

**COUNCIL 09 JUNE 2010****1. Farmers' Market Initiative**

- 1.1 Council agreed the establishment of a possible Farmers' Market be investigated and members have been involved in discussions and inspected the setting up of Market and the arrangements involved.
- 1.2 To progress matters it is suggested that discussions take place with the local traders in the town to see how such an initiative can benefit the area and complement local services.
- 1.3 The trial should take place at an appropriate time in the summer and maybe complement other events in the town. Much organisation will be required and some quick decisions so it is suggested that a small committee be established with delegated powers.
- 1.4 A budget is available for Local Service Delivery this year and Council should agree a maximum allocation to cover the cost of two trial markets on suitable dates during July to September.

**RECOMMENDED that:**

- (1) A consultation meeting with local traders be held on Monday 21 June;
- (2) A Markets Committee be appointed with delegated powers to make arrangements for trial events within a budget allocation from the Local Service Delivery budget.

**2. Woodhorn Church Museum and Arts Centre**

- 2.1 Members were advised at the last meeting that KEAP Creative had recently vacated the building and handed back the keys to Northumberland County Council to whom the listed building transferred from Wansbeck District Council on re-organisation.
- 2.2 It is acknowledged that this fine building is one of the oldest churches in the county and provided a good facility and visitor attraction to the town. Being also a large listed building the costs of maintenance and repair are high and an economic use of the building may be difficult to find.
- 2.3 This building should be recognised as a valuable community asset and the county council should be encouraged to ensure its retention for local use and to attract visitors from around the county and region.
- 2.4 It is suggested that the Town Council establish a small Working Group to investigate the future possibilities for Woodhorn Church.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) The importance to the community of Woodhorn Church be recognised and representations be made to Northumberland County Council regarding the retention of this valuable community asset;
- (2) A Working Group be established including two councillors and representatives from stakeholder groups with a remit to investigate the future uses of the building and report back to the council.

### **3. Dog Laws for Northumberland – NCC Consultation**

- 3.1 The anticipated consultation has now commenced regarding the introduction of further Dog Control Orders in Northumberland and the County Council is seeking the public's views and those of the Town and Parish Councils.
- 3.2 While dog control has been an issue in Newbiggin for some time the proposed orders will affect the whole county including an exclusion of dogs from land in certain sensitive areas and a review of the order applying to Newbiggin beach.
- 3.3 Four new orders are proposed under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to simplify the process across the county and to make the laws more clear to the general public.
- 3.4 Removing Dog Faeces - This order would require people in control of a dog to immediately remove faeces deposited by their dog on all land which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access in the County of Northumberland at all times of the year.
- 3.5 Keeping Dogs on Leads - This order would require people in control of a dog to keep it on a lead no longer than 1.5 metres in the following area(s) at all times of the year:

All cemeteries within the County of Northumberland.

Additional areas which arise from the consultation process may be considered for inclusion in this order.

- 3.6 Keeping Dogs on Leads when Directed - This would require people in control of a dog to put and keep it on a lead, no longer than 1.5m, when told to do so by an authorised officer, which will apply on land open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access in the County of Northumberland at all times of the year..
- 3.7 Excluding Dogs from Land - This order would require people in control of a dog to ensure that it is prevented from entering any of the following areas:
  - All enclosed children's play areas within Northumberland at all times of the year;
  - All school playing fields.

In addition to the above it is also intended to explore the possibility of listing sections of some of Northumberland's beaches in a separate order where dogs have restricted access between May and October. This will include a review of the current order that applies to Newbiggin Beach.

- 3.8 The existing order put in place by the former Wansbeck District Council prohibits dogs using the whole of Newbiggin beach and this has both lacked enforcement at times and been controversial for penalising the responsible dog owners as well as the irresponsible ones.
- 3.9 The options to consider are de-restriction; part-year restriction; revised area restriction or continuation of the existing restrictions.
- 3.10 Penalties for contravention of the orders can be a fine of up to £1,000 but it is proposed to offer a fixed penalty of £75 which would ease enforcement and avoid formal prosecution through the courts.

RECOMMENDED that the Council decide what comments to provide in response to the consultation.

#### **4. Environmental Issues**

- 4.1 There are a number of environmental issues to consider that could impact on the appearance of the town.
- 4.2 The Bees and Trees initiative has been launched in Newbiggin by-the-Sea with significant planting taking place. Flowering Cherry trees have been acquired and a site agreed with the county council for planting near Woodhorn Road/Woodlea.
- 4.3 To improve the appearance and colourfulness of the town consideration could be given to displaying flags and bunting in the main street and supplementing floral displays.
- 4.4 Members are invited to consider these and other environmental initiatives to improve the town.

#### **5. NALC – 2010/11 Subscription**

- 5.1 Newbiggin by-the-Sea Town Council joined the National and Northumberland Association of Local Councils last year and provision was made in the budget for the current year to cover the annual subscription.
- 5.2 I have received the 2010/2011 subscription account amounting to £446.15 and the budget provision was estimated at £300 following the first year subscription of £179.88. As the level of subscriptions for the new financial year had increased noticeably over last year I sought an explanation from the Director of NALC who has clarified the position as follows:

Our subs are based on a formula, which is designed to yield not only the bulk of the income which we (i.e. Northumberland ALC) need, but also the money which we are required to pass to our National Association. The attached briefing paper describes the formula. The Northumberland component increases with parish electorate size, but in a tapering way. The National component increases in direct proportion (i.e. straight-line) to the number of electors.

For last year (2009-10), we applied the formula in the usual way to all pre-existing local councils, but not to the new councils which were created on 01 April 2009.

Last year, for the new PC's, we avoided having to collect any National component. We also knew that, to apply the formula to them would result in our receiving more income than we needed, so instead we calculated a subscription level which would enable us to break-even. In practice, this equated to 3.82p per elector.

For this year onwards, we are having to collect and pass-on the full National component, which is based on 5.19p per elector. Hence, the 'jump' for some subscriptions, compared with last year.

RECOMMENDED that payment of the increased subscription be approved.

## **6 Making Good in the Community**

- 6.1 Northumberland Youth Offending Service is keen to give communities a say in how young offenders make amends for offences and is consulting town and parish councils inviting suggestions for projects.
- 6.2 This would involve young offenders becoming involved in doing unpaid work to benefit the local community. Examples of previous projects include cleaning local areas affected by anti-social behaviour and repairing damage to a bus shelter caused by graffiti.
- 6.3 The Youth Offending Service has said that it will risk assess and supervise all projects involving young people and would like to discuss any work in our area in which young offenders could be involved in paying back to the community. They are not however able to supply materials.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Council consider whether there are any local projects to discuss with the Youth Offending Service.