



Berwick-upon-Tweed Town Council NEWSLETTER

August 2024

Message from the Mayor



One of the biggest frustrations of being a Town Councillor is the amount of time it takes to “get things done”. Fortunately, I am pleased to announce that thanks to some hard work from our dedicated little band of officers we can update you with the following news. Firstly, we will soon have 10 brand new rubbish bins on Marygate, made from recycled plastic, very hard-wearing and hopefully low maintenance, but most importantly with gull and rodent proof flaps. The bins they replace will be recycled in turn throughout the town.



Speaking of recycled plastic, we are trialling a number of plastic seats and picnic benches in Upper and Lower Spittal. These are made from recycling plastic bottles and a picnic table alone uses nearly 2,000 bottles! The downside to having such a variety of green spaces and picturesque walks, is that your council has over 300 seats to maintain, many of them regularly exposed to harsh weather and sand abrasion. Plastic seats and benches should be low maintenance as they don't require regular sanding, painting or replacing of individual slats, releasing more time to concentrate on our Heritage 'serpent heads' benches throughout the town.

One of the highlights of the past couple of months has been the teamwork that has been taking place between the Town Council, County Council and community groups. Berwick, like all places is not without its challenges, but creating good communications and maintaining mutual friendly respect between stakeholders who care for our town, is vital to ensure future success.

Local Services Update



We have had some lovely feedback from residents over the past month regarding the work that the wardens have been doing in town, many thanks for getting in touch, it is really appreciated. The Town Wardens have been super busy over the past couple of months, working on flower displays, benches, play parks and ad hoc jobs that happen frequently in a busy town! We had our annual play park inspection in July and we are pleased to report the only item for concern was removed and is scheduled for repair. There is more information on the work our service team have been doing on the following pages.



Following a period of illness Gareth Davies has left Berwick Town Council. The Council would like to thank Gareth for his seven years' service to the Town and wish him every success in his next adventure.

Hospital Update

Report from Northumbria Healthcare:

'A significant milestone will be reached in the construction of Berwick's long-awaited new community hospital this week.

The first components, which have been built off-site, will be transported from Merit's factory in Cramlington, supported by a police escort, to the hospital site in Berwick. Merit, Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's construction partner, has been building these components since January last year.

In total 712 pre-assembled modules (PAMs), 52 fully fitted bathrooms PODs and 17 roof PODs will be transported from Cramlington to north Northumberland over the course of the next five to six months and will be installed on the roof and within the hospital's two-storey steel frame.

The PAMs will be installed within ceiling voids and house the hospital services, including plumbing, lighting, heating and ventilation. The roof PODs, which will sit on top of the building, contain the equipment needed to distribute services throughout the hospital.



On Tuesday July 30, at around 8.00am, two roof PODs will be lifted by crane onto two large lorries to make the 60-mile journey to Berwick. It is expected that the journey along Fisher Lane, Cramlington, up the A1 and along the A1167 into Berwick will take around an hour and a half. On Wednesday July 31, the PODs will then be lifted by crane onto the top of the hospital building, their permanent home. A further six PODs will be delivered to the site between Wednesday and Friday this week.

There will be some parking and traffic restrictions in place on some of the roads nearest to the hospital site. Residents who will be directly affected by this will have received a letter from Merit last week. We have also delivered letters to residents today with more detailed information about the deliveries.

The local community has seen the hospital develop week by week and this exciting phase will begin the transformation of what is currently a steel frame into a modern and innovative building which will transform the way healthcare is delivered to those who live in Berwick and further afield.'

★ Invitation to a drop-in session ★

Residents and stakeholders are invited to find out more about the progress of the construction of Berwick's new community hospital and the patient services it will offer at a drop-in session being held between 11am and 4pm on Friday 9 August 2024 at the William Elder Building 56-58 Castlegate, Berwick-Upon-Tweed TD15 1JT.

Bins

They may not be the most fragrant of subjects but as we get many queries about this, we thought we would let you know our responsibilities in this area. Public bins are a collaborative process in Berwick between us and Northumberland County Council. We own the public branded bins in town, not the private ones and NCC empty both. Therefore, do get in touch regarding the public bins in town, but we cannot help with waste collection!

You may have noticed that some of the dog bins have been removed around town. Northumberland County Council will take away dog waste bins once they are deemed to be in a hazardous state, they often end up corroding at the base which leads to waste falling out again. Not every dog bin removed will be replaced with the same type because you can now put dog waste in a normal rubbish bin if illustrated with the dog logo.

We occasionally find our bin covers going missing - see pictures of naked bin and found bins below. We generally find them close by after clearly some fun and games but do please let us know if you see one in the wild, we have really appreciated your help in the past when they have gone on an adventure...



Finally, we are now heading into peak tourist season when bins get full of rubbish, including things that could easily be taken home such as large pizza boxes - especially if you have a car. We have been adding finger flaps onto bins where we can to deter the seagulls, but if they are overfilled....the birds have easy access and distribute it across town! If you have visitors this summer please can you encourage them not to overfill bins or at least take it to the next less full bin - both BTC and NCC would really appreciate it.

Benches

Work has been continuing on the benches in town, especially on the walls and the team were able to complete renovations on the benches overlooking the stanks all ready for the Charity Cup Final at the end of July – congratulations Angel Alkies! Benches were filled, sanded and painted and all memorial plaques reattached.



We were contacted by the Bridge 400 team to see if we could fix the benches on the end of the old bridge in time for their celebrations in August. Our team got on with it, cutting and prepping wood in our depot, fixing to the site and painting, they also repainted the benches on the quayside and fitted in a weeding session. Other benches renovated include some on North Rd, Hide Hill, Cornhill Rd, West Street and Prince Edward Rd.



If you want to commemorate a loved one or event, you can have a plaque added to a bench in town for £300 - that covers the plaque and 10 years of bench maintenance. Not all benches are owned by us, the Harbour Commission and English Heritage also have a few so get in touch if you are interested and we will see what we can do to help, or point you in the right direction. Also, most of our benches have a number and QR code on them so they are easily identified by us and you, if you wish to add a plaque or if you think they require attention.

Planting in Town



The team along with Councillor Turton have been finishing off the summer planting in town, filling the planters and flower beds with some much needed colour. The beds across from Pets at Home in Tweedmouth are looking especially beautiful - we are hoping for a good balance of rain and sun so these fill out to their full potential!



We were also very pleased to be able to support the Berwick 400 event with a grant towards a flower bed next to St Cuthbert's School on Prince Edward Road in Tweedmouth. This features an image of the bridge and lettering made out of flowers. The Local Services Team have also been working with Berwick Community Trust on the barrel planters on the quayside in preparation for the Berwick 400 events on the 3rd and 4th of August – details on their Facebook page.



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.

Tweed Salmon Queen



Congratulations to the 2024 Salmon Queen, Darcy Martin, to her attendants and to everyone involved with the Tweed Salmon Queen procession and ceremony on 18th July. Darcy's attendants are Imogen Hunter and Sophie Grieve, from Berwick Middle School, Jessie O'Mara from Holy Trinity First School and Cerys Law from Prior Part First School. Darcy also had boy attendants for the 1st time, Sam Tucker and Louis Tucker from Spittal First School - well done to everyone!

Many shops in town took part in the window dressing competition with some really inventive displays brightening up the centre of town.

This year, the Salmon Queen will be fundraising for N.N.A.S (Northumberland National Autistic Society).

The Town Council is proud to support such a fantastic local event! *Photo copyright Jim Gibson Photography*

Come and see the Pipes and Drums of Canada playing in front of the Town Hall on the morning of Wednesday 21st August. They are visiting the UK for a tour of Scotland and are popping over the border to visit us - please do come and see them! You can see them in action on their Facebook page 'Friends of The Pipes and Drums of Canada'



REPAIR	
TECH * PHONES * GUITARS SEWING MACHINES SEWING REPAIRS MECHANICAL STUFF ELECTRICAL * TOYS FURNITURE * FRAMES P.A.T. TESTING * HI FI BLADE SHARPENING	TOOBBITY NO WANT
REPAIR CAFE	LAST SAT. OF EVERY MONTH 10-1pm Supported by Berwick Town Council NCC Climate & Environment Fund
CAFE	SALVATION ARMY CHURCH 53 CHURCH ST, BERWICK UPON TWEED <small>We will do our best to repair your thing but can offer no guarantee. Brought to you by Greater Berwick Zero Waste Action Group</small>
<small>www.greenerberwick.org.uk info@greenerberwick.org.uk @greenerberwick</small>	

Upcoming Council Meetings

- Mon 5 August:** Full Council Meeting
- Mon 19 August:** Planning Committee
- Mon 2 September:** Communities and Local Services
- Mon 9 September:** Budget and Admin Committee
- Mon 16 September:** Planning Committee
- Mon 30 September:** Full Council Meeting

Meetings in our Marygate office are open to all and you have the opportunity to have your say on local issues.

Fix My Street



If you have a pothole, or other problem on your street that needs to be sorted, you can report it quickly and easily at www.fixmystreet.com. This is a site for reporting local problems like fly-tipping, blocked drains, broken paving slabs, graffiti, etc. and you receive updates from 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 local town and county council.





BRIDGE STREET

SHOPS RESTAURANTS
CAFÉS BARS GALLERIES

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



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. Our current opening hours are Tuesday to Thursday 10-12pm & 2-4pm

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 10-1pm or telephone NCC on 0345 600 6400.