

The Buradon and Camperown Forum

2013 Annual Report

Charity Registration Number: 1074537

3 Redford Place, Burradon, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 7LG

Compared to previous years, 2012/13 was a more low key period and although there was no large scale event public event i.e. unveiling of a memorial, new amenities or facilities there have been a number of extremely important projects undertaken:-

- Pensioner's trips to Keswick and Scarborough
- New equipment for the luncheon club
- Equipment for the youth club
- The Annual Christmas pantomime
- The Church of the Good Shepherd's Sensory Garden

The financial support of the local trusts this year has enabled the Forum to continue its work supporting the most vulnerable members of our community. The generosity of the Hadrian Trust, The Readman Family Trust, the Sir James Knott Trust, Joicy Trust, The Hospital of God at Greathan and the R W Mann has enabled the Forum to arrange events on behalf of the residents in the village. The support and guidance of Angela Gent, North Tyneside Council and the Community Foundation was invaluable.

The tragic loss of Rikki Todd in 2011 and the verdict at the subsequent trial was devastating for his family, friends and the community. The Forum has worked with Rikki's family and friends designing a memorial and securing the funds for the installation of the memorial in the Millennium Green. It is hoped that the memorial will be completed and installed on the 27 December 2013 which will be the second anniversary of Rikki's death. Rikki's parents are overwhelmed with the support from the residents in village and indicated that the community will be welcome to the unveiling of the memorial.

The recent summer carnival was a fantastic success and the collaboration of all of the various organisations demonstrated the importance of working in partnership and the benefits that it provides for the community. In particular, the support of Hannah Turnbull and Stephen Black, North Tyneside Council was extremely important and local resident Colin Brooks who designed the programmes and the posters.

We were delighted with the announcement that the Halfway House had been purchased and was to be converted to a residential property. Regrettably, the purchaser has withdrawn the offer and the sale is not completing. In the circumstances, the situation will have to be monitored and in the event the Halfway House is sold we must ensure that it does not re-open as a public house.

There are many new very important projects due to commence during 2013/2014 with the proposed restoration of the Burradon Colliery banner and historic photographs of the village and its people. It is anticipated that the cost will be in the region of £35,000 and it is hoped that we will secure a grant from English Heritage. There is also the redevelopment of the pit pond in conjunction with Groundwork North East and Burradon Primary School and an application will be submitted to the Heritage Lottery for funding of £50,000 to complete the project.

The Forum is also submitting applications on behalf of Burradon Juniors for funding of £7,500 to purchase new strips and equipment and hopefully the funds will be secure in the near future and will secure the future of junior football in the village for local children.

Housing management and allocations continues to be a "thorny issue" for North Tyneside Council's tenants with late and inadequate repairs, poor estate management, unacceptable conduct of a minority of tenants and local people being denied the opportunity to live in the village.

There has been a series of meetings with Paul Hanson, Director of Communities and Ian Conway, Head of Housing to discuss the range of issues affecting residents and the community. Regrettably, there has been no progress and the communities concerns were summarily dismissed which was extremely disappointing. However, with the appointment of John Harrison as Cabinet Member for Housing and his agreement to attend a meeting to discuss resident's grievances raised at previously meetings and I am optimistic that the matters will be satisfactorily addressed.

Northumbria Police were pleased with the law and order in the village and residents will agree that the levels of anti-social behaviour and crime are low and is attributable to the community's excellent partnership with Inspector John Smith and PC Richie Parker and the Neighbourhood Team.

Finally, I wish to convey my gratitude to the members of the Forum for their commitment during the past 12 months and without your dedication it would not have been possible for the Forum to achieve such great success for the benefit of the residents and community.