

July 2012

Edition 4

Eldon News

Published by Eldon Parish Council

Special Interest Articles:

Garden Competition

Your Council

New Parish Council Planning Powers

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 can also cater for special occasions, including - weddings, birthdays, engagement parties, social events, children's parties, bereavement receptions and company meetings or conferences

Catering hygiene at the Centre has been awarded 5 stars, so you can book 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 or Ronnie on 01388 777462.

Garden Competition

It's that time of the year again!

The Parish Council has decided to repeat the garden competition in 2012, with judging taking place on 28th July.

There were some very impressive gardens in Eldon and Old Eldon last year and anyone who

lives in the Parish is eligible for inclusion in the competition.

If your garden can't be viewed from the highway and you want to enter the competition, you will need to allow us access. Please contact the Clerk before the judging date so we can make arrangements.

Categories are the same as last year:

- Best Kept Garden
- Best Flower Garden
- Best Vegetable Garden or Plot

There is a prize of £80 in shopping vouchers for the best garden in each category. So get digging and good luck!

Councillor George Pennington

Many of you will have heard the sad news of the death, in March 2012, of Councillor George Pennington, the then serving Chairman of Eldon

Parish Council and the Secretary of Eldon Community Partnership.

George worked tirelessly for those who live in the Parish

and will be greatly missed.

A memorial seat to George is to be provided in the Community Centre grounds.

Your Parish Council in 2012-2013

The annual meeting of Eldon Parish Council was held on 29th May 2012, when Councillor Vernon Chapman was appointed as Chairman and Councillor John Gibson as Vice-Chairman.

Your Parish Councillors in Eldon are not paid.

Parish Council meetings are held on evenings in the Community Centre on the last Tuesday of July, September, November, January, March and May.

You are always welcome to attend meetings and can ask questions, subject to giving advance notice.

Details of councillors can be found on the Parish Council notice-board and agendas for meetings, showing items to be discussed, are also displayed there.

A warm welcome to our newest Councillor – Mrs. Diane Pennington.

Important New Planning Powers for Eldon Parish Council

Parish Councils have acquired important new planning powers following the Localism Act 2011.

Your Council is already statutorily consulted on all planning applications locally, but the Parish Council can now make Neighbourhood Development Plans.

These Plans will be key statutory documents for future development in Eldon, giving your Parish Council a much greater say in the type of new developments locally and where they should, or should not, take place.

Your Parish Council will also have powers to make

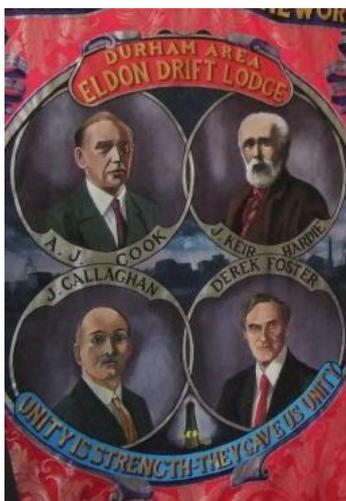
Neighbourhood Development Orders which can permit development without planning applications, and also make "Community Right to Build Orders" to permit site-specific smaller scale developments, such as affordable housing locally.

Watch this space!

Durham Big Meeting

A bus has been provided from Eldon Community Centre to take the banner and band to Durham Miners' Gala on Saturday, 14th July. There are still a few spaces available for local people.

The bus will leave the Community Centre at 9.00 a.m., returning from Durham at 3.00 p.m. If you are interested in booking seats, please contact the Community Centre, or Diane or Ronnie at the telephone numbers overleaf to make a reservation.



Eldon Allotments – Can You Help?

An objection has been received from a local landowner to the Parish Council's application to register its ownership of the former allotments site in Eldon. The objection, and claim to adverse possession, relates to the west end of the site and, if successful, would mean this area of land could be lost forever to public ownership.

If you have any memories of the allotments that may help us defeat the claim to this land **please** telephone or contact the Clerk at the email address below as soon as possible.

Photographic Competition

Congratulations to Gail McGee and to Steve Hardy, the winners of the 2011-2012 Parish Council Photographic Competition.

Parish Plan

Work on the Parish Plan continues. Anyone living in Eldon Parish is welcome at the monthly meetings of the Working Group held in the Community Centre.

The Parish Plan is an important document for Eldon and will set out our aspirations for how Eldon and Old Eldon will be

We hope to use some of their photographs on the Parish Council website, currently being designed, and in the Parish Plan.

improved and developed in the coming years.

Hopefully, it will lay the foundations on which a future Neighbourhood Development Plan will be built, and it will also guide where local taxpayers money is spent.

The Working Group

The competition will be held again in 2012-13, so please getting snapping, ready for the judging later this year.

recently undertook a Parish walkabout with officers from Durham County Council to look at issues that need to be tackled in our area and has also spoken to officers from "Pride in Dene Valley" about housing conditions in the Parish and private landlords.

Village Fun Day

The Village Fun Day, organised by the Parish Council and Eldon Community Partnership, is on **Saturday 18th August 2012 from 11.00 a.m.** and will be held at the Community Centre and on the adjoining green.

There will be a free bouncy castle, slide and a roundabout, as well as face painting for young people.

Tom Rolfe, the magician who wowed us all last

year, will be present from 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., riding his unicycle, juggling, blowing up balloons and doing all sorts of other tricks.

Inside the Community Centre will be stands selling cakes and pies; and a tombola; as well as refreshments for sale.

We hope the police will also be able to attend with some of their vehicles.

In this Olympic year we will also be holding some

competitive events for young people on the green, with prizes for the winners! We are currently asking young people who attend the Community Centre what sort of activities they want to see included.

Full details will be posted on the Parish Notice Board and in the Community Centre the week before the event.

Please come along and support your community!

Eldon Parish Council Support for Local Events

A key aim of your Parish Council is to make your Parish a better place to live in, work and visit.

We do this in a variety of ways, including support for the Community Centre, which is a great asset and available to **everyone** who lives locally. We also support events such as the annual Halloween Party and senior citizen's Christmas lunch.

This year we also match-funded a County Council grant for activities for young people in Eldon thus ensuring that your money gets spent locally and on local people.

Other recent initiatives include the Garden Competition, Photographic Competition and Village Fete - all aimed at bringing the local community together.

We also give grants to charities which may benefit local people, such as Victim Support, Great North Air Ambulance and the local Toy Library.

We **will always** consider funding requests for local events, subject to having sufficient notice and information, but we are sorry that we cannot accept applications after events have been held.

Contacts:

Councillor Vernon Chapman (Chairman) – Telephone: 01388 775077

Tom Bolton (Clerk) – Telephone: 01388 710737 Email: tomantb55@btinternet.com