

Council News

Stanley Town Council

Issue 2: Autumn/Winter 2009

Improving your area

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your Town Council.

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.



Our priorities

- 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.

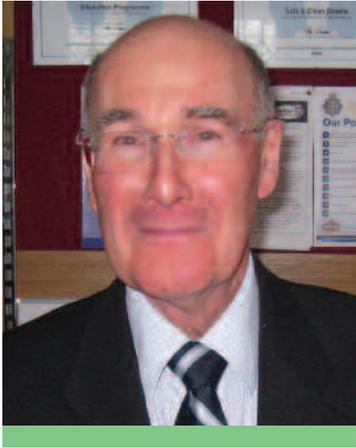
What's inside

- Chair and Clerk on the Council's plans
- The Council's priorities
 - Improving the Environment,
 - Policing
 - The work of the Council's Sub-committees
- Useful information.

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Chairman's comments, Councillor Tom Pattinson

In the previous edition of 'Council News' I explained that the Town Council became operational at the beginning of this financial year with the intention of giving local people a greater say in our own affairs and more influence over decisions that affect us.

I mentioned that we already had a three year plan which we've been developing in more detail during the last few months. The result is known as the 'Action Plan' because that's what you have told is needed – action not words! In a nutshell the Action Plan helps people see what the general public have told us is needed which we've called You said, and; what the Town Council intends to do in response which we've called We will do.

The Action Plan is set within a wider five year strategy document known as the 'Strategic Town Plan 2009-14'. This approach means that we can act in the present whilst continuously planning for the future by reviewing performance and progress and applying the results.

Both documents will be sent to a wide range of organisations within the private, voluntary and public sectors so that they're fully aware of what we are determined to achieve on behalf of the whole area. The combined plan will also be available from the Council's office, in local libraries and on the world-wide web when the Town Council's new web-site goes live later this year.

In the meantime Season's greetings from your Town Council.

Councillor Tom Pattinson
(Chair of the Town Council, 2009-10)

Town Clerk update

As Town Clerk it's pleasing to be left under no illusion whatsoever that the Chairman, and indeed all twenty of the Town Councillors, were determined from the outset to ensure that the extensive public consultation carried out during 2008 was not wasted.

Therefore, following their clear direction, an easy to follow strategy document and Action Plan has been written in direct response to local peoples' views and aspirations.

However, you'll probably be more pleased to hear that your directly elected representatives, have made it even clearer that such plans are meaningless unless they're turned into a reality on the ground.

Therefore I've been negotiating with local service providers about improved services in the Town Council's area. One of the most plausible ways of doing this is using the extra money collected in the area via the Town Council's precept on the Council Tax to fund extra services.

In November the Town Council is due to consider a proposal for extra 'street-scene' and community safety services which, if approved, will ensure extra resources and capacity are dedicated to the issues of environment, crime and community safety ranked by you the public as the top priority. This should translate to extra officers 'on the ground' by 2010 onwards.

Russell Morgan,
Clerk



Stanley Town Council's Priorities: Crime, Safety and Policing



and partners to address crime trends and issues of local concern.

Since spring the Stanley Locality Multi Agency Problem Solving Group known as 'LMAPS' has commissioned four projects to address identified problems in the following areas:

- Stanley Bus Station (anti-social behaviour and damage)
- Off Road Bike Nuisance
- Tesco in Annfield Plain (anti-social behaviour)
- South Moor (rise in crime and the fear of crime)

A further project focussing on issues in Holly Hill Gardens in South Stanley commences in October with a multi agency walkabout in the vicinity.

Some of the projects are still ongoing, but the South Moor Project closed at the end of September. Activities during this project involved the police, the Environmental Health Department, Derwentside Homes, Three Rivers Housing Association, the Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator, the Council Community Safety Officer and the Fire Service to name but a few. The activity was supported by various local representatives including Councillor Jim Lockie who contributed to each problem solving meeting. Early indications are that the



As I write this update recorded crime in Stanley is down 6% on last year and our crime detection rate is steady around the 30% mark. This is a significant achievement and is largely due to the continued efforts of police



project has had a huge impact with crime in South Moor falling from an average of 115 per month in January to July 2009 to only 69 in August and 68 in September (a reduction of 41%). Recorded incidents in South Moor reduced by 22% over the same period.

Also in September, Stanley Police together with Social Services, the Youth Engagement Service and the Young Peoples Brief Intervention (alcohol) worker ran Operation 'Staysafe' which involved targeting anti-social hotspots and removing young people who are at risk from the streets at night. This operation was fully supported by members of the Town Council who not only attended the briefing, but kindly allowed the partners to use the Town Council premises as a base and 'place of safety' for the children taken into police protection during the operation.

Coming up in November is 'Not in My Neighbourhood Week' aimed at 'tackling what matters' in localities and supported by The Safe Durham Partnership. Activity in Stanley will be focussed on anti social behaviour, damage and injuries associated with fireworks and bonfires and also preventing a rise in house burglary often associated with the winter nights.

Inspector Cathrine,
Stanley Police Office, Thorneyholme Terrace,
Stanley, DH9 0BL. Tel: 0191 375 2527.
Neighbourhood Policing team: 0345 60 60 365
www.durham.police.uk

Stanley Town Council's Priorities: The Environment and Community Safety

As was widely reported at the time, on the 1st of April 2009 a new 'unitary' council for the whole of County Durham replaced the eight former local authorities which used to cover the county. So along with the pre-unitary County Council, Teesdale, Wear Valley, Sedgefield, Easington, Durham City, Chester-le-Street and Derwentside District Councils ceased to operate on the 31st March 2009.

As a local resident with a busy life of your own you may feel that such local government reorganisation doesn't really affect you. However, when the Town Council consulted what might be called 'real' people – like you - from across the whole Stanley area, it was clear that improving the environment and tackling the inconsiderate behaviour of a few was seen as a high priority in every neighbourhood.

In this context the new County Council's department of Neighbourhood Services really does matter here in Stanley. For this reason the Town Council is committed to developing an effective working relationship with key teams and members of staff such as 'Streetscene'.

Did you know? The core purpose and aims of the Streetscene team is to work closely with the community in providing a clean, safe, accessible and sustainable

built and natural environment through delivering cost-effective direct services which are responsive to local needs.

Services include waste collection, parks and grounds maintenance, bereavement services, pest control, stray dogs, neighbourhood wardens, civic pride, building repairs and maintenance, mechanical and electrical schemes, catering and cleaning, and council vehicle maintenance and inspections, (tel: 01207 693 693).

Did you know? Streetscene and the Town Council want everyone in Stanley to take a pride in their area and help by doing simple things like picking up after their dog and putting litter in the bin.

The old Derwentside District Council area had a limited amount of enforcement for offences like dog fouling, littering and fly-tipping, but, before the new County Council starts to 'get tough' it is trying to make everyone aware of what it is doing in this regard.

For example, a new control across the County was introduced making it an offence to allow your dog to foul and not pick up. This new dog control order means that if you are caught you could get a Fixed Penalty Notice for £80. If the fixed penalty is not paid, court action could result in a fine which increases the cost to £2,500.

Dog Control Order

Please clean up after your dog



Failure to comply will result in a fixed penalty



Did you know? There are a limited number of free 'poop-a-scoop' bags available at a number of locations across the Town Council area, as follows: Stanley Town Council Offices; Stanley Town Hall, and; Knowles Pet Shop, South Moor.

So the message is clear - there really is no excuse for not picking up after your dog and the new County Council's Streetscene team mean business. Fortunately surveys suggest that over 90% of people do pick up after their dog, but, the irresponsible few now run a significantly increased risk of receiving a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Did you know? In the last three months in Stanley three Fixed Penalty Notices were issued for people not picking up after their dog and a further four were issued for littering and fly-tipping.



Did you know? To assist with the return of Stray Dogs Streetscene currently have free 'micro-chipping' so that they know where your pet lives. Micro-chipping events are planned to take place over the next few months, including in the Stanley area – so look out for notice of the next event soon.

The County Council will return a stray dog on the first occasion, but, if it is picked up again it will have to be collected from the kennels.

Did you know? Durham County Council's Dog Warden team has, in the north area of Durham which includes the whole Town Council area, collected nearly 200 stray dogs this year.

Healthy dogs are never destroyed and the County Council hopes to re-unite lost dogs with their owners. If not, dogs will be re-housed with a new owner through a variety of kennel schemes. Only dogs that are seriously injured, or that pose a danger to humans are destroyed.

Did you know? Stray dogs are kept for a week, and if they are not re-united with their owner, they can

be 'adopted' by a new one. Therefore dog owners are encouraged to take advantage of regular free dog chipping and neutering sessions usually organised by the County Council in partnership with the Police and the Dogs Trust, (for example, Bullion Hall, Chester-le-street on Wednesday 11 November from 4pm to 8pm).

Did you know? Dogs that are continually allowed to stray will only be released after their owner pays a release fee.

Did you know? If a dog is seen to foul while straying the owner may be liable to a Fixed Penalty Notice of £80 which if not paid can lead to a fine in Court of £2,500.

Ian Hoult, Streetscene's Area Manager for the North of the county (which includes all of Stanley Town Council's area), said: "The County Council encourages and supports responsible dog ownership, so we really want people to care for, and clean up, after their dogs.... [adding] we will only crack down on dog owners who don't clean up after their dogs, or are generally irresponsible about their animal's welfare."

To report a lost dog phone: 01207 218000; to inquire about adopting a stray dog phone: 0191 3772415 (Coxhoe).

Working in partnership

The new County Council's Streetscene team are also keen to work in partnership with Stanley Town Council in pursuit of shared goals and objectives.

A current example of how both organisations are looking to work together for the benefit of all concerned is the introduction of Neighbourhood Wardens to make the environment cleaner and to help with other work targeting anti-social behaviour.

Russell Morgan from the Town Council said: "The County Council's plan to deploy a number of Wardens across the Stanley area is welcomed. Both organisations are now looking to see if there is scope to enhance this exciting new service, perhaps by providing funding for extra staff to achieve a greater impact. If this partnership approach is feasible, the Town Council will consider funding the extra Wardens from its own budget. This is often referred to as 'additionality' because the money collected in the Town Council area by the precept on the Council Tax is used to acquire additional benefits in response to the concerns and priorities of local people".

Town Councillors are also surveying the current provision of dog-waste, litter and salt bins together with bus shelters with a view to discussing whether or not more are needed.

Meet your local town councillors

David Walton - Communications Sub-committee



"I moved to Stanley from nearby Ouston just six years ago because we fell in love with the house in View Lane. In this short time we have made many friends and have found the town to be a welcoming and friendly place.

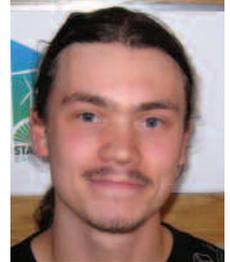
I have had a number of jobs during my career and these have included pastoring a church, running my own business and working as an IT consultant. For the last six years I have been

teaching science in a Gateshead school. I come from Consett originally but I have been pleased to find that Stanley residents do not hold this against me, (not very much anyway!). I became involved in local politics when I heard of the plans to sell off a large part of View Lane Park for development which seemed a crazy idea and one which was opposed by the vast majority of local people. (See page 5). Tragically the development went ahead anyway, but I was so incensed by the way the opinions of local residents were ignored that I became determined to stand in the next election for Derwentside District Council. I was

successful and served for two years before that District Council was absorbed into the Durham unitary authority in 2009. At the same time I stood for the Stanley Town Council and was elected as a member for the Havannah Ward. My desire is to see the district of Stanley regenerated and the quality of life of its residents improved. I am particularly concerned to ensure that I represent residents' views and help to ensure that the actions we take are in accordance with their wishes. That's why I'm an active member of the Communications Sub-committee along with my four colleagues pictured".



Councillor
T Parry, Chair



Councillor
D Bowerbank



Councillor
P Murray



Councillor
J Carleton

David Walker - Planning Sub-committee



"Hello, I'm a 56 year old family man living in West

Kyo. I was born in Consett but married a Stanley girl and I've now lived in the Stanley area for over 30 years. For the past 20 I've been associated with Tindale and Stanton Ltd, one of the largest employers in the area. I'm now semi-retired but still work part-

time for Hobson Foods Ltd. I live very close to Kyo bogs and to an access road onto the cycle track, and in much of my spare time I can be found on the bogs or the cycle track walking my dogs. I try to keep fit by doing plenty of walking and I can just about

manage a weekly game of 5-a-side football. My mother, daughter and grandchildren and my wives' extended family live in the Stanley area and nothing would give me more satisfaction than to help make the area better to live in for all age groups.

and learn about sub-committees

Why did I want to become a councillor? Well, for two years I did everything I could as a member of the public to stop what I still consider to be an inappropriate housing development being built right in the centre of West Kyo village. Two years later 8 of the 11 properties are still empty.

The whole village was opposed to the development and as their spokesman I did manage to delay the development but not stop it. I was quite appalled that the district councillors for our area, although they had been aware of the proposed sale of the land and the development, did nothing

to bring it to our attention and little to help stop it. I decided to stand against those existing councillors at the next election as an independent candidate, however, Derwentside District Council was disbanded before I got the chance so I stood as a candidate in the Stanley Town Council elections

instead. I am determined to see that no-one else in the Stanley area generally and my ward in particular will be put in the same position as our community was then. For that reason I was very keen to be on the planning committee from the outset”.



Councillor
T Pattinson, Chair



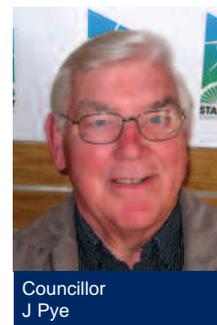
Councillor
K Howe



Councillor
S Marshall



Councillor
R Mellor



Councillor
J Pye

Paula Murray - Crime And Community Safety Sub-committee



“I am a young(ish) mum with three children who has lived in South Stanley all my life. I became a volunteer with the Bridge Enterprise Centre in South Stanley in about 2000. I had a young child and was struggling to cope so I

thought finding something to do would be a positive thing. It certainly was. I was genuinely surprised by the help, support and encouragement I got from the different community organisations I got involved with; I was inspired by the commitment of the volunteers and workers at the projects. Volunteering showed me how communities can work together to provide something special for local people. I soon became a person that

people came to when they had problems. It struck me that I could be more use if I did it properly and I decided to get involved at a different level. Although I'd never had any intention of getting involved in politics I realised the best way to influence change is to do it from the inside. I spent a few years as a District Councillor and then moved into the Town Council role with great enthusiasm. Due to my interest in working with the voluntary and

community sector I was really pleased to get a job with Derwentside Council for Voluntary Service in 2002. I also qualified as a youth worker. I work with volunteers and organisations from all over the area and I love it. I am a Town Councillor for South Stanley and Craghead and, along with my colleagues pictured below, I'm also an active member of the Community Safety Sub-Committee.

Meet your local town councillors and learn about sub-committees

I think I'm good at listening to the people I represent and I intend to feed their views in to the town council at every opportunity. I am keen to work with the police and

other organisations to tackle the issues we have in Stanley and to provide some positive activities for our young people. I have a genuine desire to see the area

improved and regenerated to a level that it deserves! I am very passionate about the environment and I'm very interested in community safety. I think

that Stanley has so many positive things going on and we need to build upon them to make it a great place for everyone.



Councillor
M Hodgson, Chair



Councillor
J Lockie



Councillor
R Mellor



Councillor
T Parry



Councillor
J Nicholson



Councillor
D Walton

View Lane Park... Restoration Begins

The 'Friends of View Lane Park' are delighted that work to put the park back into public use has now begun. "It has been a long wait" said Dave Walton, Chairman of the Friends, "but we can now begin to see the results of our plans". Part of the original park was sold to accommodate an adult care home, but the remaining area is now being redeveloped into a multi-use facility for the community. The restored park will have woodland walks, a natural play area, a wild flower meadow and a large grassed area for games or a performance space with a raised platform at one end.

According to Simon Green of Southern Green the re-laying of the paths is now almost complete. The remaining large job, the levelling and seeding of the grassed area should be finished by the end of November and the Park will be ready for public use by the spring of 2010.

Once the park is in use more volunteers will be needed to join the existing group of Friends who are determined that View Lane Park will be maintained to a high standard as a leisure facility for the whole community.

There is also an opportunity to sponsor park benches which will be sited at suitable points in the park. These can have an appropriate dedication plaque.

The Friends of View Lane Park are now looking forward to an exciting opening ceremony planned to take place next summer.

Useful numbers

- Care and Repair:
01207 581 391
- Citizens' Advice
Bureau:
01207 218 845
- Crime Stoppers:
0800 555 111
- Derwentside Homes:
0800 783 9295
- Durham County
Council:
01207 693 693
- Emergency (Gas):
0800 111 999
- Neighbourhood
Police:
0345 60 60 365