



# LESBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

(Issue 41 - September 2014) The Parish web site is  
[www.lesbury-pc.org.uk](http://www.lesbury-pc.org.uk)

**Changes in the Parish Council-** We mentioned in the last Newsletter that John Wright would step down as PC Chairman and from the PC. This has happened earlier than anticipated and Bob Dutton has been elected as the new Chairman.. However we do need a couple more people on the PC and we are especially keen to hear from any ladies who are willing to join us; so if you would like to help us contact the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor. A full list of the Council members and contact numbers can be found at the end of this Newsletter or on our website [www.lesbury-pc.org.uk](http://www.lesbury-pc.org.uk). Our thanks go to John for his services to the PC both as a Councillor and as Chairman.



**Northumberland Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment-** The Parish Council have received the following notification from the County Council. "The National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities to prepare a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA.) This:-

- Identifies sites with potential for housing.
- Assesses how many dwellings may be accommodated on a site with potential for housing .
- Assesses when sites are likely to be developed.

It is important to stress that the SHLAA is **not a policy document**. It does not allocate sites for residential use or indicate whether they will be granted planning permission. It is part of the evidence base for the emerging Northumberland Local Plan. Anyone can submit a site into the SHLAA. Sites included within the SHLAA are assessed in line with the Northumberland SHLAA methodology which is based on national guidance. This assesses whether sites are suitable, available and achievable, and is quite distinct from the process by which planning applications are determined. Since the first Northumberland SHLAA was published in May 2012, additional sites have been put forward for consideration. Draft site assessments have been prepared for the new sites submitted and in addition, reassessments have taken place on sites within Northumberland's larger settlements. The draft assessments have been informed by comments from a range of consultees. You can access information about the SHLAA, the site assessments and the consultation exercise at [www.northumberland.gov.uk/shlaa](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/shlaa). A response form for submitting comments may also be downloaded there."

The PC intends to respond to NCC based on the conclusions from the 2009 Parish Plan. Do have a look at the SHLAA website which shows the 7 potential sites around Lesbury.

**Alnmouth Railway Station and Resident Parking Scheme Consultation-** NCC organised an open consultation to discuss new proposals on 17<sup>th</sup> September at Alnmouth and Lesbury cricket club. Some 90 people attended the event which was led by Cllr. Heather Cairns; the team from NCC was led by Margaret Robinson (Transport Policy and Programme Manager). A series of options were presented which included 1) an extension to the car park on the west side of the station to give 43 new spaces, 2) look at the potential for a further car park extension to this area involving the purchase of extra land, 3) investigate the potential of an extension of the east side car park 4) double yellow lining ("no-waiting") of Bilton Hill to the bridge, 5) widening the footpath over the bridge and reduce the road width for safer pedestrian access and to slow traffic, 6) introduce time-limits in the station car parks to discourage long-term parking. The residents parking permit schemes for Curly Lane, South View and Lesbury Road to be put on hold to see if extra parking places at the station will solve the rogue parking issues. Applying "no waiting at any time" can be implemented in a matter of weeks; the provision of extra parking spaces will take longer but would, hopefully, be in place in 2015. Not all of these proposals



can be started in one go, the process would have to proceed in steps and is dependent on discussions with Northern Rail, Network Rail, Northumberland Estates and NCC and also funding! The meeting ended very positively and thanks given to Heather Cairns and the team from NCC for all their work in producing these schemes.

**Rocket Lands in the Pond Field, Hipsburn-** at 8.00 am On August 4<sup>th</sup> the first wagon arrived at the Pond Field play area in Hipsburn. This was Jewsons with two bags of ballast; it was quickly followed by a skip and then a carrier with 15 large tyres. What was happening? Finally a crew from the Playground Company, a Cheshire based family business that supplies playground equipment arrived to install the rocket, actually a "tyre park" play area. The work was completed in a day and opened the following day by the retiring Chairman of Lesbury Parish Council, John Wright and put to immediate use. As this was the beginning of the school holidays the rocket has been a source of enjoyment every day, providing a place for both physical and creative play. The tyre play installation was funded from Section 106 money by Lesbury Parish Council. Other beneficiaries of this fund have been Lesbury Village Hall and Alnmouth and Lesbury Cricket Club.



**Speedwatch-** We now have 7 Speedwatch volunteers who will be trained in the use of the equipment which will be purchased soon.

**Northumbria in Bloom-** the results were announced at a county-wide advent last Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> September. The really good news is that the Parish has been awarded a Silver Gilt medal this year, one up on our previous Silver medals. Our thanks go to Ian August's band of volunteers for all their efforts in reaching this standard. We know that there are still areas for improvement and the group will work on these for next year; this would be made easier if a few more volunteers come forwards. If you can assist please contact Ian on 01665 833737. The Coach Inn, Alnmouth Station and Foxton all received Gold medals in their categories. A special word of thanks should also go to Michael Fairbairn of Hobberlaw Plants who supplies the display at the Coach.



**Missing seat near the Hipsburn roundabout-** It is not really missing but as the mountings had become loose it was decided to remove it before any accidents happen. It will be reinstalled but needs to be fitted to a concrete plinth; we have had to get NCC permission to dig up the path as they are owners of the highway and now waiting for their quotation to do the job.

**SHAK 'Early' Christmas Fayre-** In aid of SHAK local dog rescue charity [www.shak.org.uk](http://www.shak.org.uk) will be held in Lesbury Village Hall between 10am to 1pm on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October. There will be refreshments, handmade cakes and crafts and various stalls including tombola, book sale, name the cuddly dog, raffle, bric-a-brac and lots more. Free entry for children and SHAK shirt wearers - Others £1 or can of dog food



**Nature note-** Occasionally feral populations of introduced birds can cause great excitement. Take for instance the 170-strong flock of Canada Geese that noisily flies over us from the estuary. Canada Geese were first introduced in 17<sup>th</sup> century from North America and, since then, have colonised most of Britain in artificially created parks and lakes, and along rivers. Although normally resident in Britain some populations fly north to moult but it's most likely that 'our' birds are from just down the coast around the Druridge Bay area. Another introduced species made a surprise visit to a local garden, when a

Mandarin Duck dropped in for a day. This most colourful duck was introduced into the UK in 20<sup>th</sup> century, and now there are a few small breeding flocks in Northumberland, the North Tyne being the favoured site. This one, however, may just have been on a day trip from Howick. (MC)

#### **Parish Council Contacts.**

**Parish Clerk -** Mrs Elizabeth Taylor, Rivendell, Steppay Lane, Lesbury, NE66 3PU, Tel: 01665 830040, e mail [lesburyparishclerk@googlemail.com](mailto:lesburyparishclerk@googlemail.com).

**Parish Council Chairman:** Bob Dutton; Tel. 01665 830801

**Parish Councillors:** Gareth Breese - 830195, John Gebbie - 830642, Douglas Hunter 07903 243362, Dave Knowles - 830467, Roger Styring 830531, Adrian Vass - 830134.

**Parish Council meetings** are held in Lesbury Village Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. All residents are welcome to attend.