

February 2022

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Belper Town Council

Community E Newsletter



The latest news from Belper Town Council



With Christmas behind us, and the New Year well and truly here, Belper Town Council would like to update you on the progress that is being made on a variety of work that we are undertaking with some of Belper's Community Groups and organisations.

We are also providing some information about the work the Council has been doing to make Belper the best place to live and, again, efforts to deal with Flooding in the Town.

There is also a focus on Young People with an update from the new Chair of the Youth Council.

Finally, as we said in the last eNewsletter, please be aware that COVID 19 still represents a serious threat to Community Health. Although restrictions have recently been relaxed, we would still urge everyone in Belper to be sensible and to take precautions to help keep the number of cases down. Whether this be checking in on vulnerable people, taking a test if you feel unwell or wearing a face mask to protect yourself and others, we can all do our bit.

We always welcome any feedback on ways to improve this newsletter:
<https://www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk/contact-us.html>



Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs)

Coming soon! Belper Town Council is delighted to report that the installation of 12 Electric Vehicle Charging Points will soon commence in our Coppice Car Park. Work will begin in the Spring of 2022, and this is just one of the actions that we are taking in support of our 2019 Climate Emergency Declaration.

We will, in addition, be installing more bike racks in the Town Centre after consultation with Derbyshire County Council with regard to suitable locations.

Belper Town Council is committed to tackling the Climate Emergency and is keen to support community initiatives in this area through our grants. We have £20,000 per year to offer in grants so, to apply for a portion of this please complete our small grant application form which can be found on our website.

Flood Watch Scheme

Belper Flood Watch Scheme. Belper Town Council is keenly aware of the impact of the flooding events in 2019 and 2021. We have developed the Belper Flood Watch Scheme to respond to the incidence of flooding and will work towards mitigating and minimising the effect of flooding on our river town. Over the next few months Councillor Flood Wardens will be visiting homes and businesses in areas that have been identified as at risk of flooding by the Environment Agency. We will be distributing flood sacks and information packs and ensuring that those flood risk areas know how to contact us should the need arise.

As Lead Flood Warden for the Belper Flood Watch Scheme, Councillor Emma Monkman is always available to discuss flooding and can be reached by email to:

cilremma.monkman@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk





Belper & Milford Community Speed Watch

Community Speed Watch (CSW) is a national initiative where active members of local communities join, with support of the Police, to monitor speeds of vehicles using radar speed detection devices. Excessive and/or inappropriate speeding is extremely dangerous and is responsible for many unnecessary injuries and collisions. It is a criminal offence which affects the quality of life of many communities throughout Derbyshire.

Volunteers receive appropriate training and annual refreshers and are supported by the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams (SNTs). The scheme aims to: Reduce death and injury on the roads; Improve the quality of life for local communities; Improve driver behaviour through education; and expand public knowledge of the dangers of inappropriate speed.

The Community Speed Watch Team (Belper and Milford) is coordinated by Councillor Fay Atkinson. The demand is high with 35 roads in the town identified as areas of concern and training sessions are delivered on a rolling programme. Forthcoming sessions are planned for: 17th February 2022 at Ashford Rise; 15th March on The Fleet; 4th April on Bargate Road; and 28th April on Far Laund.

If you are interested in joining the team or want to discuss roads that you would like us to attend please contact:

clrfay.atkinson@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk or Facebook: Community Speed Watch Belper and Milford.

Citizens' Advice (CA)

Belper Town Council are pleased to again provide an annual grant to the Citizens Advice Derbyshire Districts. In addition, for the next financial year we have increased the town's contribution by a further £5,484 to enable CA to provide an additional three-hour appointment session every week. This means that from April, appointment sessions will take place on both Tuesdays and Fridays between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, followed by drop-in sessions from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

If you think that the Citizens Advice could help you, please feel free to visit them at the Baptist Church, Bridge Street, DE56 1BA on Tuesdays or Fridays. Appointments can be made by phoning 0808 278 7954 during office hours.

citizens
advice

Derbyshire
Districts



Youth Council News

The Youth Council of Belper is truly a strong force for both change and continuity in our incredible town. Our key aim is to build upon this. The Youth Council isn't some form of 'childrens' club', it is our town's focused young minds representing not just fellow youths, but the entire community. With new councillors this term, and the receding pandemic, we've hit the ground running to make a real positive, impact.

"I'm Olly Thompson, Chairman of the Youth Council. It's a pleasure and honour to be so, but a serious responsibility too. It's incredible to watch our ideas, and ones from those who we represent, turn into action. I look back to primary school, becoming a school councillor there, a title awarded by the mayor, to now being the Chairman of the Town's Youth Council, working with the mayor. These opportunities have meant experience for me and, more importantly, representation for others. I'm sure my fellow councillors feel this way too. That's why we're creating new opportunities in our town for the youth of today and tomorrow. I'd like to thank you for taking the time to read our introduction and also to thank this Council for establishing the Youth Council (one of the very few in the UK).

**The Youth Council of Belper is here to make
a real impact.**

Belper Early Years Fun

Belper Town Council is very pleased once again to provide financial support to the Belper Early Years Fun organization for the next financial year.

The Centre is situated on Alder Road, DE56 1LP, and provides a supportive environment for parents and young children with an emphasis on play and having fun. It is run entirely by volunteers who are committed to maintain the Centre following the withdrawal of Derbyshire County Council from the Sure Start programme in 2026. Over the past 5 years, they have provided an invaluable service to the community including accommodation for several other community groups. If you are interested in using this service, or contributing to their excellent work as a volunteer, please contact: belperearlyyearsfun@gmail.com





River Gardens Tea Rooms

The long-awaited Tea Rooms situated in Belper's historic River Gardens have at last been completed and, like everyone else, Belper Town Council is eagerly awaiting their opening. Although the River Gardens and the Tea Rooms are the responsibility of Amber Valley Borough Council, the Town Council have contributed £100000 to the building costs, a transaction which was agreed at the January Full Council Meeting and carried out shortly afterwards. We look forward to enjoying an opening event very soon and many cups of tea and coffee in the years to come with visitors and residents alike.

Belper Town Council Budget 2022-23

Belper Town Council has agreed that there should be no increase to the precept, which is the element of Council Tax raised for the Town during the financial year 2022/23. The Council recognized that householders in the town have experienced extremely difficult times over the past 22 months and to increase their tax burden would be an unwelcome additional hardship. Although the precept will remain the same as 2021/22, through careful management of the Council's finances, we have been able to fund a range of additional improvements and initiatives, including:

- Belper Leisure Centre - £10000 grant to continue providing and developing sport and leisure facilities.
- Community Transport – an additional £3540 grant to facilitate the development of a voluntary car scheme.
- Valley CIDS – an additional £5772 grant to maintain the youth outreach service covering Belper Parks area.
- 1625 Outreach – a new £5000 grant to develop a Belper-specific drug and alcohol misuse outreach programme for young people.
- Inflationary increases for staff costs and all Service Level Agreement Grants to local organisations.

For detailed information on the budget go to:

<https://www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk/finance.html>





<http://www.kigevy.com/the-media.net/stock-photos/028701>

Tetra Pak Recycling at No 28

Thanks to sponsorship from Belper Town Council and Transition Belper, and the continued kind permission of Pippa (owner), your used Tetra Paks can be dropped off at No.28 in the Market Place twice a month. On the second Saturday of each month, you can bring them along to the farmers' markets, and on the fourth Saturday to Repair/Green Cafe. Please note that:

- Paks must be washed and squashed as flat as possible, and the tops replaced.
- Take as many empty bags from the large sack of spares as you leave, to avoid wasting plastic (alternatively, use paper sacks, or write/stick your name on the bags.)
- Only leave your Paks when the collection bin is out.
- Hours are 10.00am to 12.15pm.

The Mayor's Comments

"Belper is a lovely town." I hear that phrase so often from residents and visitors and I always ask them what for them is the key attraction. The answers are so varied but in essence, Belper is more than the sum of its parts. Belper is a parish, the town itself plus villages, housing estates, outlying areas; all unique and adding to the mix of why Belper is Belper. Woven through the locations are churches, health services, sports clubs, the leisure centre, arts, and cultural venues and of course shops and pubs, offices and sundry businesses and services. There are so many community groups, far too many to mention.

The job of Belper Town Council is to provide, where needed, support to all of these constituent parts that together make it possible to say that "Belper is a lovely town." The past two years have admittedly been difficult for many, their world shrinking to just four walls whilst many have worked on with frontline jobs just to keep us all going. It was as if Belper was holding its breath. Our council team have tried to keep our town standards up despite lockdowns and restrictions. We had to cancel some of our events, but we have real hope that Belper 2022 can once again be fully open for business.

We look forward to a year of festivals, concerts, fairs and of course our thriving monthly Saturday and Sunday markets. One reinstated event will be the Civic Ceremony which this year will be an open-air interdenominational service, May 8th on the Market Place. Check the council website for further information which, fingers crossed, will also list the opening date of the River Gardens Tea Rooms.



What's On?

Event	Date
Saturday Market, 8.30am, The Market Square	12 Mar
Live Keyboard Music, 2pm, The Congregational Church	12 Mar
Saturday Market, 8.30am, The Market Square	9 Apr
Live Keyboard Music, 2pm, The Congregational Church	9 Apr
Spring Fun Fair, Coppice Car Park	21-23 Apr
St George's Day Celebration, Various Venues in Town Centre	23 Apr
Belper Arts Trail, 10am-4pm Town Centre	1-2 May
Civic Ceremony, 3pm, Detailed information later	8 May
Saturday Market, 8.30am, The Market Square	14 May
Live Keyboard Music, 2pm, The Congregational Church	14 May
Saturday Market, 8.30am, The Market Square	11 Jun

What's
on?

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<https://www.belpertowncouncil.gov.uk/newsletter.html>

Thank you for reading

economy@belpertowncouncil.gov.uk

