



Chairman's Message

As Chair of the Parish Council, it's with great pleasure that Woolsington Parish Council are able to distribute our very first newsletter providing information and an update to our residents within the Parish Area.

The last few years have been like none other. The Coronavirus pandemic has presented many challenges and brought all the community together to help, care and support each other.

The Parish Council have had to meet remotely using Zoom, and whilst these "on-line" meetings have been successful, we look forward getting back to face-to-face meetings.

The Parish Council has improved many of its protocols and procedures, which included a fit-for-purpose website.

We have implemented a Grant Application process, which provides the Parish Council with an Audit trail for all grant activity. The Parish Council has provided financial support to many worthwhile schemes.

The Parish Council's Biodiversity Project continues to be a great success.

Each year conservation plans are drawn up for the benefit of wildlife; the aim is to improve habitats for insects, bees and butterflies and in doing so enhance important green & blue spaces for residents and visitors alike. The Newbiggin Hall, Bedeburn, Callerton, Bank Foot and Woolsington Wards already contain wonderful landscapes, veteran trees and areas of lovely scenery. The Biodiversity Project is specifically designed to build on and enhance these natural assets.

A detailed summary of our Biodiversity achievements

can be viewed on the website.

Many thanks to all the Councillors for their hard work on this, especially Councillors Littleton and Couchman.

Litter continues to be of concern to Parishioners. We are currently in discussions with Newcastle City Council regarding their obligations for litter picking and collection and also considering with them various strategies and incentives for tackling this problem. We are very grateful to the willing volunteers who have regularly helped to keep our public spaces looking respectable.

We continue to be represented on a number of local organisations and try to protect the interests of all residents. Newcastle City Councillors Linda Wright, Alex Hay, Jacqui Robinson and myself, have and will continue to work hard at the City Council to protect Parishioners' interests.

All Parish Council meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Wednesday in the months of January, March, May, July, September and November. Public notice of all meetings are displayed on the Woolsington Parish Council website.

May I take this opportunity to send my best wishes to all residents within our Parish Boundary area.

Councillor George Pattison
(Chair of the Parish Council)

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Whats on/ Events

Bingo - Galafield Community Centre
Every Tuesday and Saturday 6pm – 9pm
All Welcome!

Your Woolsington Parish Councillors

Bedeburn Ward

Chair Cllr George Pattison represents the Bedeburn Ward, as well as being a City Ward Councillor for Kingston Park South & Newbiggin Hall. Cllr Pattison is also a former Lord Mayor of Newcastle. Email: g.pattison@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr Jonathan Sabarre represents the Bedeburn Ward. Email: sabarrejonathan@gmail.com

Cllr Alexander Hay represents the Bedeburn Ward, as well as being a City Ward Councillor for Kingston Park South & Newbiggin Hall. Cllr Hay is also an Assistant Cabinet Member. Email: alexanderhay91@gmail.com

Cllr Lilian McGuinness represents the Bedeburn Ward. Email: lilian.mcguinness@icloud.com

Callerton Ward

Cllr Linda Wright represents the Callerton Ward, as well as being a City Ward Councillor for Callerton & Throckley.

Cllr Wright is also a former Lord Mayor of Newcastle. E-mail: Linda.wright@newcastle.gov.uk

Newbiggin Hall Ward

Cllr Brian S Hunter represents the Newbiggin Hall Ward, as well as being a City Ward Councillor for Denton & Westerhope.

Email: Brianhunter1@virginmedia.com

Vice Chair Cllr Lilian Kennedy represents the Newbiggin Hall Ward. Email: lillian2287@outlook.com

Cllr Sharon Pattison represents the Newbiggin Hall Ward. Email: sharonann@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr Jacqui Robinson represents the Newbiggin Hall Ward, as well as being a City Ward Councillor for Kingston Park South & Newbiggin Hall. E-mail: jacquirobinson99@hotmail.co.uk

Cllr Amy Thomas represents the Newbiggin Hall Ward. E-mail: Amy.thomas@simonside.newcastle.sch.uk

Woolsington & Bank Foot Ward

Cllr Joanne Couchman represents the Woolsington & Bank Foot Ward and works on the Parish Council's Biodiversity Project

E-mail: woolsingtonandbankfoot@gmail.com

Cllr John Littleton represents the Woolsington & Bank Foot Ward and works on the Parish Council's Biodiversity Project

E-mail: woolsingtonandbankfoot@gmail.com

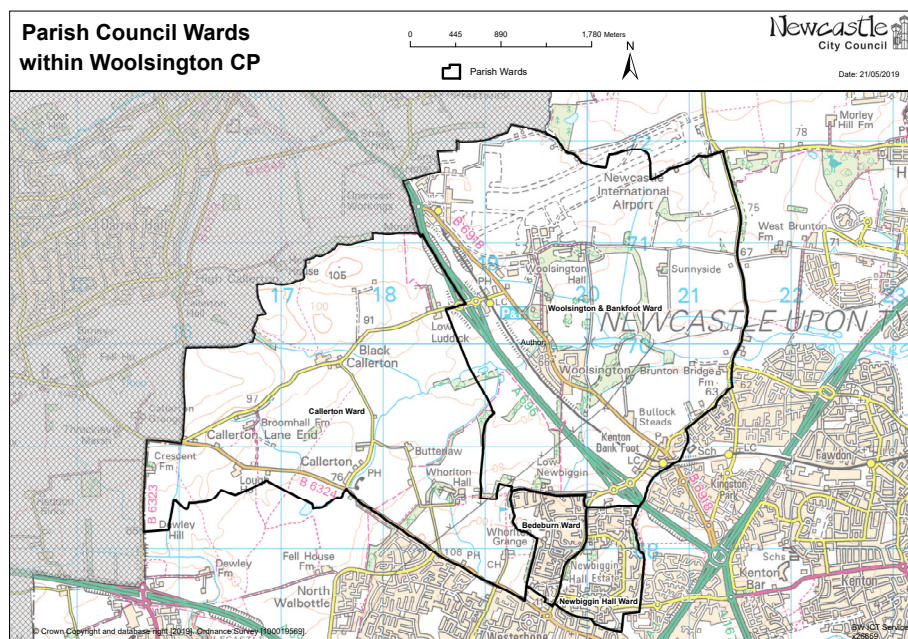
Clerk to the Council

Andrew Richardson E-mail: woolsingtonpc@gmail.com Website: www.woolsington-parish-council.com

The Council meet on the second Wednesday Bi-Monthly. (Dates and Times are available on the website). Please contact the appropriate Councillor(s) or the Clerk on any matter with comments, complaints, or if you just need advice or information.

Parish Council Wards

Parish Council wards within Woolsington CP



Woolsington Parish Council (WPC) Area Biodiversity Project

Questionnaire: Have Your Say

The Parish Council has been running its Area Biodiversity Project since 2018.

The Parish consists of 4 Wards: Newbiggin Hall, Bedeburn, Callerton and Woolsington & Bank Foot. Each area contains different habitats, beautiful landscapes, veteran trees, hedgerows and many other lovely natural features.

The WPC Area Biodiversity Project has the following objectives:

- to secure and improve our green and blue spaces for the entire community
- to protect and develop these habitats for nature in all its forms
- to join-up, maintain and enhance wildlife corridors for existing and future generations

Each of these objectives plays an important role in improving our quality of life and in maintaining our physical & mental health and well-being.

However, as a Parish we face many challenges and threats: the continuing pressures on the greenbelt and nature, further large-scale plans for housing development and new road infrastructure, to name but a few.

We need your help to future-proof our open green and blue spaces

We need your help to respond to these challenges, to plan investment and to shape our future environment. Please take a look at the Parish Council website

www.woolsington-parish-council.com

Here you can find out more about biodiversity and the WPC Project, read in more detail about what progress is being made, see some examples of our work in the Parish and enjoy a photographic seasonal walk through the 4 Wards during 2021.

Then please take 5 minutes and complete our Biodiversity Questionnaire:

Have Your Say

The views of the local community are extremely important and valued. Therefore, it would be very helpful for the shaping of any future biodiversity projects if you could give your views on the questions below – please note any comments will be treated in confidence.

Please email your responses to these questions to:

woolsingtonpc@gmail.com Subject: WPC Biodiversity

1. What do you like about the green & blue spaces in the Parish area?
2. Would you like to see the Parish area improved and if so, how?
3. Have you any other comments or suggestions for future Biodiversity work?

Thank you, we appreciate it.

New Parish Website

The Parish Council has recently launched a new website, moving to a new service provider making it a more modern and attractive site. The new site is now up and running, and is constantly being updated with new items. Please visit the new website at www.woolsington-parish-council.com

Grants Available

Grant funding is available from Woolsington Parish Council, however applications must be from a community-based organisation.

The Parish Council will not consider applications from individuals and projects that do not demonstrate social or economic benefits. Projects that are political or religious in nature will not be supported.

Woolsington Parish Council have previously provided financial support to all four schools in the Parish, this has been towards the cost of various schemes including Christmas activities, Biodiversity and new books to start the pupils on their reading journey. We have also supported Callerton Residents Association's Christmas Pantomime for the Children, the local charity D2 Youthzone, as well as assisting in getting the Galafield Café up and running.

You can apply for a grant funding by completing the grant funding application form which is available on the website: www.woolsington-parish-council.com

Simonside Christmas Tree



Children at Simonside Primary School enjoying the Christmas Tree donated by the Parish Council.

Christmas trees were also donated to Farne, Cheviot and St. Mark's RC Primaries. All schools were delighted with this festive gesture.

October 4 2021: Bluebell Dene Phase 1

As many are aware, Bluebell Dene was once a local beauty spot in Newbiggin Hall, through which runs the main footpath that connects the housing estate with the Metro Station and the surrounding areas of Bank Foot and Kingston Park.

In recent years many of the original bluebells and other spring flowers have died off and the area has become untidy and subject to increased anti-social behaviour.

Our Parish Council Biodiversity Project, "The Restoration of Bluebell Dene", aims to restore the area to its former glory. The objective of this initiative is to introduce a range of spring bulbs, including native bluebells, in a variety of locations throughout the Dene, in a carefully managed plan over the next few years.

The benefits will be multiple; not only will this enhance the attractive grassed areas and woodland but will also make a significant contribution in helping to improve the general health and well-being of the local community, whilst at the same time encouraging nature to thrive.

Right: Bluebell Dene - site of Daffodil carpet marked in red.

Costain Jacobs

The Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to Costain Jacobs, the civil engineering company who are currently upgrading the A1, for its generosity in supporting the Bluebell Dene Project, Phase 1. Costain Jacobs supplied over 5000 spring bulbs, the mini daffodil Tête-à-Tête, together with a volunteer task force, who turned up in numbers on October 4th 2021 to help plant them.

All eyes are on the area next spring for a lovely cheery display.



Approximately half a million invasive Water Soldier plants being dredged from the Parish Ponds near Callerton. This was the first phase of the Ponds' Restoration Scheme and was funded by the Parish Council's biodiversity project



The Crocus Carpet, Ponteland Road, Woollington. This was funded by the Parish Council in partnership with Newcastle International Airport and Woollington Residents' Association



Two large containers stocked with butterfly and bee friendly plants were supplied to D2 Youth Zone in Bedeburn by the Parish Council

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Receipt

CIL is a new levy that local authorities can charge on residential developments in their area to ensure facilities and services in the area have capacity to keep up with new homes and to enable further sustainable growth.

A part of the levy receipt is called the Neighbourhood Parish Portion which is transferred from Newcastle City Council to the Parish Council once year when certain triggers have been met.

As we have started to receive these funds from the City Council we would welcome suggestions from the community, to enable a list to be drawn up of projects to spend this money on, to improve the parish and local area, this can be done by emailing the clerk at woolsingtonpc@gmail.com

The funding can only be spent on infrastructure improvements.

For further information, please visit our website:

www.woolsington-parish-council.com

The Café at the Galafield Centre is Open...

Serving delicious homemade sandwiches, soup and cakes 4 days a week, **8.30 – 2.30 Monday to Thursday**
Come in and try our coffee...

"best in the area and a very reasonable price"

We have had some major renovation work done on the café with some fantastic support from local businesses and of course the Woollington Parish Council.

A delicious Afternoon Tea... at £7 per head for a group booking. If you are interested drop into the café and speak to Sally the Café Manager.

Watch this space for increased café opening times!

