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Prudhoe Town News

LOCAL NEWS FOR PRUDHOE AND MICKLEY

IN THIS ISSUE

Prudhoe Town Council elects new Mayor

At its Annual General Meeting on May 9th, Town Councillors elected Tracy Gilmore as their new Chair of Council and Mayor of Prudhoe. Tracy joined Prudhoe Town Council as Councillor for Prudhoe West and Halfway in 2017, and is a local business owner, has a young family and is committed to supporting the community of Prudhoe.

Outgoing Chair and Mayor of Prudhoe Gerry Price, was elected as Vice Chair.

Every year Prudhoe Town Council elects Council members to committees who deal with a wide range of topics concerning the work of Prudhoe Town Council, and things that affect our town. These include;

- Planning Contract and Works
- Cemetery and War Memorial Sub Committee
- Town Events Sub Committee
- In Bloom Sub Committee
- Prudhoe Town Council Young Peoples Forum
- Allotment Management Liaison Committee
- Prudhoe Neighbourhood Management Group
- Civic and Community Forum
- Prudhoe East Centre Advisory Committee
- Democracy Working Group
- Legal Affairs Working Group
- Human Resources Committee



In addition Council members were also elected to represent Prudhoe or Prudhoe Town Council at a range of other organisations including;

- Prudhoe Town Twinning Association
- Northumberland Association of Local Councils
- East Tynedale Local Councils Forum
- Essity Community Consultation Forum
- Prudhoe Pathforce
- NCC Town & Parish Council Liaison Working Group
- Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership
- Prudhoe Community Partnership

For more information about the work of these committees visit our website at;

www.parish-council.com/prudhoe/

Issue Date

- **Funding Fair comes to Prudhoe**
- **Fancy living 'the Good Life'**
- **Miners Race route change**
- **What's on @The Fuse**

Have your say

Don't forget that our survey on the East Centre transfer is still open and available via the following website www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EastCentre or paper copies can be made available in the Library.

Prudhoe Community Partnership have their Town Survey to give your views on a wide range of issues across our town available to complete in the Library or via www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PrudhoeCommunitySurvey

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Tel: 01661 835487

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'In Bloom' Taking Pride in Your Patch

The Town Council run Prudhoe in Bloom competition has been going since 2005, with a few changes along the way.

In 2007 the competition expanded to include rear gardens, and in 2008 a new category was created for Churches, and one for Schools. The Prudhoe in Bloom group continue to think of ways to generate more interest in the competition which now includes elements of environmental responsibility, giving additional points to those gardens that have a bird feeder, pond, water butt, insect-friendly planting or a compost bin/heap.

There is an 'In Bloom' working group of the Town Council that meets as necessary during the year, and attracts those keen and interested in the appearance of the town. As well as helping to oversee the Prudhoe in Bloom competition, the group share ideas and present proposals to the town council, for spending on environmental issues.

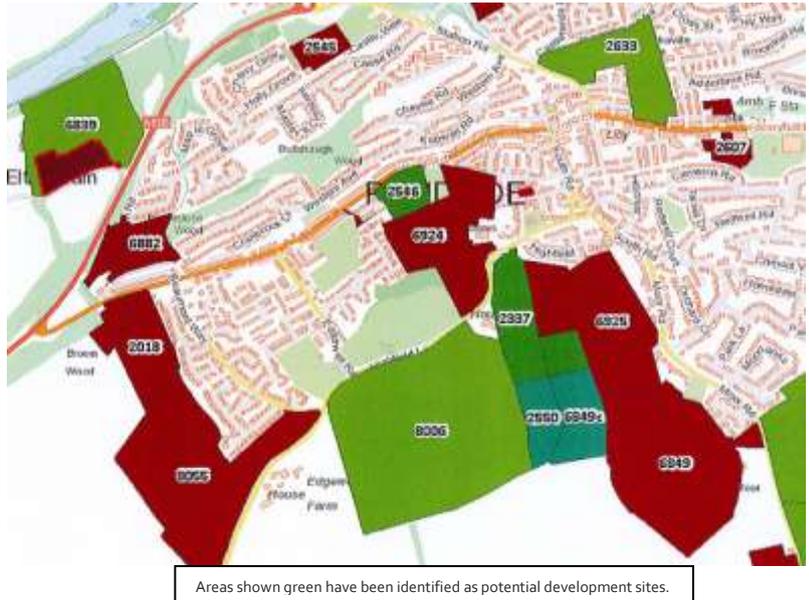
Prizes are awarded in September, watch out for more on the competition over the coming months.



Residents express concerns over future housing developments in Prudhoe

At a recent Civic and Community Forum residents voiced their concerns over the impact of potential housing developments around our town under the Northumberland County Council Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). Consultation by NCC on this issue will be carried out over the summer to identify potential sites for future housing development up to 2036.

Sites north of Highfield Lane, Eltringham and adjacent to West Road Cemetery have all previously been identified as potential sites for housing. The number of houses being proposed for sites raised concerns by members of the public about the lack of availability of social housing with developments and the impact on the environment and green belt areas, including the increased demand on other services in the town such as school places, road network, water and health services.



Speaking about the proposed development sites, Councillor Jennifer McGee, Chair of Prudhoe Town Council's Planning Contract and Works Committee said; *"We do need more social housing as affordable housing is not always affordable for a lot of people. We have concerns over the amount of housing proposed, poor road access to the sites, extra traffic on already dangerously congested roads namely South Road and Highfield Lane in addition to inadequate drainage systems and high risk of former coal workings. Some areas are also within the greenbelt"*.

The Civic and Community Forum was held by Prudhoe Town Council to discuss the NCC SHLAA and future of the East Centre. Northumberland County Council will be holding further consultation on the SHLAA over the summer, and residents are encouraged to provide feedback direct on this.



© Andrew Curtis

Also a topic of discussion was the need to continue protecting our environment, particularly the Spetchells. Hearing from Dr Keith Shaw of the Spetchells Conservation Group, it was reassuring to hear that Sand Martins have returned to nest at the Spetchells after period of absence, and the population of miner bees is thriving. For the more exotic and despite the name, the Common Lizard has also made the Spetchells its home as well as the UK's two more common reptiles, the Grass Snake and Adder.

With a range of improvements for access over recent months, it's well worth visiting just to take in the view of the Tyne Valley. All of the issues discussed at the Annual Town Meeting, will help Prudhoe Town Council develop our vision for the town to help make our town thrive.

Annual Town Meeting

Highlights the need for a community transport scheme and environment protection in and around Prudhoe

Despite the small number of people attending Prudhoe Town Council's Annual Town Meeting fall, Councillors are grateful to those who did attend to put forward what they would like to see as priorities for Prudhoe.

Residents and members of community groups spoke out during the recent annual town meeting not only to thank Prudhoe Town Council for its support of grant funding for community groups, but also to speak about what they believe are priorities for our town.

High on the agenda was the need for a more frequent and wider serving community transport scheme, this will become even more important as we see the development of the Low Prudhoe scheme by Northumberland Estates which is expected to include a hotel and supermarket.



Your Town, Your News

Since our first newsletter was published in April, we've been asked why we've started to publish a newsletter. Our preferred method of communication is via our website and social media, this means we can publish news quickly at no cost. However, we recognize that not everyone uses social media or has easy access to a computer.

We're also looking at ways in which we can engage more with our community, after all it's your town. That's why Prudhoe Town Council has set up a working group to look at democracy and community engagement, this newsletter is just one of the ways the town council hope to engage more with our residents, but also improve how our residents engage in the democratic process. We want everyone to be proud of and involved in where they live.

If you have any ideas or suggestions on how Prudhoe Town Council can engage more with your community we'd like to hear from you. Just drop us an email at prudhoetc@hotmail.com or call us on 01661 835487



Your Community

In this issue we're featuring the 'Prudhoe Community Allotment'. The site accessed via Redwell Court in Prudhoe has been converted to an allotment gardening with specific facilities for disabled gardening. The facilities include raised beds, a potting shed, an accessible toilet and specially designed pathways and entrance with easy access.

The Community Allotment is a facility for everyone, from gardening novices to experts. There are plenty of opportunities to learn and share skills and techniques as well as to enjoy the company of like-minded individuals.

Five years after the first idea for a community allotment with access for all was mooted and after a lot of hard work put in by volunteers – building raised beds, pathways, a summerhouse, raising over £60,000 in funding and generally organising the project, the community allotment reached their goal of a "Grand Official Opening" in 2006 by the Duke of Northumberland.

Since then, the Community Allotment has gone from strength to strength and with many other distinguished visitors including HRH The Duke of Kent in April 2010. The Community Allotment has won many accolades not least of which was the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2009.



Photos © Prudhoe Community Allotment

Prudhoe Community Allotment members meet as a group on Wednesdays and Fridays between 10 am and 1 pm throughout the year to share the work involved in the general upkeep of the site. Members who rent their own raised bed or small plot have access to these throughout the week all the year round so that they can raise their own crops and harvest their own produce. They also sell plants and vegetables in season to the general public from the allotment during Wednesday and Friday mornings throughout the year.

If you'd like to know more why not visit their facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/prudhoecommunityallotment/ website <https://prudhoecommunityallotment.wordpress.com/> or by ringing 01661 844675, better still why not pay them a visit between 10am and 1pm Wednesday and Fridays, access is via Redwell Court.

Funding Fair comes to Prudhoe

Northumberland Community and Voluntary Action's funding fair is coming to Prudhoe.

The fair originally planned to be held in Hexham, is now being held in Prudhoe at the Fuse on Tuesday 17th July. The funding fair is organised by Northumberland CVA to bring those organisations offering funding to meet charities and community groups in their communities; they bring the funders to you! This is an important opportunity for charities and community groups to find out what funding is available and how to apply.

Northumberland CVA established in 1987 to deliver a range of both generic and specialist services, offering information, support and advice to voluntary and community groups throughout Northumberland. Services include group development, funding advice, support for volunteer-involving organisations, training, as well as payroll and accountancy services.

This year Prudhoe Town Council awarded over £30,000 to 36 charities and community groups in our town. Cllr Russ Greig, a member of PTC Grand Aid Committee said that "encouraging the funding fair to come to Prudhoe offers community groups and charities in our town the chance to speak to funders on their doorstep about their projects and secure even more funding to put back into our town, I would encourage all of Prudhoe's community groups and charities to go along see what is on offer".

For more information on Northumberland CVA visit their website www.northumberlandcva.org.uk/

island extreme
24th June - 12PM
www.islandextreme.org

HIGHFIELD FEST 2018 SCOOTER COMPETITION

Prizes available:
 13yrs and over - Scooter competition
 1st - Complete Grit Invader 2017 Scooter + Tee Shirt (£200.00)
 2nd - Set of Handbars + Tee Shirt (£70.00)
 3rd - Set of Wheels + Tee Shirt (£50.00)

12yrs and under - Scooter Competition
 1st - Complete Grit Flux Scooter + Tee Shirt (£120.00)
 2nd - Set of Handbars + Tee Shirt (£48.00)
 3rd - Set of Wheels + Tee Shirt (£20.00)

Why not come along to the Highfield Fest Scooter competition and hang out with the Island Extreme team. Get the chance to ride with: Blake Nash, Ollie Bennett, Josh Newson, Harley Chamberlain and Luke Potter. There will also be throwouts: limbo scooter and high hop competitions too.

Competition details: The competition will be split into age groups: 12yrs and under, 13yrs and over. Helmets are compulsory, we also strongly advise wearing knee and elbow pads as well as gum shields. Each rider will be given an agreed length of time to ride the park, this will depend on numbers entering. Also we ask that no sponsored riders enter the competition, we will look forward to seeing you there!

CRISP ARSET VVA DOMINATOR

Fancy living 'The Good Life'?

One of Prudhoe Town Council's statutory duties is to provide allotments, we do this by working in partnership with the volunteers of the Prudhoe Gardeners Association who manage and run the allotments on our behalf on a daily basis.

This year, we're investing in improvements in our towns allotments, which has already produced noticeboards at allotments sites across Prudhoe, but will also include improvements to access and boundary fences. Securing boundaries has become an important issue recently follow a number of burglaries to allotments at Castle Dene and sheds in Ovingham.

There are a number of benefits associated to allotment gardening: being out in the fresh air, enjoying home grown produce, achieving a healthy lifestyle and meeting like-minded people.

Did you know that just 30 minutes of gardening on your allotment can burn around 150



© Prudhoe Gardeners Association

If managed properly, an allotment can produce enough food to supplement a family's weekly shop, with fresh fruit and vegetables over the year. This does require hard work and dedication but even the smallest crop grown, can be money saved from the supermarket.

Spending as little as 15 minutes a day out in the summer sunshine can build up your levels of vitamin D, if you are fair skinned. And for those whose skin is naturally darker, anywhere up to 90 minutes of sun exposures will help your vitamin levels. So working your allotment can in effect help your body to ward of some illnesses and raise your serotonin levels, making you happier and healthier!

But please be sensible and don't forget about the risks of skin cancer, especially on very hot, sunny days.

If you're interested in experiencing the good life and want to take on an allotment, contact Prudhoe Gardeners Association by email prudhoeallotments@mail.co.uk or visit the PGA 'Hut' open 10am to 12noon every Saturday behind the West Wylam (Jerry) Inn on Front Street.

Miners Race route change

As the popularity of the Essity Prudhoe Miners Race continues, Northumberland County Council raised concerns over the safety of runners and management of traffic with the route.

The 10K race which last year saw 234 runners and a further 159 junior and mini race runners take part, goes through the center of Prudhoe twice on its current route, causing safety and traffic management worries at the top of Station Bank and the junction of South Road.



Northumberland County Council who manage road closures and traffic management raised concerns over the route. Kris Westerby of NCC Highways advised that in 2016 they raised concerns and offered the route through Oakland's as an alternative. This route would take runners right after Highfield Lane and therefore not through the town until the bottom of Redwell Road. It was discussed that it was still difficult taking runners safely across the road at the bottom of Redwell Road but this was preferred and could be managed.

An alternative route was put forward to take runners up Moor Road and through the former Hospital Site. However, this could not be supported by Gentoo due to ongoing development of the site and safety of runners and spectators at risk.

The route will start near the Falcon and continue along Front Street turning up Beaumont Way turning left onto Highfield Lane and right on South Road to proceed down Redwell Road turning right before heading down Eastwoods Road and finally along Tyne Riverside Country Park at Low Prudhoe. More details will follow but the date is set for 30th September 2018.



What's On - Fuse Community Cinema

Plenty to watch for all ages in June at the Fuse Community Cinema;

Saturday 9th June - Sherlock Gnomes (u)

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society (12A)

Saturday 23rd June - Solo: A Star Wars Story (12A)

To check listings and book tickets, visit www.fusecinema.co.uk
Fuse Community Cinema is run and managed by volunteers for the benefit of the people of Prudhoe and Tynedale.

We'd like to hear from you

Prudhoe Town News will be a quarterly update on news from Prudhoe Town Council. We'd love to hear from people who would like to share great news stories with their community. Simply drop us an email and a brief description of your news story and we'll try to feature it in future issues.