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# 'THE BUZZ'

The BIRTLEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP Newsletter

Whose MOTTO is: "Be for Birtley"

May 2004

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## A CRITICAL 'REVIEW' OF BIRTLEY

**Did YOU help to show what is good and bad about OUR Town?**

**There was the opportunity to comment in the recently held 'BIRTLEY REVIEW' via a questionnaire that covered every household in the town.**

**BIRTLEY was chosen for a unique review of the Services and Facilities that are provided in the lives of those who live and work locally.**

There was an opportunity to comment on Council Services provided in Birtley via a questionnaire that covered every household in the town. There were 1500 replies and 27 people have volunteered to be involved in future consultations about the review.

The results of the survey are still being analysed and fed into the review but early indications show that the most positive features of the area in the view of residents include the accessibility of local health care facilities, educational standards and access to education and learning opportunities.

As well as the survey there was also a drawing competition for children 11 years and younger. 30 youngsters have shown us what they 'would like Birtley to look like in the future'. The winner will be announced shortly.

The next stage of the process is to identify a vision of the future for Birtley and outcomes for the review. These options will be consulted on at a later date.

For more information or if you would like to be involved in the review more please contact one of the review officers.

Jo Richardson 0191 433 2824 or Jane Robson 0191 433 2042.

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*The Mission Statement of the Partnership is:*

*"Birtley - a safe place to live, work and bring up a family"*

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## BIRTLEY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CHANGES NAME

At the recently held AGM of the Birtley Council of Churches held after a 'unity' Evening Service at the Methodist Church, it was proposed and agreed that the name be changed to 'Birtley Churches Together'.

This will help the ecumenical group of the churches to focus on a much wider scale of work that it is involved in, through the Gateshead Churches Together forum.

## Citizens Advice & Gateshead Carers

There is now the opportunity for those who wish to seek advice on personal issues, to speak with an adviser. The Birtley Library is being used as a venue for these two organisations on each and every **WEDNESDAY** from **9.30 am until 12 noon**.

## HOME IS NOT A HOSTEL

An 'appeal' to the Secretary of State against the rejection of planning application relating to the change of use of **MANOR PARK** has been won by those who submitted the application.

The premises is now to be used for 'bed & breakfast' purposes.

We await the 'development' of this property and its affect on the town.

## CHRISTMAS made a little BRIGHTER



The return of a **CHRISTMAS TREE** in the Town Centre, with lights, was of significant importance due in part to the role of the **PARTNERSHIP**.

The Committee became aware of some funding made available for locations in the borough relating to improvements for street decorations.

The Committee officials were very quick to make an application and the result was that Birtley was awarded sufficient funds to cover the required electrical work and the provisions of the tree and some lights.

It is hoped to improve and develop on this for future years

# LOOK

*For the details about  
the next*

**'REPRESENTATIVES  
MEETING'**

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## **Birtley Town Council - its Future?**

Many residents have been left wondering about the future of Birtley Town Council. Last year, a referendum of Birtley electors voted 69% in favour of winding up the Town Council and transferring its' services to Gateshead Council. The result of the referendum was then reported to the government office responsible for local government but they failed to agree with the Council's recommendation to wind up the Town Council. Representatives of Gateshead Council and Birtley Town Council have since met with the Minister concerned and he has now agreed to review their initial decision. A decision from the Minister is expected shortly and a full report will be made available.

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### **Planning for The SUMMER**

There are to be a HUB of activities this Summer. It is intended that the 'summer activities' programme provided for the young people of school age is co-ordinated and centred from the Lord

Lawson school, with some specialised activities taking place in suitable venues around the town.

A 'programme' that will give the maximum use of time and provide enjoyment with supervised activities, is being put together and it is hoped that there will be "something for everyone" to participate in.

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### **BIRTLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD STREET WARDENS**

The team of Street Wardens are having an affect on the streets. They are available to act in the role of communicators, advisers and they conduct regular street patrols and will respond to calls from the public who deem a specific issue needs dealing with.

The Wardens operate from 12 noon until midnight 7 days a week and can be contacted on any of the following numbers:

**07766 442910**

**or 0191 492 2801**

or at the Warden Services Office on:

**0191 247 2255**

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### **LENT time spent learning about the Northumbria SAINTS**

The recent LENT STUDIES that took place at the Methodist Church Hall were about the Northumbria Saints.

The series was led by the clergy and some very revealing information was given about the life and times of some of the people who helped bring 'christianity' to these heathen parts. The role that Bede, Hild, Wilfred and others undertook, helped our understanding of how the church influenced education.

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**YOUR SUPPORT - HELP -  
COMMENTS - CONCERNS**

*may help to make the place where  
WE live and work better for ALL*

**The Next 'REPRESENTATIVES MEETING is the AGM'  
on Thursday 8th July, 2004 at 7.30 pm  
and is to be held at  
The St Joseph's Parish Centre**

**Ensure that YOUR organisation has someone there!!!**

*contact the Chairperson, Ian Caddy on  
0191 410 9684 for more details*

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**THE MONTHLY COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
HELP TO MAKE PROGRESS**

The Committee has continued to meet regularly and on some occasions has had the benefit of 'guests' who have imparted information relating to proposed developments and improvements within the town.

**A Full Report of the impact and action resulting from the Committee commitment to improving our town will be presented at the AGM.**

At the Annual General Meeting some members of the Committee will be standing down based on the procedures laid down in the constitution.

Nominations will be required to fill the vacancies created.

**The Committee acts on the concerns and the comments expressed by those at the 'Representatives/AGM' Meeting.**

**Ensure YOUR organisation/association/business/group/club/team has A PRESENCE and A VOICE at the next meeting - see details of date, time and venue above!!!**

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# STATION LANE AREA

## RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The main ongoing work of 'SLARA' at this time is the upgrading of the land that was formerly the George Street School.

For a number of years – since the demolition of the buildings – this area has been neglected and allowed to deteriorate to a level where it is a very dangerous and an unsafe place to play in, with vandalism, drug use, fly-tipping of unwanted household items that then resulted in fires, being of prime concern.

With Gateshead unable to make positive decisions relating to the short or long term use of the land, residents decided to take the matter in hand and took the opportunity to talk with the children of the area, asking what was wanted and needed in the way of a safe play area.

After the 'informal' consultations, good quality drawings of what could be deemed as **"an improvement with investment"** project was instigated by the SLARA.

Contacts were made in the 'corridors of power' and meetings took place with Gateshead officials to look at what we were proposing.

Formal consultations took place with 'architect type drawings/plans' showing that a pocket park could be created. The plans were put on display to the public in the local church hall, the library and some of the schools. In the main, feedback was positive that this would improve the area.

The scheme has now moved on at some pace and SLARA have been given a lease for the land by Gateshead Council and a commitment to support SLARA in achieving the development of this land. That commitment is in the form of £50,000 in matching funds. At the time of this publication going to press the SLARA have managed to obtain £156,000 with £25,000 from SITA; £20,000 from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation; £2,000 from Westhelp (Northumbria Constabulary); £1,000 from Dominic Hunter; and £250 from the Rothley Trust. News of a grant from Living Spaces of £59,000 has just been received which has boosted the figure. Premier Waste are to contribute with an offer of undertaking the majority of the required preparation of the site, making a BIG saving on cost.

It is hoped that the initial preparation work on the site will commence very soon!

The cost of the whole project in the initial stages was set at £250,000.

The scheme still has a little way to go to become the reality that we set as our objective – BUT this scheme shows that improvements to our town can be achieved with vision, perseverance and co-operation.

**Hopefully you will take heart and try to do something in YOUR area of OUR town!!!**

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**Groups and Organisations that are already involved with and support the**

# **BIRTLEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

## **THE CHURCHES**

St Johns Parish Church + St Joseph's Catholic Church  
Birtley Methodist Church + The Salvation Army + Oasis Christian Centre

## **CLUBS**

The Fishing Club + The Swimming Club + Birtley Town Football Club  
The Catholic Men's Club + The R.O.A.B.

## **RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS**

Elisabethville + Station Lane Area + Barley Mow  
Northside + Portmeads + Brightlea

## **YOUTH GROUPS**

The Scouts + The Guides

## **ELECTED COUCILLORS**

Representing the Ward of Birtley and the Ward of Lamesley  
and the Birtley Town Council

## **BIRTLEY BUSINESS**

Casdec + Tarmac + Komatsu + The Truck Stop

## **OTHER SUPPORTING GROUPS**

Northumbria Police + Birtley Community Wardens  
Neighbourhood Management + Social Inclusion Project  
North East Council on Addictions

**If YOUR Club/Group/Organisation is not on the list  
Why don't YOU come and represent it? See the AGM details on page 4.**

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# Your Town - Its Activities

Have YOU have read about the activities of

## Birtley Town Bowling Club

*In the MAY 2003 issue of 'THE BUZZ'*

## Birtley Town Football Club

*In the MAY 2004 issue of 'THE BUZZ'*

**The next issue of 'THE BUZZ' could have  
an article about YOUR**

## **Group or Organisation**

Talk with YOUR SECRETARY

Write about how you operate

What has been achieved

What you are planning for the future

Make it informative



***Encourage others to join your group***

It can be as much as 2 pages  
*or as little as 2 paragraphs*

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# “WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE SO FAR?”

# **RUBBISH!!!**

*This is a well known phrase often used by the comedian Eric Morecambe*

**It is also true to say that at certain times of the day, the same comment could be used to describe Birtley main street.**

The Community Partnership concern about the amount of ‘rubbish’ on our streets prompted the Committee to organise a LITTER CAMPAIGN.

But we will need posters of some kind someone said – well let’s organise a competition commented another, involve the children, give meaningful prizes and so the ‘Birtley Litter Campaign’ began back in May 2003.

A sub-committee of the Partnership consisting of Rev Gareth Lloyd, Paul Foy and Tom Collins oversaw all aspects of contacting the schools in Birtley and setting the outline requirements for the competition.

On Monday 19th April at Lord Lawson school the results of the ‘Poster Competition’ were put on display, with literally hundreds of entries in a variety of designs, colours and with suitable slogans.

Part of the arrangements was to have the prize giving with the Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor David Lynne and his wife Susan along with the Director of Learning and Culture, Maggie Atkinson, presenting the prizes which were donated by the Birtley Town Council and the Gateshead Police charity fund Westlife. The total value of the prizes was £700.

All of the children who entered a poster received a ‘Certificate of Merit’ with their personal details printed on. The following children from schools in Birtley received 1st, 2nd or 3rd prizes.

*Ravensworth Terrace:* 1 Christopher Cowan 2 Daniel Rayner 3 Connor Rogerson. *Portobello* (Reception): 1 Laura Goode 2 Hannah Gowland 3 Jake Fargent; (Year 1): 1 Celine Lawson 2 Kayleigh Guy 3 Daniel Garland; (Year 2): 1 James Robson 2 Jack Kellet 3 Jake Lancaster; (Year 3): 1 Cameron Hood 2 Callum MacLean 3 Jessica Nunn; (Year 5): 1 Lindsey Male 2 Christopher Charles 3 Ross Laws; (Year 6): 1 Stacie Maughan 2 Toni Capon 3 Louise Taylor. *St Joseph’s:* 1 Kate Rafferty 2 Sarah Corrigan 3 Evie Moffatt. *Lord Lawson of Beamish:* 1 Nicola Barnes 2 Christie Patterson 3 Kirsty Thomas. Stacie Maughan was declared the overall winner for the Primary Schools and Nicola Barnes as the supreme overall winner.

It is intended to display all of the posters in the Birtley Library over a period of time and to use the two overall winners posters for the ‘LITTER CAMPAIGN’.

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# The Winning Poster

Below is the Poster designed and submitted by Nicola Barnes  
from Lord Lawson of Beamish School



The Partnership Committee have been delighted with the level of participation in this competition and will be considering other areas of concern that can be used for future competitions.

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# Your Town - Its Activities

It is intended to have an article on one or more of the Groups/Clubs/Organisations/Associations etc, that are active in YOUR town in each publication of this 'Newsletter'.

## **Birtley Town Football Club**

Gone are the days of football in the back streets of towns and villages (gately as it was once affectionately known), gone are the Sunday afternoon kick-about where the average team consisted of twenty plus aside and the age span started with the very young up to uncles, brothers and cousins with some as old as in the thirty plus age group.

The culture changes over the last two decades have seen the youngsters of today find their pastime indoors rather than out, with computers and the associated fantasy games allowing the world cup being won without kicking a ball. The professional game, with the introduction of the Premier League, now offers a fantastic life style for those fortunate to make the 'big time, and through the Academy system gifted and talented youngsters are given the change to live that dream. But where does that leave the other children, possibly not so gifted, but with equal enthusiasm to play football.

School football is not as prominent as it used to be due to the workload of teachers nowadays, new Child Protection Laws do not allow parents to help run a school team, with the risk of insurance claims being the major factor.

At the start of the 2001-2002 season, Birtley St. Josephs Junior Football Club joined forces with the Birtley Town Senior Football Club, who are currently members of the Wearside League. Birtley St. Josephs senior team, members of the Durham Alliance League, are now know as Birtley Town Reserves. This coming together has forged a link which gives youngsters in Birtley the opportunity to develop through to senior level football without having to leave the local area. The junior section has grown so fast over the past 5 years and now has youngsters from 5 years of age up to 18 years of age. Teams from under 8 compete in local Leagues and including the Russell Foster Tyne and Wear Youth League, the Gateshead Youth League and an under 13 girls team who compete in the Tyne Tees Girls League.

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## **Birtley Town Football Club - continued**



The Football Association have introduced a Charter Standard for all clubs and schools who are affiliated to them, and Birtley Town Juniors are one of only 3 clubs in the Durham County area to be awarded Community Club status. This gives the club certain criteria, including providing a safe environment for children to enjoy coaching sessions. We have 12 qualified football coaches working in a voluntary basis and everyone involved with the club are undergoing Criminal Record Bureau checks under the Child Protection Laws.

As well as the coaching, the club has a Management Committee with a qualified Child Protection Officer. When all the current CRB checks are complete we hope to be able to offer coaching sessions to other groups in the community, including the 5 local primary schools located in Birtley.

The 'new' club has just completed its' most successful year to date, with the under 18's B team finishing as league champions and runners-up in the Durham County Cup.

The under 17's won their league cup and the under 15's finished champions of their premier division and runners-up in the league cup.



The under 14's were winners of their premier clubs 7-a-side tournament and the under 12's gained promotion.

The under 11's won their league title and the under 10's finished up league champions and winners of their league tournament.

All of this promises to bring a great deal more success in the future, and for the youngsters around the Birtley area, who all wish to participate in the club's success, and an involvement with a club who cares for them and their development as citizens of our town.



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# Tarmac Northern Limited

*supports*

## THE BIRTLEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

**and it is pleased to be  
sponsoring this publication**

Tarmac Northern's business covers Scotland,  
Northern Ireland and Northern England  
and is proud to have its head office  
here in Birtley.

We are delighted to support this important  
local publication.

Tarmac Northern is the leading supplier  
of aggregates, asphalt, concrete, mortar  
and other specialist products.

**Tarmac** 



This 'Newsletter' is Produced, Published, Printed and  
Circulated to keep YOU informed about what is  
happening in OUR town.

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