

Horden Parish Council

Annual Report 2009/10



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2009/10

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Message from the Chairman, Councillor Jean White



During the past year, the Welfare Park has once again been well used. The soccer coaching for the under 14's has been a huge success!

We had a better summer this year which meant that we could stage all of our usual activities in the Welfare Park. I am sure the children were delighted with the new bouncy castles and the other new facilities.

This year will see new features in the park including hockey tennis amongst others. The Parks and cemeteries Manager, Jimmy Bush has put together the activities for the summer starting in June. Activity lists will be available from Horden Social Welfare Centre.

The Parish Council retained their Green Flag and Green Heritage Award in 2009 for both the Welfare and Memorial Parks and have reapplied for 2010. I am sure that we will keep these awards, thanks to the outstanding efforts of the Parks and Cemeteries staff for keeping our parks at a high standard, especially during the frequent bad weather during the winter.

The community plan surveys have now been returned and the Horden Community Plan Steering Group are now in the process of reviewing what

The people of Horden have said they want for their village. When completed, public meetings will be arranged to determine what Horden's priorities are.

The Clerk to the Council, Paul Davison has been in the role for just over a year and is making progress over council priorities that have been identified.

I would once again like to thank the members of Horden Parish Council for making me Chairman and I have enjoyed a busy year since County Durham moved to a unitary authority in 2009. I would also like to thank all of the Parish Council staff for their continued hard work.

Jean White, Chairman

April 2010



About Us

Councillors: Horden Parish Council has 15 Councillors -

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Responsibility</u>
Cllr Rod Brown	19 Naisbett Ave.	
Cllr June Clark	73 Cotsford Park Estate	
Cllr Mary Clark	89 Cotsford Park Estate	
Cllr Edna Connor	2 Cedar St.	Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee
Cllr Billy Hill	6 Sunderland Ave.	
Cllr George Jones	12 Smillie Rd.	Vice-Chairman of Parks & Cemeteries Committee
Cllr Terry Jones	18 Handley St.	Chairman of Parks & Cemeteries Committee
Cllr George Lavery	9 Park Terrace	
Cllr Dennis Maddison	4 Langthorne Ave.	
Cllr George Patterson	7 Hope Ave.	
Cllr Tina Phillips	13 Macbeth Walk	Vice-Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee
Cllr Margaret Robinson	Northlea, 19 Shotton Rd.	Vice-Chairman of Parish Council
Cllr Bill Smith	22 Alder Rd.	
Cllr Jean White	23 Blackhills Terr.	Chairman of Parish Council,

Staff: The Parish Council employ staff in the following roles -

Paul Davison-	Clerk to the Council & RFO	Allan Roberts-	Gardner/Gravedigger
Gaynor Crute-	Assistant Clerk	Robert McLeod/Adam Hall-	Apprentice Gardner/Gravedigger
Gemma Rowe-	Administration & Finance Officer	Julie Bush-	Cleaner, Chapel of Rest
Jimmy Bush-	Parks & Cemeteries Manager	Janice Rudkin-	SWC Supervisor
Walter Rudkin-	Parks & Playing Fields Supervisor	Alan Atchinson-	SWC Assistant Caretaker
Cofin Muir-	Parks & Cemetery Team Leader	Mary Armstrong-	Cleaner, SWC
Keith Bailey-	Gardner/Gravedigger	Claire Naisbett-	Cleaner, SWC
Tommy Basley-	Gardner/Gravedigger	Andy Armstrong-	Bar Staff, SWC
Richard Hepworth-	Gardner/Gravedigger	Emma Surrey-	Bar Staff, SWC
Matthew Scott-	Gardner/Gravedigger	Eddie Beadle/Sue Tempest-	Doorstaff, SWC
Jonathan Harrison-	Seasonal Gardner/Gravedigger		

Introduction

Welcome to the 2009/10 Annual Report. This is the full report of the Parish Council; a summary will be published in the next Parish Council Newsletter.

This report has been produced and made available prior to the Annual Assembly to be held on Wednesday 5th May 2010 at 6pm in the Social Welfare Centre. The Annual Assembly is a meeting of the electors of the Parish of Horden and provides an opportunity for residents to discuss the information provided and to question the Council on its activities during the past year. Any member of the public is welcome to attend this meeting.

Horden Parish Council serves the village of Horden, with a population of around 8,500 residents, of whom just less than 6,300 are over the age of 18 and registered as electors.

We deliver many services in the village, such as the provision of parks, playing fields and recreation areas. We manage the Thorpe Road Cemetery, are responsible for the Station Road Allotments and manage the Social Welfare Centre.

Our aim is to give the residents of Horden information about the Parish Council and the services which we deliver in the village, to outline how we are dealing with current challenges and highlight our plans to meet community needs and deliver quality services in the next year and beyond.

Horden Parish Council is one of around 9,500 Parish and Town Councils within England, Parish and Town Councils are the first tier of Local Government and work very closely with the other tiers to try and achieve the best for their local communities. During 2009/10, we have worked very closely with Durham County Council on a number of issues. The old district council, The District of Easington, was absorbed into Durham County Council under the Local Government Re-organisation initiative in April 2009. Horden is represented by two Durham County Councillors, Dennis Maddison and Paul Stradling. Councillor Maddison is also a parish councillor for Horden.

Elections to the Parish Council are normally held every four years, the last being in 2007. The next are due to be held in May 2013 due to the changes which the formation of the new Unitary Authority has brought. Any registered elector over the age of 21 years, who is not disqualified because of being declared bankrupt or having a recent criminal conviction carrying a custodial sentence, may stand for election to the Parish Council.

Meetings of the Parish Council are normally held on the first Thursday of every month, except August when Council is in recess. Meetings start at 6pm in the Training Room of the Social Welfare Centre. The Agenda for Council meetings is prepared on the Friday prior to the meeting and displayed on the Parish notice board in the foyer of the Social Welfare Centre and also on our website for the public to view.

All meetings of the Council are open for the public (although certain exempt items may be held in private session). If you wish to attend a meeting, just turn up.

The Council are happy for the public to give their views or comments during Public Participation, but ask that you notify the Clerk prior to the meeting of the topic on which you wish to speak. If you would like further information, please contact Paul Davison during office hours.

Minutes of meetings are available for public inspection at both the Social Welfare Centre and at Horden Library in Sunderland road, or available via our website. Any member of the public is entitled by law to obtain copies of the minutes at reasonable cost. These can only be obtained from the Parish Council Offices at the Social Welfare Centre.

Review of 2009/10

1. Welfare Park

The Welfare Park has continued to retain its high standard of design, cleanliness and appearance exemplified in the planting schemes that have brightened the park this year.

The park was awarded with Green Flag and Green Heritage site status for the fourth consecutive year. This is an amazing achievement and testament to the dedication of the parks staff, and Horden is one of only a handful of Parish Councils in the country to achieve the Green Flag!

Green Flag inspection for 2010/11 is scheduled for the 25th May and the Parish Council are confident that Green Flag status will be reaccredited for the year to come.



The range of events and activities organised within the Welfare Park have continued to increase. Many of you will have enjoyed the various events and performances that took place during the year. Activities are arranged in school holidays, particularly over the summer where on most days in August there was something going on for young people and families to join in.

The parish council's newest purchases for the park this year were two large inflatable bouncy castles and an inflatable joust game which has meant we provided more events using this equipment as the weather was kinder to us this year!

Details are always posted in the notice boards at the entrances to the park. If you have any ideas for activities or events you would like to see, or would like to become involved as a volunteer by joining



The Ambulance House sited next to the toddler play area has undergone some changes in 2009. Horden St. Johns Ambulance who have been a part of the park since the Ambulance House's opening in 1937 sadly disbanded in 2009, marking the end of an era for the Welfare Park. The rooms upstairs have now been put to good use with the residency of Horden Heritage Society. The rooms now are being used as a Heritage Centre and Museum celebrating the rich history of Horden. Entry is free and if you want to see their fine collection of mining memorabilia and other relics of yesteryear, please drop in.



The lower floor of the Ambulance House building is occupied by the Green Leaf Café which is ran by Acumen Development Trust. The café is open for business during most of the opening hours of the park and provides value for money, tasty snacks and meals.

Lights along the North/South Avenue leading to the multi games area allow this area of the park to be accessed by organised groups after normal park closing hours during the winter months. The MUGA pitch can be booked between 6pm-9pm Monday-Friday at a reasonable cost. Please contact Jimmy Bush via the Parish Council offices for further details.



2009 saw the completion of works in the football ground to enable Horden Colliery Welfare Football Club to use the floodlights without the need for using a generator. The project was completed using grant funding from the Football Foundation and Durham County Council in conjunction with Horden Parish Council.

As experienced elsewhere, the unprecedented amount of rainfall in 2009 has caused numerous issues in the Welfare Park. The secondary rugby pitch has particularly been affected and drainage issues have unfortunately prevented the pitch from being used as much as it should. Horden Parish Council are working with Horden Rugby Club in order to secure funding to enable a drainage scheme to be commenced in 2010 in order to bring the pitch back into regular play.

The Welfare Park staff have consistently delivered a service second to none in their upkeep and maintenance of the park and sporting facilities which is reflected in the fourth consecutive year of attaining the Green Flag/Green Heritage Site award. The staff's dedication and commitment to excellence ensure that users of the Welfare Park continue to enjoy the amenities at the quality they expect. A special thank you therefore must go to Jimmy Bush, Walter Rudkin and the Welfare Park staff for their efforts.

2. Memorial Park

The Memorial Park retained its Green Flag and Green Heritage Site status in 2009 after winning the award in 2008, and this is an excellent achievement. This is largely due to the commitment and dedication of Memorial Park gardener Allan Roberts, who has done another fantastic job this year.

Routine maintenance continued throughout 2009. Replacement of fences will commence in 2010, in particular the metal fence around the clock.

In accordance with village tradition, the annual Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Tree Lighting ceremonies were held in 2009.

The attendance at both events was excellent this year and this is something that the parish council will encourage for future events.



2009's Remembrance Sunday parade was attended by representatives of the Lord Lieutenant of County Durham and a delegation from The Rifles. The service was particularly poignant this year, with wreaths being laid by the family of Daniel Wild who courageously served in Afghanistan and was laid to rest in Thorpe Road Cemetery.

Horden War Memorial Working Group was formed in February 2010 and aims to expand on a number of themes regarding the war memorials of Horden, including reviewing the Remembrance Sunday parade and service, re-inscribing the memorial in the park and a number of other initiatives to be progressed in 2010.

3. Cotsford Park Play Area

The grassed area in the centre of the inner ring of houses on the Cotsford Park Estate is a registered village green for which the Parish Council has management responsibility. Children's play equipment has been installed in the area to further bring the green into use as a community facility.

The area continues to be a major area of concern for the Parish Council as the green is constantly being used as an area for the illegal dumping of rubbish and the activities of some residents have continued in 2009 in illegally extending their gardens onto a registered green. Regrettably, the parish council will be considering pursuing enforcement action with Durham County Council in 2010.

Most notably during the Christmas period, the multi frame play equipment was burnt down in an arson attack which completely destroyed the equipment. The parish council do not have the funds to replace the equipment and due to the mindless act of a minority, the amenity of the Cotsford Park Play area has decreased.

4. Church Green

Church Green is the area of grass at the bottom of the Memorial Park opposite St. Mary's Church. It provides walkways from sixth and Seventh Streets to Blackhills Terrace and has a number of seating areas, litter and dog bins.



5. Maritime Crescent Play Area

The grassed play area at Maritime Crescent in Grants Houses was owned by the District of Easington. From April 2009 this has now passed into the ownership of Durham County Council. The play equipment and mini goals are however, the property of Horden Parish Council and we maintain them.



6. Sunderland Road Playing Fields & Play Area

Many football teams continue to use the football pitch at Sunderland Road and there are currently 7 teams allocated pitch space. One on a Saturday morning, four on a Sunday morning in the Peterlee & District Sunday League and two Sunday afternoon Youth Teams who play in various Russell Foster Youth Leagues. Whippet racing also takes place on the fields on a Saturday morning, in keeping with the tradition of the village.

The playing fields also cater for more informal activities such as five-a-side football, permanent mini goals are provided on the fields alongside a small play area for children.

Unfortunately, irresponsible dog owners are allowing their pets to foul on the pitches. Not only is this unsightly, it also poses a health and safety risk to park users. Parish council staff do regularly check pitches but this is an ongoing problem in which we are working with Durham County Council in order to enforce anti-dog fouling laws and issue fixed penalty notices to offenders.

In June 2009 the pavilion was refurbished and opened up for business as the "Centrefield Pavilion" by a local businessman. The café provides quality food at affordable prices and aims to work with the parish council in undertaking community projects.

Two projects that have already been carried out are floodlit PACT meetings with Peterlee Police and "Board for Bored" sessions, which provide a safe and accessible place for young people and the elderly to mix and challenge the perceptions they have of each other. The parish Council have worked with Groundwork North East, Peterlee Police and the Safe Durham Partnership in order to make these sessions a success and more exiting projects are being planned for 2010.

7. Thorpe Road Cemetery

Thorpe Road Cemetery continued to be a significant focus for the Parish Council in 2009 and much of this work will continue into 2010/11.

We have continued to extend the footpaths in the old part of the cemetery towards the dene and established a further planting scheme in this area, as well as maintaining the wildflower area adjacent to the dene. Ashes burials will be interned here once the current area is full. This part of the cemetery is unsuitable for full burials due to the drainage pipes which cross that part of the cemetery.

During 2009/10 76 burials took place as follows-

	Total	Horden	%	Others	%
All Burials	76	55	72	21	28
Full Burials	61	43	70	18	30
Ashes	15	11	73	4	27
New Grave Spaces Sold	32	26	81	6	19



In addition to the burials which took place, *** memorial plaques were sold for display on the Memorial Wall.

Many relatives have donated seats in memory of their loved ones, the Parish Council will, when space is available, consider donations of seats, trees, rose bushes and other items.

Despite building an extension to the cemetery in the early 1990's, the cemetery is continuing to fill at a significant rate. The Parish Council have sought expert opinion on the options for extending the cemetery from the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management.



We will continue to inform residents of progress via Parish Council Newsletters.

The cemetery has continued to suffer from periodic flooding in 2009 due to the consistently heavy rains experienced. The drainage system installed between sections C and F has worked very well in this regard and has been a success. However due to the consistent and heavy downpours experienced, the ground remains saturated for considerable time which causes rainwater to run off the surface. Cemetery staff have often worked "round the clock" with pumping gear in order to alleviate the situation and often in atrocious conditions and for that they should be commended.

In addition to regular maintenance work being carried out at the cemetery it was necessary to replace sections of fencing along the west side of the cemetery adjoining the dene. Existing sections of fencing and the cemetery gates were painted in conjunction with the National Probation Service and carried out by young offenders as part of their community service.



The Thorpe Road Cemetery also contains a Chapel of Rest. Although this has long been disused, members of the public are encouraged to make use of this when considering their funeral arrangements. For more information on this, any other queries you may have about the cemetery, or considering making a donation or memorial in memory of a relative, please contact Jimmy Bush, Parks and Cemeteries Manager at the Parish Council Offices.

The most recent improvement to the cemetery is the inclusion of a wildlife area at the bottom of D, E and F sections in a secluded corner of the cemetery which is unsuitable for burials. Rock piles, logs, bird boxes and ant boxes have been placed to encourage wildlife and provides a peaceful location in which to sit and reflect. Not only will the area provide a safe habitat for our local flora and fauna, but also act as a learning facility and children visiting the cemetery can see just what wildlife we have on our doorstep!



As part of "Horden in Bloom", the cemetery has also benefited from obtaining some flower tubs and attracting sponsorship to fill them. These and other improvements to enhance the visual presence of the cemetery will strengthen its bid to attain the green Flag award that the cemetery has been entered for in 2010. Judging commences on 27th May 2010 so fingers crossed!

Future plans other than the cemetery extension include the creation of a Garden of Remembrance to act as another focal point of reflection for those loved ones who have left us in body but not in spirit.



8. Horden Social Welfare Centre

Built in 1926 by the Coal Board, the Miners Welfare Hall served the miners and their families as a social gathering place to meet after work. Horden Parish Council purchased the building from the Coal Board in 1986 and since then the building has enjoyed extensive refurbishment in 2000.

Horden Social Welfare Centre continues to be used by many residents and community groups and the Parish Council have identified its importance as a community resource. So much so, that the council have created a Social Welfare Centre Sub-Committee which focuses on the activities of the building and builds on the Council's commitment to encourage the use of the Centre by Horden's residents.

Today, the Centre enjoys hosting many diverse activities to many residents and local groups. Activities range from slimming groups to citizens advice sessions and even boxing events! Sessions take place all take place on weekdays and special events such as Parties, Weddings, Christenings and other functions can be booked for weekends.



In long standing tradition, Horden Parish Council continue to support its local schools and the Centre now holds regular dates in its calendar which have become annual events. The Christmas Pantomime is an annual favourite highlight and 2009 saw the Centres first Halloween event and the first of many!

The Centre increased its occupancy in 2009, with the long term residency of two new groups. "Families First", a part of JobCentre Plus is a new initiative to work with families of the long term unemployed and aim to get them into work. DISC Edvise are a registered charity who are focused on providing help in order for young people to get into the employment market, provide training and lots more.

Horden Parish Council will be working with these groups throughout 2010 in order to provide the best possible support to the village.



In addition to regular functions, the Centre also takes regular bookings for parties, christenings, functions, anniversaries weddings and much more. Please book early to avoid disappointment!

For more information on the Centres facilities or if you wish to book a room or function, please contact Janice Rudkin, Social Welfare Centre Supervisor at the Parish Council Offices (which are also based in the building) for further details.

9. Horden In Bloom

Due to a number of issues, it was unfortunately not possible to enter Horden in the Northumbria In Bloom Competition for 2009. We are pleased to announce, that these issues have been resolved and the village is on course to be re-entered into the competition for 2010.

The Parish Council is working with Horden In Bloom and other partners, to ensure that 2010 will be a good year for us to improve on the Bronze award we achieved in 2006.



Below is a list of current regular activities at the Social Welfare Centre-

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Monday	1.00pm-3pm	Innovations
	3.30pm-4.30pm	Smoking Cessation
	5pm-6pm	Brownies
	5pm-6pm	Rainbow Guides
	5.30pm-6.30pm	Claire's Dancing
	6pm-8pm	Weight Watchers
Tuesday	9.30am-12.30pm	Citizens Advice Bureau
	6pm-8pm	Claire's Dancing
Thursday	1pm-3pm	CISWO Social Club
	6pm-8pm	Girl Guides
	7pm-9pm	Patchwork Quilters
Friday	7pm-11pm	Mechanics Social Club



10. Annual Flower and Vegetable Show

The 9th Annual Flower and Vegetable Show took place in August 2009 attracting 204 exhibits from 32 entrants. The show this year was more popular than ever and attracted entrants from as far afield as Scarborough and Scotland.

Although it was acknowledged that 2009 was "not a leek year" the floral entries were particularly stunning as you can see!

The show continues to host the East Durham Chrysanthemum Championship sponsored by the family of the late Mr. John Peace, a former resident and renowned grower of Chrysanthemums.



11. Station Road Allotments

The allotments, situated at the end of Acacia Avenue, are on both sides of the railway bridge. Some of the site is rented by the Parish Council from Castle Eden Estates and the remaining part belongs to the Parish Council. The whole site is rented to Station Road Allotments Association who manage the site including the collection of rents and also run the "Garden Hut". The committee continue to work with the Parish Council organising the annual Flower and Vegetable Show.

2009 has seen the continuance of fly tipping activity where local people are using vehicles to cross the railway bridge and dump rubbish onto the allotment area. Horden Parish Council is working with the Allotments Association to try and curb this practice and are looking at obtaining grant funding to put in place fencing and gates to discourage



12. Stayplton Drive MUGA Pitch

Although not under the ownership of Horden Parish Council at present, the council envisages that ownership of the multi user games pitch at Stayplton Drive will transfer to them from McInerney Homes during 2010.

There are a number of issues to be resolved before the council takes ownership such as the connection of the floodlights which will enable the pitch to be used from dusk until 9pm.

The development has attracted much comment, particularly regarding the fence height. If ownership is transferred, the council will explore this issue further in order to seek a suitable solution for all.

13. Planning Applications

The Parish Council are statutory consultees on all planning applications submitted to Durham County Council. This means that the Parish Council have the opportunity to support or object against any application submitted from within the village. During 2009/10 there were 20 applications considered by the Parish Council.

14. Finance

During 2009/10, the Council set a budget of £572,801. It is estimated that we spent £567,149 during the year which includes some expenditure from earmarked reserves on capital projects. However please note, these figures are subject to adjustment as the year end final figures are still being calculated and will be available for audit in the summer of 2010. The Audit Commission appointed external auditors BDO Stoy Hayward, have set the date for the audit of the Parish Councils accounts as 23rd July 2010.

By law, any interested person has the right to inspect the Council's accounts. Any registered elector also has the right to ask questions about the accounts or challenge an item of account with them. The accounts will be available for public inspection for 20 working days between 21st June and 16th July 2010 for this purpose. If you wish to exercise your right to inspect the accounts, please contact Paul Davison, Clerk to the Council between the hours of 10am and 4pm on any of those dates stated.

15. Publicity and Communications

Each year we produce a financial information leaflet that is sent on our behalf by Durham County Council. This leaflet is sent with the Council Tax demand and details the amount we intend to spend over the coming year on delivering services within the parish and the amount that we collect from the Council Tax.

In addition, we are also publishing four news letters per year which are distributed throughout the village via the Post Office, Library, the Youth and Community Centre, pubs and clubs, churches, doctors surgeries and local shops to name just a few!



Events and activities organised by the Council are advertised on notice boards within the Welfare Park and the Social Welfare Centre as well as other outlets such as the Library etc. If any residents are interested in submitting information of interest or have information for inclusion in our news letters, then please contact the Clerk.



16. Horden Community Plan

2009 saw the re-launch of the Horden Community Plan. The Plan is a blueprint for what the residents of Horden want for their village; what needs to be put right, what needs developing and what needs to happen in Horden in order to progress.

The Horden Community Plan Steering Group is made up of representatives covering a wide variety of people from the village and questionnaires were sent out to each household as well as children and young people being consulted on what matters were important to them.

All of the answers have been returned and 2010 will see the production of the community plan. Once published, the plan can then be used by any group in Horden to help them with grant funding, help the parish council focus spending on what the community wants and help with longer term strategic issues such as the re-establishment of a railway station in the village.

17. Grant Funding

The Parish Council give many grants and donations to local groups and charitable organisations during the year. Some of the grants are in the form of free or reduced rental for the use of Parish Council facilities, particularly the Social Welfare Centre. Other grants are in the form of monetary donations. All requests for grants are considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Listed below are the groups and organisations who received financial assistance in 2009/10.

Disc Edvise
Hartlepool District Hospice
Banner Committee
SalsaWorks
Poppy Wreath
Brownies
Citizens Advice Bureau
Claire Bennett Dance School
Community Safety Partnership
Flower and Vegetable Show Committee
Friends of the Welfare Park
Guides
Horden Heritage Society
Horden Colliery Residents Association
Horden In Bloom
Mechanics
Patchwork Quilters
Rainbow Guides
Horden Banner Committee
Cotsford Junior School
SalsaWorks
Horden Regeneration Partnership
The Drop In
Royal Society for the Blind
Haswell and District Mencap
East Durham Positive Inclusion Partnership
Harbour Refuge
Help For Heroes
Great North Air Ambulance
Roseby Road Community Centre
Catholic Club Boys F.C.



18. Partnership Working

In order to achieve more within the village, the Parish Council works in partnership with others. In 2009, those with whom partnerships have been formed and maintained include, Durham County Council, Horden Regeneration Partnership, Acumen Development Trust, Department of Work and Pensions, Heritage Coast, the Coal Authority, Horden In Bloom, the allotments association, Peterlee Constabulary, Safe Durham Partnership, Groundwork North East, residents associations and local sporting groups amongst many more. If you think that your group would achieve more by working with Horden Parish Council, then please contact the Clerk.

Mindful of the severe winter that was experienced in 2009, Horden Parish Council are looking at working in partnership with Durham County Council in 2010 to explore the possibility of gritting some footpaths for the next winter. Priority will be given to areas which holds a significant concentration of Horden's elderly residents. No agreement has been reached as yet but the parish council will update residents when further information is forthcoming.





19. Quality Council Status

Quality Council Status is the benchmark to which all Town and Parish Councils aspire in the pursuit of excellence. Central Government developed the standard in order for local

councils to prove they have met various quality criteria in order to attain the award, such as communicating with residents, holding regular meetings and keeping accurate financial records to name just a few.

Horden Parish Council was awarded Quality Status in May 2007 and is due for re-accreditation in 2011.



20. Strategic Plan

In November 2009, Horden Parish Council continued it's formal planning process for the next five years and beyond. Much has been achieved in the past 5 years and the Council wish to continue to improve services whilst concentrating on keeping increases to a minimum.

We hope to progress the projects in the strategic plan identified for 2010/11 and we

will continue to maintain our commitment to continuous improvement and make Horden a better place to live.

Priorities currently identified in our five year plan include;

1. Completing the Horden Community Plan.
2. Replacing fencing in the Memorial Park.
3. Refurbishment of parish council buildings.
5. Upgrading of IT facilities.
6. Replacing fencing on allotments.
7. Improvements in children's play areas.
8. Progressing the extension to Thorpe Road Cemetery.

If you have any queries on any of the topics covered in the Annual Report, please feel free to contact the Clerk to the Council, Paul Davison at the Parish Council Offices between 10am-4pm.

**Paul Davison
Clerk to the Council
April, 2010**

**Horden Parish Council
Social Welfare Centre
Seventh Street
Horden
Peterlee
Co. Durham
SR8 4LX**

**Tel: 0191 5180823
Fax: 0191 5180835**

**Email:
hordencouncil@btconnect.com**

**Website:
hordenparishcouncil.gov.uk**