Chairman’s Annual Report 2016 - 2017

We have had a very busy winter period dealing with problems arising from the house building works in the village and it has taken a great deal of our time and effort in resolving problems with mud on the roads, parking and other related issues. We will of course continue to monitor and work with the House builders to keep on top of this.

It is with regret that we report the deaths of Cllr Alan Biggins and former Parish Cllr Bill Watson. Alan served on the Parish Council from May 2005 until his resignation in November 2010, but rejoined the Council in April 2015. During his time as a parish councillor, Cllr Biggins was always striving for high standards for the parish in all of his efforts. Bill Watson served for over 25 years on the Parish Council until 1995, 15 years of which he was Chairman, he was also a well-known local businessman living and working in the village.

Since our last newsletter Mr. Keith Murray-Hetherington, our parish clerk tendered his resignation and we thank him for his work on behalf of the Parish Council. Mrs Karon Hadfield picked up the reins at very short notice as our new parish clerk in November, and she is already proving to be a valuable addition to the council.

During the year Cllrs Gillian Smith and Brenda Scott resigned and on behalf of the Parish Council we thank them most sincerely for all their efforts.
We also welcome two new Parish Cllrs Keith Oliver and Dr. Jeremy Scratcherd who volunteered to join and have subsequently been co-opted on to the Parish Council.

We would like to thank our Castle Ward Councillors who regularly attend our meetings and report on matters of interest. They often liaise with Newcastle City Council and Your Homes Newcastle (YHN) on our behalf and make a difference to the quality of life for residents.

If you have any issues you think the Parish Council needs to be made aware of, or would like to attend any meeting of the Parish Council, please feel free to come along to one of our meetings, which are held on the third Wednesday of each month (except August) at 7.00 p.m. in the Memorial Institute Hall (the small hall to the left of the Village Hall). The general public are welcome to attend and will be given an opportunity to bring forward any concerns or comments if they wish.

I conclude by thanking all parish councillors for donating their time and effort freely to contribute to the well-being of our village and our part-time parish clerk for her help and support both in and out of meetings. Being a parish councillor can be challenging and frustrating at times, but it can also be a rewarding way to contribute to the well-being of the parish.

Raymond Thompson, Chairman

Dinnington Doctors Surgery

Woodlands Park Doctors have confirmed that since concluding their consultation with their patients they applied to NHS England to close their Dinnington Surgery. They are currently awaiting final approval from NHS England, but this is expected soon and we anticipate they will close their Dinnington Surgery in the near future. They will continue to see their existing patients at their Wideopen Medical Centre, but will no longer come to the surgery at Dinnington, nor will they give out prescriptions from the Dinnington Surgery. This means that we will be left with the Ponteland Practice supplying the only doctors in the village at their morning surgeries. We believe the village merits a better service than this, particularly with all of the new houses being built and we will be striving to improve this situation.
Donkey Field (Sheraton Park)
The affordable housing is due to be handed over at the end of May and will be managed by Your Homes Newcastle. This comprises 24 one or two bedroom apartments in the 2 Storey supported living block, 4 Tyneside flats and 4 bungalows, (all for rent for older persons), plus 5 specialist dementia bungalows. Of the private houses for sale, 10 homes have been sold to date, 13 are reserved/exchanged which leaves another 110 still to be built (there are a total of 133 private homes for sale). At present there are 39 plots at various stages of construction on the north eastern part of the site. Keepmoat are currently forecasting scheme completion for autumn 2019, but this of course is dependent on the rate of sales achieved.

Bellway Homes
The roads, main drainage and general groundwork’s on site are now well advanced. They will be finalising the installation of the on-site services over the next month. They have about 25% of the house foundations constructed, with 4 houses up to roof level. The piling for the house foundations at the rear of the site will re-commence in the next couple of weeks and take about 1 month to complete. They have erected a Temporary fence along Front Street and are working on the permanent fencing adjacent to the allotments at the rear of the site. They have established their full site compound and offices at the east end of the site and they expect to open their sales office on site shortly. They expect to finish the development early in 2019.

Persimmon Homes
Persimmon were granted planning permission for 200 homes on land south of Front Street, west of the village, on 2 February. They are currently completing the legal documents and are expected to finish these during May. They anticipate starting on site in early June.

Neighbourhood Plan
We have continued to work with the consultant we engaged with the grant we obtained from The Community Rights Programme, funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government. We have held meetings and commenced drafting and developing the plan under his guidance and are working towards updating our plan to take account of the new housing and addressing any gaps in our previous consultations. We have held meetings with Newcastle City Council Planning and Policy teams and our neighbours Newcastle Great Park to liaise with them about interfaces with our southern boundary. We plan to consult further with the community later in the year.

Dinnington Community Library
We would like to highlight once again and remind everyone that Dinnington still has a community library and we encourage current members and new members to come along to use their fantastic collection of books. There is no charge to join the library and everyone is welcome. Dinnington Community Library was set up in the summer of 2013 by volunteers when Newcastle City Council decided to close the branch library in Dinnington. The Community Library is situated in the Memorial Institute which is next to Dinnington Village Hall and is open on Wednesdays 10.30 – 12.30, Fridays 2.00 – 4.00 and Saturdays 10.30 – 12.30.

Adopt-a-Planter and Northumbria in Bloom 2017
Following on from our success in winning a Silver award in the Large Villages category last year we have again entered the village into the Northumbria in Bloom competition this year. We once again thank our volunteers and the businesses who supported us in the past and hope they will continue to do so. Hopefully we can improve on last year's effort. We will again be including the Dinnington school garden and this year we have also entered Dinnington Allotments. Following on from The White Swan's success last year when they won a Gold award in the Best Pub and Hotel category we will again be entering them this time. Anybody who is interested in helping with our efforts to improve the village would be most welcome to join us. Please contact the Parish Clerk for information.

Crime - from our monthly discussions with the police we know that Dinnington continues to have very low reported incidents of crime or anti-social behaviour. However, the inconsiderate parking adjacent to the school (whilst dropping children off) is still causing problems for the residents who live there and we look for your cooperation in minimizing this issue. Can residents generally throughout the village also make sure that when they are parking cars in residential streets that they please be considerate to neighbours and other road users; please leave enough room on pavements for users of wheelchairs and buggies and to ensure you do not break the law.
Dinnington Village Hall Update

**Memorial Institute** Thanks to a generous grant from the Castle Ward Committee new blinds have now been fitted to the windows in the main room.

**Main Hall** We are working towards seeking funding to install a new boiler before next winter and some new windows and decorative improvements in the old WI room.

To find out more about the Village Hall or make a donation please contact Treasurer Mike Wood 01661 825358 or Secretary Joyce Porter 01661 821041

Sadly, one of our long established user groups, the Co-op Women’s Guild has decided to close due to lack of numbers and we wish to thank them for the support they have given to the village hall over many years.

**1st Dinnington Scout Group**

We would like to thank everyone for their help in collecting 20,012 tokens for the Evening Chronicle Wish Appeal, resulting in £240.32 being received for Group funds. There have been some changes at 1st Dinnington. Joyce Porter, Cub Scout Leader since 1964, has taken over as Group Scout Leader from Alan Proudlock who is retiring. Ian Laverick is now Cub Scout Leader. The Cub Pack has a waiting list but there are places for boys and girls in the Beaver Colony and Scout Troop. For more information please contact Joyce on 01661 821041

**St Matthew’s Church**

SAVE THE AFTERNOON!! St Matthews Church will be holding their ever popular “STRAWBERRY FAIR” on Saturday 24th June starting at 2.30PM.

Following the success of last year’s joint fair we have again invited other village organizations to join in with us to make it a community event. The fair will take place in and around the village hall buildings and amongst those taking part will be 1st Dinnington Brownies, Bright Minds Playgroup and the Library volunteers. We plan to have many stalls and attractions, tombola, cakes, crafts and raffle to name a few together with strawberry sparkle and delicious strawberry cream teas.

Please come and join us for a fun filled village afternoon.

**Crime prevention and community safety**

PC (3044) Lee Maddison is the dedicated neighbourhood police officer for Dinnington, Brunswick and Hazlerigg (Castle Ward), e-mail address: lee.maddison3044@northumbria.pnn.police.uk Newcastle North Neighbourhood Policing Team, Etal Lane Police Station, Westerhope, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 4AW. Tel: 101 to contact your local police when it is less urgent than a 999 call.

**Dog Fouling**

We are still receiving complaints about the amount of dog fouling around the village. The great majority of dog walkers do pick up after their dog and get really annoyed with the few who don’t as they don’t want to be “tarred with the same brush.” There is no excuse for not picking up. If you have any information on those responsible for allowing dogs to foul without picking up you can contact the dog warden on 0191 211 6102 or online: [https://envirocallservice.newcastle.gov.uk/dog-fouling/form](https://envirocallservice.newcastle.gov.uk/dog-fouling/form)

**Parish Council meeting dates 2017**

Please note the meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of the month, except August (no meeting)

Dates: 21 June, 19 July, 20 September, 18 October, 15 November and 20 December 2017
City Councillors’ Surgery
Monthly – 2nd Saturday (except August)
10.30am-11.30am
Dinnington Social Club

City Councillors’ Surgery (cont)
15 minutes before Parish Council meetings (at 6:45pm)
Monthly – 3rd Wed (except August)
Memorial Institute

Dinnington Community Library
Wed & Sat 10.30am-12.30pm
Fri 2.00pm-4.00pm

Karate
Mondays
6.15-8.15pm
Village Hall

Junior Karate
Wednesdays
5.00-6.00pm
Village Hall

Old Peoples’ Treat Fund
Bingo
8.30pm Thursdays
Dinnington Social Club

Beaver Scouts
Mondays
5.45pm-7.00pm
Scout HQ

Cub Scouts
Tuesdays
6.30pm-8.00pm
Scout HQ

Scouts
Mondays
7.30pm-9.00pm
Scout HQ

Rainbows
Wednesdays
5.30pm-6.30pm
Memorial Institute

Brownies
Tuesdays
6.00pm – 7.30pm
Village Hall

Handicrafts
Thursdays
7.00pm
Memorial Institute

Indoor Carpet Bowls
Wed 7.00pm-9.00pm
Village Hall

Dinnington Village WI
2nd Thursday of every month
7.00pm-9.00pm
Village Hall

Zumba Gold
Fridays
9.30 – 10.15am
Village Hall

St Matthew’s Church
Sundays 9.30am - Service and Holy Communion
Junior Church members meet during service
Wednesdays 10.15am - Holy Communion BCP

Bible Study Group
1st Wednesday of each month

Coffee morning
10.30am-11.30am Second Saturday of the month in Memorial Institute

Rvd Mark Edwards, MBE
Tel: 01661 872320

Parish Councillors:
Cllrs Raymond Thompson (Chairman) Tel: 0191 2363379; Mike Wood (Vice-Chairman) Tel: 01661 825358; Audrey Dellow; Sylvia Hood Tel: 01661 823382; Tom Laidler Tel: 01661 872057; Steven Phelps; Joyce Porter Tel: 01661 821041; Keith Oliver Tel: 07704164497; Dr Jeremy Scratcherd Tel: 01661 821436

For more information visit the website at: www.spanglefish.com/dinnington
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