



Pateley Bridge Town Council (PBTC)

Spring/Summer 2024 Newsletter

Message From the Mayor of Pateley Bridge



It is a great honour to be elected by Pateley Bridge Town Council to serve for a second consecutive term as Mayor and Mayoress of Pateley Bridge. My wife Dawn and I will do our very best to serve, support, and represent the amazing communities that make up our parish of High and Low Bishopside, and beyond.

I am very pleased to welcome Cllr Neil Thompson (no relation) to the role of Deputy Mayor and Vice Chair of the Council. I would also like to thank Cllr Mike Holt and Cllr Stan Lumley, who at different times, both served as Deputy Mayor and Vice chair of the Council over this last year. My thanks also go to all the hard-working councillors and staff of Pateley Bridge Town Council for their efforts this last year.

In our first year of office, we attended charity events, community events, award ceremonies, church and cathedral events, civic functions, school events, and anything else we were invited to in our official capacity. So, this year, we want to again be here for all: Residents, community groups, schools, businesses, business groups, churches, and charities alike. If you would like us to attend any community event, charity event, fundraising promotion, business launch, etc. please do contact me, Chris Thompson on chris.thompson@pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk, or our Town Clerk, details at the end of this newsletter.

As I have said on many occasions, I firmly believe that this beautiful place in which many of us live and work, is the thriving community it is renowned for because of the tireless efforts of our many voluntary community groups and their organisers. Thank you for all you do in your own unique ways, year in and year out, to make this such a lovely, vibrant community to live in, and which is our privilege to serve.

One of the great joys of being Mayor is to be able to support local causes like these from the Mayor's Fund. The fund awards grants of up to £250 to local community groups and charities. It is funded entirely from donations and fund-raising events. This year's fund-raising event is a popup beer and music festival. It will be in the Pateley Bridge and Bewerley Memorial Hall on the evening of August 10th at 7.00pm. So put the date in your diary. We're assembling a great line up of local musical talent including: the brilliant John Ward and the Merlins, The Nidderdale Community Choir, and the Nidderdale Ukelele band, and of course, beer! (Other beverages will be available). As well as the bar, music and dancing, there will be a tombola, and other fun interludes, all to raise funds so we can continue supporting our great local community causes. Watch the council Facebook group, website, noticeboard, etc where I will be announcing all the details including ticket prices and where to get your tickets from, a little nearer the time. Hope to see you there.

We look forward to meeting many of you over the course of this civic year.

Cllr. Chris Thompson. Mayor of Pateley Bridge 2024-2025.

Commemoration of D- Day

On June 6, 2024, the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings along the Normandy coast during World War II will be commemorated. This pivotal event, instrumental in the liberation of Europe, will be honoured in Pateley Bridge. Bewerley Parish Council and PBTC will illuminate a bonfire beacon atop Coldstones Cut at 9.15pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Proposed Pump Track at the Millennium Green

A small and enthusiastic community group has now been set up by PBTC to explore the possibility of raising funds to install a Pump Track at the Millennium Green.

Bicycle pump tracks offer small towns such as Pateley Bridge numerous advantages, including opportunities for recreation and fitness, community building, tourism, and economic benefits. They engage youth, promote skill development, and have a positive environmental impact by encouraging cycling. Overall, pump tracks enhance quality of life and contribute to vibrant, healthy communities.

The community group is presently engaged in developing a feasibility study. If you possess relevant experience or are eager to contribute, we warmly welcome your involvement. Whether you wish to actively participate or simply express your support for the initiative, your input is invaluable in demonstrating community backing for the feasibility study. Please feel free to contact us at clerk@pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk.



BMX track at Millennium Green to be replaced by Bicycle Pump Track

Glasshouses Play Area

PBTC continues to monitor and maintain the playground. While the playground is currently serviceable, there are areas that could do with being upgraded when funding allows. Meanwhile PBTC removed a bin which was particularly unpleasant, being constantly full of foul stagnant water. There is still another bin there for visitors to use. Last year we gave the goal posts a fresh coat of paint and a new set of nets.

Highway and Footpath Maintenance

Councillors and parishioners are increasingly concerned about the deteriorating condition of our highways, public footpaths, and pavements. This issue has been consistently raised at council meetings and was recently emphasised by a parishioner during the Annual Parish Meeting.

Some of the challenges we are facing include extensive and numerous potholes, blocked gulleys posing flood risks, muddy footpaths lacking proper drainage, and unswept debris making pavements and footpaths difficult and potentially dangerous to navigate.

The Town Council has been in communication with North Yorkshire Council (NYC) regarding this matter and would like to express gratitude to NYC Councillor Andrew Murday for his diligent efforts on behalf of the parish and town to address these issues. He acknowledges the challenges faced by NYC officers, who are contending with significant cuts in government funding to county councils while striving to address these concerns.

However, if we aim to preserve Pateley Bridge and its surrounding area as an area of outstanding natural beauty and maintain its appeal to both residents and tourists, finding a viable solution is imperative.

Should PBTC take on maintenance responsibilities, it could potentially be perceived as imposing double taxation. Parishioners already pay substantial council tax to NYC, with the expectation that such maintenance tasks will be addressed.

Presently, PBTC dedicates significant effort to highlighting concerns to NYC, including severe blockages in gulleys and poorly maintained footpaths. We are currently compiling a comprehensive report on the extensive pothole problem in the area, a task that demands considerable time given the scale of the problem.

Exploring alternative options, we are considering mobilising volunteer groups for clearance activities and proposing a community project for Menwith Hill involvement in maintenance work.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Councillor James Critchley for his considerable voluntary efforts in clearing footpaths and to any other community-spirited individuals who choose to do likewise. (Please let us know who they are.)

Panorama Walk

Following on the same theme as above, we have concerns about Panorama Walk.

At one point along the path, a section of the wall has collapsed, with debris covering more than half of the pathway. NYC is aware of the issue and has contacted the three potential owners of the wall to address it. However, the timeframe for resolution is uncertain, posing a potential health and safety risk in the meantime.

Furthermore, further down the path, another section of the wall appears unstable and at risk of collapse. We have also reported this issue.

Please exercise caution when using this path.

Additionally, our caretaker has tidied up the seating area at the bottom of Panorama Walk and removed the deteriorated bench.



Wall collapse on Panorama Walk

Nidderdale and Pateley Bridge Men's Shed



The Nidderdale and Pateley Bridge Men's Shed is a space where men come together to work on projects like woodworking, gardening, and DIY tasks. It's not just about the activities; it's also a place for socialising, sharing skills, and building friendships to combat social isolation.

PBTC would like to say a big thank you to the Men's Shed for the wonderful Easter display at the Fox's Head Well at the top of the High Street in Pateley. They re-used the display from last year, so the costs incurred were minimal. PBTC has asked the Men's Shed to work on proposals for new displays for Armistice Day and Christmas.

In March 2024, the Mayor's Fund was delighted to award the Men's Shed £250 for building materials for a fire-resistant partition wall. This wall will divide some newly acquired additional space that the Shed intends to expand into.

Public Toilets in Pateley Bridge

During the Easter Bank Holiday, an unfortunate mistake resulted in both sets of public toilets in Pateley Bridge being locked. As you can imagine, this led to extensive problems, with The Crown being overrun by people trying to use the facilities, whilst not buying any refreshments.

To prevent this problem from re-occurring, PBTC and NYC Councillor Andrew Murday have arranged for a set of keys to be kept in the parish. In addition, we are campaigning for better signage to direct people to the public conveniences, as many visitors seem to struggle to find them even when they are open.

Local buses: A Reminder to Keep Using Them!

Yes, we know that we have repeatedly reminded you of this. However, the future of bus service number 24 continues to depend on how many passengers use it. Please take advantage of the subsidised low fares while we still have them.

PBTC has asked NYC to consider putting on a later bus to allow people who work in Harrogate to use the bus for work purposes. Currently the last bus on the 24-line leaves Harrogate at 5.30pm on weekdays. This is often too early for people who are working to be able to rely on it. PBTC proposed that a later service at 6.40pm would be very helpful and beneficial for Nidderdale residents. There is a train service which arrives at Harrogate about 6.30pm from Leeds. So, this service could also connect to that, widening the pool of people that may wish to use it. We are still waiting for a response.

Nidderdale Youth Council

The Nidderdale Youth Council is going from strength to strength. Their first campaign is called 'Inclusive Pateley,' and aims to combat discrimination in Nidderdale, with a focus on creating more inclusive opportunities and to improve accessibility in Pateley Bridge. The Youth Councillors wrote and distributed surveys to businesses in Pateley Bridge to identify the areas that their campaign can best support, and they look forward to working with local people and businesses to achieve their goal of creating a welcoming and accessible town.

PBTC was delighted to welcome 2 representatives from the Youth Council to one of its meetings to talk about the project. All Members were very impressed at the quality of the research, some acknowledging that they themselves were not aware of the awareness aids that people with disabilities use, such as the sunflower lanyard.

The sunflower lanyard, commonly worn by individuals with non-visible disabilities, signals to others, including transport staff, educators, and healthcare providers, that the wearer may require extra assistance. This aid could range from help with packing groceries at the store to allowing additional time to board a train. Individuals coping with invisible disabilities frequently encounter challenges in their daily routines. Wearing the sunflower lanyard discreetly communicates the need for a bit of assistance or understanding from others.

If you know of any young people between the ages of 11-18 who would be interested in having their voice heard, the Youth Council would greatly appreciate any new members ensuring that they feel welcome and included. Anyone interested should contact Chloe Thwaites on chloe.thwaites@northyorks.gov.uk or 07973762347.

Glasshouses Mill Development and Section 106 Community Money

PBTC welcomes the preservation of Glasshouses Mill, which was originally built in 1812. We are working with all parties to ensure that the development preserves its character and historic artefacts, and that it continues in such a way as to be of maximum benefit to its residents, those who live in the area, and Glasshouses School.

Extension of Pateley Bridge Cemetery

NYC is purchasing the Cemetery Field that adjoins the current Pateley Bridge Cemetery from PBTC and Bewerley Parish Council (BPC). NYC has put in a planning application for a sympathetic expansion of the current cemetery. PBTC has asked that as much of the new part of the cemetery is left wild for as long as possible to encourage a wider variety of natural habitats and biodiversity.

Potential Community Purchase of Birch Tree Inn at Glasshouses

Members of the Glasshouses community are very interested in purchasing the old pub section of the Birch Tree Inn on Ripon Road in Glasshouses. Having previously spent much time on this project, they are again seeking grants and other sources of funding. They are currently exploring options with the agent. Negotiations are at the very early stages and are very tentative.

Cleaning of 'The Flaggings' footpath

Over the winter period, PBTC arranged for 'The Flaggings' footpath in Glasshouses to be jet-washed twice. This historic and steep footpath becomes very slippery to the point of being impassable during adverse weather. Cleaning it made it possible for parishioners and Glasshouses school pupils to continue to use it.

Council Meetings and Public Representation

Pateley Bridge Town Council meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.15pm in the Council Chamber on King Street. Members of the public are always welcome to attend, either to observe the meeting or to take part in the two short sessions for public participation. Representations can be made at a meeting or in writing at any time. PBTC works hard to represent the views of local residents, and to provide support.

Meeting agendas are published in advance on the website and publicised on the Council's social media accounts. You can find out more information about meetings and the work of the council at www.pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk or on the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pateleycouncil.

Contact the Council

Main contact Suzanne Smith, Town Clerk: Tel: 07751 571 374, email: clerk@pateleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk.