

# Carham Parish Council Newsletter

No 14 ~ May 2024



Although local councils in Northumberland were not up for election this year, the recent elections have prompted us to think about the role of the Parish Council, and the importance of its links with residents. To serve the interests of the whole community, which is the Parish Council's job, we rely on residents wherever they live in the parish to bring matters to our attention. You can do this by attending this year's Annual Parish Assembly, which takes place on 14 May and at which Councillors will be present. And you can, of course, raise a matter with the Parish Council directly, by contacting the Parish Clerk. One familiar face that will be missing from our meetings from now on is that of John Court of **Howburn**, who has recently resigned from the Parish Council. We would like to thank him for his sterling service and wish him well.

Carham Parish Council

## Annual Parish Assembly

The Annual Parish Assembly is an opportunity for residents to hear what local community organisations, including the Parish Council, have been doing over the past year. It is also the forum for electors to have their say on anything they consider is important to the people of the parish. The meeting is convened by the Parish Council, and Councillors will take note of what residents have to say, but this is a community meeting, not a Parish Council meeting.

This year's Annual Parish Assembly will be at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 14 May in St Cuthbert's church, **Carham**. We have arranged for representatives from the Glendale Gateway Trust's Rural Advocacy project and the North Northumberland Voluntary Forum's Community Transport project to be there:

- ❖ The Glendale Gateway Trust's Rural Advocacy project wants to hear your opinions on the things that matter to you as a resident of Carham parish, such as transport, cost of living and access to healthcare and other services, so that it can bring these to the attention of Northumberland County Council and other organisations that make decisions that affect communities like ours. The Rural Advocacy project is working with the Community Transport project, and representatives of both will be at the Annual Parish Assembly. Please make the most of this opportunity to air your views by coming to the meeting. For more information, please contact Lesley Robson, Rural Advocate [lesley@wooler.org.uk](mailto:lesley@wooler.org.uk)

## Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings have to follow formal procedures because they are regulated by legislation. To bring a matter to the attention of the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk, so that it can be added to the agenda of the next meeting. We issue the agenda a week before the meeting, so please bear this timing in mind. This advance notice is because the Parish Council needs to be notified beforehand of any matters to be discussed, because it cannot make unexpected decisions. It is actually unlawful for the Parish Council to make a decision without at least three clear days' notice.

You do not have to be at the Parish Council meeting at which the matter will be discussed, and the Parish Clerk will let you know the outcome. If you are there, you have no legal right to speak at the meeting, but we always set aside time at the beginning for public participation. If you have brought a matter to the Parish Council, then this is the part of the meeting when you will be invited to speak.

Procedures aside, Parish Council meetings are not intimidating events and we hope that you will feel free to use this process to bring a parish matter to our attention and to attend the meeting.



## Contact Us

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Carham Parish Council

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## Carham Parish Defibs

The defibrillator project has gone from strength to strength since its launch in April 2023, thanks to the very generous support of residents throughout the parish. It now has funds of just under £5,000 and more than 50 members, and is ready to leave the care of the Parish Council and become an entity in its own right. A short meeting has been organised for 10.30 am on Saturday 11 May at **Cornhill** village hall at which the constitution will be signed and Carham Parish Defibs will become an unincorporated association. The next step will be for Carham Parish Defibs to apply for match funding, before placing an order for the parish's first public access defibrillators towards the end of this summer.

## Open Gardens

The garden at Kirky Cottage, **Mindrum**, will be open in aid of the British Red Cross on Sunday 26 May from 11 am to 5 pm. Admission is £6 and children under 12 are admitted free. For the National Garden Scheme, the gardens at Mindrum House and Kirky Cottage will both be open on Sunday 23 June, from 12 to 5 pm. Home-made teas, sold in aid of the Royal British Legion North Northumberland Branch, will be available at Mindrum House and there will be a plant stall at Kirky Cottage. One admission fee of £10 (children admitted free) gives entry to both.

## Playpark Inspector

Following the resignation of John Court from the Parish Council, we are in need of a playpark inspector to check the play equipment, surfaces and fences in the playpark in **Wark**. The monthly inspections are not difficult or time-consuming, and training can be given. Grass cutting is not a requirement, as the grass is cut by Northumberland County Council. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in taking this on.

## Household DIY Waste

Households can now dispose of a limited amount of DIY waste for no charge at Northumberland County Council's Household Waste Recovery Centres. However, you will need a pre-booked permit to do this. This allows free disposal of DIY waste up to 100 litres (about two typical 50 litre builders' rubble sacks). If you need to dispose of more than this, you can 'Pay as You Throw' using the existing tariff. For a permit, go to [www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/waste) or call the contact centre on 0345 600 640. Non-DIY waste does not require a permit.

Carham Parish Council is an elected body in the first tier of local government. It is responsible for representing the interests of the whole community. Among other things, it is concerned with community safety, street lighting, common land, play areas, litter, tourism, traffic calming, seats and shelters, rights of way, and some aspects of planning and highways.

The Parish Council meets six times a year. Meetings are in alternate months beginning in May, on the second Tuesday of the month, in St Cuthbert's Church, Carham at 6.30pm. Anyone living or working in the parish can attend a meeting.

For the minutes of Carham Parish Council meetings, go to [www.carhamparish.org](http://www.carhamparish.org)