

### **Update Report of Progress of Hurworth Parish Plan as at December 2012.**

The Hurworth Parish Plan was produced in 2010 following a survey and meetings to ascertain the wishes and requirements of Parish residents. Now that we are in 2013 it is time to review the issues listed in the Plan and comment on the progress that has been made.

In the past, as a parish we have depended upon support from Darlington Borough Council. However, the country wide budget cuts have impacted upon DBC and we find that they are having to reduce services to our Parish and have already withdrawn their Grant funding. With prudent financial planning we have mitigated against these cuts and our aim is continue operating in a pro-active manner on behalf of the community.

The following is a list of the progress made so far against those promoted in our Parish Plan which we believe have produced very significant benefits to the community of Hurworth.

Parking & Congestion – Daytime parking issues discussed, and part resolved. Additional Parking restrictions have been implemented on the road at Hurworth Comprehensive School, with improved signage at the Primary school. Further discussions on-going in other areas. Hurworth House School is now operated by Priory which has resulted in amended operational requirements. Whilst this has removed their particular parking issues on the Green, knock on effects through the sole use of the Westfield Drive entrance have resulted. HPC are aware of this and are looking to continue a good working relationship with the school management in coming up with a workable solution.

Traffic – Speeding - Good progress. Three Speed monitoring units are to be installed in 2013, with DBC providing the required powered poles in the village. Speeding and parking issues are a key priority for the local police, (established at the PACT meetings-see below) with regular Speedwatch operations. Introduced grit bins across Parish.

Police – Monthly PACT meetings in Hurworth . Closer relationship with senior police established. Farmwatch now in operation and active. Local Neighbourhood Watch have agreed integration with Hurworth PACT.

Security – Flood Warning Scheme operative. Flood Warden for HPC appointed. Parish Councillors now working with appropriate authorities on solutions to local flood issues to produce a long term resolution to the problems.

Services/Grants – Village clean-up days in hand. Grants secured for funds for Council and community to the value of £53,000 benefiting following:- Allotments, Recreational Area, improvements at the Grange Community centre including; Pathways, Water Supply, Fletcher Hall, Windows, Nature Reserve, Orchard and Meadow plus work at the Village Hall. Nominated Councillor monitoring highway issues and liaising with DBC for repairs.

Leisure – PROW Public Meeting re Croft Club @ Grange in Feb 2013.  
Low Hail Bridge agreement for permissive use.  
Refurbishment of Recreational Area.  
Hurworth Country Fair organised for last two years with high community involvement.  
Sponsorship of the 2012 Jubilee Celebration on the Manor Field.

Communication –Quarterly newsletter established. PC Surgeries held monthly.  
More residents attending PC Meetings and access, with the meetings now taking place in the Hadwin Lounge to allow for disabled access  
Website operative - 5875 hits in 2012 (2737 hits on Home & Minutes pages, 512 on Calendar Page).

General – Parish Plan reviewed for progress. Projects for funding identified for action. Parish Clerk now CILCA qualified. This will now enable Parish to apply for Quality Parish status, a process that gives the Parish an elevated status and also better recognition for grant applications.

Planning – Parish Council have supported local house extension applications. Have vigorously opposed larger developments that could damage the rural aspects of the village..

Trees & Open Spaces – Tree Survey in hand in village to protect trees. Work completed on Village Green trees. Work in hand on internal roads in Green area.