

July 2015

Edition 7



Eldon News

Published by Eldon Parish Council

Special Interest Articles:

Eldon Crossroads

Councillor Vacancies

2015 Garden Competition

Eldon Community Centre

Did you know that Eldon Community Centre has a Cafe which is open on Wednesdays & Fridays between 9.00 a.m. and 12.45 p.m. for breakfast, lunch and take-away meals at very reasonable prices?

The Centre also caters for special occasions, including - weddings, birthdays, engagement parties, social events, children's parties, bereavement receptions and conferences

Catering hygiene at the Centre has been awarded 5 stars, so you can hold your event with confidence.

Room hire, buffets to order and a bar service are all available. Community Centre telephone – 01388 775955 or ring Diane on 01388 773309.



Eldon Crossroads



We were all saddened to hear about the fatality at Eldon crossroads earlier this year involving a young man from Newton Aycliffe. There was a further serious accident at the junction recently.

Eldon Parish Councillors have met officers from

Durham County Council and the police several times to discuss our worries about accidents at the crossroads, resulting in the County Council erecting additional signage on approaches to the junction in the past, but accidents continue to occur here – some linked to driver error.

The fatality was the cause of a long debate at a constituency meeting organised by Helen Goodman MP at Eldon Community Centre not long after that incident.

The Parish Council was later represented at a meeting of local County

Councillors with Council officers and the police to discuss how safety could be improved at the crossroads.

Officers have drawn up a scheme to try to reduce accidents and improve road safety at the junction, with better signs and new road markings. Work starts in August.

A key element, which Eldon Parish Council and County Councillors are funding, is a flashing radar sign to warn vehicles speeding down Eldon Bank, which has been a factor in some accidents previously.

Budget and Precept for 2015-16

The Parish Council met in January to consider setting its budget and precept for 2015-16.

In recent years the funding arrangements for all Parish Councils have changed. In the past, all of the money needed for the services we provide in Eldon was raised locally, but two years ago the arrangements changed

Part of our funding now comes from central Government and is given to Durham County Council which then distributes it as a grant to Parish Councils.

Because the County Council's overall grant from central government has been falling in recent years, it has been reducing the grant it passes on to local parish

councils likewise.

In the coming financial year this means that the Parish Council needs at least a 2.91% increase in the precept to achieve a standstill budget. We have therefore agreed only an increase of 1% across our budget in addition to this, raising our budget from £12,000 to £12,120 per year.

Your Councillors

We were sorry to learn at the last meeting of the Council of the resignations of Councillors Rose Scaife and Shawn Anderson due to work commitments.

Rose, in particular, had

been a member of the Council for several years and had been a champion for young people's issues in Eldon.

We need two new members to fill the gaps;

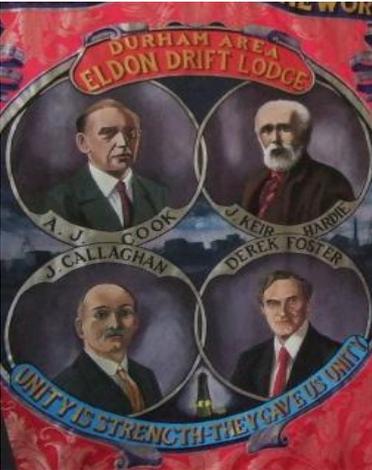
so, if you are interested in doing something for your local community, why not get in touch with us to volunteer or have a chat about what it involves?

Contact details are below.

Durham Big Meeting

A bus was provided from Eldon Community Centre to take the banner and band to Durham Miners' Gala on Saturday, 11th July. As usual, the event was well attended by people from Eldon.

It is hoped that similar arrangements will be made for next year's Gala.



Councillor Vernon Chapman – Memorial

Following the death of Vernon Chapman, Chairman of Eldon Parish Council, in 2013, the Parish Council has now decided to erect a seat in his memory at the Community Centre.

Arrangements for a ceremony are currently being organised.



Parish Council Website

Eldon Parish Council now has a presence on the web in the form of our new website!

We have been working on a website for some time as it is one way in which we can tell you more about what we are doing, as well as giving you the opportunity to contact us.

The new website is hosted by Durham County Council and contains information about who we are; what we do and how you can get involved.

We also want to help in advertising suitable local community events and are happy to receive information about local

issues, although we reserve editorial control if necessary. Check out our website on:

<http://parishes.durham.gov.uk/eldon/Pages/default.aspx>

Not everyone has internet so we will still issue an occasional newsletter.

Former Children's Playground at Eldon

We are delighted to report that the Parish Council has now been registered as owner of part of the old Children's playground land at Eldon.

The land is west of Pasture Rows and next to

what was the miners' recreation land in the village.

A further area of adjoining land is also in the process of being registered by the Parish Council which means that the Parish

Council will own three areas of land in Eldon.

We hope these can be used for future affordable housing for older residents and young families, as identified in the Parish Plan.

Eldon Garden Competition

Judging for Eldon Garden competition takes place this year on **25th July**. If we need to access your garden through your house for viewing please let us know. Classes are similar to last year – (1) Best Flower Garden, (2) Best Vegetable Garden, (3) Best Kept Garden, (4) Best New/Improved Garden. Winners in each category receive £50 in vouchers. There is a slight change in criteria this year which means that residents cannot win the prize in the same category two years running.

Eldon Gateway/Crossroads

The Parish Council is responsible for the flower beds at Eldon Crossroads and has contracted Durham County Council to maintain these areas.

We also hope to purchase a number of large wooden planters to be placed at locations around Eldon and Old Eldon to improve the environment.

We are still working on the arrangements for this, but hope in some way to involve young people in planting and caring for the flower tubs.

Local Activities for Young People

The Parish Council and Shildon AFC, hope to provide a weekly multi-sport session for boys and girls from 4 years upwards during the summer holidays. Watch out for further information on the Parish Council notice board and in the Community Centre. We also hope to post some exciting news soon about a Youth Shelter for Eldon.

Help! - Your Community Centre Needs You

We have a fantastic Community Centre in Eldon.

The Centre gets no funding, apart from grants from the Parish Council; all other income is from

functions, lunches and events, including bingo.

The Centre is run by unpaid volunteers and desperately needs others who can spare a few hours each week.

Please help – more volunteers means more things going on at the Centre.

If you can help, please ring Diane on 01388 773309. Thank you.