

Spring -  
Summer  
2021

# Dinnington Parish Newsletter

Serving the Community

**NORTHUMBRIA IN BLOOM**  
Communities Growing Together

2018 SILVER AWARD  
(LARGE VILLAGE)

## Chairman's Annual Report 2020 – 2021

As with the rest of the country we have had a very unusual and very strange and difficult year. During the year Cllrs Sylvia Hood, Danielle Dowd and Keith Oliver left the Parish Council and we would like to thank them most sincerely for all their efforts during their time with us. We would also like to welcome Cllr Gordon Clark who has recently joined the Parish Council. We still have a number of vacancies for new Parish Cllrs and if anyone is interested in joining please contact the Parish Clerk.

## Dog Fouling



We are still receiving numerous complaints about the amount of dog fouling around the village. We also include the inconsiderate practice of bagging the poo, but leaving it for someone else to pick up. In particular in the recreation ground. This has been an ongoing problem for the Football team having to clean the pitch, before every game to remove the dog dirt, but more recently we have had reports of children getting it on their shoes at the play area and one child ending up in school with it on their shoes. The great majority of dog walkers do pick up after their dogs and 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> or the Parish Clerk if that is easier. Please can we have the community's support to stamp this out, stop this health hazard and improve the village?

## Adopt-a-Planter and Northumbria in Bloom 2021

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus issues the organisers decided to just judge the competition on a small selection of photos and not visit the village in Spring to judge as normal. On that basis we decided to skip this year and concentrate on getting ready for next year, when hopefully things will be back to normal. We would really like to express our gratitude to our volunteers who have carried on maintaining the floral beds and planters throughout the village this year. We believe entering the competition lifts the floral displays around the village and improves it considerably.

**Summer Front Garden Competition** – in lieu of not formally entering the competition this year and to add some interest from the community we are going to hold a best front garden competition. This will be judged by a walk around the village during week commencing 19 July and a prize of £100 will be awarded to the winner with two runners up of £50. We might even award a cup !!!

## New Tree Planting in the Village

As we reported in our last newsletter, we have been liaising with Newcastle City Council over a number of dead trees in various locations around the village which needed replacing. We have subsequently ordered 10 replacement trees for damaged locations with 5 on Dinnington Green in the first instance and 5 in a new location on the west side of the main road coming into the village from Kingston Park. We are planning to purchase more trees in the future. Unfortunately due to coronavirus this has not happened yet, but the trees should be planted in the autumn, which is the next planting opportunity.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

We are pleased to report that our Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been completed and is now with Newcastle City Council for them to undertake the appropriate health-checking of the document, along with a screening assessment. Once this is done and covid restrictions allow we will be coming back to the community, probably in the summer to carry out the final Pre-Submission consultation, before returning it to the council for them to arrange the final planning inspector review before hopefully adopting the plan.

### **S106 and CIL Income**

During the year we have started to receive the Parish's portion of the above payments from Newcastle City Council. These charges were levied by Newcastle City Council on the developers of the new housing estates being built in Dinnington. They are not released until certain previously agreed numbers of houses are actually built.

A Section 106 is a legal agreement between a developer seeking planning permission and the local planning authority, which is used to mitigate the impact of their new housing on the local community and infrastructure.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new levy that local authorities can charge on 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.

To date we have received £24,523 which can only be spent on infrastructure improvements. Based on complaints about lack of services and desires previously made to the Parish Council we have started to draw up a list of projects to spend this money on to improve the village and local area :- Electronic Speed signs on Prestwick Road, New public seat on roadside adjacent Quarry Cottage on Front street, plus 1 more at another location in the village, Rotten timbers to be repaired on existing seats in "Queen Elizabeth II Field", Tree replacement and maintenance programme, a new village map, Additional litterbins, Street lighting improvements to the bus stop opposite the Keepmoat site, possible additional Parking bays in the village on main road adjacent Horton Crescent, money towards New play park equipment in recreation ground, an additional footpath in recreation ground, between Sycamore Ave and Sheraton Park adjacent to the school, Drainage to field adjacent to the allotments known as the Pleasure Grounds to facilitate additional Allotments, Possible additional grass cuts, if the need arises. We would welcome other suggestions from the community, remembering that the money can only be spent on infrastructure improvements.

### **Garage area and Cut between Cochrane Terrace and Elm Avenue.**

Having been contacted by members of the community about the state of the area we approached YHN to get the area tidied up. Working with YHN and the police we managed to establish the owners of the abandoned cars in the area and get them removed. This allowed YHN to cut back the hedges and overgrown vegetation, litterpick and generally tidy the area up.

### **Lonnen between Dinnington Green and Persimmon estates**

Having been monitoring the hedges and growth of the area either side of the public footpath for some time we contacted Bellway the landowner of this portion of the lonnen. They agreed to meet us on site with their land agents and we jointly carried out a survey of the paths condition. Following this they agreed to cut and face up the hedges and cut the scrub areas back. We are pleased to report the work was carried out last autumn.

### **Xmas external decorative house and garden lights competition**

This is our first opportunity to report back on the winners of this recent Xmas's competition, namely the festive lights outside properties. We had a new winner this year with Havannah Lodge taking the honours and 2 Rochester Place and last year's winner 11 Bracken Close taking the two runners up prizes.

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### **Persimmon Homes (Augusta Park)**

They have now sold 105 dwellings, 27 plots are currently reserved and 27 are currently released for sale. They are continuing to progress further plots eventually totaling 206.

### **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, can we remind residents when parking please leave enough room on pavements for users of wheelchairs and buggies and to ensure you do not cause an obstruction. Could we also appeal to properties with hedging to keep them trimmed to avoid them overhanging and in some cases partially blocking the adjacent footpaths, again making it difficult to pass safely on the pavement.

Raymond Thompson,  
Chairman

### **Dinnington Village Hall Update**

At the time of writing only the Playgroup and the Children's dance class are operating. After 17<sup>th</sup> May more of our user groups are hoping to start up again, with Covid rules and relevant risk assessments still in place, and on 21 June we hope everything will be back to 'normal'. We are taking bookings again for private functions (taking place after 21 June) The Northumberland Theatre Christmas production, 'Alice in Wonderland' has been rescheduled for Saturday 15 January 2022.

### **Dinnington Community Library**

The library is currently closed due to the Covid pandemic. The volunteers are looking again at the ongoing risks to their own volunteers and members and assessing the situation for resuming after 17 May, when the next phase of opening up is allowed. Look out for opening signs in the library window.

### **Bowls Club**

Based in the Village Hall they meet every Wednesday evening at 6.45pm - 9pm. Make new friends, have a laugh and learn a new skill. They welcome all ages, no experience necessary as they are happy to pass on their knowledge and skills. This even includes a tea/coffee break, with biscuits. Weekly fees are £2 but just come and give this gentle sport a try. You could be their new secret weapon when they play other Clubs. They really look forward to meeting you on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 when they re-open. Wearing your mask will be necessary and please bring your own mug.

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

### **St Matthew's Church**

Due to the ongoing regulations with regard to the Covid 19 Pandemic we are sadly unable at the moment to hold our normal fund raising events such as coffee mornings, quiz nights and fairs at the village hall.

St Matthew's church is open again for worship albeit subject to the current rules of masks, social distancing and no singing of hymns, although there are some who have suggested that the quality of the vocalisation has improved tremendously with the introduction of piped hymn singing!

Our normal services are Holy Communion on Sundays at 9.30am and Holy Communion on Wednesday at 10.15am, please come and join us.

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**City Councillors' Surgery**

Monthly – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday  
(except August)  
10.30am-11.30am  
Dinnington Social Club

**Jellytots Playgroup**

Mon, Tues & Wed,  
09.00 until 15.00

Village Hall

**Dinnington \*****Community Library**

Wed & Sat 10.30am-12.30pm  
Fri 2.00pm-4.00pm

**Zumba Gold**

Fridays  
9.30 – 11.30am  
Village Hall

**Leanne Dance Class**

Thursday  
5.00pm – 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 \***

Tuesdays  
5.00pm-6.00pm  
Village Hall

**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

\* Temporarily closed due to  
Covid-19 pandemic

**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**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month

**Coffee morning**

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

**Rev'd Mark Edwards, MBE**

Tel: 01661 872320

**Doctors at the Clinic, Main Road,  
Dinnington****Ponteland Medical Group**

Mon – Fri 8.15am-12.15pm

Tues – No Doctor. Nurse in  
attendance 9.00am-12.15

**Parish Councillors:** Cllrs Raymond Thompson (Chairman) Tel: 0191 2363379; Mike Wood (Vice-Chairman) Tel: 01661 825358; Audrey Dellow; Steven Phelps; Joyce Porter Tel: 01661 821041; Paul Hitchenes Tel: 07590 533525 ; Gordon Clark Tel: 07546 291449

For more information visit the website at: [www.spanglefish.com/dinnington](http://www.spanglefish.com/dinnington)

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