

HETTON TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Volume 001

Winter 2025/2026



Happy New Year!



As we step into 2026 we're pleased to share an update on some of the fantastic activity taking place across our local area. In December, we held our annual Christmas Fayre at the Hetton Centre in partnership with Fest Events. The event was brought to life by wonderful performances from Easington Lane Primary School and Eppleton Primary School choirs, along with a brilliant display from the talented dancers from Trish and Trina School of Dance. We were also treated to live music from Houghton Youth Brass, plus much more.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the event so special — your support and involvement truly bring our community together.

Mental Health Awareness

In partnership with the charity Legend on a Bench former footballer, Micky Hazard, unveiled a commemorative bench in Hetton Mini Park. Born in Sunderland, Micky chose to place the bench in Hetton to help raise awareness of suicide, highlighting the importance of working together to address this issue. Suicide remains one of the leading causes of death among men in the UK.

The bench includes clear information on where to seek help and support for anyone struggling with their mental health, ensuring that guidance and support services are easily accessible when needed. Representatives from Andy's Man Club also attended the event, helping to raise awareness of the vital work their organisation is doing locally to support men's mental health and wellbeing.



Pictured at the bench unveiling: Micky Hazard, Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Hetton Town Council, representatives from Sunderland AFC Ladies and former Sunderland goalkeeper Trevor Swinburne.

New Planters Brighten Our Area

The Town Council is installing three new flower planters in our area. These will be placed at the following locations:

- Pemberton Bank, Easington Lane
- Durham Road, East Rainton
- Hetton Road, Broomhill

We hope these displays will bring a burst of colour to the area and help create a welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike. We are currently working with local organisations to support the ongoing care and maintenance of each planter, ensuring they continue to thrive throughout the year.

Curious about what Hetton Town Council is doing?

Come along to our meetings—everyone is welcome! We start each meeting with an opportunity for public participation, so you can share your views or ask questions. Full Council meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month, with Committee meetings arranged on an ad-hoc basis. Check our noticeboards, website or Facebook page for the latest updates.

Thank You, Eppleton Quarry

For many years Hall Construction, the owners of Eppleton Quarry, have made a very generous annual donation of funds to Hetton Town Council to be used within our community. This funding has supported many local organisations and charities, helping to make a real difference across our area. The Town Council distributes this funding through its Community Grants Scheme, ensuring the funds benefit a wide range of community projects.

Town Mayor, Councillor Philip Dowell, recently visited Eppleton Quarry to express sincere thanks for their ongoing support and to view the work currently being undertaken on site.



Hetton Town Council is committed to honesty and transparency and all Council documents are accessible to the public via our website or through the Town Clerk.



www.hettontowncouncil.gov.uk



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Hetton Town Council



Community Donations

The Town Council continues to provide donations to local charitable and not for profit organisations who work hard to make our area a better place. Recent donations have been awarded to Studio V Dance School, ELCAP, Hetton & District Art Club, Hetton Juniors FC and the Elemore Banner Group.

Do you run a local not for profit organisation? If so, why not submit an application to the Town Council for support?



Remembering Those Who Served

The Town Council proudly commemorated those who have served our country, paying particular tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of peace and freedom marking several important occasions: Armed Forces Day, VJ Day, Remembrance Day and Armistice Day. Each event provided an opportunity for councillors and members of the community to come together in reflection and to show gratitude to past and present members of the Armed Forces. This serves as an important reminder of the courage, dedication, and sacrifice shown by so many and ensure that their service will never be forgotten.



Town Council Motif Shines Brightly Once More

In December, a new illuminated motif was installed at Hetton Mini Park, restoring a much-loved feature that has been a shining beacon for the town for many years. The previous motif had been in place for a considerable time and regrettably, was no longer fit for purpose, requiring increasingly frequent repairs. The new installation is in situ and we believe it looks fantastic, once again providing a bright, welcoming feature for residents and visitors, enhancing the appearance of the town.



Precept Update 2026/27

The Town Council has agreed a 2% increase to the precept for 2026/27. This decision was not taken lightly, with Councillors working hard to keep any increase to a minimum. The increase reflects future uncertainty surrounding the LCTSG grant from Sunderland City Council and rising rental costs for the Town Council office at the Hetton Centre. This equates to an annual rise of 20p for a Band A household, increasing to 60p for a Band H household.

Planning Matters

As a statutory consultee for planning applications submitted to Sunderland City Council for our area, Hetton Town Council meets regularly to consider and comment on such applications. The Town Council strongly believes that our area has become overdeveloped and has therefore objected to a number of large-scale planning proposals. This includes a significant application on North Road, which was subsequently refused.



Hetton Town Councillors are elected members of the community who volunteer their time on behalf of local residents to improve and protect it. We are proud of where we live and continue to work closely with Sunderland City Council and other organisations to keep our area looking its best. The Town Council helps to maintain community facilities, raises environmental concerns and ensures that residents' voices are heard on decisions that affect the Town. This includes reporting issues such as graffiti, fly-tipping and vandalism to the relevant authorities. Please contact the Town Council if you notice any matters that you feel need to be reported.



Local Artist and Author Celebrates 100th Birthday

In December, the Town Mayor had the pleasure of attending Hetton New Dawn's Christmas Lunch, where he met local artist and author David Hughes MBE, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. To mark this remarkable milestone, Cllr Philip Dowell presented Mr Hughes with a commemorative certificate on behalf of Hetton Town Council and the residents of Hetton. In recognition of decades of dedicated charity work, Mr Hughes was awarded an MBE in 2016 and honoured as PRIDE of Wearside. The Town Council extends its warmest congratulations to Mr Hughes on reaching this milestone and thanks Hetton New Dawn for hosting such a special occasion. Hetton New Dawn is a local charity dedicated to supporting and improving the lives of people who are vulnerable, lonely or socially isolated. Further information about their work can be found on their website at www.hettonnewdawn.co.uk.

We welcome your feedback on this newsletter and any suggestions you may have for future publications. Please contact us using the information below.



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