afternoons

Hartford Road West Thursdays at 2pm  
(with a break for refreshments at 3pm)

### The Second Best

### Exotic Marigold Hotel

20 August

Cert 15 - Run time 122 mins

### Wild

Saturday 5th December

Cert 15 - Run time 115 mins

Please call in or ring for more information 01670 829356

Find us on facebook and twitter.

# RESIDENTS PANEL

The Council is always interested to receive the views of its residents, whether they be good or bad. Would you be interested in joining a resident's panel?

The panel would meet periodically with representatives of the Council and exchange views, ideas and suggestions about general Council issues or more specifically projects and how to improve the services provided by West Bedlington Town Council.

If you would like to be considered for inclusion in a West Bedlington Residents Panel please send your contact details to the Council. Our contact details can be found on back page of this newsletter.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS

West Bedlington Town Council has a 'Community Chest' scheme which gives local voluntary groups and organisations a chance to bid for funding.

This might be to help establish a new group or to carry out extra activities that they wouldn't otherwise be able to do - e.g. sporting activities, arts, music or craft group, new equipment for a youth club - but these ideas will be coming from the community themselves.

To qualify for an award the applicant must be able to demonstrate clearly that any funding from West Bedlington Town Council will benefit the Town, or residents of the Town.

Grant applications will be dealt with by the Full Council. In determining the validity of an application, the Council will refer to the following guidelines:

Applications will be considered for the following purposes: -

1. For the purpose of purchasing equipment or materials either in part or in full.
2. For the purchase of services e.g. venue hire or transport that will enable group members to partake in a group trip or outing regardless of their incomes.
3. For running costs (but not wages) of a viable group that is experiencing a period of hardship.
4. For the provision of recreational activities and facilities.
5. For activities that raise the profile of the area.

There is £5,000 available for community grants in the current financial year. Application forms are available from the Council's web page or from the Council's Office.

## Dates of Town Council Meetings

Council Meeting Diary. All meeting dates are subject to Council approval. Provisional dates for 2015/2016 are shown in the table below.

Year	Month	Full Council 6.30PM	Services Committee 6.00PM
2015	June	4	25
2015	July	9	23
2015	August	13	27
2015	September	10	24
2015	October	8	22
2015	November	12	26
2015	December	10	tbc
2016	January	14	28
2016	February	11	25
2016	March	10	24

# ABOUT WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL WAS CREATED IN APRIL 2009. THE COUNCIL WAS CREATED TO PROVIDE LOCAL SERVICES TO LOCAL RESIDENTS UPON THE CREATION OF THE NEWLY FORMED UNITARY AUTHORITY NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL, WHICH HAD REPLACED THE PREVIOUS NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL AND SIX DISTRICT COUNCILS WITHIN THE COUNTY, ONE OF WHICH WAS WANSBECK DISTRICT COUNCIL.

THE COUNCIL CONSISTS OF NINE COUNCILORS REPRESENTING THREE ELECTORAL WARDS, BEDLINGTON CENTRAL, BEDLINGTON PARK ROAD AND BEDLINGTON WEST.

THE COUNCIL CONSTITUENCY COMPRISES BEDLINGTON TOWN CENTRE, AND THE VILLAGES OF NEDDERTON AND HARTFORD BRIDGE.

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## TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

YOU CAN ATTEND MONTHLY TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS (USUALLY THE SECOND THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT BEDLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE AT 6:30PM). MEETING DETAILS, AGENDAS AND MINUTES ARE INCLUDED IN THE COUNCILS WEBSITE [WWW.WESTBEDLINGTON.ORG.UK](http://WWW.WESTBEDLINGTON.ORG.UK)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE COUNCIL'S ELECTRONIC MAILING LIST FOR AGENDAS AND MINUTES PLEASE LET US KNOW BY EMAILING TO [WESTBEDLINGTONTOWNCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WESTBEDLINGTONTOWNCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM)

THE COUNCIL IS REGISTERED WITH THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER AND WILL PROTECT YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES AND ONLY USE THEM FOR WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL DIRECT COMMUNICATION.

THERE IS ALSO A COUNCIL NOTICE BOARD IN FRONT OF BEDLINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, WHICH ALWAYS HAS A POSTER WITH THE TIME AND DATE OF THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING.

BEFORE EACH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING THERE WILL BE A 15 MINUTE OPEN SESSION. THE CHAIR WILL INVITE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT TO ASK QUESTIONS DIRECTLY TO THE COUNCIL. ALL ARE WELCOME AND THE COUNCIL IS ALWAYS INTERESTED TO RECEIVE YOUR VIEWS AND COMMENTS. DURING THE ACTUAL COUNCIL MEETING MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE RESTRICTED TO THE ROLE OF OBSERVERS UNLESS SPECIFICALLY INVITED BY THE CHAIR TO SPEAK

# OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Allotments
- Bus Shelters
- Children's Play Areas
- Events - including
- Remembrance Sunday
- Christmas event in the Market Place
- Summer holiday events for children
- Grit Bins - if the County Council won't supply the Town Council may supply
- Litter Bins
- Public Seating
- War Memorials
- Christmas Lights
- Christmas Tree
- Notice board Provision
- Flower beds and bulb planting
- Town gateway features
- Additional grass cuts
- The County Council does not cut grass in April and October so we pay for additional grass cuts in those months
- Any entry into the Northumbria in Bloom completion

All other local Council Services (e.g. Housing, Refuse Collection, Council Tax and Housing Benefits) are the responsibility of Northumberland County Council.

[www.northumberland.gov.uk](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk)

or Tel: 01670 627000

# WEST BEDLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

## COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS



**David Graham**

Central

32 Ravensworth Street, Bedlington, NE22 7JP  
01670 828907  
david.graham54@yahoo.co.uk



**Christine Taylor**

Central

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07591 621 238  
Chrisandpaul1@sky.com



**Jim Tyler**

Central

4 Hirst Villas, Bedlington, NE22 5QQ  
829511  
Jjtyler1944@gmail.com



**Simon Tyler**

Central

98 Burnside, Bedlington, NE22 7JJ  
07455 099959



**Joe Dobie**

Park Road

12 Hollymount Avenue, Bedlington, NE22 5AJ  
01670 824113



**Keith Dalton**

West

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keithdalton292@gmail.com



**Paul Hedley**

West

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stewartphedley@hotmail.co.uk



**Adam Hogg**

West

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07572 912 485  
adam.hogg.wbtc@hotmail.co.uk



**Malcolm Robinson**

West

23 Ridge Terrace, Bedlington, NE22 6ED  
07564 517 735  
malcolm@bedlington.co.uk

## OFFICE

You can contact the Town Council office by post, telephone or email.

### By Post:

Community Centre, Front Street West, Bedlington, Northumberland, NE22 5TT

### Telephone

(01670) 457070

### E-mail

westbedlingtontowncouncil@gmail.com

### Office Opening times:

The office is generally open Monday Wednesday and Friday (9.00am - 5.00pm) - However and regrettably due to staffing levels we cannot guarantee any fixed opening times.

We would advise that in the first instance you contact us via telephone or email and we will endeavour to answer your query or if you prefer we can arrange an appointment at the office.

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL YOUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR - CONTACT DETAILS

### Bedlington Central

#### Councillor Alyson Wallace

5 Havelock Crescent, East Sleekburn, Bedlington, NE22 7BD

Phone - 01670 822858

E Mail - Alyson.Wallace@northumberland.gov.uk

### Bedlington West

#### Councillor Terry Johnstone

19 Westmorland Avenue, Bedlington, NE22 6DJ

Phone - 07769 304 305

E Mail - Terry.Johnstone@northumberland.gov.uk

### Bedlington East

(For Park Road Ward Only - Park Road, Hollymount Ave and Tce, Hogarth Cottages, Whitsun Ave, Gdns and Grove, Spring Gdns, Wansbeck Court.)

#### Councillor Valerie Tyler

4 Hirst Villas, Bedlington NE22 5QQ

Phone - 07769 304 312

E Mail - Valerie.Tyler@northumberland.gov.uk