

Council News

Stanley Town Council

Issue 1: Summer 2009

Our commitment to you

Your council is committed to improving your area, improving the quality of life and developing a sense of pride by working together to ensure that our actions reflect your priorities...

Serving the communities of:

Annfield Plain, Catchgate, Harelaw, Harperley, Greencroft, Ox Hill, New Kyo, East Kyo, West Kyo, Craghead and The Middles, South Moor, Quaking Houses, Stanley, East Stanley, South Stanley; Shield Row, Kip Hill, Coppy, Causey, Tanfield, Tanfield Lea; Clough Dene, Tantobie, Sleepy Valley, White-Le-Head and part of Flint Hill.



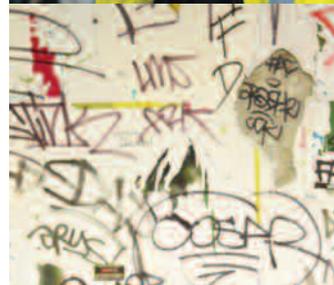
What's inside

Our priorities

You told us the council's priorities should be:

- Crime and safety
- The environment
- Shopping, leisure and heritage
- Traffic and transport
- Information and communication
- Training and education
- Employment
- Housing

and other important local services and issues.



- A welcome from your chairman
- Your new Town Clerk
- Know your councillor
- Policing
- Useful information

Address: 57-61 Lenin Terrace, South Stanley, County Durham, DH9 6LW
Temporary Tel: 01207 280 486 Fax: 01207 288 777 www.stanley-tc.gov.uk
email: info@stanley-tc.gov.uk

Watch out for the Council's new permanent phone number soon!!

Welcome from the town council's first chairman, **Councillor Tom Pattinson**



“...representing ‘grass roots’ opinions and the need to get excellent value for every £1 we spend...”

On behalf of the Town Council I'm delighted to commend our initial newsletter to every household and business in the communities we intend to serve. These include: Annfield Plain, Catchgate, Harelaw, Harperley, Greencroft, Ox Hill, New Kyo, East Kyo, West Kyo, Craghead and The Middles, South Moor, Quaking Houses, Stanley, East Stanley, South Stanley, Shield Row, Kip Hill, Coppy, Causey, Tanfield, Tanfield Lea, Clough Dene, Tantobie, Sleepy Valley, White-Le-Head and part of Flint Hill.

As can be seen by the extensive list above, the Town Council is about the whole area in and around what might be termed ‘wider’ Stanley and not just the town or town-centre itself. With a population of more than 31,000, the Town Council is the largest so called ‘local’ council in the county. This is potentially beneficial as it gives our area the chance to be influential over the many decisions that affect us which are often taken outside of the locality. We intend to use this powerful voice for, and on behalf of, local people to whom we are democratically accountable.

Whilst our meetings are open to the public we recognise that many people are unable to attend for all sorts of very understandable reasons. Therefore we also intend to keep local people up to date through the publication of four community

newsletters per year. This edition aims to explain why the Town Council was formed and what it aims to do over the first two or three years of its existence.

At this point I should just explain that Stanley Town Council is actually a Parish Council, which because of its large population, sheer geographical size and potential overall impact in the area, has opted to take the form of a ‘Town’ Council. Parish and Town Councils are also commonly known as ‘Local’ Councils as historically they have been defined as the fundamental tier of local government – a democratically elected local authority.

As we are elected we are directly accountable to you the public who we ourselves live and work amongst. Therefore we're under no illusion about the importance of representing ‘grass roots’ opinions and the need to get excellent value for every £1 we spend on the community's behalf.

Whilst it will undoubtedly take time to get the Town Council established, once solid foundations have been put in place, I'm convinced that if we all pull together we can improve local services and the overall quality of life. We have an initial three year plan, and along with my fellow Councillors, I'll be working as hard as I possibly can to ensure that it becomes a reality as soon as possible.

Introducing Russell Morgan, **your Town Clerk**

Hi I'm a forty-six year old married man from nearby Wrekenton in Gateshead. My kids range from 2 to 20 years old. I hadn't realized just how close to Stanley I lived until I started working here a few weeks ago. I say that because I can clearly see the scaffolding on St Andrew's church and the local wind turbines from my front door!

For the last 6 years I was a senior manager working in local government in the East of the County. In this role I had overall responsibility for a multi-disciplinary team seeking to tackle the many and wide-ranging problems being faced by approximately 24,000 of the Country's most disadvantaged citizens. The population concerned lived in a variety of communities, some of which were fairly urban like Stanley Town whilst others were slightly more sub-urban in nature or outlying villages similar to the settlements that surround Stanley. Either way, due in no small measure to the shared mining heritage of both sides of the County, I've already picked up the same strong sense of community spirit that can be so helpful to the process of improving local conditions from the bottom up, and by relying on the strength and knowledge of local people rather than more remote professionals or institutions.

Stanley Town Council was formed as a direct result of residents of the wider area petitioning the authorities for a greater say in local affairs. I like that - and I genuinely think that it gives us a more realistic chance of making a difference. Indeed, a strong local voice is perhaps even more important than ever with the recent demise of the District Council and the subsequent transfer of its responsibilities to the new 'Unitary' County Council.

Since completing a degree in Housing on a day release basis some 10 years ago I've topped up my technical expertise by gaining further professional qualifications in: Public Health; Economic Development; Leadership and Management; Crime

Reduction and Community Safety; Law, and; Finance. I'm also a member of the Courts' Management Board for Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria all of which I'm sure will be helpful to my ability to advise local Councillors and to negotiate with other organizations on your behalf.



I can be contacted at the office address set out on the front cover and centre pages and would be delighted to hear from, or meet, anyone who lives or works locally or who perhaps has a relative or professional interest in the area.

I'm delighted that all 20 Town Councillors, all of whom are unpaid volunteers, officially agreed to 'leave politics out of the equation' so we can focus on the job at hand and I'm genuinely honoured to be the first person to hold the office of Clerk.

What's next? The Council has instructed me to see how the local environment and community safety can be improved, if necessary, by passing new by-laws, and where the Council can play its part in supporting local business, enterprise and job creation.

“ ...all 20 town
councillors are unpaid
volunteers... ”

Know your local

Your council is committed to improving your area, improving the quality of life and developing

Annfield Plain



Councillor M Hodgson

t: 01207 231949

Annfield Plain Ward

24 Railway Gardens,
Annfield Plain, Stanley,
County Durham, DH9 8QB

m: 07900 160615

e: michele.hodgson@
durham.gov.uk



Councillor N King

t: 01207 238707

Annfield Plain Ward

22 Unity Terrace,
New Kyo, Stanley,
County Durham, DH9 7JR

m: 07944 532978

e: n_king22@yahoo.co.uk



Councillor M Watson

t: 01207 238316

Annfield Plain Ward

6 Hamsterley Gardens,
Annfield Plain, Stanley,
County Durham, DH9 8JP

e: hollyandnee@
hotmail.co.uk

Catchgate



Councillor J Nicholson

t: 01207 235036

Catchgate Ward

12 Old Blackett Street,
Catchgate, Stanley,
County Durham, DH9 8LP

m: 07812 645094

or 07500 125296

e: Joan.Nicholson@
durham.gov.uk



Councillor D Walker

t: 01207 280636

Catchgate Ward

3 Fairfield, West Kyo,
Stanley, County Durham,
DH9 8TR

m: 07764 301588

e: davidw133@tesco.net

Craghead and South Stanley



Councillor S B Marshall

t: 01207 232308

**Craghead and
South Stanley Ward**

Graphic House,
Front Street, Craghead,
Stanley, County Durham,
DH9 6DS

e: sally.beth@yahoo.co.uk



Councillor P Murray

t: 01207 283747

**Craghead and
South Stanley Ward**

42 Hollyhill Gardens West,
South Stanley,
County Durham,
DH9 6NW

e: paula.murray@
derwentside.org.uk



Councillor T M Parry

(Vice-chair)

t: 01207 283203

**Craghead and
South Stanley Ward**

10 Railway Street, Craghead,
Stanley, County Durham,
DH9 6EP

m: 07970 383747

e: t_parry@
derwentside.org.uk

Havannah



Councillor J Carleton

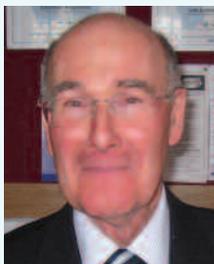
t: 01207 233037

Havannah Ward

19 St. Helliers Way,
Stanley, County Durham,
DH9 0UT

m: 07939 390193

e: jean.carleton@lycos.com



Councillor T Pattinson

(Chair)

t: 01207 233796

Havannah Ward

58 Causey Drive,
Kip Hill, Stanley,
County Durham, DH9 0LW

e: t-pattinson@sky.com



Councillor D Walton

t: 01207 280494

Havannah Ward

Cresta, View Lane,
Stanley, County Durham,
DH9 0DX

m: 07020 971992

e: dswalton@plus44.net

South Moor



Councillor M Boyd

t: 01207 235110

South Moor Ward

42 Third Street,
Quaking Houses,
Stanley,
County Durham, DH9 7HA

m: 07910 620757

e: mark.boyd@
connexions-durham.org



Councillor J Lockie

t: 01207 283316

South Moor Ward

33 Palmer Street,
South Moor, Stanley,
County Durham, DH9 7RD

m: 07910 620757

e: jamesatthemoor@
gmail.com



Councillor D McMahon

t: 01207 284676

South Moor Ward

118 Westfields, Stanley,
County Durham, DH9 7DF

m: 07941 139595

e: mcmahon@
nildram.co.uk

town councillors

g a sense of pride by working together to ensure that our actions reflect your priorities...

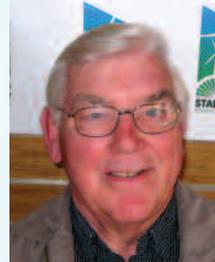
Stanley Hall



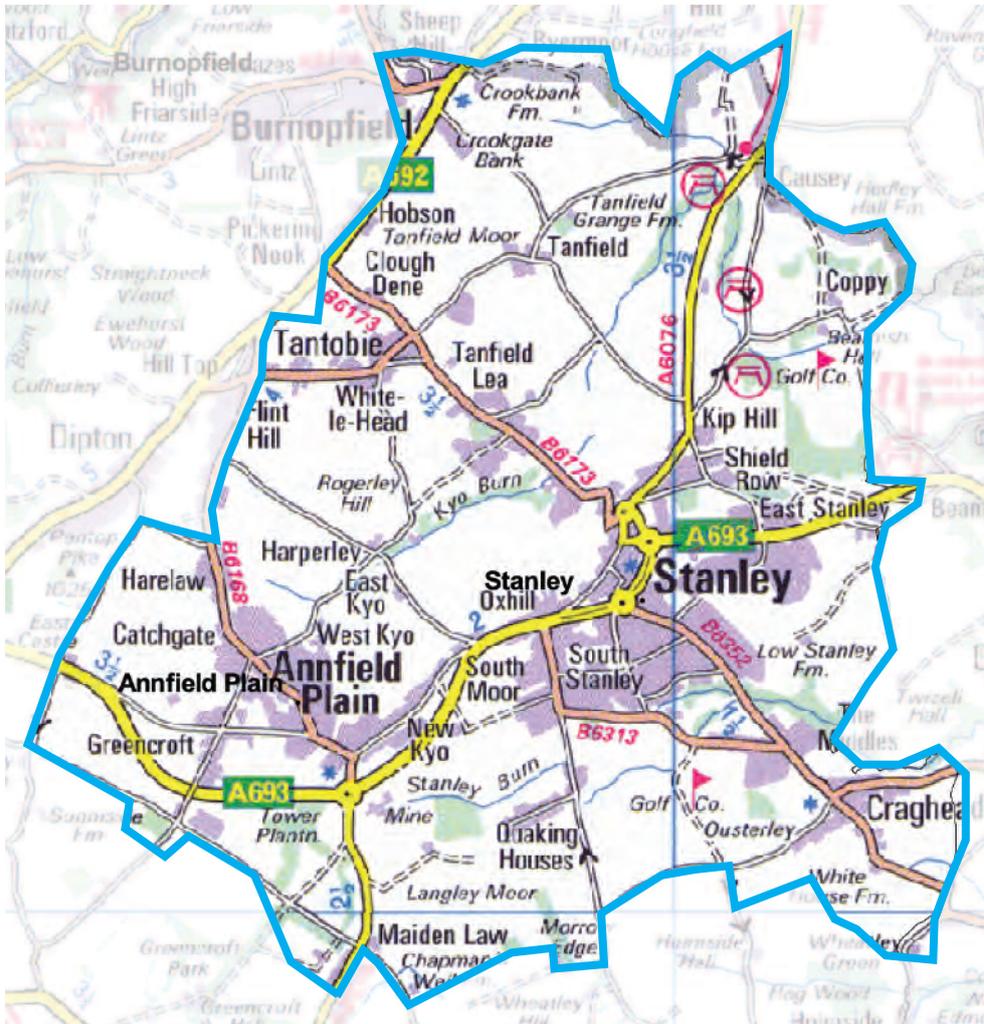
Councillor K Howe
t: 01207 236371
Stanley Hall Ward
 6 Landseer Close,
 Stanley, County Durham,
 DH9 6TA
e: hkevinhowe@aol.com



Councillor R Mellor
t: 01207 239975
Stanley Hall Ward
 92 Wear Road,
 Stanley, County Durham,
 DH9 6HW
m: 07876 362708
e: roysusanmellor92@btinternet.com



Councillor J Pye
t: 01207 231801
Stanley Hall Ward
 45 Tyne Vale,
 Stanley, County Durham,
 DH9 6PD
m: 07939 581285



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Tanfield



Councillor J E Atkinson
t: 01207 232793
Tanfield Ward
 41 Campion Drive,
 Tanfield Lea, Stanley,
 County Durham, DH9 9PQ



Councillor D Bowerbank
t: 01207 235998
Tanfield Ward
 102 Eastfields,
 Stanley, County Durham,
 DH9 7DW
m: 07825 773522
e: onimaru@hotmail.co.uk



Councillor J Charlton
t: 01207 281923
Tanfield Ward
 21 South View,
 Tantobie, Stanley,
 County Durham, DH9 9TH
m: 07746 241138
e: joyce.charlton@ukonline.co.uk

Spotlight on your local councillor

As can be seen on pages 4 and 5, the Town Council is made up of 20 elected members. In future editions of **Council News** different members from all over the whole area will be featured. Look out for what your local representative has to say...

Tina Parry, Vice-chair to Stanley Town Council



Hi, I'm Tina (Tina-Marie) Parry. As well as being Vice-chair of Stanley Town Council I'm also the Chair of our Communications sub-committee.

As Chair of the Communications committee

I'm particularly pleased to be able to introduce myself to the wider area in our very first community newsletter.

I've lived in Craghead for 7 years and have played an active role as Secretary to the Craghead Area Partnership. I am also Company Secretary for Craghead Development Trust which now runs a local Post Office situated in the Village Hall and a Childcare Centre situated next to Bloemfontein School. In addition we have a community transport scheme (minibus) and we also run Burnside Resource Centre, and support the running of Craghead Village Hall. Like many of my fellow Councillors I also work full time. In my case I'm the Facilities and Finance Officer with Derwentside CVS & Volunteer Bureau who are based in the Tommy Armstrong Centre 'One Stop Shop' in Stanley Town Centre and Glenroyd House in Consett.

This job has given me a really helpful insight into the community's needs and inspirations in Stanley.

I get a great deal job satisfaction when I see the support delivered by the CVS & Volunteer Bureau. I love to see it reach the groups in need and support them to develop and sustain.

Being a local person who passionately wants to see the wider Stanley area improve and prosper for the benefit of everyone, I hope and believe that the combination of my voluntary work and professional experience will provide me with the right credentials to help lead the Town Council during its formative years, and more importantly, to make sure it delivers positive change for the communities it serves.

Future meetings of the Town Council

Currently the full Council meets at 6.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held in the Council's offices and are open to the public. Summer meetings will be held on the 14th of July and 11th of August respectively.

Sub-committees meet on an ad-hoc basis as and when necessary.

Have your say about how to improve Health and social care in County Durham

Contact the 'Link' Team (Local Involvement Network) on 01325 327 431 or go to www.linkcountydurham.co.uk

Stanley Town Council's Priorities: Policing

Introducing Inspector Amanda Cathrine:



As Police Inspector for the Stanley Neighbourhood Policing Area, I manage the Neighbourhood Policing Team and oversee the activity of all other locally assigned Police Officers, Civilian staff and related resources.

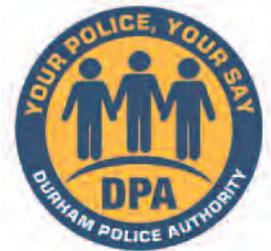
My overall aim is the successful and effective delivery of Neighbourhood Policing. This is about providing reassurance in the form of high visibility patrols, engaging with the public and targeting resources at priorities identified by people living and working in the area. Stanley's Neighbourhood Policing Team consists of 2 experienced Sergeants supervising two teams based at Catchgate and South Moor with a total of 9 Police Constables and 11 Police Community Support Officers.

Neighbourhood Policing was introduced both locally and nationally to assist in making the Police service more accessible and accountable to the public. Most recently we have introduced 'PACT' meetings (Police and Community Together) as per the Policing Pledge, to identify monthly local priorities targeting issues that matter to the public.

As your local Police Manager I have already met with the Town Council's newly appointed Clerk and what I'm sure will be a productive dialogue between both organisations is now underway.

As a result of this dialogue, I'm aware of the consultation the Town Council has already undertaken at the 'grass roots' level and welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with them to address the many crime and safety related matters the public have raised. In some cases the solution may lie in taking a fresh look at matters, with our partners, and adopting a problem solving approach to ensure the underlying causes are addressed and not just the symptoms. I am confident that the existence of Stanley Town Council will assist greatly with this 'pro-active' approach and I look forward to attending their future meetings accordingly.

Inspector Cathrine, Stanley Police Office, Thorneyholme Terrace, Stanley, DH9 0BL. Tel: 0191 375 2527.



Durham Police Authority

Durham Police Authority is an independent organisation responsible for ensuring Durham Constabulary delivers an efficient and effective police service. It is made up of 17 local people who include 9 councillors and 8 members of the public who are the 'independent' members.

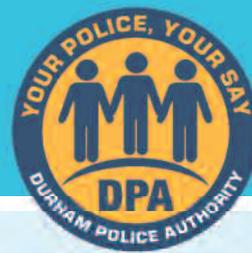
The Authority ensures that the Constabulary is accountable to the people of County Durham and Darlington and ensures that citizens have a say in how they are policed.

The Authority is responsible, amongst other matters, for setting the budget for the Constabulary and, following consultation with local communities, mapping out the strategic direction of policing. This includes agreeing policing priorities, setting the Constabulary challenging targets to drive performance higher and monitoring the effect of how the Chief Constable is delivering on the Policing Pledge.

Alongside the constabulary, the Police Authority also works closely with partners, such as local authorities and other agencies in the criminal justice system to reduce crime and disorder.

Mr. Peter Thompson Chairman of Durham Police Authority said "Durham Police Authority is passionate about representing the voice of local communities, in order to make neighbourhoods better places, to live work and enjoy free time. The Police Authority is keen to raise awareness about the distinct difference between itself and the Constabulary and welcomes the opportunity to work in partnership with Stanley Town Council and its stakeholders to address peoples concerns."

Stanley Town Council's Priorities: Policing



10 things to know about Durham Police Authority. Your police Authority

- 1 Is a group of 17 local people that hold the police to account on behalf of communities;
- 2 Consults with local communities to find out what you want from your local police;
- 3 Makes sure that the Chief Constable delivers a police service which balances both national strategic priorities and the concerns of local people;
- 4 Hires and, if necessary, fires chief constables and senior police officers - and also checks on complaints against police;
- 5 Publishes an annual plan, based on consultation with local people, setting out the services your constabulary should deliver in the year ahead, and the targets it should achieve;
- 6 Has a legal duty to promote equalities and good relations between different groups of people. As part of this, it ensures people know their rights if they are stopped or searched by police;
- 7 Is committed to the promotion of equality and diversity and aims to be representative of the diverse communities across County Durham and Darlington;
- 8 Holds the police budget. It consults with local people before it sets police council tax to ensure you get value for money;
- 9 Sets the strategic direction of local policing to ensure that everyone benefits from a better police service, and;
- 10 Makes sure the police service does everything it can to keep improving policing for your community.

For further information about Durham Police Authority please check out our website on www.durham-pa.gov.uk
Durham Police Authority, County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL
Email: durham.pa@durham.gov.uk
Telephone: 0191 3835511, Fax: 0191 3834206

Durham County Council

Did you know that from April 2009, all of the main council offices in the whole of County Durham became 'Customer Access Points' for the recently formed unitary County Council?

The public will therefore be able to access services such as: Planning; Refuse Collection; Benefits; Council Tax; Pest Control; reporting problems with Highways, Pavements and Street Lighting; requesting a Waste Permit, or; accessing Social Care information. The local Customer Access Point is at: Council Offices, Front Street, Stanley, DH9 6LW.
Tel: 01207 693 693

In addition, a new service will be available from County Hall where customers will be connected to the service they require rather than being redirected to another council office or department. The central access point is at:
County Hall, Durham, DH1 5UL
Tel: 0191 383 4567

Opening hours for both centres are:
Monday-Thursday 8.30am to 5pm, and Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

It is also possible to report environmental nuisance matters to the County Council on 0191 371 1040

Useful numbers

- Alcoholics Anonymous: 0845 769 7555
- Business Link: (Setting up a new business)
0845 6009 006
- Care and Repair: 01207 581 391
- Citizens' Advice Bureau: 08451 264 264
- Crime Stoppers: 0800 555 111
- Derwentside Employment Team: Freephone
0808 178 1898; employmentteam@derwentside.gov.uk
- Derwentside Homes: Emergency 08458 505 600;
Freephone 0800 783 9295;
customer.services@derwentsidehomes.co.uk
- Derwentside Volunteer Bureau: 01207 218 855
- Emergency – National Gas Service: 0800 111 999
(if you smell gas)
- Food Co-op: 0794 454 4583
- GamCare (Gambling dependency): 0845 6000 133
- MacMillan Cancer Support: Freephone 0808 808 2020
- Victim Support: 0207 735 9166; Victim Supportline:
0845 30 30 900