

SADBERGE PARISH COUNCIL'S REPORT TO THE PARISH MEETING ON TUESDAY 9th MAY 2017

Sadberge Summer Festival

- The 2016 festival took place on Saturday 25th June 2016. The theme was “Flower Power”.
- It is not proposed to have a festival this year, as the scale of the event has become too big for the available volunteer effort. However, the Friends of Sadberge Festival are planning to organise some smaller-scale community events, one of which will be a Fun Dog Show on Sunday 21st May 2017. For further information contact Megan Myszka.

Bonfire Night event

- The 2016 Bonfire Night event – including a bonfire and a fireworks display – took place on Saturday 5th November 2016. It was a successful event, despite the rather poor weather. The Friends of Sadberge Festival provided £1,000 of funding for the fireworks.
- A similar event is being planned for Sunday 5th November 2017. David Elmer has agreed to continue in the role of Bonfire Night Event Organiser

Northumbria in Bloom

- Sadberge received a Silver Award in the Villages category of the 2016 Northumbria in Bloom competition, and Ernie Lowther received a special award for exceptional effort.
- It was decided not to enter Sadberge for the 2017 Northumbria in Bloom competition, as no-one was available to do the associated administration work (e.g. preparing an entry portfolio).

Bus service

- Darlington Borough Council has reported that it has sufficient funds to keep the ‘Our Bus’ service running until about Christmas 2018.

Vehicle-activated speed sign

- The speed sign continues to be rotated round the four main roads into Sadberge, being moved about every two weeks.
- Durham Constabulary has continued to provide enforcement activity in the village.

Parking

- A new “no waiting” restriction has been implemented on Darlington Road at the junction with West Row, and another new restriction will shortly be implanted on Norton Crescent at the entrance to St. Andrew’s Park.
- After objections by the Parish Council and local residents, Darlington Borough Council has decided not to implement new “no waiting” restrictions opposite the Tuns at Sadberge.

Grants

- The Parish Council again gave the Parochial Church Council a grant of £500 towards the cost of maintaining the St. Andrew’s Churchyard.
- The Parish Council gave the Friends of Sadberge Festival a grant of £170 towards the cost of a new petrol-driven strimmer to be used on grass verges and similar areas in Sadberge.

Village hall lease

- The Parish Council has offered the Parochial Church Council a grant of up to £1,000 towards the legal costs involved in drawing up a new lease for the village hall.
- Negotiations on the new lease are continuing.

Community composting facility

- The community composting facility is showing signs of wear and tear. The Parish Council is considering how to repair and improve it.

Partners And Communities Together (PACT)

- The North Villages PACT meetings were discontinued at the end of 2016 after Durham Constabulary decided to stop sending representatives to PACT meetings that are attended by fewer than 15 residents.

Polytunnel on Hampass

- The Sedberg Anglo Saxon Farmers children's gardening group has used a grant from Darlington Borough Council to buy a polytunnel, and has asked for permission to erect it on Hampass.
- The most suitable location is on part of Hampass owned by Darlington Borough Council, which does not wish to get directly involved in allowing the erection of the polytunnel.
- The Parish Council is proposing to lease the southern part of Hampass from the Borough Council and then grant the Sedberg Anglo Saxon Farmers a tenancy of a plot large enough for the polytunnel.
- Both the lease and the tenancy will be at peppercorn rent.
- The lease agreement will include permission for the Parish Council to fell some of the self-seeded trees at the top of the bank between Hampass and Town Farm Field.

Moor House Wind Farm

- Construction work has started on the Moor House wind farm. The wind turbines are expected to be in operation by the end of 2017.
- The Moor House Wind Farm Liaison Committee started meeting in October 2016, and is holding monthly meetings during the construction of the wind farm.
- A sub-committee will decide on the allocation of funds from the Moor House Wind Farm Community Fund. £15k per year will go to supporting jobs and training in the Darlington area, and another £15k per year will be available for grants to the seven parishes in the area around the wind farm.

Darlington Local Plan

- In January 2015, the outcome of a planning appeal decision in Middleton St. George meant that, because Darlington Borough Council could not demonstrate a five year supply of land to meet housing needs, none of the housing development policies in the current Darlington Local Plan could be considered to be up to date. This meant that planning applications had to be decided on the basis of the National Planning Policy Framework presumption in favour of sustainable development. A Darlington Borough Council report said that *"in practice, this means that new housing development should be permitted unless there are site specific or significant sustainability reasons indicating otherwise"*.
- A housing needs assessment subsequently found that the Borough of Darlington needs approximately 10,000 new houses between 2016 and 2036. This is considerably more than were envisaged in the 1997 Darlington Local Plan.
- The Borough Council is currently working on a new Darlington Local Plan covering the period from 2016 – 2036. The aim is to get it adopted by the end of 2018.

- The Strategic Framework for the new Local Plan includes building a new Northern Relief Road to link the A1(M) north of Darlington to the A66 near Great Gurdon. This would open up the possibility of significant development around the northern edge of Darlington. However, in the interim the villages around Darlington are expected to contribute to the supply of housing development opportunities.
- Further information can be found at www.darlington.gov.uk/local-plan.

Planning and development in and around Sadberge

- Despite an objection from the Parish Council, Darlington Borough Council has granted planning permission for three houses to be built on land north-east of 3 – 4 Laurel Terrace. (Planning application 16/00550/FUL.)
- Despite an objection from the Parish Council, Darlington Borough Council has granted planning permission for three houses to be built behind the Buck Inn. (Planning application 15/00918/FUL.)
- Planning consultants England Lyle Good have carried out a community consultation about a proposal to build 25 houses on the southern edge of the village on the east side of Middleton Road.
- There has been no further news about Northumbrian Water's proposal to apply for planning permission to build up to 34 houses on the site of the disused reservoir adjacent to Sadberge Village.

Air quality

- At the request of the Parish Council, the Clerk has been investigating options for monitoring air pollution from vehicle exhausts in the centre of the village during rush hours.
- Newcastle University has offered to carry out a community air quality monitoring project in Sadberge. During the project, air pollution monitoring devices will be installed near Middleton Road in the middle of the village and data from the vehicle activated speed sign will be used to investigate the link between traffic volume and air pollution.
- Newcastle University has also offered to lend the Clerk a portable particulate monitor during university vacations.

Miscellaneous

- The annual inspection tour of Parish Council land and property took place on Tuesday 16th August 2016.
- Fly tipping in the laybys near Sadberge continues to be a problem.
- Dog fouling is still a problem in various locations in the village. The Parish Council is planning to use a stencil to paint "Clean it up" signs on pavements.
- The Parish Council has contacted the Parochial Church Council to express concern about the safety of the wall along the west edge of the St. Andrew's Churchyard (i.e. along West Row). At one point the wall has been pushed outwards by a tree, and at another point it appears to be leaning against a lamp post.
- The Parish Council is investigating options for replacing the seat around the oak tree in the centre of the village.
- During 2016, Ernie Lowther refurbished several of the benches in the village.
- As usual, the Parish Council put up a Christmas tree on the village green over the Christmas period.
- The Parish Council again organised a Christmas tree collection scheme in association with St. Teresa's Hospice and the Darlington Rotary Club. On Saturday 7th January 2017 volunteers from the Rotary Club picked up 20 Christmas trees from the collection point just inside the entrance to Town Farm Field.

- The Parish Council hosted a National Farm Watch meeting in Sadberge Village Hall on Thursday 6th April 2017.
- The Mayor of Darlington, Councillor Brian Jones, has presented the Parish Council with a plaque in recognition of the support that he has received from Sadberge.