

# Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council

A Report for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at the Community Centre, Stocksfield  
Monday, 18th April 2011, 7.30 p.m.

[www.stocksfield.org](http://www.stocksfield.org)

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2010.
3. Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Focus on young people
  - What we already have
  - What do young people want
  - What we might consider providing in the future
5. Reports from:
  - Parish Councillors
  - County Councillor
6. Financial Statement
7. Any Other Business

**All Residents of the Parish of Broomley & Stocksfield are welcome to attend this meeting.**

## Transport & Highways

The Parish Council continues to report potholes and other defects in our highways to the County and to press for their repair.

The Vehicle Activated Signs are achieving some success. An additional sign has been erected on New Ridley Road. The sign demolished in a road traffic accident at Brumwell Court was replaced and has subsequently been turned to face traffic coming from the west.

The Parish Council continues to investigate ways and means of improving road safety for both vehicular traffic and pedestrians.

## Play Areas

Branch End and Kate's Plain play areas remain popular and well used by all age groups, with people coming from the surrounding area to use the facilities. The play facilities at Branch End have been further enhanced by the development of the community garden, making this area an attractive place to visit.

During the past year we have replaced the aging tyre swing and swings and installed a basket ball post at Branch End. Full details of the funding for this are in the Spring 2011 NE43 News.

We would ask that people using these play areas respect others and ensure that they do not leave rubbish lying about, as this can be unsightly and dangerous.

## Our Village, Our Future - The Parish Plan:

Councillors continue to consider ways in which the ideas identified in the 2008 Parish Plan might be implemented and developed.

**Business Forum.** October saw the launch of a brand new Business Forum for the parish, bringing together a wide range of local employers to look at ways in which business and the community can work more closely together in the future.

A survey for the Parish Plan identified nearly 50 local businesses, employing well over 300 people and that number has now increased. Ten local businesses have joined the Forum so far.

The Forum will meet on a regular basis with an invitation to any business in the Parish to join. A strong Business Forum could have a major role in helping our community deliver the Parish Plan vision. If you run a local business and are interested in joining the Forum, please contact Pete Duncan on 01661 843643 or email [peteduncan@socialregeneration.co.uk](mailto:peteduncan@socialregeneration.co.uk)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Looking back over the months that have lapsed since my last report as Chairman I would like to highlight and bring to your attention some of the work that has been achieved and some of the work that continues into our next financial year.

On the plus side we saw, in April, the official opening of the new extended station car park; the additional parking places have helped in no small way to alleviate the problems facing a car owning population.

The ongoing improvement to our play areas has been much appreciated by the young people using these facilities. In addition, the creation of the Community Garden within the Branch End Play Area has brought another interesting aspect to the young people, parents and carers with it offering the opportunity to access the 5 senses in the raised flower beds.

The start of the football season saw the return to Stocksfield of our senior team and with over 170 people playing football on a regular basis from under 6's upwards, the use by interested people of all ages of the facilities at the Sportsfields and MUGA continues.

After the thaw, following an early but severe winter, the true state of the damage to many of the road surfaces in Stocksfield became apparent. The ongoing rectification of this damage will be closely monitored by the Parish Council as the County Council carries out the repair work. Your Parish Council has recently carried out a tendering exercise and new contracts have been awarded to the successful bidders for a 3 year period commencing on the 1st of April.

The programme identified in the Parish Plan continues to be addressed and this year's Annual Parish Meeting will consider what can be done to address the current unmet needs and aspirations of our young people.

The Parish Council was sorry that 3 of its serving members resigned during the course of the year. The work done by Steve Gleadhill on the Parish Plan, the superb input by Katherine Russell into our Environmental Group and the Planning Group and the excellent creation by Dave Porter of our Website and his revamping of our NE43 News together with his input into the Planning process are just some of the areas to which these 3 Councillors gave unstintingly of their time. I am pleased to report that all have volunteered to continue giving of their time to the areas of work in which they excelled. We welcomed Maggi Hunt, Alan Verheyden and Keith Woods to the Parish Council and look forward to working with them over the coming months and years. My thanks go to all our Councillors, our Parish Clerk, Margaret Williams, and to County Councillor Anne Dale for their valued contributions over the last 12 months. - Ian Hall

## Planning

The planning group meets regularly to consider planning applications submitted by residents to the County.

This past year some of these have been long-drawn out and some difficult decisions have had to be made. We are particularly grateful for the input of Dave Porter during his time on the planning group. His contributions to these issues have been much valued.

The Government is changing the legislation relating to planning and anyone considering a building project is advised to have early discussions with the County Council Planning Department to see if a planning application is required.

## How your money is spent

### Income April 2010 to Feb 2011

Precept . . . . .	£56,032
VAT Refund . . . . .	£4,476
Other Income . . . . .	£19,760
Special Projects - Station Yard . . . . .	£45,340
Miscellaneous . . . . .	£855

### Expenditure April 2010 to Feb 2011

Staff Costs . . . . .	£9,654
Admin . . . . .	£8,393
Grants . . . . .	£5,400
Footpaths Gardens Environment . . . . .	£13,181
Sports Facilities . . . . .	£4,900
Play Facilities . . . . .	£14,266
Planning & Transport & Highways . . . . .	£5,238
Communications . . . . .	£1,855
Special Projects . . . . .	£54,871
VAT . . . . .	£5,794
Transfer to Savings Funds . . . . .	£12,930

### Additional expected expenditure to end March 2011

Other Costs . . . . .	£5,400
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### Provisional Budget for 2010/11

Income:	Precept . . . . .	£70,000
	General . . . . .	£5,340
	VAT Refund . . . . .	£3,000
Expenditure:	Staff Costs . . . . .	£11,625
	Admin . . . . .	£10,545
	Grants . . . . .	£8,925
	Environment & Footpaths . . . . .	£24,580
	Sports Facilities . . . . .	£8,350
	Play Facilities . . . . .	£2,450
	Planning . . . . .	£100
	Transport & Highways . . . . .	£370
	Communication . . . . .	£1,980
	Community Development . . . . .	£3,500
	Finance & General Purposes . . . . .	£100
	Special Projects . . . . .	£7,250
	VAT . . . . .	£3,000
	Transfer to Savings Funds . . . . .	£13,500

## Sport

**The Sportsfields** continue to be well-used. Our teams continue to do well in their various leagues and we offer them our congratulations. It is hoped that the football pitches, in particular will be re-seeded this year. The Parish Council and the sportsfield users are concerned about the problem of parking outside the sportsfields, particularly on Saturday mornings and steps are being taken to try to resolve this issue.

**The Multi Use Games Area** continues to be well-used, although at present there is scope for more use during the day. This past year generally usage has been in the evenings and weekends. Usage has also been restricted by the bad weather in December and January. It would appear that most use is by men and boys – ladies this facility is for you as well!

**Fun Run** Last year saw the first ever Fun Run Event in Stocksfield which was very successful and enjoyed by both athletes and spectators. This year will see the second Stocksfield Festival which will again be held on the Sportsfields and in Broomley School. It is hoped that the second Saturday in September will become recognised as Stocksfield's "annual get-together" for many years to come.

## A report from Northumberland County Councillor Anne Dale.

It has been another busy and challenging year for elected members with considerable changes to the staff and structure of the Council. This next financial year brings further cuts of over £45m. I still strongly believe that the Liberal led Council needs to rid itself of the bureaucracy that remains within the council and not cut front line services. As Chairman of Audit of the Council I am able to carefully monitor the performance, governance, management and finances of the Council.



Your concerns over the year have been many and very varied. The most concerns and complaints I receive are about highways issues and I take up each and every one with the Council. The Executive needs to understand that good highway maintenance should be one of the Council's strategic priorities. Gritting, snow clearance, salt bins, flooding, gully cleaning, speed of traffic and road safety also continue to be highway issues. Changes in the bus service, planning, school transport, bus passes and the youth service provision have all been of major concern this year.

My work as your Councillor is always interesting and varied and I hope to help as many residents as possible. I attend all the Parish Council and West Area Committee meetings and also the local Community Forum to ensure that your views are heard and raise any concerns you may have in the Village.

I have been able to fund road safety improvements and playground facilities out my Member's Small Scheme allowance. If you would like further detailed information or have any issues please email [Anne.Dale@Northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:Anne.Dale@Northumberland.gov.uk) or call 01434 673326.

## Rights of Way & Environment Group

Meetings of this advisory group have been well-attended and have covered a variety of issues including plans for a network of Quiet Lanes and the possibility of producing a Community Landscape Statement for Broomley & Stocksfield.

The activities of the 'River Watch' group are ongoing with monthly checks on water quality in Stocksfield Burn showing very reassuring results. Efforts have continued to remove Himalayan Balsam from two areas including the banks of Stocksfield burn.

The group continues to report on the state of public rights of way. The County Council's Countryside Officer attends all meetings and the group continues to highlight any problems. It is pleasing to report that the path from New Ridley Road down to Tynedale Gardens has been completely re-surfaced with much improved drainage. The group is now planning to organise a working party to clear an overgrown path near Apperley.

The claim of a right of way along the Tyne from Merryshields to Eltringham has passed two major hurdles and a 'Modification Order' is expected within weeks. The group still plans a second 'Let's go for a Walk in Stocksfield' guide but needs sponsorship.

Other issues include the sewage escapes on Ridley Mill Road and the flood risk issues in the Burnside area. This problem has involved convincing the Environment Agency to collect evidence relating to the September 2008 floods. This has now been done and the Flood Risk status of land in this area has been amended.

## Thanks

The Parish Council is grateful for the time, effort and commitment put in by residents, volunteers and contractors to making Broomley and Stocksfield a pleasant place to live and work and whose efforts contribute to the protection of our environment and the well-being of all residents. We are particularly grateful to those who help council-led groups looking after the footpaths, environment, sportsfields, play areas and the community garden.

Larger print versions of this report are available from the Clerk on request. 01661 843114. E-mail: [margaretspsc@talk21.com](mailto:margaretspsc@talk21.com)