



Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council **NEWSLETTER**

May 2024

Message from the Mayor

Whilst County Council is responsible for the vast majority of local services in our community, Town Council still has an important role in providing those little “extras” which make the town a more attractive place to live. We are proud to have delivered two destination play parks in Spittal and Flagstaff Park and we are currently building up our reserves to support our next project. We are responsible for over 300 public benches and we’re gradually repainting/ repairing them.

We have invested resources in creating our own Nursery to grow the plants which will soon appear in planters, troughs and hanging baskets throughout the town. We look forward to taking onboard the strip of woodland in Shielfield Terrace from NCC, with the ultimate aim of



creating a woodland walk. We couldn’t do any of this without investing in our own Town Wardens, supplemented this summer by a temporary horticulturist. This has increased our staffing costs, but it has been paid for in part by the approximately £100,000 we used to give NCC to carry out the same tasks. The biggest difference being that we can now decide what the priorities are and allocate our staff accordingly.

Finally, Town Council supports a number of local events throughout the year, particularly Riding of the Bounds and the Crowning of the Salmon Queen. These events wouldn’t happen without our support, or the support of the

Berwick-upon-Tweed Annual Town Meeting



**Save the date: 15th May 2024, 6:00pm
At Northern View, Spittal**

On Wednesday 15th May, Berwick Town Council will be holding their Annual Town Meeting at Northern View in Spittal - directions below. The Agenda will be available to view on our website and Facebook page.

This is a chance for you to speak to your councillors face to face, find out what they are working on on your behalf and hear

What do you think?

Have we got the balance right or is there anything you think we should be doing? Have your say in how we focus spending by completing a short survey.

Use the link forms.office.com/e/dP5XPFiSvq

or follow this QR code.



Alternatively, you can pick up a paper copy of the survey in our

Hospital Update

Work to build Berwick's new community hospital has moved into a new phase.

The steel building frame is now complete, made up of 3,500 individual pieces of steel, weighing around 1000 metric tonnes. The next step is to pour concrete to form the ground floor, first floor and roof areas of the building. This work began this month and will take around six weeks to complete.

Various types of machinery will need to access the site, via the Brucegate and Well Close Square, to deliver, pour and surface finish the concrete.



Mark Brough, project manager for Merit, said: "We will start to pour concrete to the roof areas first and this will not need polishing. We will then pour the concrete to form the ground and first floors of the hospital, both of which will need polishing. The ground floor will take the most work as it needs a base layer of concrete, then a layer of thermal insulation and then a top layer of finish concrete.

"In total we will spend around 16 days pouring and polishing concrete. For areas that require a polished finish we may need to work through the night to achieve the correct finish. The polishing work will result in some increased noise, and we apologise for any inconvenience in advance. I know we say each phase of work is exciting, but this phase will transform what is



It is estimated around 5,000 tonnes of concrete will be used. Once poured and polished, the concrete will then take around four weeks to cure. During this time the groundworks around the structure will continue at pace and work will be done to fireproof the steel frame ahead of the external building material being installed.

Marion Dickson, executive director of nursing, midwifery and allied health professionals, said: "To see the hospital move at pace is incredibly exciting for me, the Berwick Infirmary team and the local community. Seeing stairs was an exciting development, so having floors will really help us to visualise our new community hospital. A

project of this size, in the location that it is, is bound to cause some disruption. I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding.

"Every day we move closer to being able to provide high quality community hospital care in a really lovely environment, which will make a significant difference to

Spittal Splash Park



We are planning on opening Spittal Splash Park for the weekend of Saturday 18th May as previous years. This is a week before the late May Bank Holiday weekend. This will allow for cleaning of the surface area and for contractors to refit nozzles and carry out pre-opening hygiene checks on the water tank and features with timescales for the latter taking longer than the usual weekly and fortnightly checks.

Our van will be going in for service on 7th May and so if there is any problem that delays the return of the vehicle, we have made alternative plans to bring a

Local Services Update

It was a busy time for the Town Wardens last month with the slightly warmer weather prompting new growth in the town planting and playparks. We now have a new seasonal team member who will be specialising in horticulture projects as well as helping out the wardens with day to day jobs and they are settling in brilliantly! Work has been going on in the playparks, with grass cutting, swing repairs and laying matting among the



many tasks to do as the weather improves.

We were asked by a local gardening group if we could move branches that were being trimmed from the bushes on Chapel Street next to the car park. Our wardens made several trips to remove and dispose of the green waste



Planting in Town

You may have noticed beautiful tulips springing up all over town, the result of the work the wardens and Councillor Turton put in last autumn. They will soon be working on the hanging baskets and we have been delighted by the positive responses from shop owners regarding having one outside their shops. The new polytunnels mean that we have been able to keep these young plants in safe and optimum growing conditions for when they head out to fill our high streets with colour.

If you have a business in town and would like a hanging basket, do let us know, there is still time!





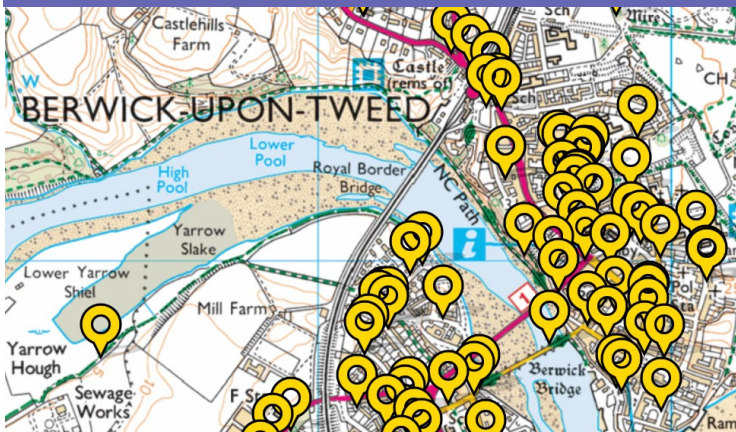
BRIDGE STREET

SHOPS RESTAURANTS
CAFÉS BARS GALLERIES

The Old Bridge
may be closed
but Bridge Street
is still open for
business!



Fix My Street



If you have a pothole on your street that needs to be filled you can report it on fixmystreet.com. This is a site for reporting local problems (like fly-tipping, blocked drains, broken paving slabs, graffiti, etc.) and you receive updates when repairs take place.

It shows reports that have already been created, plus any planned roadworks, which saves time and avoids multiple reporting.

Fix My Street works on smartphones, tablets and desktop computers and is monitored by the town and county councils.



Make sure you get a copy of our newsletter every month by joining our mailing list. Simply email info@berwick-tc.gov.uk and ask to be added. Next month's newsletter will turn up in your inbox at the beginning of the month.



Contact the Town Council

You can email us at info@berwick-tc.gov.uk or telephone us on 01289 302391.

Or you can pop into our office on Marygate. We're open to the public 10am-4pm, Monday to Friday.

Contact Northumberland County Council (NCC)

If you have a question about NCC services you can speak to someone in person in the Library on Walkergate on Tuesday and Friday 10:00am-1:00pm or telephone NCC on 0345 600 6400.

Upcoming Council Meetings

Planning Committee: Tuesday 14 May 6pm in the Council Office on Marygate

Annual Town Meeting: Wednesday 15 May 6pm at Northern View