

The Burradon & Camperdown Forum

2010 Annual Report

3 Redford Place, Burradon, Cramlington, Northumberland, NE23 7LG

Charity Registration Number: 1074537

Annual General Meeting Held on 3 August 2010

The past 12 months have been an amazing success and exceeded our expectations with the Commemoration of the Mining Disaster on 2 March and the completion of the new bungalow development on the former school site.

The amount of time and effort which was invested in the commemoration was considerable and everyone involved into the project deserves recognition and the success demonstrates the benefits of working in partnership to achieve a particular objective. The publicity surrounding the commemoration was a tremendous boost for the village and enhanced the reputation of the Forum, school and church, although the BBC should maybe have used a stronger filter when filming Tony!

It was evident from John Quinn's DVD that the children had acquired a great understanding of the disaster and the village's mining heritage which will be the enduring legacy of the event and hopefully some of the children will organise a similar event to commemorate the 200th anniversary.

The provision of the bungalows on the school site is a vindication of the community's opposition to Nomad's original mixed scheme of houses and bungalows. However, North Tyneside Council and Nomad Housing willingness to accept the communities concerns and revise the scheme was a bold decision and should be recognised. The completion of the scheme represents the final element of the regeneration of Burradon and the transformation of the surrounding area. The development will provide a vital provision of housing for the elderly in the village and hopefully more local people will occupy the properties in the future.

The village will benefit with further improvements following meetings with representatives of environmental services, housing and highways and funding will be allocated to projects during the forthcoming year.

The children at Burradon Primary School and members of the Church of the Good Shepherd have been working on various schemes to improve the environment and there are further projects planned for 2010/11, which improve the resident's quality of life.

125 children attended the Dick Whittington Pantomime at Christmas and it was probably the only opportunity to attend a pantomime for some children and clearly demonstrates the importance of the Forum for the community. The pantomime was funded with grants from the Sir James Knott Trust, Greggs Foundation and Dickinson Dees Charitable Trust. We have received a donation of £250 from the Catherine Cookson Trust as a contribution to the cost of the Sleeping Beauty Pantomime which is to be held on 11 December 2010. We will be applying for further grants to pay for the balance.

The level of crime and anti-social behaviour has been under control, although there have been incidents during the last year which has concerned residents and Northumbria Police has responded to resolve the matters. Places for People have recently been implementing a policy of letting properties to people with local connections which will improve community spirit on the Kirkwood Estate. However, the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour on the North Tyneside Council estates has increased and is attributable to a minority of undesirable individuals and it is the responsibility of the Housing department to implement a robust response to control or remove the offenders.

Steve Byers retirement was a huge disappointment and despite the controversies during his career he was always willing to help the Forum with any issues and he was an important contributor to the success of the Forum and we wish him a long and happy retirement. Hopefully we will be able to develop an equally successful relationship with Mary Glindon and we should consider inviting her to a future meeting. Mary mentioned the Forum during her maiden speech in Parliament.

With the completion of each major project it becomes more difficult to sustain the momentum and success of the Forum and we need to consider new projects or issues to pursue on behalf of the community. The Forum will send a delegation to the future Area Forums which are held every quarter at the White Swan Centre to ensure the views of the village are represented and to lobby for investment of any of the funds available.

The annual report mentions the work of our partners and their contribution to the improvements to the village which have benefited the entire community. However, the real success of the Forum is due to the tenacity and dedication of its members and the residents which attend the meetings. Frequently, we wonder whether it will be possible to maintain the level of success and each year a project is completed to build and improve on previous achievements which is the true strength of the Forum. Thank you for all your efforts during the past 12 months and hopefully next year we will have successes to report.