

# Horden Parish Council

## Annual Report 2011/12



---

# Horden Parish Council

## Annual Report

### 2011/12

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Message from the Chairman	3
About us	4
Introduction	5

#### Review of 2011/12

1. Welfare Park	6
2. Memorial Park	7
3. Cotsford Park Play Area	8
4. Church Green	8
5. Maritime Crescent Play Area	8
6. Sunderland Road Playing Fields	8
7. Thorpe Road Cemetery	9
8. Social Welfare Centre	10
9. Horden In Bloom	11
10. Annual Flower & Vegetable Show	12
11. Station Road Allotments	12
12. Stayplton Drive MUGA Pitch	12
13. Planning Applications	12
14. Finance	13
15. Publicity & Communications	13
16. Horden Community Plan	13
17. Grant Funding	14
18. Partnership Working	14
19. Strategic Plan	15

## Message from the Chairman, Councillor Jean White



2011 has seen many changes around the area, once again the Parish Council have made no cuts this year and ensured that the Council Tax has remained the same, however we have to do some juggling to safeguard these cuts.

Once again the parks remain a priority, with continued maintenance and improvements to the standard of our green spaces. Horden Parish Council have once again retained the Green Flag Award for both the Welfare Park, Memorial Park and the Cemetery.

One project which is still the forefront of the Parish Council is the Horden Community Plan the project is coming to an end at the end of the year with a public launch expected.

The Thorpe Road Cemetery is continuing to fill up and the Parish Council continue to look for available land in the village.

During 2011 the Welfare Park has continued to be well used for a variety of activities. We have a great celebration coming up Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June for the Queen's Jubilee which will see entertainment such as the live band Central Park, fancy dress competitions, balloon release, lunch boxes, bouncy castles, trampolines and much more.

This event has been organised by our Parks and Cemetery Manager, Jimmy Bush. Thanks to Jimmy for organising the events and also to other staff members for giving up their time to attend the event.

There are also other activities continuing at Horden Social Welfare Centre and Sunderland Road Playing Fields.

Once again I would like to thank the Members of Horden Parish Council for electing me as Chairman and hope that I have done the job that they expect of me. I have had another busy year working with local Town and Parish Councils getting involved in charity and civic functions, poppy appeal launch, the Horden Bowls Group Presentation and the Flower and Vegetable Show Presentation as well organising my own Charity Evening at the Horden Social Welfare Centre.

Finally I would as always like to thank the staff at Horden Parish Council for their continued hard work in serving the village.

*Councillor Jean White*

*Chairman, Horden Parish Council*





## About Us

**Councillors: Horden Parish Council has 15 Councillors -**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
Cllr Jean White	23 Blackhills Terrace	Chairman of Horden Parish Council
Cllr Margaret Robinson	Northlea, 19 Shotton Road	Vice-Chairman of Horden Parish Council
Cllr Edna Connor General	2 Cedar Street.	Chairman of Finance & Purposes Committee
Cllr Isabelle Roberts	33 Ninth Street	Chairman of Parks & Cemeteries Committee
Cllr Tina Phillips	13 Macbeth Walk	Vice-Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee
Cllr Mary Clark	89 Cotsford Park Estate	Vice-Chairman of Parks & Cemeteries Committee
Cllr Bill Smith	22 Alder Road.	
Cllr Elizabeth Wood	12 Roseby Road.	
Cllr Rodie Bagnall	34 Cotsford Park Estate	
Cllr June Clark	73 Cotsford Park Estate	
Cllr Billy Hill	6 Sunderland Avenue.	
Cllr Doug Langan	1 Snowdrop Avenue	
Cllr George Lavery	9 Park Terrace	
Cllr. Derek Nicol	73 Cotsford Park Estate	

There is currently one position vacant, following the resignation of Councillor George Patterson, which will be filled via local election in the near future.

**Staff: The Parish Council employ staff -**

Paul Davison-	Clerk to the Council & RFO	Allan Roberts-	Gardner/ Gravedigger
Jacqui Hunt-	Assistant Clerk	David McCourt-	Apprentice
Gemma Rowe-	Administration & Finance Officer		Gardner/ Gravedigger
Jimmy Bush-	Parks & Cemeteries Manager	Julie Bush-	Cleaner, Chapel of Rest
Walter Rudkin-	Parks & Playing Fields Supervisor	Alan Atchinson-	SWC Manager
Colin Muir-	Parks & Cemetery Team Leader	Lee Higgins-	SWC Team Leader
Keith Bailey-	Gardner/Gravedigger	Mary Armstrong-	Cleaner, SWC
Tommy Basley-	Gardner/Gravedigger	Glynis Atchinson-	Cleaner, SWC
Richard Hepworth-	Gardner/ Gravedigger	Eddie Beadle/Sue Tempest-	Doorstaff, SWC
Matthew Scott-	Gardner/Gravedigger		
John Tully-	Gardner/Gravedigger		

## Introduction

Welcome to the 2011/12 Annual Report. This is the full report of the Parish Council; a summary will be published in the next Parish Council Newsletter.

This report has been produced and made available prior to the Annual Assembly to be held on Wednesday 2nd 2012 at 6pm in the Social Welfare Centre. The Annual Assembly is a meeting of the electors of the Parish of Horden and provides an opportunity for residents to discuss the information provided and to question the Council on its activities during the past year. Any member of the public is welcome to attend this meeting.

Horden Parish Council serves the village of Horden, with an electorate of 2280.

We deliver many services in the village, such as the provision of parks, playing fields and recreation areas. We manage the Thorpe Road Cemetery, are responsible for the Station Road Allotments and manage the Social Welfare Centre.

Our aim is to give the residents of Horden information about the Parish Council and the services which we deliver in the village, to outline how we are dealing with current challenges and highlight our plans to meet community needs and deliver quality services in the next year and beyond.

Horden Parish Council is one of around 9,500 Parish and Town Councils within England, Parish and Town Councils are the first tier of Local Government and work very closely with the other tiers to try and achieve the best for their local communities. During 2011/12, we have worked very closely with Durham County Council on a number of issues. Horden is represented by two Durham County Councillors, Dennis Maddison and Paul Stradling.

Elections to the Parish Council are normally held every four years, the last being in 2007. The next are due to be held in May 2013 due to the changes which the formation of the new Unitary Authority has brought. Any registered elector over the age of 21 years, who is not disqualified because of being declared bankrupt or having a recent criminal conviction carrying a custodial sentence, may stand for election to the Parish Council.

At the time of publication, Horden Parish Council have one vacancy to fill on the council, due to the resignation of Councillor George Patterson. The council anticipate that this will be filled shortly by with holding a by-election or co-opting a new member onto the council. Public notices will be distributed soon in order to formally announce the vacancy.

Meetings of the Parish Council are normally held on the first Thursday of every month, except August when Council is in recess. Meetings start at 6pm in the Training Room of the Social Welfare Centre. The Agenda for Council meetings is prepared on the Friday prior to the meeting and displayed on the Parish notice board in the foyer of the Social Welfare Centre and also on our website for the public to view.

All meetings of the Council are open for the public (although certain exempt items may be held in private session). If you wish to attend a meeting, just turn up.

The Council are happy for the public to give their views or comments during Public Participation, but ask that you notify the Clerk prior to the meeting of the topic on which you wish to speak. If you would like further information, please contact Paul Davison during office hours.

Minutes of meetings are available for public inspection at both the Social Welfare Centre and at Horden Library in Sunderland road, or available via our website. Any member of the public is entitled by law to obtain copies of the minutes at reasonable cost. These can only be obtained from the Parish Council Offices at the Social Welfare Centre.



# Review of 2011/12

## 1. Welfare Park

The Welfare Park has continued to retain its high standard of design, cleanliness and appearance exemplified in the planting schemes that have brightened the park this year.

The park was awarded with Green Flag and Green Heritage site status for the sixth consecutive year. This is an amazing achievement and testament to the dedication of the parks staff, and Horden is one of only a handful of Parish Councils in the country to achieve the Green Flag!

Green Flag inspection for 2012/13 is scheduled in May and the Parish Council are confident that Green Flag status will be re-accredited for the year to come.



The range of events and activities organised within the Welfare Park have continued to increase. Many of you will have enjoyed the various events and performances that took place during the year. Activities are arranged in school holidays, particularly over the summer where on most days in August there was something going on for young people and families to join in.

The weather was good for our summer events this year and the parish council purchased further events equipment in order to provide the users of the park with a better experience when attending our events, which were very well attended.

Details are always posted in the notice boards at the entrances to the park. If you have any ideas for activities or events you would like to see, or would like to become involved as a volunteer by joining the Friends of the Welfare Park, then please



contact Jimmy Bush via the Parish Council Office!

The Ambulance House sited next to the toddler play area continues to be well used. The rooms upstairs host the residency of Horden Heritage Society and Horden's Heritage Centre, celebrating the rich mining history of the village.

The Heritage Centre was formally opened by Graeme Morris M.P. in 2010 and attracts visitors from as far and wide as Australia!

Entry is free and if you want to see their fine collection of mining memorabilia and



The lower floor of the Ambulance House building is occupied by the Green Leaf Café which has recently seen a change of management and is now ran by Deborah Simson. The café is open for business during most of the opening hours of the park and provides value for money, tasty snacks and meals.

Lights along the North/South Avenue leading to the multi games area allow this area of the park to be accessed by organised groups after normal park closing hours during the winter months. The MUGA pitch can be booked between 6pm-9pm Monday-Friday at a reasonable cost.

Unfortunately, as seen elsewhere in the locality, the Welfare Park has been subject to periodic vandalism, theft and anti-social behaviour in 2010. The parish council are committed to delivering quality services to Horden's residents and are saddened that a minority are spoiling the enjoyment of others by stealing plants and equipment or acting in an inappropriate manner.



Horden Parish Council take a very serious view to these matters and will prosecute offenders where necessary. In order to make the best of the facilities the village has for everyone, the village needs to work together in order to stop incidents from occurring. Should you see anything occurring, please call Peterlee Police on 0345 60 60 365 and report it. You do not have to give your personal details and all information will be held in confidence.

The Welfare Park staff have consistently delivered a service second to none in their upkeep and maintenance of the park and sporting facilities which is reflected in the fifth consecutive year of attaining the Green Flag/Green Heritage Site award. The staff's dedication and commitment to excellence ensure that users of the Welfare Park continue to enjoy the amenities at the quality they expect. A special thank you therefore must go to Jimmy Bush, Walter Rudkin and all of the Welfare Park staff for their efforts.



## 2. Memorial Park

The Memorial Park retained its Green Flag and Green Heritage Site status in 2011 after winning the award in 2008, and this is an excellent achievement. This is largely due to the commitment and dedication of Memorial Park gardener Allan Roberts, who has done another fantastic job this year.

In accordance with village tradition, the annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony was held in 2010.

As we all know, the winter weather in 2010 was another cold one, with lots of snow! which meant that the delivery of the parish council's Christmas tree was seriously delayed and no lighting service was held in 2010. Mindful of this, the Christmas Tree lighting service was brought forward for 2011 and ensured that the service went ahead without any hitches this year.



2011's Remembrance Sunday parade was attended by representatives of the Lord Lieutenant of County Durham and a delegation from The Rifles and the Royal Hussars. The turnout from the village was excellent again this year and more of Horden's schools became involved with pupils laying banners at St Mary's Church after the service at the Memorial Park.

One of Horden's most distinctive landmarks, the clock, had to be removed for repair in late 2010. 2011 saw the return of the clock back to the Memorial Park and restored to its former glory.

### **3. Cotsford Park Play Area**

Horden Parish Council are responsible for the grassed area in the centre of the inner ring of houses on the Cotsford Park. responsibility. Children's play equipment has been installed in the area to further bring the green into use as a community facility.

The area continues to be a major area of concern for the Parish Council as the green is constantly being used as an area for the illegal dumping of rubbish. This trend unfortunately worsened in 2011 and a minority of residents are despoiling an area meant for children's recreational enjoyment.

Should you see anything occurring, please call Peterlee Police on 0345 60 60 365 and report it. You do not have to give your personal details and all information will be held in confidence.

### **4. Church Green**

Church Green is the area of grass at the bottom of the Memorial Park opposite St. Mary's Church. It provides walkways from sixth and Seventh Streets to Blackhills Terrace and has a number of seating areas, litter and dog bins.

As the green is not currently protected from future development, Horden Parish Council are in the process of registering the land as a village green. This will protect the green from any future development.

In 2012 the parish council will be contacting local residents and groups in order to seek their support in the application. Further details will appear in the parish council's newsletter in the near future.

### **5. Maritime Crescent Play Area**

The grassed play area at Maritime Crescent in Grants Houses is owned by Durham County Council. The play equipment and mini goals are however, the property of Horden Parish Council and we maintain them.



### **6. Sunderland Road Playing Fields & Play Area**

Many football teams continue to use the football pitch at Sunderland Road and there are currently 7 teams allocated pitch space. One on a Saturday morning, four on a Sunday morning in the Peterlee & District Sunday League and two Sunday afternoon Youth Teams who play in various Russell Foster Youth Leagues. Whippet racing also takes place on the fields on a Saturday morning, in keeping with the tradition of the village.

The playing fields also cater for more informal activities such as five-a-side football, permanent mini goals are provided on the fields alongside a small play area for children.

The Centrefield Pavilion's "Board Games for Bored Kids" project set up in 2009 is continuing to go from strength to strength. The sessions, which provide a safe and accessible place for young people and the elderly to mix and challenge the perceptions they have of each other are held on a Wednesday evening from 5pm regularly have large attendances of 60-70 young people and are so successful the building has had to be altered to provide a new games room!

The project has been so successful in fact that it has garnered a visit from the Durham's Chief Constable, North East Tonight and numerous local press stories. The project format is now being used as a model for others within the village and in other areas of East Durham.



## 7. Thorpe Road Cemetery

Thorpe Road Cemetery continued to be a significant focus for the Parish Council in 2010 and much of this work will continue into 2011/12.

Despite building an extension to the cemetery in the early 1990's, the cemetery is continuing to fill at a significant rate. The Parish Council have sought expert opinion on the options for extending the cemetery and if this is not feasible, then options will be considered for the opening of a new cemetery within the village. Work on this has been identified by the parish council as their most pressing priority.

Alternative sites for a possible new cemetery have been identified at Seaview Industrial Estate and grazing land adjacent to Maritime Crescent, both of which are under the ownership of Durham County Council. Discussions with the County Council will continue in 2012 in order to move progress.

	Total	Horden	%	Others	%
All Burials	84	51	61	33	39
Full Burials	63	42	67	26	33
Ashes	16	9	56	7	44
New Grave Spaces Sold	43	27	63	16	37



In addition to the burials which took place, 11 memorial plaques were sold for display on the Memorial Wall.

Many relatives have donated seats in memory of their loved ones, the Parish Council will, when space is available, consider donations of seats, trees, rose bushes and other items.



We will continue to inform residents of progress via Parish Council Newsletters.

The cemetery has continued to suffer from periodic flooding in 2011 due to the consistently heavy rains experienced. The drainage system installed between sections C and F has worked very well in this regard and has been a success. However due to the consistent and heavy downpours experienced, the ground remains saturated for considerable time which causes rainwater to run off the surface. Cemetery staff have often worked "round the clock" With pumping gear in order to alleviate the situation and often in atrocious conditions and for that they should be commended.



The Thorpe Road Cemetery also contains a Chapel of Rest. Although this has long been disused, members of the public are encouraged to make use of this when considering their funeral arrangements. For more information on this, any other queries you may have about the cemetery, or considering making a donation or memorial in memory of a relative, please contact Jimmy Bush, Parks and Cemeteries Manager at the Parish Council Offices.

The wildlife area at the bottom of D, E and F sections, lies in a secluded corner of the cemetery which is unsuitable for burials. Rock piles, logs, bird boxes and ant boxes have been placed to encourage wildlife and provides a peaceful location in which to sit and reflect. Not only will the area provide a safe habitat for our local flora and fauna, but also act as a learning facility and children visiting the cemetery can see just what wildlife we have on our doorstep!

The area was originally installed in 2009 and has now become more established with butterflies, beetles and even frogs making the area home.

Future plans other than the cemetery extension include the creation of a Garden of Remembrance to act as another focal point of reflection for those loved ones who have left us in body but not in spirit.



## **8. Horden Social Welfare Centre**

Built in 1926 by the Coal Board, the Miners Welfare Hall served the miners and their families as a social gathering place to meet after work. Horden Parish Council purchased the building from the Coal Board in 1986 and since then the building has enjoyed extensive refurbishment in 2000.

Horden Social Welfare Centre continues to be used by many residents and community groups and the Parish Council have identified its importance as a community resource. So much so, that the council have created a Social Welfare Centre Sub-Committee which focuses on the activities of the building and builds on the Council's commitment to encourage the use of the Centre by Horden's residents.

Today, the Centre enjoys hosting many diverse activities to many residents and local groups. Activities range from slimming groups to citizens advice sessions and even boxing events! Sessions take place all take place on weekdays and special events such as Parties, Weddings, Christenings and other functions can be booked for weekends.





In long standing tradition, Horden Parish Council continue to support its local schools and the Centre now holds regular dates in its calendar which have become annual events. The Christmas Pantomime is an annual favourite!

"Families First", a part of Job Centre Plus is a new initiative to work with families of the long term unemployed and aim to get them into work continue to work with the parish council and the Social Welfare centre acts as a sub-regional hub for them which covers not only Horden but also Peterlee and Seaham.

In addition to regular functions, the Centre also takes regular bookings for parties, christenings, functions, anniversaries weddings and much more. Please book early to avoid disappointment!.

For more information on the Centres facilities or if you wish to book a room or function, please contact Alan Atchinson, Social Welfare Centre Manager at the Parish Council Offices (which are also based in the building) for further details.



Below is a list of current regular activities at the Social Welfare Centre-

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Monday	5pm-6.30pm	Brownies
	5pm-6pm	Rainbow Guides
	5.30pm-6.30pm	Clare's Dancing
	6pm-8pm	Weight Watchers
Tuesday	10am-12pm	Citizens Advice Bureau
	6pm-8pm	Clare's Dancing
Thursday	1pm-3pm	CISWO Social Club
	6pm-8pm	Girl Guides
	7pm-9pm	Zumba
	7pm-9pm	Patchwork Quilters
Friday	10am-12pm	NERAF
	7pm-11pm	Mechanics Social Club



## 9. Horden In Bloom

Horden re-entered the Northumbria In Bloom Competition in 2011. The Parish Council worked with Horden in Bloom, a partnership group in order to improve the village's green spaces in preparation for the judging.

Thanks to the continued efforts of Horden in Bloom, the village received a Silver ward in 2011, which equalled the previous years award. Due to the size of the village, Horden was actually entered into the Small Town Award and beat off competition from other competitors such as Hexham in order to achieve this prestigious award.

In order to continue the excellent work Horden in Bloom has achieved, the group require more involvement from the public to succeed.

Horden in Bloom will continue their hard work for 2011 and if anyone is interested in joining the group, please call the Clerk to the Council, Paul Davison on 0191 518 0823 for further details.





## 10. 2011 Flower and Vegetable Show

The 10th Annual Flower and Vegetable Show took place in August 2011 attracting 214 exhibits from 27 entrants. The show this year was more popular than ever and attracted entrants from as far afield as Ashington and Scotland.

The show continues to host the East Durham Chrysanthemum Championship sponsored by the family of the late Mr. John Peace, a former resident and renowned grower of Chrysanthemums.



## 11. Station Road Allotments

The allotments, situated at the end of Acacia Avenue, are on both sides of the railway bridge. Some of the site is rented by the Parish Council from Castle Eden Estates and the remaining part belongs to the Parish Council. The whole site is rented to Station Road Allotments Association who manage the site including the collection of rents and also run the "Garden Hut". The committee continue to work with the Parish Council organising the annual Flower and Vegetable Show.

2011 has seen the continuance of fly tipping activity where local people are using vehicles to cross the railway bridge and dump rubbish onto the allotment area. Hornden Parish Council is working with the Allotments Association to try and curb this practice and are to procure fencing and gates in 2012 to discourage this practice. If you see any instances of fly tipping please report this in confidence to Durham County Council on 0300 123 7070.



## 12. Stayplton Drive MUGA Pitch

Hornden Parish Council have previously resolved to take ownership of the MUGA after several years of legal issues which are still not resolved.

The developer went into administration in 2010 and the process of transferral of ownership to the parish council has had to be suspended until the receiver determines a ruling. This is unfortunately out of the parish council's control and the parish council has approached the county council in order to request the area be cleaned until such a time that the parish council may assume ownership of the MUGA, if possible.

There are a number of issues to be resolved before the council takes ownership such as the height of the fence and the feasibility of connecting the floodlights which will enable the pitch to be used from dusk until 9pm.

## 13. Planning Applications

The Parish Council are statutory consultees on all planning applications submitted to Durham County Council. This means that the Parish Council have the opportunity to support or object against any application submitted from within the village. During 2010/11 there were 42 applications considered by the Parish Council.



## 14. Finance

During 2011/12, the Council set a budget of £598,242. It is estimated that we spent £605,517 during the year which includes some expenditure from earmarked reserves on capital projects. However please note, these figures are subject to adjustment as the year end final figures are still being calculated and will be available for audit in the summer of 2012. The Audit Commission appointed external auditors BDO Stoy Hayward, have set the date for the audit of the Parish Councils accounts as 2nd July 2012.

By law, any interested person has the right to inspect the Council's accounts. Any registered elector also has the right to ask questions about the accounts or challenge an item of account with them. The accounts will be available for public inspection for 20 working days between 28th May and 26th June 2012 for this purpose. If you wish to exercise your right to inspect the accounts, please contact Paul Davison, Clerk to the Council between the hours of 10am and 2pm on any of those dates stated.

## 15. Publicity and Communications

Each year we produce a financial information leaflet that is sent on our behalf by Durham County Council. This leaflet is sent with the Council Tax demand and details the amount we intend to spend over the coming year on delivering services within the parish and the amount that we collect from the Council Tax.

In addition, we are also publishing four news letters per year which are distributed throughout the village via the Post Office, Library, the Youth and Community Centre, pubs and clubs, churches, doctors surgeries and local shops to name just a few!



Events and activities organised by the Council are advertised on notice boards within the Welfare Park and the Social Welfare Centre as well as other outlets such as the Library etc. If any residents are interested in submitting information of interest or have information for inclusion in our news letters, then please contact the Clerk.



## 16. Horden Community Plan

2011 saw the continued development of the Horden Community Plan. The Plan is a blueprint for what the residents of Horden want for their village; what needs to be put right, what needs developing and what needs to happen in Horden in order to progress.

The Horden Community Plan Steering Group is made up of representatives covering a wide variety of people from the village and questionnaires were sent out to each household as well as children and young people being consulted on what matters were important to them.

The Action Plans are now almost completed and Steering Group are busy compiling the Community Plan which will see full publication in the autumn of 2012. Watch out for the launch event later on in the year.

Once completed the Community Plan can be used by any group in Horden to help them with grant funding, help the parish council focus spending on what the community wants and help with longer term strategic issues such as the re-establishment of a railway station in the village.

## 17. Grant Funding

The Parish Council give many grants and donations to local groups and charitable organisations during the year. Some of the grants are in the form of free or reduced rental for the use of Parish Council facilities, particularly the Social Welfare Centre. Other grants are in the form of monetary donations. All requests for grants are considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Listed below are the groups and organisations who received financial assistance in 2011/12.

HCWAFC  
Horden Rugby Club  
Horden Cricket Club  
Horden Bowls Club  
NERAF  
Department of Work and Pensions  
Hartlepool District Hospice  
Banner Committee  
Salsa Works  
Centre Field Pavilion  
Green Leaf Cafe  
Brownies  
The Ark  
MIND  
Get Active  
Citizens Advice Bureau  
Claire Bennett Dance School  
Community Safety Partnership  
Flower and Vegetable Show Committee  
Friends of the Welfare Park  
Guides  
Horden Heritage Society  
Haswell & District Mencap  
Horden Colliery Residents Association  
Horden In Bloom  
Mechanics  
Patchwork Quilters  
Rainbow Guides  
Horden Banner Committee  
Cotsford Junior School  
Horden Regeneration Partnership  
Horden Mechanics Club  
Great North Air Ambulance  
Catholic Club Boys F.C.  
The Samaritans



## 18. Partnership Working

In order to achieve more within the village, the Parish Council works in partnership with others. In 2011, those with whom partnerships have been formed and maintained include, Durham County Council, Horden Regeneration Partnership, Acumen Development Trust, Department of Work and Pensions, Heritage Coast, the Coal Authority, Horden In Bloom, the Allotments Association, Peterlee Constabulary, Safe Durham Partnership, Groundwork North East, residents associations and local sporting groups amongst many more. If you think that your group would achieve more by working with Horden Parish Council, then please contact the Clerk.

Mindful of the severe winter that was experienced in 2010, Horden Parish Council have worked in partnership with Durham County Council from 2011 to grit some footpaths for the next winter. Priority will be given to areas which holds a significant concentration of Horden's elderly residents. However, due to the uncharacteristically mild winter experienced in 2011 this has not (yet!) proved necessary!





## **19. Strategic Plan**

In November 2011, Horden Parish Council continued its formal planning process for the next five years and beyond. Much has been achieved in the past 5 years and the Council wish to continue to improve services whilst concentrating on keeping the council tax at the same level as 2010.

Due to the current financial climate, all council's including parish council's are required to become more prudent with their spending. As a result, as everyday costs rise and the council's budget remaining the same, it has become more difficult to embark on some of the planned projects the parish council would like to progress therefore some have been required to be postponed or shelved for the present.

We hope to progress the projects in the strategic plan identified for 2012/13 and we will continue to maintain our commitment to continuous improvement and make Horden a better place to live.



Priorities currently identified in our five year plan include;

1. Commencing the extension/new cemetery.
2. Completing the Horden community Plan.
3. Developing the old gym site adjacent to Seymour Street as an open community space.
4. Obtaining the asset transfer for the Stayplton Drive MUGA.
5. Sustaining ongoing essential maintenance of current facilities.

If you have any queries on any of the topics covered in the Annual Report, please feel free to contact the Clerk to the Council, Paul Davison at the Parish Council Offices between 10am-2pm.



**Paul Davison  
Clerk to the Council  
April, 2012**

**Horden Parish Council  
Social Welfare Centre  
Seventh Street  
Horden  
Peterlee  
Co. Durham  
SR8 4LX**

**Tel: 0191 5180823  
Fax: 0191 5180835**

**Email:  
[hordencouncil@btconnect.com](mailto:hordencouncil@btconnect.com)**

**Website:  
[hordenparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://hordenparishcouncil.gov.uk)**

