

# News

from Ashington Parish Council

Q1

Q2

Q3

Q4

## From the Chairman

Welcome to this brand new version of our Parish Council magazine. It has been 6 months since our last edition as the previous publishers were unable to continue providing us with a service. It took a little while to find a viable alternative, but the Parish Council is now working with Eyelevel Publishing and, providing they have enough regular advertisers, we intend working with them for the foreseeable future. This newsletter is printed on paper made from sustainable sources and costs the Parish Council nothing to produce, as it is funded by advertising.

Since our last newsletter, the Parish Council has revamped its website – so please do have a look at [www.ashingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.ashingtonpc.org.uk). You will find lots of useful information and copies of minutes from previous full council meetings and planning meetings. We'd like to thank all those who completed the Older Persons Housing Survey just before Christmas – over 60 responses were received and these have been reviewed and a summary of the results can be found in this newsletter. At the end of 2009, we completed a year of consultation with residents, helping to shape our new Ashington Community Action Plan 2010. Many of you completed questionnaires, which will help establish priorities for the village for the future. We hope the new Ashington Community Action Plan will be issued to all households in the spring. Whilst 2010 started with a period of heavy snow, the experience did bring our community even closer together. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who went the extra mile during the January snow to help neighbours and friends. It was brilliant to see people so willing to help each other.

Finally I'd like to inform you that the Parish Council has been able to secure a permanent office for the first time. We are leasing a small room in the Pavilion, Church Lane providing a hub for residents to come to with any queries or issues, view planning applications and speak to the Parish Clerk. **The office will be open on a Monday and Thursday from 1.30-3pm – please call the Parish Clerk on (01903) 893740 to book an appointment.**

**Karen Hayler – Ashington Parish Council Chairman**

## Parish Council Meetings Spring 2010

Council meetings start at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church, London Road. Planning Committee meetings start at 7pm and Finance Committee meetings start at 7.30pm both are held in the new Parish Office, Sports Pavilion, Church Lane (next to the Chiropractor Clinic). Planning meetings are subject to cancellation if there are no plans to discuss (contact the Parish Clerk if you are in doubt).

Agendas are posted on the noticeboard at the Church Lane/London Road junction or on the Council website at least 3 days before each meeting.

**Individual Councillors can be contacted via the Parish Clerk – Karen Dare, Honeysuckle House, London Road, Ashington, RH20 3JR. Tel 01903 893740 (Mon-Fri 9am-3pm), [karendare@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:karendare@tiscali.co.uk) Council website: [www.ashingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.ashingtonpc.org.uk)**

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Keeping you informed of the work of the Parish Council and the community of Ashington

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## Emergency Plan Update

The Parish Council is reviewing the current Parish Emergency Plan in light of the recent snow/ice. The Neighbourhood Wardens hold a list of elderly/vulnerable people in the village and were able to telephone or visit all those on their list to see if they needed any help during the bad weather. If you know of anyone that you consider could be included in the list then please speak confidentially to the Wardens. The Parish Council would like to thank the Wardens for their hard work during what was a very difficult time. In addition, we would like to pass your thanks Parish Chairman, Karen Hayler, for trying to keep us all informed by email about bin collections and other services during the bad weather (despite plans being changed every day beyond her control!)

## News from the Village Groups/Organisations

Calling all Gardening Enthusiasts on Friday 19th March 2010 for MODERN KITCHEN GARDEN. Barry Newman FNVS will be talking about growing vegetables in the traditional manner and also in containers and raised beds. Barry is a well-known grower, exhibitor and judge and is chairman of the National Vegetable Society and serves on its National Executive. He also serves on the judging panel of the Royal Horticultural Society and South & South East in Bloom. **7.30pm Methodist Church Hall, London Road, Ashington, entry £3, enquiries Diann 01903 893156.**

In July, Ashington Horticultural Society is planning to hold its first 'Open Gardens' event. To do this we need small, medium and large gardens to show to members of the public for a few hours during a weekend. Flowers, shrubs, vegetables, hanging baskets and containers all go to make interesting gardens. All profits to be shared between St Barnabas Hospice and Ashington First Responders. Refreshments to be provided by the Scouts in Church Lane. **For more information please contact Diann 01903 893156.**

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# Major Planning Matters

## Laybrook Landfill update

Cory intend to send the further information to WSCC by Friday 5th March. Once this had been received, validated and registered there would be a further public consultation period, which would probably be for 8 weeks (until 30th April). The target date by which a decision should be made had been extended to 30th July but it is likely that WSCC will push to make a decision at a planning committee meeting scheduled for 27th July.

## Proposed open composting site at Broadbridge Farm

The Parish Council discussed the matter at its meeting of 4th February and agreed to object to the proposal on the grounds of: unsuitability of the road network (sub-standard junctions at Hole Street, lack of access to the site for northbound traffic, safety problems on the A24, impact on Hole Street residents, poor access from Hole Street to the site, risk of rogue lorries not following agreed routes and coming through Ashington village and Wiston, additional noise on the A24 from extra 68 large lorries per day); risk to human and animal health (specifically odour, fungal spores



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released from compost, leachate pollution, noise pollution from machinery, effect on long term future of beef production on the farm); cumulative impact on the village (given the pending potential landfill site at Laybrook, previous landfill site at Washington, mineral extraction sites on the edge of Storrington); risk of traffic pollution in Storrington (an Air Quality Management Area is under consideration for Storrington as pollution levels are higher than considered acceptable).

**Minor planning matters, applications, decisions etc can be viewed on the Parish Council website [www.ashingtonpc.org.uk](http://www.ashingtonpc.org.uk)**



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## Public Access Internet Facility

The Parish Council has recently applied for a grant of £3000 to purchase 3 laptop computers, broadband, laser printer/scanner to establish an internet facility for members of the public with no current internet access. The grants form part of a project between SEEDA (South East England Development Agency) and Action in Rural Sussex to establish Village Information Points. The location of the facility has yet to be agreed but will be considered if the application is successful.



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## Willard Youth Gym in Full Swing



Since its opening in November the Fitness Gym for young people at the Ashington Youth Centre is growing from strength to strength and there are now two weekly sessions for young people on Tuesday evening and Thursday evening. Young people are taught how to use the equipment safely and are given their own personalised fitness programme by qualified staff. They are monitored closely to ensure their technique is correct and that their fitness levels are improved. The Gym has state of the art equipment including cross trainers, exercise bikes, a rowing machine, a multi-gym unit and a smiths free weight machine. There is also a stretching area where floor exercises complement the aerobic and resistance machines. The Willard Youth Gym is operated by The Ashington Wardens and qualified volunteers. **For more details contact The Wardens on 01903 891543.**

**Opening Times: Tuesday 7.00pm-8.00pm and Thursday 6.00pm-9.00pm. If you are able to volunteer at the gym please contact the Wardens – all volunteers are required to complete a CRB check.**

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## Parish Council Landscape Gardening Contract

Under the Council's Financial Regulations any contracts have to be put out to tender every 3 years. Our Landscape Gardener has had the contract for 3 years so we must go out to tender. The work involves grass cutting, strimming, hedge cutting, tree trimming, ditch clearance and other tasks in various locations around the village. The contractor must hold £10million Public Liability insurance and provide all of the equipment necessary for the varied work. If you are interested in seeking further information then please contact the Parish Clerk. Deadline for submission of quotes is 31st March.

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# What's On

**Friday, 19th March:** Ashington Horticultural Society event at 7.30 Methodist Hall, London Road

**Sunday 28th March:** Ashington Movies returns to the Community Centre – 7pm

**Wednesday 31st March:** Monthly Lunch Club at 11.30am at the Methodist Church Hall. Please contact Gaynor McKinnon (01903) 892427

**Monday 12th April:** Ashington Ramblers walk, leader Joan (01903) 892998 – meet at Red Lion 10am

**Wednesday 14th April:** Ashington Residents Association from 7.45pm at Methodist Church Hall London Road. For more information contact Vivienne Nuttall (01903) 892702

**Saturday 24th April:** Fundraising Carwash Ashington Youth Centre to raise money for the gym

**Sunday 25th April:** Spice of Life returns – FREE event for older residents at Community Centre

**Wednesday 28th April:** Monthly Lunch Club at 11.30am at the Methodist Church Hall. Please contact Gaynor McKinnon (01903) 892427

**Friday 7th May:** Deadline for articles. The next Ashington Parish Council printed quarterly newsletter will be distributed to all households w/c 7th June 2010. If you have any articles for inclusion please pass them to Karen Dare (01903) 893740 or email [karendare@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:karendare@tiscali.co.uk)

**Saturday 8th May:** Plant Sale Plus at the Ashington Parish Church from 10.30

**Saturday 8th May:** Spring Craft Fayre at Community centre Monday 10th May – Ashington Ramblers walk leaders Janet and Bob (01903) 265673 – Meet Red Lion

**Thursday 20th May:** Ashington Ladies Group Great Plant Sale from 8pm in the Methodist Church Hall

**Wednesday 26th May:** Monthly Lunch Club at 11.30am at the Methodist Church Hall. Please contact Gaynor McKinnon (01903) 892427

**Sunday 13th June:** Ashington Annual Fun Run

## Community Action Plan Update

Almost 200 households responded to the 2009 Ashington Village Survey. All your responses have been reviewed and two showcase events were held at the end of last year to share the results with residents. All the feedback we received has been used to develop the Ashington Community Action Plan 2010 which has focused on 4 key areas of development – making Ashington a better place to live, creating opportunities for all, creating better health for all and helping residents stay and feel safe. A copy of our new Community Action Plan will be delivered to every household in the spring. **If you would like to join the Steering Group who oversee achievement of the plan please contact Karen Hayler (01903) 893707 or email [hayler@rkhayler.plus.com](mailto:hayler@rkhayler.plus.com)**

## Ashington Painting Group

We are a group of painters (in all mediums) who meet on Wednesdays three times a month to paint together and provide mutual support. A tutor attends on one of these Wednesdays each month, usually the first. We meet in Ashington Methodist Church Hall from 9.30 to 12 and will be happy to meet new members. **If you would like to join us please contact Peter Bassett Tel 01903 742019 and leave a message, if necessary.**

## Older Persons Housing Needs Survey

In November 2009 the Parish Council issued a Questionnaire to all households regarding the need for housing provision for people age 50+ in the village. Sixty questionnaires were received and analysis has shown that the vast majority of older people would not support a housing development specifically for the needs of older persons, preferring to remain in their own homes. A significant number of people expressed an interest in moving to a bungalow in the village in the future and the Parish Council will encourage more bungalows to be built should any housing development take place in the village in the future. Better access to healthcare, public transport and shops/leisure facilities were also suggested. The Parish Council will share this information with other service providers so that progress can be made on the issues identified.

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## Ashington Neighbourhood Wardens

A reminder to residents who may have lost their contact details:  
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Paul Conroy **07764 146367** or Paul Buckman **07764 146368** or  
**ashington.warden@horsham.gov.uk**

Police Community Support Officer  
Neville Warner **0845 60 70 999** Voice mail **19459** or  
Hannah Venus **0845 60 70 999** Voice mail **27401**

**Dial 999 immediately if you are witnessing an incident or see or hear anyone/anything suspicious. To provide information after an incident call 0845 60 70 999 or Crimestoppers 0800 555111.**

## Dates for your Diary

Ashington Parish Council publishes a weekly email listing all events and news happening in the village. To date we have over 300 email addresses of residents wishing to receive this service. It is one email per week, unless there is urgent news that we need to distribute quickly. You will NOT be bombarded with loads of messages and we always use the "bcc" field for your email address. If you wish to receive the weekly email then please send an email to **ashingtonevents@googlemail.com** and you will be added to the circulation list. There is no charge and you can unsubscribe at any time. If you don't have email access and want a copy of the communication then contact the Parish Clerk.

## Housewatch



Tell the Wardens when you are going away and when you expect to return and they will include your property on their 'patrols' and do a security walk around daytime and/or evening when they are on duty. All information is treated confidentially. In case of problems let the Wardens know of keyholders/contact details by calling the Warden Office (**01903**) **891543**. How many other villages offer this type of service?

## Parish Precept

Many of you will have seen from the Council Tax Notice issued by Horsham District Council that the Ashington Parish Precept has risen by 2% for the forthcoming year. The Parish Council pays for the cost of the Neighbourhood Wardens, maintenance of some areas of open space, playgrounds, litter clearance, dog bin emptying, loan repayments (for a £90,000 loan to part-fund construction of the Community Centre) amongst other items. The Parish Council closely controls its finances, monitors budgets, tenders for contracts to ensure that the Parish Precept is money well spent.



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