

The Burradon & Camperdown Forum

Secretary's Annual Report

Registered Address: 3 Redford Place, Burradon,

Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 7LG

Charity Registration Number: 1074537

The past 12 months have been very successful for the Forum and has provided the members with a preview of our direction in the future. In the past we have been dedicated to addressing important issues on behalf of the community which included serious anti-social behaviour, crime, housing matters and improving the local environment. In the past year our attention has focused on raising funds on behalf of various groups in the village to improve the local facilities to enhance the quality of life of the residents in the local community. The grants received are summarised below:

Name of Trust	Amount £	Project
Dulverton Trust	990	Pensioner's Trip
R W Mann Trust	500	Pensioner's Trip
Dickinson Dees Trust	250	Pensioner's Trip
Grassroots	3,300	Youth Club Equipment
Big Lottery Fund	3,900	Audio Visual Equipment for the Community Centre
Sir James Knott Trust	500	Children's Pantomime
R W Mann Trust	750	Children's Pantomime
Catherine Cookson Trust	250	Children's Pantomime
North Tyneside Council	2,200	Montage
1989 Willan Trust	500	Montage
Total	<u>13,140</u>	

It is important that we formally acknowledge the support we have received from the Trusts and without their kindness and generosity, the organisers would not have been able to deliver the projects in the village. Furthermore, we have also received vital guidance from the Community Foundation and VODA regarding the funding which was available.

The Forum's decision to attend North Tyneside Council's Area Forums has delivered genuine benefits for the village. In particular, the member's attendance ensured that the village received a proportion of the available budgets for paths, roads and environmental improvements which probably would have been allocated to projects in other areas.

Funding of £124,600 for various schemes has been secured to date and are summarised below:

Environment Schemes

Environment Scheme Details	£
Financial Year 2010/11	
Burradon Primary School Nature Garden	500
Planting on the Millennium Green	500
Sensory Garden at The Church of the Good Shepherd	500
Painting of the street furniture	900
Montage for Millennium Green	2,200
Total	4,600

Road Schemes

Road Scheme Details	Street	£
Financial Year 2011/12		
Carriageway Patching and Resurfacing	Moor View	50,000
Resurfacing	Weetslade Tce	50,000
Carriageway Patching and Resurfacing	Allanville	10,000
Carriageway Patching and Resurfacing	Station Road	10,000
Total		120,000

The following environmental projects will be completed prior to the 5 April 2012:

Environment Scheme Details	£
Two Flower Towers	1,200
Two Litter and Dog Bins	780
Perennial Flowers for Pit Wheel Bed	1,000
Kirkdale Court Gardening Club	200
Rockery on Burradon/Dudley Road	3,000
Total	6,180

Angela Gent, North Tyneside Council's Engagement Coordinator's advice has been invaluable and contributed to the Forum submitting successful bids for the funding for the schemes. The achievements of the Forum are regularly publicised as an example of good practice to communities within North Tyneside and is recognition of all the hard work of the local community during the previous 14 years.

The Forum has supported many good causes in the past 12 months, The Julie Armstrong Memorial Fund and The Harold Haskins Everyman Cancer Research Fund. We also donated funds to Burradon FC and the Burradon Primary School nature garden.

It is extremely reassuring to be able to report on the success and progress of our local schools. Seaton Burn College's 2011 exam results were the best in its history with 93% of its students achieving 5 GCSE Grade C and above.

Last year Seaton Burn College's A Level results were the best in North Tyneside and the 2011 GCSE results have consolidated last year's progress and its growing reputation. We should applaud the success of our children and the excellent work of the head, Mrs Shaw and the teaching and support staff at the college. The Forum must continue to support the campaign for new facilities which the children deserve.

Burradon Primary School growing reputation was recently enhanced with a good OFSTED report and SAT results with 89% of pupils achieving grade 4 in all subjects. The academic achievements of the school are attracting increasing numbers of pupils which is in contrast to the position in 1997 with rapidly declining numbers. Mrs Hunter and her team's commitment to the children's development and welfare is improving the educational attainment of the pupils which is convincing parents in the area that Burradon Primary School should be their first choice.

Mary Glendon, MP for North Tyneside and Linda Arkley, Mayor of North Tyneside recently attended Forum meetings to discuss the work of the Forum and issues affecting the village. However, I want to convey our gratitude to Ward Councillor Ray Glendon for his sterling efforts during the past year. Ray is regularly inundated with e-mails and telephone calls regarding issues affecting residents and without exception he pursues matters to a successful conclusion.

With the exception of the incidents at the Halfway House, the level of crime has declined in the village in the past year. The Forest Hall Team continues to work with the Forum and local strategic partners in the area to respond to resident's concerns. Inspector John Smith recently replaced Inspector Paul Young who transferred to Washington and he is determined to work with the community to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the village.

The number of complaints of anti-social behaviour from tenants has increased in the past year and the incidents are occurring in both local authority and the private sector rented properties. The response of North Tyneside Council has been disappointing and in particular the indifference of housing management team. Although we do not advocate a policy of letting homes exclusively to people from the village, the introduction of the Choice Based Letting System is preventing the allocation of properties to the families of local residents.

North Tyneside Council recently provided a summary of the 14 allocations during the past 12 months and initial investigations suggests that with the exception of one house and several bungalows most houses have been allocated to people not previously resident in the village. The recent allocations will be subject to further scrutiny and the conclusions will be presented to the members of the Forum, together with a draft response to the Mayor at the meeting to be held on 4 October 2011.

The continued implementation of the Choice Based Letting System will have a detrimental effect on the ability of the Forum and its strategic partners to address issues affecting residents and will inevitably undermine community spirit and the quality of life of local residents.

The village briefly flirted with national celebrity with the filming of the Allan Carr Who Do You Think You Are programme in April 2011. Regrettably, for production reasons the article on the Burradon Mining Disaster has been omitted from the programme. Allan Carr was extremely approachable and signed autographs and posed for photographs with residents during his visit to the village.

Wendy Hewison and Wayne Young, NTC Environment Department were extremely helpful and arranged for the grass to be cut and the village to be cleaned in preparation for the filming of the programme. Paul Fleming, Highways arranged for the painting of the railings and street furniture which also improved the appearance of the village.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the Forum for their commitment and perseverance during the past year, the attendance at meetings has been constant. The Forum makes a significant contribution to improving the quality of life of people living in the village and hopefully the local community appreciate the work of the members.