

Newton News

Incorporating The Newtonian - Newton Aycliffe's Free Community Newspaper
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Exciting Times for Greenfield



Exciting new plans for modern teaching facilities at Greenfield Academy have been approved by Durham County Council. The new development marks a significant milestone for the school, promising a state-of-the-art learning environment for its students and staff.

Most of the outdated and 'horrendous' existing buildings will be demolished upon the completion of a new three-storey teaching block. The new structure will be constructed in the current car park to the north of the school, allowing the majority of the current school operations to continue without disruption. Only two existing teaching areas and the sports centre will be retained at the Greenfield Way site.

The approved plans, submitted in partnership with local construction firm Kier Group, have been carefully designed to minimize disruption to staff and pupils, avoiding the need for advanced demolition. This phased approach ensures that teaching can continue in the existing buildings while the new facilities are being built.

Durham County Council emphasised the necessity of this development, noting that the existing buildings have reached the end of their design life. A council spokesperson commented, "The existing blocks to be demolished have reached the end of their design life and the replacement will facilitate a more functional, welcoming, and efficient layout for the school's everyday operations and needs."

Councillor Michael Stead, representing Aycliffe North and Middridge, praised the project, highlighting the significant

improvement it will bring to the teaching and learning environment. He stated, "A new build for the school is well overdue. When I first became a councillor, I walked that site and the amount of single-pane windows and heating issues was horrendous. There were temporary buildings put outside, with classrooms in portacabins. It's just not acceptable for children of this day and age to be in a school like that."

Amy Aspland, Head of School for Greenfield Academy, expressed her enthusiasm for the new development, saying, "This new teaching block is a long-awaited upgrade that will vastly improve the learning environment for both our children and staff, who deserve to learn and work in an environment that is bright, welcoming and fit for purpose. It marks a new chapter for Greenfield Academy, where we can continue to provide high-quality education in a modern and supportive setting."

The new build will see the student admission numbers with capacity for up to 750 students. Greenfield Academy will continue to serve students from years seven to eleven, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The phased construction work is set to begin in September, with the new site expected to welcome pupils by September 2025. Following the completion of the new buildings, demolition of the old structures will commence, alongside the development of a new playground and parking facilities. This new build will further support the school's new developed ethos to provide 'every child with every opportunity, every day'.

Durham County Bowls Appoints Youth Development Officers

Durham County Indoor Bowls Association has recently appointed two new Youth Development Officers. Jordan Harston who bowls out of Aycliffe Indoor Bowls Club and Tom Cairns from Darlington Bowls Club.

Jordon and Tom have bowled for over 30 years combined and have been part of the Junior County Programme, winning Club, County and National titles along the way. They now want to provide a platform for young

bowlers in the region to develop, but most of all, enjoy the sport they love. They first started playing bowls from around the age of 10. Since they started playing they have had some great experiences including representing Durham County, winning National titles and International trials as well as meeting new people and friends.

Their role will include creating new opportunities and tournaments, getting the sport out there as much as possible and developing our young players to encourage them to succeed.

Jordon said "I started playing Bowls at the age of 9 and have been hooked ever since. I've been fortunate enough to represent club and county as well as taking part in an England International Trial. Bowls is really a sport for all. It's a true multi generational sport that allows for both social and competitive players. It's such an open and inclusive sport and I want to show the younger generation that you can be successful in this sport. The region already has a huge range of players who have won multiple national championships and international honours, but are often overlooked by more popular sports and want to highlight this through this new role."

Tom said "I've made some lifelong friends, been to places I'd never have gone without the sport, it's so important for the sport to invest and develop their young players. I think I speak for me and Jordon when I say that we would never be where we were in the sport if it wasn't for coaching, motivation and skills from all sorts of players, whether that be at Club, Youth or County level. It's great to be given the opportunity to give back to the sport that's given us so many opportunities."

If you are interested in giving bowls a go, please contact: aycliffeindoorbowls@outlook.com

Photo: Jordon on the left and Tom on the right.



Letter to Heaven ACORN Adventure



Families of the bereaved are now able to send 'letters to heaven' thanks to post boxes donated by Community Spirit. The Community Spirit charity has purchased two post boxes which have been installed at the town's two cemeteries at Stephenson Way and School Aycliffe Lane.



Letters posted by grieving family members will be turned into compost and used on flower beds within the cemeteries. Community Spirit trustee, Joanne Jones, said: "writing letters could help people with the bereavement process. I was inspired by a similar initiative a few miles down the road in a Bishop Auckland cemetery and thought it would be ideal for Newton Aycliffe."

"It can help a lot of people with the bereavement process, having somewhere to write, we have a lot of people now who don't necessarily have a grave, but they've got somewhere now, to come, to where they can put their thoughts and feelings down and send it to loved ones."

Lee Williams, the grounds maintenance services coordinator for Great Aycliffe Town Council, said "the post boxes are another outlet for people to field their grief and I believe it will be beneficial for young children who often struggle with the grieving process. They can now send birthday cards, Christmas cards, letters to Grandad or whoever it may be and the idea that these children and adults can actually put the words down on paper and not be judged by what they're writing, or what they're saying, it hopefully gives them that sense of relief."

The contents of the post boxes will be periodically emptied by the town council and stored confidentially until the letters are shredded and put into their own compost bin which will be used to feed the flowers and plants across the two cemeteries.

Fabulous ACORN Community Association and friends set off for a seaside adventure to Scarborough at the weekend and what a scorcher it was. With temperatures reaching Costa Del Sol levels the town sparkled in the August sunshine.

As we disembarked the coach some headed for the beach, others made for the shops and a few headed for the cafes for brunch. Shopping for curiosities is my favourite pastime with frequent stops to enjoy a shandy or two as a relief from the ever-present sunshine.

Lovely way to meet friends old and new over a cup of tea in the beachfront bars, people watching as the multitude of tourists promenaded along the sea front exploring shops and attractions seeking sunglasses, hats, bucket and spades and games arcades. Time for lunch and, whilst some headed for Fish and Chip restaurants, we discovered a delightful restaurant providing Japanese and Thai food which made a change from our normal fare. Delicious!

Of course, there is never enough time to explore everything on our little adventures and Scarborough is no exception with its magnificent Peasholme Park, funfair and array of small shops selling everything from fashion to an ever-popular joke shop.

Newton Aycliffe is a lovely town with fantastic parks and flower displays, which we all enjoy, but ACORN have, for many years, been providing subsidised coach trips to popular places across the north. ACORN are based in Newton Aycliffe, but encourage residents young, elderly, single and families from across Great Aycliffe to join us on our adventures.

If you would like to join us, we have meetings every month, but August, on the second Thursday of every month at 6pm in the upstairs lounge of the Phoenix Club where we discuss local issues and destinations for our trips.

Our next adventure is to Grassington, which is the village featured in the popular 'All Creatures Great and Small' TV series, on Saturday 21st September, for a 1940s themed event.

Please remember though, we are a charity, and we subsidise our trips so try to pay promptly, all seats £8. We still have a few seats vacant; to book contact Ken or Elaine on 01325 321471.



New Houses

Dear Sir,
With all these new houses that are going to be built, one wonders where all the tradesmen are going to come from?

It is difficult enough to find one for local jobs. In one of my idle moments I was reading the new regulations for central heating systems and, if I was a plumber, I would consider a career change. The complexity of the new regulations is unbelievable. This mad dash to zero co2 will have us all going to hell in a hand cart, that is if you can find one!

R. C. Crook

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K9 Competition

On 3rd and 4th August dogs and handlers travelled from all over the country to the Aycliffe sports centre to compete in the K9 Pursuits heel work to music and freestyle competition. On the Friday night, the sports hall was transformed into an area for handlers to compete and show off their skills with their wonderful dogs. Rosettes and prizes were given out to those that were lucky enough to be placed. Spot prizes were given to others that impressed the judges. K9 Pursuits thank everybody for their support in making this competition one of the best in the country. If you are interested in finding out more about heel music and freestyle or any aspect of dog training, please email Gill or Andi at: k9pursuitsltd@hotmail.co.uk



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St. Francis' School Visit



A memorable trip to St. Clare's Church, staff and children enjoyed a stroll to St. Clare's church. Accompanying us for our year 6 leavers service were Year 2 students from Horndale. During the service Jim, from the church, guided us, reflecting on our time at St. Francis' and the exciting new adventures awaiting our year 6 and year 2 students transitioning to year 3 at St. Francis'. The service featured readings, prayers, and uplifting songs. It was heartening to see parents and carers fill the church, offering warmth and support. As the service concluded, the atmosphere was filled with a sense of accomplishment and anticipation.

A big thank you to all who attended this memorable occasion, and to the entire St. Clare's church community for hosting us. The trip to St. Clare's Church was not just an event, but a cherished memory that highlighted the spirit of community and the bonds that tie us together. Here's to many more such heartwarming experiences as our students continue to grow and thrive!

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Newton Aycliffe Football Club
2024/25 Sponsorship Opportunities

As we approach the new season, N.A.F.C. are looking for sponsors to support what should be another highly successful campaign.

CLUB 30 offers an exclusive package of match day benefits, to suit all budgets, running throughout the season with extensive advertising and Social Media exposure.

Other opportunities include:

- Stadium Naming Rights,
- Home Shirt Logo,
- Away Shirt Logo.

To receive more information on the above opportunities, or meet with the Sponsorship Team, please register your interest by email to: treasurer@newtonaycliffefc.co.uk



Nature Park



Dear Sir,
 My name is Brian McAnaney, I am a town councillor and live on Clarence Green. I have noticed recently the decline of Aycliffe Nature Park where I walk my dog and have started a Facebook group entitled 'Friends of Aycliffe Nature Park'. I also noticed that Durham County Council are looking to make new ponds to preserve the Great Crested Newt. I would like to ask the community to support us in looking after what we already have in Aycliffe, a Nature Park with a newt and other wildlife population. If any local residents are knowledgeable in preservation I would be grateful for their help, contact Brian on 07775 964393. Brian McAnaney

DJ Duo Re-Unite

Three decades after Freshen-Up, where 35 years ago a little house night was founded at the Gretna. House music was new for the north east and there were only a couple of places people could experience high quality music.



Paul McDonald (52) of Newton Aycliffe went all out at the time, recruiting guest DJs from all over the UK to fill the 300 people venue weekly. Freshen-Up became a 90s Aycliffe institution and it wasn't long before Sean Harker (49) came along for the ride, even when Paul moved overseas, some twenty years ago, the two DJs have been collecting music and collaborating ever since and boast an incredible music knowledge between them.

Fast forward to now, and fate has the pair back in their hometown, with a thirst to provide musical entertainment once more. On top of presenting a show on Aycliffe Radio every Saturday night, they are hosting their own 'Steamed' night at the Steam Machine monthly, featuring some amazing guests.

How does Steamed stand out in a DJ flooded market? Paul says: "We see House Nights becoming a bit mainstream. Anyone can mix two records of the same genre, especially with today's tech. That made us want to stand out and be different, be bold and play tracks that we'd only shared between us. No House music this time . . . just great, great music, breaks, hip hop, jazz, disco, spoken word and anything that'll make your ears prick up!"

The pair are really enthusiastic and can't wait to welcome new faces as well as old friends. "It's amazing to be playing records together again, less than a mile from where it all started. We have got some surprises that'll be sure to keep things fresh" says Sean.

Upcoming dates include:

- Friday 16th August with Neil Massey, Original Soul Boy
 - Friday 20th September with Simon Gibb, Club Havana
 - Friday 25th October with residents PaulyMac & Sean Harker
- Entry to the Steam Machine is free and can be found at 26 Northfield Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 6UF.

Unclaimed Prize

Dear Sir,
 An unclaimed prize from the draw that took place at Aycliffe music festival. Tickets were purchased from the Husqvarna stall and is a yellow ticket, no 206-210, belonging to Delia Robinson. If you are the lucky winner, please contact Debbie on 07392 197975.

Lodge Donate to Cancer Group



Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group received a generous donation from the Aycliffe Masonic Lodge at the end of July.

Robbie Davison, the Charity Steward, along with five other members; Dennis Townson, Godfrey Bennett, Graham Parker, Dave Wilson and Kevin Wayman from the Lodge, presented the charity with a cheque for £250.

"The Freemasons held a recent social event and are always very pleased to support local charitable work. We were keen to help this great charity who help and support cancer patients across County Durham and Darlington."

For more information about the charity you can call Marianne, Secretary, on 07442 991859. The Charity has two hubs, in Newton Aycliffe town centre and Darlington, and are in desperate need of volunteers - can you spare just a few hours a week to make a difference to this charity, which is 100% voluntary?

North East U16 Girls

Sedgefield Water Polo Club would like to congratulate Iesha who was selected to represent the North East U16 Girls at the Division 2 Inter Regions tournament held in Walsall over the weekend of 29th-30th June. The girls played two brilliant games against Scotland, narrowly losing in the last quarter, and secured a win and a draw against the West Midlands. Their performance over the weekend made everyone incredibly proud, and the coaches look forward to seeing them build on this success in the future.



Iesha joined us back in 2020 as a young 10 year old having only played polo for fun. Her success in being selected to represent the region is testament to the hard work she puts into her training and her dedication to representing the club at matches and tournaments across the north east area.

We'd also like to advise that we can now offer player sponsorships for just £30 per player for this season in return for regular advertising and promotion on our social media pages. If this is something that your business may be interested in, please don't hesitate to get in touch. All monies raised will be used to allow our fantastic members the opportunity to develop their skills and provide them with the equipment they need in order to succeed in the sport.

In addition to Junior and Senior sessions, Sedgefield Water Polo Club now offers a beginner session at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on a Saturday afternoon for those wishing to try this fun and exciting sport. All sessions need to be booked in advance on our Club App, so please check our website for further information and joining instructions, email sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com or contact 07579 030598.

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Child Care Financial Support

From 1st September 2024, 15 hours childcare will be expanded to eligible working parents with children aged 9 months old up to 3 years old. Parents are being urged to visit Childcare Choices to check what support they might be eligible for and how to apply:

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

The Department for Education is urging parents to apply as early as possible to get their childcare code. The 31st August deadline also applies to the existing thirty hours childcare for 3 and 4 year olds.

The cross-government campaign aims to make more parents aware of the financial support on offer to help them with the costs of childcare.

There is a range of other government support to help working families with the costs of childcare, including Tax-Free Childcare and Universal Credit Childcare.

What we can offer:

- New data (released July 2024) from the Department for Education's Childcare and early years survey of parents, which reveals:
 - 66% of working mothers of 0-4 year olds said that having reliable childcare helped them go to work, a rise from 60% in the previous year
 - 72% of children aged 0-4 used childcare.

Bethany Beach Day



A wonderful day took place for the residents of Bethany House, their families, staff and friends, with a great selection of seaside activities arranged including sensory jars, fish & chips, ice cream, Brian and his street organ, playing tunes and Aycliffe Uke's, (ukelule band), strumming their strings and singing songs. We would like to thank everyone involved - the event was a 'Whole Home Approach' and enjoyed by all who attended. Debbie.

Newton Aycliffe Women's Institute

Your local WI has lots happening as we move into summer and early autumn. This month we will be getting into making a simple, but stylish, craft and we have speakers organised for September and a birthday party in October. We support a local charity, Great Aycliffe Cancer Support Group, with the proceeds of our monthly competition.

Summer has seen us out and about, supporting the Petting Zoo with a very successful refreshment stall and on Friday 30th August the very popular Sweet Delights evening will be held at St. Clare's Church.

We have a variety of excursions in the planning stage for our members, including an Afternoon Tea on the Teesside Princess and a trip to Northallerton Wednesday market. There is lots going on at WI House in Spennymoor, including short breaks, September has a trip visiting Bletchley Park and Waddesdon Manor, there are workshops on Felting and Rag Rugging, an invitation to join the North East Wool Show at Newcastle Racecourse and a talk on the World of Gemology.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm in St Clare's church hall in the town centre. There is no need to be lonely as a WI member, come and join us, all women are welcome.

Any questions or queries, please contact our President, Christine Robinson, on 07981 992686.

What's Happening... **The County**

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BLUE LIGHT DAY

Saturday 17th August
12noon-4.00pm

Newton Aycliffe Town Centre

Local Police Team*, Local Fire Brigade*, Great North Air Ambulance, Blood Bikes, Police Dogs, Resinify, Humankind, Durham County Council Fostering Team, 1407 Newton Aycliffe Squadron (Cadets) Sisters of Support, Lifeline Community Action

(*may be on call and have to leave if an emergency arises)

Face Painter • Newtonian Vintage Bus • Family Fun Fair
Whippy Ice Cream • Burger/Hot Dogs • Aycliffe Radio

PLUS LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

1pm Infinity Dance Co.
2pm Cassie Bowtell's 'SingIt'
3pm Athena Sports Acedemy

Meet Crime Commissioner Joy Allen

Flower Club

Shildon & District Flower Club presents 'Artistic Licence', a flower demonstration by national demonstrator, Dawn Weaver from Chester. The event takes place on Monday 2nd September from 7.30pm on Shildon Civic Centre, Civic Hall Square DL4 1AH.

PCP Becomes a Living Wage Employer

The Pioneering Care Partnership (PCP) has joined over 15,000 UK businesses who believe their staff deserve a wage that meets everyday needs - including an emergency trip to the dentist or the weekly food shop.

As a health and wellbeing charity, PCP's new accreditation shows its commitment to supporting its people. Recognising its staff is important, as they are the reason PCP is able to support over 120,000 people a year. Carol Gaskarth, Chief Executive of PCP, said: "PCP employs over 140 people across the North East, and we want to ensure that our staff are not only valued, but also fairly compensated. By becoming a Living Wage Employer our employees earn above the minimum wage, in alignment with real living costs.

"Our staff are the backbone of the organisation. Ensuring they are paid a fair wage is essential, especially during the cost of living crisis.

"Ensuring staff are paid a fair wage is essential to their health and wellbeing - so it's an important step for us to ensure we support our staff to have a happy and healthy life."

PCP has a history of supporting its employees with pay increases each year that reflect inflation rates. On top of this, additional cost of living payments of £500 per employee were provided in 2023. These measures have been to make sure PCP's employees feel secure and valued.

Carol added: "PCP's decision to become a Living Wage Employer is rooted in our core values of supporting our communities. We believe in supporting our employees as they support our community. This accreditation reinforces our dedication to providing a sustainable and supportive working environment."

PCP's commitment to its employees has not gone unnoticed. Feedback from the staff has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the importance of feeling supported and fairly compensated.

For more information about PCP and its services, please visit www.pcp.uk.net

Aycliffe Cricket Club Scoreboard Report



Newton Aycliffe's 1st team, sponsored by Franks the Flooring Store, won an important game by six wickets at home to Maltby 1st XI in the battle of the bottom two in the NYSD second division. Electing to bowl first, in very hot conditions, was a gamble by Aycliffe captain James Layfield-Carroll and it clearly paid off as Maltby were skittled for just 91 after 27.4 overs. Layfield-Carroll (sponsored by Yvonne & Bob Wood) was again in fine form with the ball finishing with 5 for 24 from his tough 14 over spell and left arm spinner Luke Telford was also among the wickets taking 4 for 27. In reply, 17 year old opening batsman Tom Dearden batted with calm assurance to hold the innings together with an unbeaten 44 off 58 balls, including four boundaries and two sixes. Sam Telford (15 off 18 balls) and Chris Palmer (18 not out off 33 balls) also batted well to help see Aycliffe to victory after just 21 overs. The second team were beaten by six wickets away at promotion candidates Billingham Synthonia 2nd XI in the NYSD fourth division. Electing to bat first Aycliffe struggled to get any momentum in their innings and were eventually bowled out for 116 after 38.1 overs. Opener Matty French again batted well, holding the innings together and top scoring with 26 runs off 70 balls and other major contributions came from Jimmy Newton, who was playing his first game of the season, with a quickfire 25 off 20 balls and Matty Greaves with 20 off 32 balls. In reply, the homeside comfortably reached their winning target after 26.1 overs despite some success with the ball by Will Dearden (sponsored by Community Spirit), who took 2 for 23, Tom Norman (1 for 6) and Leon Patel (1 for 27).

Aycliffe's U15's were well beaten by 56 runs away at Northallerton in their final away game of the season in the NYACC League. The homeside chose to bat first and scored 146 for 4 despite some good bowling from Jack Collingwood (2 for 36), Liam Scott (1 for 23) and Tom Norman (1 for 24). In reply, Will Moffatt batted superbly for Aycliffe with a career best 34 off 30 balls including six boundaries. Miles Telford (14 off 14 balls) and Freddie Lawler (13 off 31 balls) also batted well, but their side was restricted to 90 for 7 off their 20 overs.

After being asked to bat first, Aycliffe's U13's got off to a great start in their final game of the season away at Rockcliffe Park in the NYACC League. Opener Trent Telford batted superbly, smashing an unbeaten 32 off only 13 balls and his whirlwind innings contained seven well hit boundaries, which helped his side reach 36 for no wicket when the heavy rain arrived, forcing the game to be abandoned after only three overs of the first innings.

The U11's put in a good performance at home to Sedgefield, but still suffered an 18 run defeat in their last home game of the season in the NYACC League. Nine year old captain Harvey Palmer top scored with an unbeaten 10 when Aycliffe batted and when Sedgefield replied, Coby Scaife and Carys Myers both did well with the ball taking a wicket apiece for Aycliffe.

Photo: Matty French who top scored for the 2nd team, away at Billingham Synthonia.

Third Place



Sedgefield Water Polo Club would like to congratulate Aston, Tyler, Thomas and Harry who were selected to represent the North East U16 Boys at the Division 2 Inter Regions tournament held in Bolton over the weekend of 29-30th June. The boys played some tough games, demonstrating remarkable determination and resilience, coming away in a very well deserved third place. A special congratulations to Thomas Forrest, 14, who was awarded the team's Most Valuable Player (MVP). The boys performance over the weekend made everyone incredibly proud, and the coaches look forward to seeing them build on this success in the future.

Their success in being selected to represent the region is testament to the hard work they put into their training and their dedication to representing the club at matches and tournaments across the north east area. We'd also like to advise that we can now offer player sponsorships for just £30 per player for this season in return for regular advertising and promotion on our social media pages. If this is something that your business may be interested in, please don't hesitate to get in touch. All monies raised will be used to allow our fantastic members the opportunity to develop their skills and provide them with the equipment they need in order to succeed in the sport.

In addition to Junior and Senior sessions, Sedgefield Water Polo Club now offers a beginner session at Newton Aycliffe Leisure Centre on a Saturday afternoon for those wishing to try this fun and exciting sport. All sessions need to be booked in advance on our Club App, so please check our website for further information and joining instructions, email: sedgefieldwp@hotmail.com or contact 07579 030598.

Age UK Event

Free Information & Advice Event at St. Clare's Church, St. Cuthbert's Way, DL5 5NT.

Age UK County Durham are attending the coffee mornings held at St. Clare's Church on 19th and 20th August between 10am and 12noon. There will be advice on benefits and wellbeing.



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01325 300212 or email stu@newtonpress.net




Open Mic Night

A very special night will take place on Wednesday 21st August at the Candlelite Club, Moore Lane, Newton Aycliffe from 8.00pm to 10.30pm. There will be a special 'Open Mic' with a big raffle as well as all types of music. One of our members is undergoing cancer treatment at the Oncology and Radiotherapy Department at James Cook Hospital, Middlesbrough and all money raised will be donated to this very worthy cause. Joan Edmundson.

The County Council of Durham
(Philpotts Walk, Newton Aycliffe)
(Temporary Footpath Closure) Order 2024

The Council proposes to make an Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all pedestrian traffic from proceeding on a 16 metre length of Philpotts Walk, Newton Aycliffe to the front of no.1 Philpotts Walk to enable new electrical connection works to be undertaken. Throughout the period of closure, a diversion will be available to pedestrian traffic on surrounding footpaths around Philpotts Walk. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence from 8am on Monday 2/9/2024 and are anticipated to be completed in 5 days. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

Dated: 16/8/2024




Helen Bradley
Director of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham

The County Council of Durham
(Beechfield and Linden Place, Newton Aycliffe)
(Temporary Road and Footpath Closure) Order 2024

The Council on 9/8/2024 made the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular and pedestrian traffic from proceeding on the following lengths of road and footpath **Road Closures** on 1. a 70 metre length of Linden Place that extends northwards from its junction with Greenfield Way 2. a 70 metre length between 228 Rowan Place to 42 Beechfield. **Footpath Closures** on 1. a 20 metre length that extends along the gable of No 22 Beechfield 2. a 30 metre length that extends between No's 100 to 103 Beechfield 3. A 205 metre length that extends between No's 76 to 112 Oakfield (eastern side) 4. a 47 metre length of Linden Place to the south eastern side of No's 115 to 117 5. a 47 metre length of Linden Place to the western and northern sides of No's 135 to 138 6. a 43 metre length of Linden Place to the northern sides of No's 139 to 145 7. a 20 metre length of Linden Place between No's 181 to 183 western side 8. a 37 metre length of Linden Place between No's 176 to 181 eastern side 9. a 19 metre length of Linden Place between No's 211 to 213 eastern side 10. a 23 metre length along the gable of No 201 Rowan Place 11. a 16 metre length along the gable of No 191 Rowan Place 12. a 18 metre length along the gable of No 188 Rowan Place 13. a 24 metre length between No's 185 to 187 Rowan Place 14. a 23 metre along the gable of No 184 Rowan Place 15. a 28 metre length to the northern side of No's 225 to 228 Rowan Place 16. a 60 metre length between No 236 Rowan Place and No 51 Beechfield 17. a 61 metre length between No's 43 to 51 Beechfield to enable new fibre infrastructure installation works to be undertaken. Alternative routes, where available, will be signed to vehicular and pedestrian traffic as required. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence from 8am on Thursday 22/8/2024 and are anticipated to be completed in 6 months. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

Dated: 16/8/2024




Helen Bradley
Director of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham

The County Council of Durham
(Washington Crescent, Wycliffe Close, St Aidans Walk, Taylor Walk, Smith Walk, Philpotts Walk, Defoe Crescent, Espin Walk, Wheeler Green, Newton Aycliffe)
(Temporary Road and Footpath Closure) Order 2024

The Council on 9/8/2024 made the above Order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984 as amended, Section 14 (1) to prohibit all vehicular traffic and pedestrian traffic from proceeding the following lengths of road and footpath. **Road Closures** on 1. a 22 metre length of Washington Crescent extending north from the junction with Fenton Close 2. a 20 metre length of Washington Crescent outside No.183 3. a 20 metre length of Washington Crescent outside No's 36b to 38 4. a 25 metre length of Wycliffe Close between No's 9 to 13 5. a 60 metre length of Defoe Crescent between its junctions with Porter Close and Neile Road. **Footpath Closures** on 1. a 59 metre length of Washington Crescent/St Aidans Walk between No's 2 to 10 St Aidans Walk 2. a 24 metre length of Wycliffe Close to the side of No's 12 to 24 St Aidans Walk 3. a 46 metre length of Wycliffe Close from side No's 10 to 40 St Barabas Walk 4. a 20 metre length of Washington Crescent between No's 60 to 66 western side 5. a 25 metre length of Washington Crescent between No's 68 to 74 western side 6. a 98 metre length of St Aidans Walk between No's 52,44,39 and 47 7. a 35 metre length of St Aidans Walk between No's 42 to 38 and the side of No.11 Richardson Walk 8. a 78 metre length of Taylor Walk to the western side of No's 6 to 119 9. a 65 metre length of Smith Walk to the northern and eastern side of No's 1 to 4 10. a 60 metre length of Philpotts Walk between No's 4 to 1 and extending to 10 Defoe Crescent 11. an 88 metre length of Espin Walk between No's 7 and 39 Defoe Crescent 12. a 25 metre length of Wheeler Green outside No's 1 to 5 13. a 25 metre length of Wheeler Green outside No's 2 to 6 to enable new telecom fibre infrastructure installation works to be undertaken. Alternative routes, where available and required will be signed on site locally to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The maximum duration of the Order is 6 months. The proposed works are to commence from 8am on Tuesday 20/8/2024 and are anticipated to be completed in 6 months. On occasions, alternative dates for closure may be necessary and these will be signed accordingly.

Dated: 16/8/2024



Helen Bradley
Director of Legal & Democratic Services
County Hall, Durham

New Home for Sisters of Support



What an exciting time for Sisters of Support, the launch of the #weARElistening campaign has seen us expand in ways we never thought possible. We are incredibly proud to announce that we now have our very own office situated in the Blue Bridge Centre.

Firstly, we would like to thank Stuart Howarth for his incredible kindness, understanding and support in everything that we do, it means everything to us. We received the keys to suite 18 and it was simply perfect, one slight issue was we had no furniture and no money to purchase any.

So, here we are, a beautiful office to better aid us in our endeavours and nothing to sit on. We put a call for assistance out on Facebook and to our contacts and, almost immediately, received a response from the amazing Carol Jackson at Perfect Care who offered us most of what we needed. Desks, chairs and office drawers. We were impressed by such an incredible offer and accepted instantly.

If that was not kind enough, they then arranged for these items to be delivered, directly to our door, with their handyman Paul. Every day people remind us that there is still love and kindness in the world and when Paul arrived delivering the items he was unable to navigate the stairs on his own, Gavin and Andy from Five Acres came to the rescue and put everything in place.

A huge thank you to all involved in helping us secure and furnish our new home (office), an even bigger thank you to Perfect Care for that amazing donation. Without people like we mention in this article, Sisters of Support would not be able to do what we do.

For more information about Sisters of Support visit: www.sistersofsupport.co.uk

Sisters of Support have been going from strength to strength in 2024 and the latest news is not even the biggest news they have had this year.

Due to the ever-expanding nature of the organisation, it came time to register as a CIC. The group have tried in the past to register as a community interest company and failed on what seemed to be moot points.

In July, it looked like they were going to outgrow the 'non registered charity' status they had achieved just months previously so, set out to once again, register with Companies' House to ensure they would be able to secure the correct levels of funding to continue with each of the projects they have undertaken.

With the last day of the month saw the registration finally become reality and this opens some incredibly exciting doors for the group. Come see us this weekend at the Blue Light Day in Aycliffe town centre.

St. Francis' Juniors Get Musical



At St. Francis, the students have shown exceptional dedication in their music classes this year. On the last Friday of term, we got together to present our musical talents, creating a captivating experience. It was more than a simple concert; it was a celebration of the children's growth and the pleasure of making music together.

Year 3 students stood out in drumming skills. Year 4 and 5 students concentrated on mastering brass instruments. Year 6 students invested their time in enhancing their vocal abilities, as well as the school choir, who captivated us with their harmonious voices.

The afternoon was a blast, and the children did an amazing job sharing their musical talent.

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As I set up my office and get my team in place, I thought it would be useful to explain the key roles of a Member of Parliament and how I can help you and your family. Talking to long-serving MPs it's clear the job is very varied and no two days are the same! But I'd say there are three main ways I can help you and our community:

Being a champion for our area

Standing up for our area will run through everything I do. I want to be a pro-active MP who makes a difference for our constituency and our country. I grew up in Aycliffe and live here, alongside lots of friends and family, so our community having a bright future matters a lot to me.

My top priority when championing our area is standing up for more jobs, better jobs and an improved economy. I'm working locally and nationally to push for more investment.

I've hit the ground running on this, working hard to push government ministers to explore all options for the future of Hitachi Rail. I'm also working behind the scenes with a number of other employers to provide support.

I'll also be representing resident views on other important issues of concern. I'm representing residents hit by the foul smell affecting parts of the town, pressing the Environment Agency for an urgent update, a site visit and a public meeting.

Being an advocate for residents

One of the busiest parts of my new role, as your MP, is providing help and assistance to local residents facing particular issues. This could be because you're struggling with a service provided by national government departments such as benefits, pensions or other payments, veterans' support, immigration and visa issues or NHS services. Or, it could be because you've been let down by a local service from the council, housing association or other organisation,

have complained, but don't feel you're getting anywhere.

I can speak to organisations to ask about your case and request things be looked at again if the way it's been handled doesn't seem right. I'll also look for patterns in cases raised with me. That's so, when the same issues come up time after time, I can spot wider problems affecting lots of residents that I need to raise with government ministers.

Helping make laws

Another crucial part of my role will be debating and voting on new laws to make sure our country is properly governed. This will involve scrutinising the details of proposed laws in committees, lobbying ministers to take our area's needs into account and then voting on laws in the House of Commons.

The recent King's Speech set out really ambitious legislation the Labour government wants to bring forward, so we'll be very busy as lawmakers this year. Forty draft laws are expected, including a Crime and Policing Bill to crack down on anti-social behaviour, a Children's Wellbeing Bill to create free breakfast clubs in every primary school, a Border Security Bill to tackle organised immigration crime and a Mental Health Bill to reform the treatment of people with mental health issues.

We're a proud democracy, so all of these proposed laws will be debated publicly in Parliament. If you have strong views about a particular law, or have some experience you think should be taken into account, please get in touch. Our laws only work well if they're made with a wide range of views taken into account.

Really looking forward to serving our community in this new role.

Please contact me, email: alan.strickland.mp@parliament.uk - if I can help with anything or you have views to share.

Bishop Auckland's Free Family Festival



Cultural Entertainment Company, Baccanalia is thrilled to announce a free Family Festival will be taking place on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th August at Jane Armstrong Park, Bishop Auckland.

Linking with Bishop Auckland Town Hall's summer activity programme and the national touring exhibition, Carboniferous Monsters, currently at the Town Hall until the 31st August, the family festival will be all about '100 million years before the dinosaurs'.

County Durham's vast coalfields were created during the Carboniferous period by the compressed remains of animals and plants which existed at that time. These prehistoric remains were the source of the carbon which formed coal that powered the industrial revolution and the climate change we're facing today.

Embracing the Carboniferous Monsters theme, the festival will feature a variety of activities and creative workshops, including cave painting, dinosaur training, fossil finding and bug handling.

The weekend of prehistoric adventure and fun promises an array of attractions designed to entertain the whole family. Highlights include a multi-media tent, festival food, live shows, and hopefully some summer sun, providing local families an opportunity to engage with arts and culture in the park. Children will have the chance to encounter giant dinosaurs, witness cave people performing a Cave Rave on stage, participate in dinosaur training, enjoy cave painting crafts, and hunt for fossils and gems. Baccanalia would like to thank the Stronger Towns Fund and Bishop Auckland Town Council for their generous support and funding which has made this weekend family event possible. The festival aims to strengthen community ties by delivering arts and culture to the doorsteps of local families, giving them the chance to engage and socialise in familiar places. Delivering a free programme of creative enrichment is part of Baccanalia's mission for positive culture, everywhere. For more information go to Baccanalia.com

Call Out for Local Artists

Local artists are being given an opportunity to showcase their work to the public. Bishop Auckland Town Hall is welcoming applications for its annual Open Art Exhibition, starting in December.

Artists who live, work or study in the Durham County Council area can apply to show up to three pieces of artwork in the local authority-owned venue.

Cllr Elizabeth Scott, the council's Cabinet member for economy and partnerships, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for our local artists to showcase their work and make themselves proud. Last year, we received an unprecedented number of applications and the quality of work was outstanding.

"We were able to display 189 pieces of art from 99 artists, making it a real celebration of local talent. We can't wait to welcome submissions for this year and look forward to sharing in the delight of visitors when these fantastic pieces of work go on display." Submissions can include drawings, paintings, textiles, sculpture, digital art and photography and can be either wall mounted or free standing. These will then be assessed by a panel to ensure that a wide range of mediums



and genres are displayed in the town hall's gallery. Young artists aged 11 to 18 can submit two pieces of artwork with parental, carer or guardian consent as part of the venue's Youth Open Call.

Application forms can be requested from BATHGallery@durham.gov.uk and these should be submitted no later than 5pm on Tuesday 1st October. Successful applicants will be informed later that month.

To find out more about the exhibition, visit: www.bishopaucklandtownhall.org.uk/gallery



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In Memoriam

Yvonne Robinson

8th August 2016
 Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day. Unseen, unheard, but always near, still loved, still missed and very dear. Love, Sid and family.

Yvonne Robinson

Died 8th August 2016
 Constantly thinking, never to be the same. The tears fall quickly, just hearing your name. Your loving Sister Marie and family.

Congratulations

Vicky & Kevin Haigh



Silver Wedding 25 Years 31st July 1999

Congratulations to you both. Lots of love always, Mam, Dad, Elisha, Emily, Alaya, Darcy, Tommy, Alfie, Anthony and Jace xxxxx

Obituary

Thomas William Johnson

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of our wonderful Dad and Grandad, of Newton Aycliffe, formally Thornley, Co. Durham. Tommy passed away suddenly, but peacefully, on 2nd August 2024, aged 96 years.



Beloved Husband to the late Molly; much loved Dad to Pamela, Tom, Bernard, Paul, Anne and the late Angela; much respected Father-in-Law and the proudest Grandad to fifteen Grandchildren, nineteen Great-Grandchildren and three Great-Great-Grandchildren. Brother to the late George and Isabel; Brother-in-Law, Uncle and good friend to many, near, far, past and present. Service to celebrate his long and wonderful life will take place at Durham Crematorium on Friday 16th August 2024 at 2pm. Family flowers only please, given Tommy's great love for animals, especially dogs, and in memory of his beloved Dandy, donations, if so desired, would be graciously received for the Dogs Trust at Sadberge. The family would like you to join us afterwards at Woodham Golf Club, Newton Aycliffe from 3.30pm, those who are unable to travel to Durham are also warmly welcomed to remember this very special man, our Dad.

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16-8-2024

Lee George El-Hakim

11th August 2006
 Well my love, it's been 18 years on the 11th August since you left your loving family. Time goes by, but your memories will never die. I see your picture every day, your smiling face. You were my man full of grace. A true gentleman through and through. A loving Husband honest and true. A wonderful Father so full of love. That's why God took you high above.



A man of principles, a good heart. That's why I loved you from the start. They say time heals . . . but the pain won't go away. I long to hold you every day. A gentle kiss, a warm embrace, oh God I would love to see your face. But that's so hard as we all know. God took you 18 years ago. At first I was mad and very sad. Why did you leave us, guess I will never know? They say God only takes the best, so now I lay you down to rest. My heart is sad, but this I know, one day I will be with you, the perfect show! So, until then, sleep my prince, my love, my man. I will love you forever 'til we join our hands. Marie El-Hakim
 Georgie and Kay, Michelle and Alister
 Elie Jnr., Solomon and Georgia Grace (Grandchildren)

Lawrence Cowper

Died 17th August 2023

It's been a year since you left us, your parting was too quick. Too painful to forget. We prayed for you to get better, but it wasn't meant to be. As tears filled our eyes, we watched you fade away. It hurt so much to lose you, oh how we wish you were still here with us today.

The ones who loved you dearly are the ones who can't forget. We often sit and think of you and think of how you died. To think you could not say goodbye, before you closed your eyes.

The blow was hard, the shock severe, to part with one we loved so dear. Our loss is great, we'll not complain, but trust in God to meet again.

Two tired eyes are sleeping, two willing hands are still, the one who worked so hard for us, is resting at Gods will. Our family chain is broken, nothing seems the same. But as God calls us one by one, the links shall join again.

For this who still have loved ones, treat them with tender care, you will never know the emptiness, 'til they are no longer there. Your loving Wife, Valerie and all your loving family. God bless.

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John & Margaret Harrison



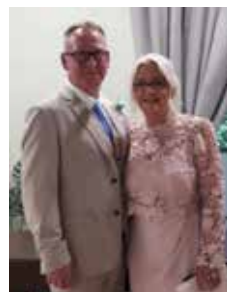
Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary to you both. Love from all the family xxxxx

Craig Jackman

Happy 30th Anniversary 20th August 2024



Thank you for always being my rock, loving me, always being there for me and for all the special memories. Happy 30th anniversary Craig, love you always. SJ xxxx



Rita Murray Lowes

We announce the sad passing of Rita Murray Lowes on 27th July 2024, aged 87.

Leaving behind Partner Eric; loving and devoted Son David; Daughter-in-Law Lesley; Grandchildren Curtis and Rebecca; Great Grandchildren Isla Mae and Sophia Grace.

A special lady adored by her family and friends. When the time is right, one day we will find you again. RIP Mam, we love you.

Funeral was held on Monday 12th August, 10.30am at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon.

Julia Raine (nee Wills)



Of Newton Aycliffe, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on 19th July 2024, aged 86 years. A dearly beloved Wife to Dennis; a much loved Mam to Lynn; a much loved Mother-in-Law to Kelvin; a treasured Nana to Mark and Reece; also a treasured Great Nana to Annabelle, Poppy, Jake and Lyla.

Family and friends please meet for a service at Wear Valley Crematorium, Coundon on Tuesday 20th August 2024 at 3.30pm. Please meet afterwards at The Phoenix Club for light refreshments.

Anthony Lee 'Tony'

Peacefully on 8th August, Tony, aged 78 years, surrounded by his loving family. Devoted Husband of Carol; much loved Dad and Grandfather. Private, family funeral service to take place.

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Campaign Support After Deaths by Drink Driver

Police and Crime Commissioner Joy Allen is supporting a mother's campaign for lifelong driving bans for drink or drug drivers who claim lives.

Shalorna Warner's eight-month-old son Zackary Blades and sister Karlene Warner, 30, were killed when speeding drunk driver Darryl Anderson, 38, crashed into the car she was driving on the A1(M) in County Durham on 31st May.

Anderson, from Rotherham, who had a previous conviction for drink driving, was taking a picture of himself driving at more than 140mph. He was jailed for 17 years for causing their deaths by dangerous driving and banned from driving for 21 years - but campaigners say the punishment does not go far enough to protect future road users.

Ms Warner has now launched a petition to change the law so anyone convicted of causing death by dangerous driving in the future will face a mandatory lifelong driving ban. She hopes to secure 100,000 signatures to enable the issue to be discussed in Parliament.

County Durham and Darlington PCC Joy Allen, who is the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) Joint Lead on Road Safety, held a meeting with Ms Warner and her partner Jack Blades. The PCC has promised to do everything possible to support the campaign and raise the issue nationally.

The PCC herself has campaigned rigorously for tougher action on drink and drug driving, recently speaking at a national conference by the British Medical Association (BMA) to urgently lower the drink drive limit. Commissioner Allen said: "Drink or drug driving is a selfish and inexcusable act. It is vital our justice system sufficiently punishes those who recklessly gamble with people's lives and cause these devastating tragedies to prevent them from harming other innocent people in the future."

"Ms Warner has suffered the most unimaginable grief and loss. I cannot put into words how courageous and inspirational she is to take this pain and apply it positively to secure vital changes that will prevent others from enduring the same heartache."

"I will be fully supporting her efforts to highlight this issue at the highest level of government. Drug and drink driving are crimes against us all and together we must stand strong and act to avoid further unnecessary deaths."

"These issues are new priorities in my road safety work, and I will be going to great lengths to ensure our forces have the resources and technology they need to police our roads effectively. Equally, I will ensure the criminal justice system treats these appalling cases with the severity they deserve."

You can support the campaign by signing the petition. - Petition - Implement Mandatory Lifelong Driving Bans for Deaths Caused by Dangerous Driving - United Kingdom Change.org

W.I. Open Dabble Days

Come and be creative at our taster session of bite-size craft workshops. Our excellent tutors will be on hand to show you how to get started with various crafts and to make beautiful gifts from recycled items.

Durham County Federation of Women's Institutes, W.I. House, Barnfield Road, Spennymoor DL16 6EB

Our Dabble Days are on Saturday 21st September in Aycliffe Village Hall, DL5 6LG and Saturday 26th October at Great Lumley Methodist Church. DH3 4JB from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Pop in or stay longer, everyone is welcome and you don't have to be a member. This is a free event, refreshments will be available at a small charge.

To contact the office call Tuesday or Thursday 07932 434025 or email: secretary@durhamwi.co.uk

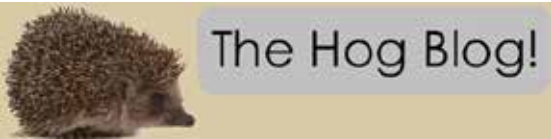
Dogs on Leads

Dear Sir,

There were several times where little dogs chase bigger dogs around and the owner thinks it is fun, but if their dog gets attacked it will be a different story.

Just because your dog is little, please respect other dogs and keep it on a leader like you should. Also, it is against the law to not pick up your dog poo, just because it is little it is still dog poo and should be picked up.

Respect your pets and respect people around you and the local environment.
Name and address supplied.



I have been rescuing now for seven years, this month, everyone's support has helped me go from strength to strength.

They have dreadfully difficult lives in the wild, please help me to help them, they deserve the best care.

Rescues are only as good as the vets that support them and I have what I can consider the best in Angela and her team at Grange Vets. They went above and beyond my expectations last week when Molly, my resident prickly friend, took a turn for the worst. Molly was admitted last November with a nasty case of fluke, she was very old and also half blind. This is the side to rescuing that I don't mention because when I lose a hedgehog in my rescue I take it very hard, this was the most devastating yet because I kept her alive purely on puppy mousse for 10 months, she waited for me to return off my holiday to pass away in my arms.

Together we made it as pain free and comfortable as possible. Rest in Peace Molly. I want to thank everyone who has contacted me about poorly hogs out in the day, I was home less than 24 hours when my first poorly hog was admitted from Elaine, very ill, but making progress, then Summer came in on the Wednesday, Bev brought her in, she is called Summer, thank you Bev for your donation too, Friday, a baby hog, a mere 210 grams, from Rowan Place, she is called Daisy and then, from Margaret on Sunday evening, baby Poppy. Finally Rosie, Lorraine brought her in on Monday evening, all poorly with parasite burdens, but doing ok. I am a stickler for following up on treatments.

My fundraising has to continue, it's been very difficult, but I am working hard to raise money, I have a lot of work to catch up on and raffle prizes to do, winners to be contacted, quite a few too, please accept my apologies, it's not easy at the moment. Thanks to Hazel for her lovely craft

Thanks also go to Grannies Choice for their support, but I can't close this article without saying a big thank you to Pat and Fred Yale, they both took care of three of my hedgehogs whilst I was away, Poppy, Sophie and Willow. Pat did amazing, so amazing that two were released, Willow and Sophie, Poppy will be able to go next. Better than the experts! Please put water out for wildlife, it's very difficult for them at the moment, save a precious life.

The British Hedgehog Preservation Society contact no is 01584 890801. My email address is: pricklyhaven@yahoo.com - Facebook: Prickly Haven Hedgehog Hotel.
Thank you
Photo: Cute baby for you, little Maisy.

Funding Boost for Road Maintenance

A council is expanding its road resurfacing programme this year after receiving an additional £3.72 million from the Go Last October, the Prime Minister pledged a further £8.3 billion from the Road Resurfacing Fund for local road maintenance between 2023/24 and 2033/34.

Durham County Council was allocated an extra £3.72 million for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years and will use the money to expand its capital resurfacing programme. The additional schemes will focus on improving the structural integrity and resilience of the road network. Cllr John Shuttleworth, Durham County Council's Cabinet member for rural communities and highways, said: "County Durham's network of roads, cycleways and footpaths plays a vital role in the day-to-day lives of all of residents and businesses, helping to keep people connected and ensuring we all have the essential supplies we need. At Durham County Council, we are responsible for maintaining almost 4,000km of carriageway, from busy A roads to small rural lanes. We welcome this additional funding, which will allow us to carry out more schemes over the coming year as part of our commitment to keeping County Durham moving."

A list of some of the extra schemes that will be carried out in 2025 can be found at: www.durham.gov.uk/roadresurfacingfund

N.A.F.C. REPORT

Sheffield 2 v Newton Aycliffe 2
Saturday 10th August 2024

Newton Aycliffe began their NPL East campaign in dramatic fashion at Sheffield FC. Brian Atkinson gave competitive debuts to goalkeeper Jim Pollard and defender Alex Nelson, all while Joe Ferguson and Dean Thexton made their first competitive appearances since returning to the club. Cieran Jackson had Aycliffe's first big chance when he was one on one with Sheffield keeper Myles Wright after outpacing Jack Dolman, but Wright parried it away. Ethan Wood, Liam Adamson and Dean Thexton also had chances from outside the box. Adamson came closest, with his curling shot, forcing a quick reflex save out of Wright.

While Aycliffe's chances had, for the most part, been from outside the box, the first goal would come from within it. Wayne Whitfield jinked and dribbled past four Sheffield men to put it home with ease to make it 1-0 to Aycliffe within 30 minutes. Sheffield's first chance came via Luke Mangham crossing to Connor Cutts, Cutts was one on one with Pollard and at an advantageous angle, but he completely skied the ball. The first half would finish 1-0. The second half saw Sheffield show more of a threat. The Sheffield pressure continued, and it eventually paid off when Dolman's cross to Luke Aldrich was fired in at close range to make it 1-1. Sheffield had a series of narrowly wide headers, almost like a foreshadowing of what was to come. In the 85th minute Connor Cutts' header went into the net to make it 2-1. Sheffield then seemed intent on parking the bus, with almost every red and black player in their own half. However, Aycliffe are no strangers to scoring late, and are no strangers to scoring late against Sheffield either, considering their last minute equaliser the last time both sides met in March.

Joe Ferguson was a popular player in his last stint at Aycliffe, and his work rate in the second half proved to be a game changer when his cross into the box found the head of Cole Kiernan to make it 2-2 and let Aycliffe claim a point in the games dying embers. That next game is another home fixture on Saturday 17th August, sees Aycliffe play



host to Whitley Bay in the Preliminary Round of the Emirates FA Cup. Photo by Yvonne Wood, Wayne Whitfield opened the scoring for Aycliffe at Sheffield. Match report by Ryan Livingston.

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