

Winner: Labour Party regional newsletter of the year



Open to The Community

Longfield School is currently constructing a state of the art 3G football pitch on its grounds. Work on this new facility is due to be completed in the New Year, and hopefully it will prove to be very popular with the local community. From the New Year the school will also be opening its doors to hold classes and clubs for the local community. Anybody who is interested in running their own class should contact Heather Watson on 01325 348112 or send an email: hwatson@longfield.darlington.sch.uk Members of the community who would like to see what Longfield has to offer should contact Heather or access the school's website: tinyurl.com/longfield1

Back Lane Resurfaced

It's taken some time, but at long last the back lane at North Road West, from its junction from Lawson Street southwards to its southern junction with Scotts Terrace, has now finally been resurfaced.

Bus Stop on North Road

We were promised a like-for-like bus shelter following a consultation on cycle paths so that residents could have some protection from the Winter weather

at the top of North Road. The shelter was installed but then taken away without any notice so I am lobbying the Council to ensure we get a suitable replacement as soon as possible.

Harrowgate Hill Club Helps Zoe's Place

Over the past year Harrowgate Hill Workmen's Club has helped raise funds for Zoe's Place. Chris Giggins, Entreatments Secretary and assistant Denise Robinson put an appeal out for acts and with half an hour they had every spot filled, completely free of charge. Over 300 local residents came to see the evening entertainment and helped raise over £1,000 Margaret Barron from Zoe's Place would like to thank everyone for all their help with raising this money.

New path request

Deborah Clarke and fellow neighbours on Longfield Road would like a new pathway across a small piece of green, but the council says, even though they've cut the grass there since 1964 they don't own it. Miller Group, housing developers, who the council says the land now belongs to, is now going to perform a land registry search to confirm ownership.

Longfield Road Crossing

The Council are to try to identify options to resolve the current on-going problem with the island crossing on Longfield Road near to the Premier shop. The island has been damaged again by large vehicles turning into Longfield Road, restricted by other vehicles parking too close to the island, over the yellow lines.

Household Recycling Change of Opening Hours

As of the 1st October 2010 the tip adjoining Harrowgate Farm and the marsh area has new opening hours from 8am - 6pm all year round.

Ridgeway Level of Service

Following a meeting with Street Scene looking at the level of service Ridgeway had been provided with, Street scene has agreed to improve their level of service to the whole area and tidy up on their act.

Entrance to Glebe

The new development planned for Glebe Road has led to the closure of the main entrance to the football fields. Following discussions with Dean Gilligan, other local residents and the developers, it was agreed that new site entrances were planned for and installed.

Ridgeway Allotments

The soil testing that had been planned for the Ridgeway Allotments took place on Monday 4 October. The Council have managed to negotiate a reduced cost for this and we await the results.

Harrowgate Hill Residents Association Meetings:

Monday, 29th November, 2010
Monday, 10th January, 2011
Held at the Harrowgate Club on Salters Lane North from 7.00pm

PACT - Meet the Police

Wednesday, 17 November
Wednesday, 15 December
Held at the Harrowgate Club on Salters Lane North at 6.30pm

Councillor Mark Burton: Ward Surgery Dates

Tuesday, 2nd November, 2010
Tuesday, 14th December, 2010
Ward surgeries are usually held at Longfield School from 7.00pm until 8.00pm

Harrowgate Hill - Important Contact Details:

Electricity Emergencies: To report a loss of supply or concern about the safety of equipment call; 0800 668 877 (24 Hour) Special Needs; 0800 169 7602 (Mon to Fri, 8:30 - 4:45pm. Hearing impaired customers can textline: 0800 169 1136.

Gas Emergencies: Our area is part of the National Grid. If you smell gas or are worried about gas safety, you can call 0800 111 999 at any time, day or night and you will be put through to a trained operator or for hearing impaired customers textline: 0800 371 787.

Council Wardens: If you are suffering as a result of anti-social behaviour and would like to talk to someone or report an incident, call in confidence and speak to one of the Council Officers on 01325 346 831.

Dog Warden: If you wish to report Dog

fouling, dogs barking or howling, stray or dangerous dogs then please contact the Dog Wardens direct on (01325) 388 799.

Police: New non-emergency number: All local Police offices can now be contacted using one non-emergency telephone number - 0345 60 60 365.

999 Callers should only dial when; Life is at risk; Persons are badly injured; A crime is in the process of being committed; Offenders are nearby; or there has been a serious disruption to the flow of traffic.

Neighbourhood Watch: Darlington Community Safety Partnership, Tel: 01325 346 832

Harrowgate Hill Junior School: 01325 253 300

Longfield Comprehensive School: 01325 380 815

GET IN TOUCH - I'M HERE TO HELP YOU...

If you live within the Harrowgate Hill area and want help and support about an issue that concerns you, then I would be pleased to offer any assistance possible.

You can contact me direct on 01325 486 378 or leave a message on the answerphone and you'll get a direct response asap, usually within just a few hours.

Councillor Mark Burton
Telephone: 01325 486 378

Email: mark.burton@darlington.gov.uk

Website:
www.harrowgatehill.co.uk



the Harrowgate Hill Community Newsletter

little red rosette

Issue 13: Autumn 2010

Miller Homes to track down land owners



Fabrick install new Glebe Road entrances



Chris comes up trumps for Zoe's Place dosh



Street Scene agrees to tidy up Ridgeway



PROUD TO SERVE QUEEN AND COUNTRY

It was a very proud moment for me as I watched my son, Liam, marching alongside more than 600 other junior soldiers from Cambrai, Peninsula and Waterloo Companies on to the parade ground at Uniacke Barracks in Harrogate, where they were led by the Band of the Royal Corps of Signals.



This was the culmination of their 'passing out' ceremony, where each of the soldiers were inspected by Princess Anne in front of thousands of other proud family members and close friends. Each of the young soldiers had taken part in and completed a gruelling 42-week intensive course, where they had undertaken a unique combination of military skills and vocational qualifications. Following a short break at home, Liam has now gone on to his chosen specialism and the second phase of his training in the Royal Corps of Signals, of which Princess Anne is Colonel-in-Chief.

Last year 23 students from Darlington - and eight from Longfield School - joined the Army ranks either at Harrogate, or Winchester AFC and this year, 16 young people joined during the September intake - with others from the town set to follow in January .

Many of you may have seen in the news recently that in the highest civic distinction that can be conferred by Darlington Council, 200 soldiers of 3 Rifles were honoured with a special parade to receive the Freedom of the Borough of Darlington.

They marched proudly through the marketplace in the town centre in front of their friends and families and afterwards, two young soldiers from 3 Rifles (who had just returned from their touring duties) and

accompanied by Sergeant Holt, visited Longfield School. Here, they gave a talk to students about their experiences of life in the Army and later in the week they also visited Darlington College of Technology.

I'd like to wish all the young men and women who have just enrolled in their first year as junior soldiers and take up the challenge to protect and serve our country as part of the Armed Forces all the very best. I'm sure that all of their families and friends will be just as proud and amazed as I was when they see them take part in their own passing in parade which will take place in just six short weeks' time.

The Little Red Rosette is distributed to every household in the Harrowgate Hill area. Through this newsletter, I aim to draw attention to all of the things that local residents and businesses have had concerns about and try to highlight some of the work that goes on behind the scenes to get problems resolved and more done in general.

I do try to give a fair overview about what's happening at all times; it's almost impossible to cover everything, so if there is something you would like to see, or coverage of an event that is taking place, then please get in touch as I may be able to publicise it for you. You can always download previous issues of this newsletter from our community

website which is freely available at harrowgatehill.co.uk so please take the opportunity to visit us.

We've all read the newspapers or watched the television report detailing the cutbacks the government has announced. And as I type, officers at Darlington Borough Council are amassing options for cuts in services, staff and pay - after being set this objective to make savings which, in my opinion, are too deep and too quick. Information detailing these suggestions for cuts in services will at some point be made available to you through a public consultation, which will give you an opportunity to make comment. With all this going on though, I thought it could only be a good thing to reflect back over

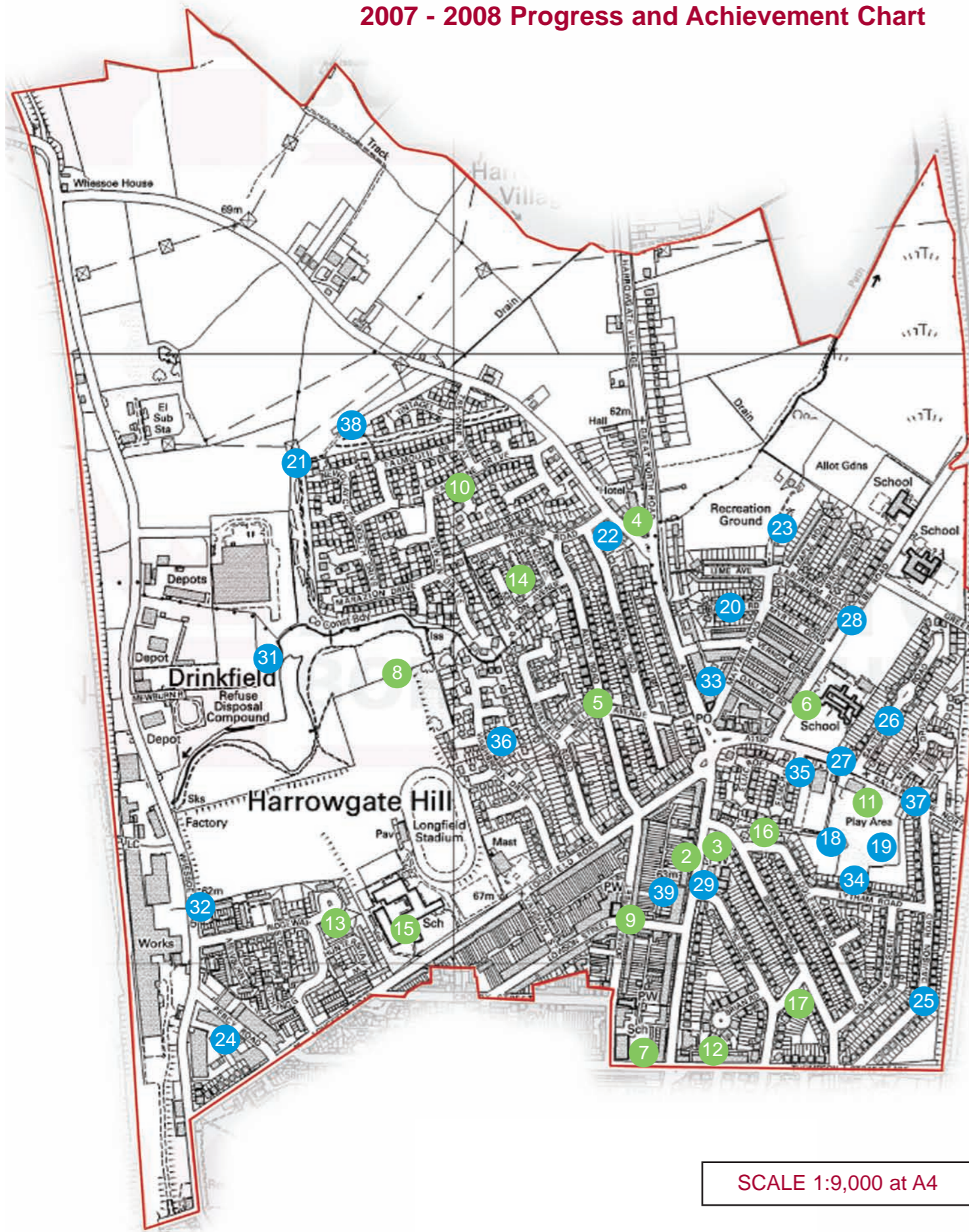
the last few years on all the positive improvements and investments which have been completed in our area. Every council, throughout the country, has a budget which is paid for by us, the tax payers and it's only through working hard and raising the profile and the needs of our area that has brought some of that money back to our area - for a change. In the pages overleaf I've laid out a map of our area and details of just some of the issues where I have worked hard, raising the profile and needs on the behalf of everyone.

M. Burton

the Harrowgate Hill Community Newsletter

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2007 - 2008 Progress and Achievement Chart



SCALE 1:9,000 at A4

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Winner: Labour Party regional newsletter of the year

- 1) **2007- Very first issue of the Harrowgate**
Hill community newsletter is produced by long time friend Mike Storey and given 'The Little Red Rosette' title.
- 2) New bins organised for North Road to reduce littering and positioned between the Premier and Co-op shops.
- 3) TESCO agrees to tidy up the old Shell Garage site, as it's been an eye sore for quite some time.
- 4) I meet up with the management of The White Horse Public House as it under goes refurbishment ahead of being reopened.
- 5) Alwyn Road, Marina Road and Kirkfield Road residents contact me about cars rat running past their front doors.
- 6) I meet up with residents ahead of the old Beaumont Hill School site being sold and developed to gain a better understanding of their concerns as well as their wishes and priorities so they aren't forgotten.
- 7) Meeting organised with local residents about former Harrowgate Hill Infants School so that residents' concerns can be voiced with developer Darlington Homes.
- 8) After being contacted by local residents blighted with nuisance barking late on an evening and through the night I involve the Council's Public Protection Department who begin monitoring and issuing warning notices.
- 9) Lawson Street residents contact me and ask what can be done about poor lighting and a street light moved where it would be of more benefit.
- 10) After contacting more than 300 house holds in Harrowgate Farm their wishes are put forward regarding the play equipment area.
- 11) Goal posts erected in Bensham Park and Glebe Road for local children which is the start of general improvements after the Council removed the old and rusty play equipment..
- 12) New dog bin installed for responsible pet owners near The Burns Public House.
- 13) Bollards are installed in Drinkfield Crescent at the request of local residents
- 14) Ketton Avenue and Kent Close foot paths are finally refurbished.
- 15) Helped Longfield School with their new school recycling collections by the Council.
- 16) Replacement tree planted for local residents on Middleham Road
- 17) New waste bin installed for residents in The Gateway to help reduce the incidents of littering.

When I stood for election in 2007 it was because I thought much more could be done on behalf of residents in the area and in particular, older people and the most vulnerable in society.

I was never really interested in politics at any level, let alone at a local one, but I wanted to make sure our area was kept clean and tidy and was improving.

We don't have a lot of Council Housing in our area and I thought we were losing out to other parts of the town that did - they always seemed to get an unfair proportion of our resources - so it was at the constant suggestion of one of my friends that I stood for election and was proud to be successful in May 2007.

I'm still not sure people are talking to me when they address me as a councillor even now. This is a brief record of just some of the things I've been proud to have achieved and been involved with over the first two years:

E.R. Burton

- 18) **2008 - Binge drinking at Bensham** Park is monitored and whilst this is something that persists, incidents of offenders starts to reduce.
- 19) Street Scene step in to tidy Bensham Park after requests are made on behalf of local residents
- 20) Baytree Road is blighted by off street parking which is making the grass verges look a mess so a meeting is organised with the Council to see what can be done.
- 21) Organised the first Harrowgate Hill Spring Cleaning Blitz and was chuffed to see so many people turn out and do their bit. This is now a regular event in the Harrowgate hill calendar.
- 22) Commercial vehicles are curbed from using Marina Road as a short cut after complaints from residents.
- 23) I'm able to break the good news that council tenants are finally to have their kitchen's refurbished.
- 24) After requests from residents to help, Percy Road is cleaned from top to bottom and pot holes filled in too.
- 25) The poor state of grass verges becomes even more of an issue for residents and I meet with the Council to start a programme of repair.
- 26) An elderly lady had a fall in Saltersgate Road and I had the slabs relaid around some of the tree bases.
- 27) An elderly resident was concerned over the condition of the grass verge outside her home were cars often parked along Salters Lane, so I had Bollards installed here to stop vehicles from parking.

- 28) Arriva withdraw the service 23 from doing the Glebe Road loop after 18:00hrs, Monday to Sunday, due to a number of attacks on their vehicles, which included a brick being thrown through the bus window injuring the driver. Following some discussions Arriva agreed for the service to operate on a trial basis.
- 29) North Road was beginning to look more like a cars sales yard and through working together with the Councils Environmental Crime Enforcement team and some covert undercover operations new fines and warning stickers were issued to the seller of these vehicles to stop trading from this area.
- 30) The Little Red Rosette is entered in to the North East Parliamentary Constituency Awards and sweeps the board clean as the best newsletter in the North East region.
- 31) August brought the first complaints from residents about digging near to the tip and marsh area at the back of Harrowgate Farm by Albert Road Skip Hire and as a result, I called a meeting with the Environment Agency and the relevant Town Hall departments to see what action could be taken.
- 32) Following complaints from residents in Ridgeway, new lights were installed along Whessoe Road, how ever there are still some ongoing intermittent faults with these lights which also affect Chaytor Court.
- 33) Residents in Holmwood Grove said that a piece of waste land near their homes had been left to nature and had overgrown, after contacting the Council the whole area was cleared, tidied up and cutback.
- 34) Community tree planting event takes place at Bensham Park. My mate and all round great guy Ian Haszeltine who has the honour of being Mayor is invited to open the ceremony.
- 35) Harrowgate Hill Club goes great guns at 101 years of age. I call in for a pint.
- 36) Following complaints from residents of littering I arranged for litter signs to be positioned on lamp posts around the whole area.
- 37) Youths causing problems in Bensham Park brought the installation of three new lights and the provision of fencing near to residents homes and the scheduled clearing of the park every Saturday and Sunday morning starts.
- 38) After lobbying the Council a decision is taken to reinstate Harrowgate Farm play area for all the kids.
- 39) Request made for the resurfacing of the lane to the rear of North Road is successful.