



Hetton Courier



Welcome to the new look Hetton Town Courier.

The magazine will give YOU the latest news of Hetton Town Council's activities as well as the chance to give your ideas and views to the people who represent you and your interests – the 21 members who make up the council.

Town councils in the 21st Century offer a unique opportunity for grass roots involvement in the protection and development of local communities.

To make sure Hetton Town Council gets it right on your behalf the council has to produce a 'Parish Plan' – and it needs your views to help the Plan really reflect the priorities that matter to around 6,000

Your news, your views

households in its area.

Hetton Town Council can:

- Fund projects itself;
- Work with partners to access extra funding for the area;
- Offer help and guidance to organisations wanting to turn their ideas into a reality;
- Sign post individuals and organisations to other sources of help and guidance.

But to do these things it needs your views and your ideas. What is important to you? What would you like to see in your area? What are your concerns? The

Hetton Town Courier is your chance to get involved and have your say.

Parish Plans can help influence key decision makers. Some of the benefits of a Parish Plan could be:

- Highway safety improvements;
- Provision of facilities;
- Publishing a local directory for the community;
- Gathering important knowledge and statistics;
- Provide evidence for any funding bids submitted.

Look in our next edition for more details.

CIVIC PRIDE SEES HETTON GAINING FIRST TOWN MAYOR

INSTILLING civic pride amongst residents young and old alike is at the heart of Hetton Town Council's work. The area is steeped in history whilst taking on the challenges and opportunities facing it in the 21st Century.

To reflect the merging of old traditions and new opportunities Hetton Town councillors have decided to replace the ceremonial title of 'Chairman' with that of Town Mayor.... following the growing trend of many other parish councils in the area. Seaham and Peterlee have had a Mayor for many years. Since its inception in 1974 the Town Council has had the right to have either a Chairman or Mayor.

A Town Mayor for Hetton Town Council is just one of a

number of important changes for the council. It also has a new leader – Coun. Keith Hepple (see inside for more details) and also now has a full time Town Clerk, John Price.

The duties of the Town Mayor will remain the same – to represent the council at all ceremonial events and to visit groups and individuals across the area.

Taking on the role of Hetton's first Mayor is Coun. Tony Wilkinson (63) a retired deputy head teacher of Glebe Juniors who started his teaching career at Hetton-le-Hole Juniors and Mixed Infants – known locally as Bog Row School.

Coun. Wilkinson is currently chair of Hetton-le-Hole nursery school and vice chair

of Hetton School governing bodies. He is vice chair of Tyne and Wear Valuation Tribunals and the Town Council's representative on the Passenger Transport Advisory committee. He is a past president of Hetton Rotary Club and serves as a magistrate and was the founding chair of Hetton Swimming Club.

An ardent sports fan, Coun. Wilkinson is Match Day Programme Manager at the Stadium of Light. His other sports loves include watching Hartlepool and Darlington football clubs play as well as supporting local cricketers and athletes.

Coun. Wilkinson is also an ardent walker – whether it is over hills and dale or just



pounding the pavements walking the family's springer spaniel Milly. Last year he calculated he walked 2,500 miles.

He has chosen the Grace House Appeal as his Mayoral Charity. At his side during his mayoral year will be his wife of 37 years, Kathy.

Coun. Wilkinson takes over from Coun. Mrs Anne Rankin. (see back page for a review of Anne's achievements).