

August 2010

Eldon News

Special Interest Articles:

A Parish Plan for Eldon – How to Get Involved.

Parish Council Seeks Quality Status.

Accidents in Eldon – Signage improvements

New Dial-a-Ride

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Village Improvements – Have Your Say!

The Parish Council decided at its meeting in May 2010 to work towards preparation of a Parish Plan.

Parish Plans are documents that set out a vision for how the local community wants to develop; and identifying what actions are needed to achieve the aims set out in the Plan.

They can include everything that is important to all those who

live and work in our community, from employment and playgrounds, to housing and protection of hedges and ponds. Parish Plans can also include any social, environmental or economic issues.

The Parish Council will be establishing a Working Group to help guide the Parish Plan process consisting of Parish Councillors and local people.

The Working Group will undertake research and commission a village questionnaire to find out what local people want and if it is achievable. The process is expected to take about twelve to eighteen months

To get involved please contact the Clerk or Chairman (details at the end of the Newsletter) by the end of September 2010. We need your help to draw up the Plan.

A Quality Status Council?

Eldon Parish Council has decided to seek Quality Status.

The aim of the Scheme is to provide minimum standards for Parish and Town Councils and to show that the Parish Council is representative

of the whole community; communicates with its residents; and is properly managed and responsible.

To apply for quality status the council has to prove that it meets certain standards and to submit an application and

evidence to the local County accreditation panel.

Because of the conditions which need to be met, the Parish Council will work towards achieving Quality Status over the next three years.

Eldon Bank and Crossroads - Accidents

Following the recent serious accident on Eldon Bank, a meeting has been held with the County Council and police and the Parish Council has been

advised that signing on the crossroad approaches and Eldon Bank will be changed to improve road safety. The situation will then be monitored.

The Parish Council will be discussing the issues at a future meeting and will receive an update about progress with the works.

Dial-a-Ride Minibus Service

Durham County Council has introduced a new "dial-a-ride" minibus service called Link2. This new Service will cater for

anyone making local journeys for which there is no other suitable bus. Details are on the Parish Noticeboard. Booking

lines are open Mon.- Thurs. 8.30am to 5.00pm and Fri. 8.30am to 4.30pm. To book – Telephone **0191 3835383**.

Get out of the Rain!



“Many people in the village still rely on public transport and having decent bus shelters for use during bad weather is essential.”

You will probably have noticed that Eldon has a new bus shelter!

Negotiations have been underway for some time with the County Council about providing a new shelter at the bottom of Eldon Bank opposite the existing shelter.

At the May meeting of the Parish Council, Councillor George Pennington, the Chairman, reported that discussions with the

County Council had resulted in a new shelter being able to be provided at a lower cost than was expected.

Not only has it been possible to provide a new bus shelter within the funding from the Parish Council of £3000 identified for the works; we are also improving the existing bus shelter, which is in an exposed position, to make it more weatherproof.

George said *“I’m pleased the Parish Council has been able to negotiate an excellent deal with the County Council to provide a new bus shelter and upgrade the existing shelter. Many people in the village still rely on public transport and having decent bus shelters for use during bad weather is essential.”*

Parish Council Support for Eldon Gateway Project

Many residents in the village had the opportunity to take part in the planning process for the new Eldon Gateway project which has been developed by the Eldon Community Partnership.

There was good attendance at the planning event for the project which was held on a Saturday morning and allowed local people to have an input into the design of the Gateway.

Work has now finished on the project and the Parish Council has agreed to take over maintenance of the area to ensure that it remains an asset for the village in the coming years.

Unauthorised Travellers Encampment

Many of you will have been concerned about the impact which the recent unauthorised Travellers encampment had on our village.

The site, owned by the County Council, was occupied on 2nd June following damage to a demountable bollard on the access to the site, off Eldon Bank.

The Parish Council was in

regular contact with the landowner and the police to try and resolve the issues and find a more suitable site for the Travellers.

The Chairman of the Parish Council and Clerk attended meetings at County Hall in July and August to decide how to resolve the issues raised by the encampment, which later moved to the

football field.

The County Council needs to provide temporary seasonal Traveller stopover sites to prevent re-occurrences of this year’s event. The Council was also asked to make the green area in the centre of the village more secure in future.

The Parish Council is pressing the County Council to take action.

New Community Banner – Eldon Drift Mine

You may have heard about the new Banner for Eldon Drift which made its first appearance at Durham Miners Gala on 10th July and had the

honour of being admitted to Durham Cathedral to be blessed on the day. The banner is on permanent display at the Community Centre and mugs and key-

rings with a picture of the banner on them are on sale at the Centre. Mugs cost £5.50 each.

Contacts:

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