

Tow Law Town Council News



A PLAY STRATEGY FOR TOW LAW

Tow Law Town Council in collaboration with our partner Proludic is involved in developing a Play Strategy for Tow Law.

Designs for the new play areas include one for Millennium Green with a fitness area, teen area, toddler area and junior area (also benches/seats and lighting for the pathways). In addition Alpine Way consisting of 2 bay swings and a summit net and Deerness Estate consisting of a multiplay unit, combination swing, speed gyro and picnic table. We also have designs for Pennine View with a multiplay unit, combination swing and horse springer and finally Attlee Estate with pod swing, speed gyro, spring sea saw, primo large goal end and



Design for Millennium Green play area

diabolo multi play unit.

It is planned to present all of the designs on a website in the near future and residents will be able to give their views via separate questionnaires for both adults

and Children on the same site. We also hope to display all of the designs at an exhibition at the Community Centre. In addition we are hoping to arrange events at our local Schools to showcase the designs and gain the views of young people.

The Town Council is working diligently to procure funding for this project and we will of course keep residents updated in future newsletters.

See page 2 for the other designs.

Editor
Lynne Rowland

Submit items for future newsletters to:

lynne.rowland@langley-park.org.uk

Any photographs should be 300dpi and we reserve the right to edit text.



Design for Alpine Way play area



TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

CLERK'S OFFICE HOURS

Town Clerk Geoff Smith is available at the Community Centre between 1-5 pm Monday to Thursday and 1-4:30 pm on Friday. He can be contacted by email at towlawtc@hotmail.com or by telephone on 01388731444.

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Tuesday 20th May 2014

Tuesday 17th June 2014

Tuesday 15th July 2014

Meetings start at 6.30pm and are held at Tow Law Community Centre. Members of the public are welcome to attend the non-confidential part of the meetings but should give three days notice in writing if they wish to bring up a specific issue.

THE PRECEPT FOR 2014/15

The Town Council have agreed on the following for the upcoming financial year:

- To accept the draft budget for 2014/15 estimated at £32567.00
- To look for further cost savings throughout the financial year
- To increase the Precept request from £25063 to £28005.27 plus the DCC Grant of £6424.00, therefore a total income of £34429.27.

CHRISTMAS TREE

The Town Council would like to thank Councillors Hird and Rowland also Richard Batson



and Marc Wolfe for their hard work in the erection and decoration of the Christmas tree and Tanya Macfadden for her idea of decorating it as a tree of remembrance.



Erecting the Christmas Tree

CHRISTMAS THEMES

The Council ran a Christmas Themes competition in December with prizes of £75, £50 and £25 respectively. The winners were Mr and Mrs Robson of Church Lane, second was Mrs J Hope, 48 Alpine Way and third Mrs A Wilkinson of 71 High Street.

POTHoles

Local residents can play their part in keeping our roads pot hole free by reporting any defects directly to the Highways Action Line (HAL) by telephone on **01913706000**, by emailing **hal@durham.gov.uk** or by filling in the form on the Durham County Council website (follow the link from the home page). Once a pot hole has been brought to the attention of the County Council and the defect is covered by the Highway Safety Inspection Manual then a liability

arises and hence the need for repair.

You can also use the Highways Action Line to report problems with street lighting, damage to pavements, faulty traffic lights and blocked road drains.

WORLD WAR ONE COMMEMORATION

The Council in co-operation with other organisations are working to organise events and projects to commemorate the Centenary of the start of World War One.

These include renovation and conservation of the War memorial (the Council will attempt to obtain funding) and engaging the community in planned events including exhibitions, music and history events.

We will have more information on this in future newsletters.



Tow Law War Memorial

RON HOGG & MIKE BARTON

Town Council meetings in September and October of 2013 saw visits from Durham Police and Crime Commissioner Ron Hogg and Chief Constable Mike Barton.

Among the issues discussed were anti social behaviour, tackling drink and drugs, domestic abuse, vandalism and road safety. Specific issues raised by the Council with both men were the need for a Zebra Crossing in High Street, School Crossing Patrols and the need for an updated CCTV system for Tow Law.

Mr Hogg volunteered to help with a future litter pick on Millennium Green.

MILLENNIUM GREEN LITTER PICK

The Millennium Green Volunteer Group meets on the last Sunday of every month on the green and we need volunteers to help with our litter pick. If you are happy working with other like minded people in your local community to improve the environment and enjoy spending time out in the open air we would be very happy to have your help.



Sonny Laing enjoying the litter pick

TREX GYM

At Tow Law Recreation Centre, Naismith Road the Trex Gym is open Monday to Thursday between 5pm and 8pm and Sunday 10.30am to 1.00pm. The cost is £2.00 per session, £30 for 20 sessions or £120 for a full year.

THE BANNERS OF TOW LAW

My name is Janine Ross-Blakey, and although a Yorkshire girl part of my heart belongs to Tow Law as my father Keith Ross and his family were born and raised here.

Due to family circumstances I returned to County Durham a few years ago, where I met my husband Phillip. He turned out to be secretary of the Durham Mining Communities Banner Groups Association. Through this he rekindled my passion in heritage and the Durham Miners Gala.

Phillip along with Dave Hopper of the Durham Miners Association has a dream and that is to have a Miners banner at the gala from every pit village that had one. Also to get the old banners conserved and back in their home villages. With eagerness I asked where Tow Law's banners were only to be told none came to the gala.

This was quite disappointing as after research I found out that Tow Law once had four. These were 'Hedleyhope', 'West Thornley', 'Black Prince' and 'Inkerman' lodges. Two lodge banners survived, Black Prince and West Thornley, but at nearly a hundred years old and in need of repair these would never represent the village at the gala again.

It was then I became determined to get my dad's village back on the map, after all his dad Sid had worked at the 'prince' and his brother Harold at 'hedleyhope'. Using my husband's connections I gained permission from the DMA to display the two remaining banners around the county to raise awareness. They are



West Thornley Lodge Banner

always well received and then I get the question when will Tow Law be at the gala.

I made attempts to get a group started to achieve this but sadly didn't make progress. The schools however said that they would love to become involved should I get the idea off the ground. Many pit banners are accompanied at the gala by their own smaller 'school banners' carried by the children of the village. This is a great sight and helps bring pride in our heritage as well as educate.

Despite the fact that banners cost anything from £6,000 to £10,000 I was still eager to see Tow Law back on the map. I have to admit that after a while I was becoming disheartened. During a memorial though I saw a plain banner with 'Elemore Lodge, New Banner Under Construction' on it. This gave me the idea of doing something similar to get the ball rolling.

Not happy with a plain banner, my husband started painting a replica of the 'Black Prince' and

we have since had offers from artists to assist in getting it ready for this year's gala.

At this point I got in touch with Councillor John Hart. I was overjoyed at his enthusiasm and after he arranged a meeting with the Town Council I knew we could do this. Tow Law was built on iron and coal and rightly deserves its place alongside the growing number of villages celebrating their heritage. The banner being produced is only a start and belongs to the people of Tow Law. I would love people to get in touch and become a part of this project. My contact details 0191 6826240 or dead12redroses@hotmail.com

These banners and school banners have helped increase the pride in some villages, and I am sure it will do the same here. I am sure my dad would be proud.

Janine Ross-Blakey