

THE BELPER COMMUNITY PLAY

The established local playwright and Belper resident, Kevin Fegan, has received funding from the Arts Council England to research and develop a community play for and about the town. He is looking for people to share their stories and ideas about Belper and the surrounding area, which can be historical, contemporary, factual or fiction.

Kevin invites you to contact him by email: kevfegan@gmail.com or by telephone on **07904 111671**.

Later in the year, he will be organising a season of "taster" workshops in theatre-making skills and inviting people to get involved in the production.

COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN

The Council is developing a new business plan to help ensure that it focuses on the right set of priorities for the Town over the next few years.

The plan will cover a range of themes including the Environment, the Economy, and Communities. If you have a view we would like to hear from you, Simply think about:

- What are the 3 most important things in making Belper a good place to live.
- What are the 3 things in Belper in most need of improvement.

Email your responses to economy@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

This edition of the Belper Town Council Newsletter will be the last one to be produced in an exclusively printed format. This has not been an easy decision but the Council felt that it was the right move given our commitment to reducing our impact on the environment and improving value for money.

The Council will therefore produce future editions in a digital format available on the Council website and provide a limited number of paper formats which will be placed in the Library, Doctors Surgeries and some shops.

Future editions of the Newsletter will be available on the Town Council website to download, as it is now, but you will also be able to subscribe for your own digital copy to be emailed to you. To sign up for the newsletter and future email news alerts please email enquiries@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk providing your name and the email address which you require the newsletter to be sent to.

HERBERT STRUTT CHARITY

There are small grants available for the people of Belper Parish which includes Milford, Makeney and Farnah Green, from the Herbert Strutt Society.

The application form and criteria is available to view and download from the Council's website belpertowncouncil.gov.uk or alternatively you can contact the Town Clerk for a hard copy. If you are interested in making a donation or a bequest to the Charity then please contact the Town Clerk.

clerk@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk
01773 822116



NEWSLETTER Spring 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



For many of us the past year has been extremely difficult and as Mayor of Belper I would like to offer my condolences to families who have lost loved ones, and not just those

related to Covid-19. I would also like to pay tribute to our wonderful NHS staff, support workers and the many volunteers who have been helping us all through this crisis and I am sure that is a sentiment echoed throughout Belper.

I would also like to mention our Community Groups who still managed to run some of their activities during the year. Whether it was the virtual Belper Fringe Festival in May, Blooming Milford in the summer or the Lantern Trail at Christmas people pulled together to make the best of things which helped to raise spirits during difficult times.

The Council had to cancel a number of planned events during the year due to Covid, but I was pleased that we were still able to produce our floral displays which earned a Green Flag Award, reinstated the Geese sculpture lighting at the New Road roundabout and provide grants to Community groups and local projects.

ONGOING SUPPORT DURING COVID-19

All of us are affected in some way by Covid-19 and whilst there are concerns for everybody it is a time when we need to look after the most vulnerable. There are some wonderful examples of individuals and groups of people who have been helping others during difficult times and we would like to hear your views on how the Town might say a collective "thankyou" once restrictions are lifted.

It is not possible to list here the many Government, Council and voluntary initiatives in place to support people and businesses so

if you are looking for assistance go to the homepage of Belper Town Council belpertowncouncil.gov.uk and click on the "Covid-19 Information" link. This will provide an extensive list of information including links to the County Council and Amber Valley sites; alternatively you can call the Derbyshire County Council helpline on **01629 535091**

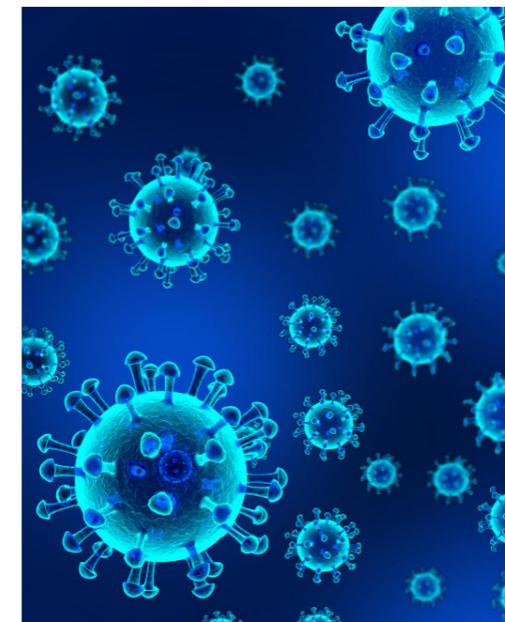


belpertowncouncil.gov.uk

Belper Town Council
Amber Valley Borough Council
Derbyshire County Council

01773 822116
01773 570222
01629 533190

admin@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk
enquiry@ambervalley.gov.uk
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/contact-us



BELPER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

On 6 May as part of the local council elections we will be holding a referendum on the Belper Neighbourhood Plan following the agreement of an independent examiner and by Amber Valley Borough Council on it being a fit for purpose planning document for Belper.



The plan has been developed over a number of years and has involved a lot of input from and consultation with local people as well as extensive research on the factors which impact on future development in the town. If approved it will be used in the consideration of Planning Applications in the town and will help to ensure that future development in Belper is in

accordance with policies which have been agreed at a local level. Some of the key policies are summarised as follows:

- Regeneration of the brownfield sites in the town (including the historic mills) is a priority.
- Development will provide the right balance of Housing, Employment, Leisure and Recreation uses.
- Development will reflect the historic, rural and environmental assets of the parish.
- Accessibility will be improved wherever possible through sustainable transport, and increased pedestrian and cycle routes.
- New developments will aim to reduce carbon emissions and make use of renewable energy to help reduce the negative impacts of climate change.

The summary plan and the inspectors amendments are available to view on the Town Council Website <https://www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan.html>

COUNCIL PLANS FOR 2021

Following the Government's recent announcements on the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions the Council is able to announce dates for a limited number of events to be held during the year. These are dependent on the restrictions being eased as planned and we will notify you of any changes:

LARKS IN THE PARK

Each Sunday from 4 July to 29 August

AUTUMN FOOD FESTIVAL

26 September

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON

26 November

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL SERVICE

24 December

The monthly Saturday **Farmers Market** is due to recommence in April or May and during the summer we hope to hold some new themed markets on a Sunday; we will provide more information once we are certain that these events can go ahead.

We continue to work in partnership with Amber Valley Council in a number of areas. Work on the **Three-Cornered Rec** improvements project has now started with the initial phase being funded by Amber

Valley Borough Council, and the second phase to be funded by Belper Town Council. The new **Tea Rooms** in the River Gardens, also part funded by the Town Council, is progressing well and we hope that an announcement about the opening date can be made soon.

A Town Council project to install **Electric Vehicle Charging Points** will be progressed during 2021 and together with Derbyshire County Council we have helped to secure funding for improvements at the station which includes better lighting, signage, dropped kerbs and a new CCTV system.

We hope to bring more positive news about the station in the coming months.

NEWS ON FLOODING

Since the floods of 2019 Belper Town Council has been working to ensure that warning, informing and prevention measures are improved. We have developed a Flood Action Group comprising members of the council and 11 Community Flood Warden volunteers

and we are in the process of creating a Flood Plan for Belper and Milford. We are also aiming to set up a Lower Derwent Flood Forum to develop a more joined up approach across various agencies in recognition that flooding issues do not start and end in Belper and Milford. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer Flood Warden please contact:

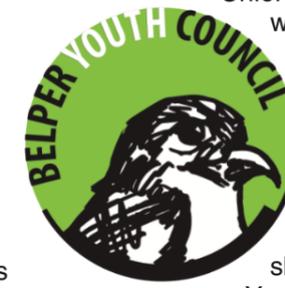
clremma.monkman@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk

NEWS FROM BELPER YOUTH COUNCIL

It has been an incredible journey being part of the growth of Belper Town's Youth Council, striving to give the youth of Belper a voice. This is our second year and we have not let Covid-19 stop us. The Youth Council is currently comprised of 14 young people who represent different schools, communities and clubs. We are supported by the Town Council, who allow us the freedom to explore our own ideas and always listen carefully. Being part of the Youth Council has been very eye-opening for us all, learning how a Town Council is run and how ideas become reality.

Knowing that our role could

make a difference to our town meant we all wanted to pick a subject that would make Belper an even better place. After lots of discussions, we decided our main focus would be Climate Change. We planned a family event, with stalls, music and a chance to inform our community on how we can move forward, making changes together to lead to improvements globally.



Unfortunately, this was cancelled due to the pandemic, but we intend putting this on in the future, showcasing the Youth Council's determination and hard work.

We have made good progress this year, working alongside some of our local charities. We have met people from our town,

such as Tom Wyke who is the chair of Blue Box, a community-based charity, Siobhan Fennel, the Chair of Accessible Belper, and Jo Lambourne, who runs the Food Hub. Once we are given more freedom we look forward to our ideas flourishing with these charities and other causes such as FareShare, Stop Hate UK, and solidarity with Black Lives Matter. We are also working with local artists like Kevin Fegan who is planning a play about Belper to be put on next year.

Our website will be up and running soon, and will include our newly designed Logo. This will be a place for the youth of Belper to offer suggestions to initiate change. Everyone in Belper deserves to have their voice heard - equality, acceptance and humanity are vital in ensuring Belper is the best it can be.

Tilley Lightfoot, Chair of Belper Youth Council

COMMUNITY FOCUS: BLOOMING MILFORD

Set up in 2008, Blooming Milford is a volunteer group of residents who strive to make Milford a better place through gardening related activities. Many of the flower displays that you see as you travel through the village were created and are maintained by them and they co-ordinate their efforts closely with Belper Town and Amber Valley Borough Councils. Their major projects include planting thousands of bulbs alongside the A6 in the village and in the Children's Play Area, replanting and ongoing maintenance of the upper part of The Triangle garden opposite The Strutt Arms, installation and maintenance of 4 riverside benches and a Spring Garden in the Hopping Mill Meadow estate, and installation and upkeep of 3 community herb planters.

Blooming Milford have entered Milford into the East Midlands in Bloom (EMIB) competition twice, and won a Silver Gilt award in 2013, and entered The Triangle into the EMIB "It's Your Neighbourhood" competition 4 times, getting the highest "Outstanding" award in 2019. Blooming Milford have planted 5 community fruit trees around the village, and will be planting 30 more at Hopping Mill Meadow immediately after Easter.



The Triangle, jointly maintained by Blooming Milford and BTC, Spring 2019, with daffodils on A6 verges beyond.

The Town Council has provided Grant funding to assist with the purchase of equipment and plants.

The brainchild of Kate Tuck, a parent of children at Milford Primary School work is ongoing to create the Milford Community GreenSpace. The aim is to provide a green area for the Milford School pupils during schooldays and outside of school hours, and a space for other community activities. Milford residents have cleared undergrowth and rubbish from the site, built a sturdy entrance ladder and fence, and planted fruit trees and bushes. Once lockdown restrictions have been eased the school will be able to use the site to hold outdoor lessons.