



PELTON PARISH COUNCIL



1507 Air Squadron Cadets and Durham Constabulary Cadets with Parish Council Volunteers at the Pelton Parish Coronation Event

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Chair's Message

As the third year of this Council Term draws to a close it is important to look back and reflect on the work we have done to improve the Parish.

This year has seen an increased investment in litterpicking across the parish – resulting in the collection of 694 bags of rubbish over the year. We have also held our first ever Pelton Neighbourhood In Bloom Competition, celebrating the work of residents and community organisations to make our villages an even nicer place to live.

We have begun work on a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish Area – with a real focus on protecting the distinct identities of our villages and the green spaces that residents enjoy. We have secured funding from Joy Allen, Police and Crime Commissioner to double the warden patrols across the Parish. This has meant that when problems occurred, extra patrols have been carried out providing a visual deterrence.

During a cost of living crisis we have protected funding for our two Community Centres providing vital support to residents day in and day out.

Looking ahead we want to continue this work, ensuring that our Community Centres are the very best they can be. We will be holding a further consultation in the Summer on our priorities ahead of the budget setting for the next year and we will continue with our programme of quarterly Newsletters focussing on the work across the Parish and including schools and community associations.

May 2025 will see the next Parish Council elections. If you would like to get more involved in our work, please consider standing for election to the Parish Council. We believe that Pelton Parish is a great place to live, and we want to work with everyone that wants to make our Community even better.

As ever if there is an issue you would like us to look into, please contact us.

Best wishes,

Cllr Danny Wood
Chair
Pelton Parish Council

What have been our achievements and our priorities this year?

This Annual Report details work carried out by the Parish Council to benefit our residents over the last year, our plans going forward to build on these improvements and our long term priorities.

This year has been a busy one as we have delivered the following for our residents:

- Community Litter Picks
- Delivered a Parish Coronation Event which was fully funded from external funders after success in funding applications
- Held the first Neighbourhood in Bloom Competition which culminated in a Presentation Evening for the entrants
- Progressed work on commencing a Neighbourhood Plan- further information will be provided about this in 2024. If you would like to get involved then it would be great to hear from you.
- Provided support for a Friends' of Pelton Cemetery Group to be formed.
- We continue to maintain high standards of service to our residents after we were awarded the Local Council Award Scheme Quality Gold Award in July 2021. One of only 2 Parish Councils in County Durham and Cleveland with the accolade.
- Management and maintenance of Thornton Pocket Park
- Management and maintenance of the Memorial and Memorial Reflection Area at Holy Trinity Church, Pelton
- Management and maintenance of 6 allotment sites within the Parish
- Provide the services of litter pickers throughout the parish area to improve the area
- Funding towards a dedicated Neighbourhood Warden Service for 4.5 hours per week
- Provision of community grants for the Pelton Community Centre and Grange Villa Enterprise Centre.
- Submitting comments on all planning applications
- Working with community groups- including Residents' Associations, Scouts, Guides and Brownies, Nursing Home, Schools, our 2 community centres & Pelton Youth Project
- Funding and delivery of parish events and support and facilitation of groups (where required) providing parish events/improvements as follows-

Event/Parish Improvement	23/24- £ amount
Remembrance Services- 2 x wreaths and Piper for Remembrance Sunday Event	£108
8 Christmas Trees across the Parish	£2531 less a contribution of £158 from Urpeth Parish Council for the tree at West Pelton - £2373
Annual bedding contract with Durham County Council	£7197
Annual grounds maintenance contract for outside Pelton Community Centre, top of Hylton Terrace and grass at front of Sandyford Woods	£2602
Annual grounds maintenance contract for outside Grange Villa Enterprise Centre	£1545
Improvements to 2 x brick flower beds at Grange Villa, Stone Row/Pine Street	£690
Annual cost for a dedicated Neighbourhood Warden in Parish for 4.5 hours per week	£5608
Printing costs for quarterly Parish Newsletters- delivered by volunteers	£1620
TOTAL AMOUNT	£21743

Parish Council Representation on behalf of Residents

The Council is proud to represent the parish on a number of external organisations, including:-

- Pelton Community Centre
- Grange Villa Enterprise Centre
- Chester le Street and District Area Action Partnership
- County Durham Association Small Councils Committee

The Council also looks to reflect the views of our community by liaising with other public bodies and commenting on key strategic issues such as housing, highways, planning etc. The Parish Council has arranged a public meeting where Ms Joy Allen, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner attended a Q&A Session at a Parish Council Meeting.

Community Engagement

The Parish Council considers community engagement an important part of focusing on local needs to the benefit of all parishioners. We ensure residents are kept fully informed of all decisions and proposals that may affect them. This information is shared through the following ways-

- The Parish Council Newsletter- published and delivered quarterly.
 - The council website at www.peltonparishcouncil.gov.uk
 - Agendas, Minutes and important information is placed inside the Parish Council Noticeboards
- Please see the Parish Council Business Plan for further information about the Parish Council- [Business Plan 2021-2024](#)

External Funding received in 23/24 for Parish Projects-

We apply for external funding to help deliver local projects to benefit our residents without impacting on the annual precept required. Below is the funding received in 2023/2024. We will continue to look for opportunities to work in partnership with other organisations in 2024/2025.

Organisation	23/24- amount and purpose
Karbon Homes	£1000 towards the cost of employing a Litter Picker
Awards for All	£1644- funding towards the Coronation Event
Office of the Durham Police and Crime Commissioner	£5566 match funding to provide another 4.5 hours per week dedicated Neighbourhood Warden in the Parish from 1.4.24= 9 hours per week.
County Councillors Batey, Pringle and Wood	£300 towards the Coronation Event from their Neighbourhood Budgets
TOTAL ANNUAL EXTERNAL FUNDING	£8510

Grants and Donations awarded in 2023/2024-

We receive requests for grants and donations and welcome applications from local organisations. This is the Grant Awarding Policy [Grant-Awarding-Policy.doc.pdf \(peltonparishcouncil.gov.uk\)](#) and Grant Application Form [Grant-application-Form-updated-June-2022.docx \(live.com\)](#) if you would like the Parish Council to consider an application.

Organisation	23/24- amount and purpose
1 st Newfield Scouts Group	£773.61 for 3 x 5 man tents
Grange Villa Enterprise Centre	£20886- Annual grant
Great North Air Ambulance Service	£500 -donation
Holy Trinity Church	£100 for refreshments at Carol Service
Pelton Community Centre	£90000- Annual Grant
Pelton Community School	£570- Coaches for beach trip
Pelton Grange Nursing Home	£50- raffle prize
Pelton Parish Council Events	£40- event banner £113.43- Printing costs for flyers and posters for local events. Grange Villa Flower beds- £610 plus £80 maintenance. £184-In Bloom competition-
Roseberry Primary School	£50 -raffle prize
TOTAL ANNUAL FUNDING	£114,141.34

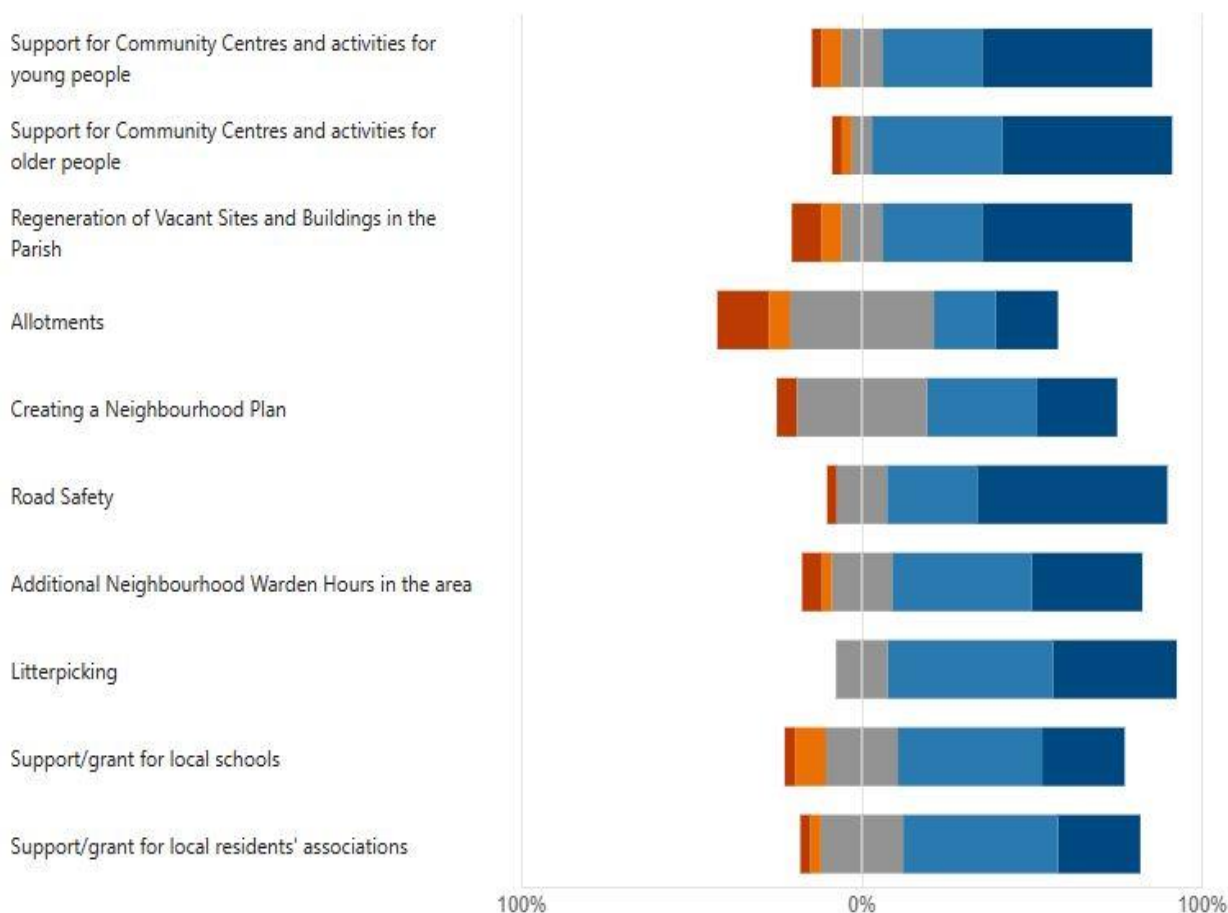
Long Term Priorities of the Parish Council

We carried out a community consultation from July 2023 to early January 2024 to seek the views of residents about our main priorities for long term budget planning. We will carry out an annual consultation going forward which will be circulated in the summer and autumn parish newsletters. This was the feedback received which will be considered when agreeing future budget requirements-

1. I think the following should be priorities for the Parish Council:

[More Details](#)

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neither Agree or Disagree Agree Strongly Agree



These are the main projects we have delivered in our Parish Area during 2023/2024

Pelton Parish Coronation Community Event on 8.5.23

Despite the wet weather there were lots of the activities on offer for everyone. The Parish Council would like to especially thank the Air Cadets from 1507 Air Cadet Squadron and the Durham Constabulary Police Cadets who helped in setting up the equipment and take it down whilst it was really groggy weather. The Cadets also helped throughout the afternoon manning some of the stalls etc. You should all be very proud of the help you provided at the event and are a huge credit to your organisations. Also a big thank you to the local community organisations who took part in the planning and were at the event.

Rouse School of Dance and Kaze Chikara were limited by the weather but they were still able to provide dance and karate demonstrations throughout the afternoon. Thank you to the participants who ensured - 'the show still went on'.

Funding from the National Lottery Awards 4 All and County Councillors Alison Batey, Paul Pringle and Danny Wood ensured that all activities/food and refreshments provided by Pelton Parish Council were free. Below are a selection of photos taken on the day by Mr Mick Simpson on behalf of the Parish Council.





After School Litter Picking Club- Roseberry Primary School

Since 10th January 2023 children from Roseberry School have been out and about in all weathers attending a weekly After School Litter Picking Club. The School Teacher, Mrs Cutts has been regularly supported by John Smith, Neighbourhood Warden (who even attends on his days off), 3 Parish Councillors – Joyce Barker, Stephen Hann and Clare Todd and the Parish Clerk. The children are an absolute pleasure to walk around with and to listen to as they comment on the amount and type of litter in their locality. On average 2 bags of rubbish are collected in the time they walk around different routes close to the school. They have collected at least 44 bags of rubbish over the weeks to keep the locality tidier.

The Parish Council have recognised the commitment of the children to improve their environment by purchasing a pin badge for each child with an engraving of 'Community Champion'. The pin badges and a Certificate of Achievement were presented to each child by John Smith, Cllr Joyce Barker and Cllr Todd at a school assembly on 14th July 2023. Good luck in the future endeavours to the children who are in Year 6 and moving onto secondary school in September. You are a credit to the school and have been a great help on each session.

The club will start again in September and we look forward to helping out again. Please find below some photos of the most recent litter picking session and the presentation to the children.



Improvements to the Memorial Reflection Area



The Parish Council agreed to carry out improvements to the bedding area around the War Memorial, Holy Trinity Church, Pelton. Previously we had planted wildflowers but they were hard to maintain. Local resident David Martin tidied up the area in readiness for roses and box hedging to be planted. These will be easy to maintain and the box hedging will be very low to the ground. In addition, Cllr Lonsdale-Cope nurtured 2 Camelia trees and they were planted either side of the memorial. Please see the pictures below. Thank you to David, Cllr Lonsdale-Cope and Cllr Todd for carrying out the work along with the Clerk.

Pelton Parish Neighbourhood in Bloom Presentation Evening- 18.10.23

Pelton Parish Council held a Presentation Evening on Wednesday 18th October 2023 for the entrants to the Pelton Parish Neighbourhood in Bloom Competition. The Parish Council would like to thank Phillip Martin for asking the Parish Council to consider holding the competition.

It was an opportunity to thank the residents and community groups who have improved the local environment and for entering the first competition.

The overall winner of the competition was Pelton Community Centre and this was the feedback from the judges-*The judges were very impressed with all of the community work that had been carried out to improve your outdoor space. In particular, the intergenerational aspect to the project which involved all age groups to carry out the improvements. The judges were also impressed with the elements of recycling; upscaling and hand made equipment that was on show. It's wonderful that the improvements will also lead to an outdoor space that can be hired for parties/educational visits etc.*

Mr & Mrs MacLennan of Perkinsville were the winners of the Garden or Yard category. They have kindly donated their £30 prize money to Perkinsville Residents' Association. This was the feedback from the judges-*The judges were very impressed with all of the improvements you had carried out to your front and back garden. Your Japanese theme showed creativity and was lovely to view. You even had a hedgehog in place – which Mick and Joanne thought was a statue!*

Mr Raymond McDermott was the winner of the Neighbourhood Area or Group Project for his work at the road verge, Stone Row, Grange Villa and this was the feedback from the judges- *The judges were very impressed with all of the bright colours and variety of the plants/bushes on display along with the time and commitment you give to improve the local environment.*

Yvonne and Paul were the winners of the Allotment/Kitchen Garden and this was the feedback from the judges- *The judges were very impressed with all of the innovations that had been carried out to improve the sustainability of your allotment.*

Below are some pictures from the entries





Act of Remembrance Service – Sunday 12th November 2023

The Parish Council arranged a Remembrance Sunday Service at 3.30pm on 12.11.23. The weather was fine and we had a good turnout for the event. The Service was led by Reverend John Lintern. Parish Councillor Miriam Lonsdale-Cope provided a reading during the Service. The 1st Newfield Scouts Group and 1507 Chester le Street Air Cadets were proudly in attendance. If you were unable to attend and would like to view the Service it is on the Facebook page of County Councillor Danny Wood. Here are a few pictures from the event.

