



Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council

Annual Report
2025/2026

BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Electors,

As my second term as Chairman of Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council comes to an end, I have felt both honoured and humbled to have once again been entrusted with this important position within the Council.

My chosen charity for the year was St Cuthbert's Hospice, a vital organisation within our community that has helped so many families and their loved ones. My two charity night events raised approximately £2,000, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their support, as well as our Clerk, Claire, and Assistant Clerk, Sarah, for their hard work, dedication, and support throughout my term of office.

As a Parish Council, we support numerous local community groups and charities, and we continue to support Brandon Carrside Community Project, which does a fantastic job in providing opportunities and support for young people within our villages.

My thanks also go to Cllr Sarah Leckenby for her support, and not forgetting my consorts who accompanied me to functions where I was always proud to promote the Parish Council. Many thanks to my daughter Gillian, my granddaughter Abby, and Cllr Marion Wilson.

Lastly, I would like to give my full support to whoever becomes the Chair for 2026/27

*Councillor Jimmy Jamieson
Chairman*

ABOUT US

List of Members 2025/26

Cllr Jimmy Jamieson Chair	cllrjamieson@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Sarah Leckenby Vice Chair	cllrsleckenby@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Pam Askell	cllrpaskell@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr David Bell	cllrdbell@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Anne Bonner	cllrabonner@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Frank Bonner	cllrfbonner@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Dougie Bregazzi	cllrdbregazzi@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr John Burt	cllrjburt@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr John Chapman	cllrjchapman@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Priscilla Elmer	cllrpelmer@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr John Grantham	cllrjgrantham@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Derek Hindmarch	cllrdhindmarsh@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr John Hirst	cllrjhirst@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Dennis Rowland	cllrdrowland@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Edwin Simpson	cllresimpson@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Diana Simpson	cllrdsimpson@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Carolyn Smith	cllrcsmith@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Philip Stoddart	
Cllr John Turnbull	cllrjturnbull@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Malcolm Wall	cllrmwall@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Marion Wilson	cllrmwilson@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk

21 Council seats are elected

Council Offices address:

6 Goatbeck Terrace
Langley Moor
Durham
DH7 8JJ

The office is staffed from **9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**, Monday to Friday.

We welcome visitors between **9:30 AM and 11:30 AM**. Outside of these hours is by appointment only.

Telephone 0191 378 9947

Email: info@brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk

www.brandonandbyshottlesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Staff

Claire Dixon – Clerk to the Parish Council

Sarah Cash – Assistant Clerk to the Parish Council

Samantha Shippen – LGRC Consultant

Lee Pallister – Community Highways Worker – *Employed by Durham County Council

The Council has 14,581 electors and encompasses the following 6 villages:

Parish Area	Electorate	No. of Ward members
Brandon (Central)	4159	4
Langley Moor (East)	1256	3
New Brancepeth (North)	972	3
Meadowfield and Browney (South)	2033	3
Ushaw Moor & Broompark (Ushaw Moor)	3438	4
Esh Winning & Waterhouses (West)	2723	4
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>14,581</u>	<u>21</u>

The Parish Council meetings are held 3rd Friday of the month (excluding August) in the Council offices, commencing at 6.30 pm.

Finance and Personnel Committee meetings are held quarterly; Allotment Committee meetings have been held monthly but will now continue to be held bi-monthly. Meeting dates are posted on the Parish Council Website.

Agendas are posted on the Parish Council website, noticeboards outside the Council Offices and at Ushaw Moor. Minutes of the meetings are available on the Parish Council website.

The Parish Council has a Facebook page, which can be found by searching for **Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council**, it is kept up to date with any events going on in the local area and relevant news.

The Parish Council is responsible for 16 allotment/grazing sites and 3 garage sites at the following locations.

Allotment Sites

Station Avenue, Brandon	Folds Close, New Brancepeth
Commercial Street, Brandon	Broompark
Alder Park, Brandon	Cockhouse Lane, Ushaw Moor
Low Browney (inc. grazing)	Empire Field (inc. grazing), Ushaw Moor
High Browney	Rear Durham Road, Esh Winning
Low Meadowfield (inc. grazing)	Hamilton Row, Waterhouses (inc. grazing)
High Meadowfield	Waterhouses - grazing
Black Road, Langley Moor	Langley Grove (inc. grazing), Langley Moor

Garage Sites

Commercial Street, Brandon
Langley Grove, Langley Moor
Brandon Road, Esh Winning

We currently hold waiting lists for both allotments and garage sites; if you are interested, please contact the office.

The Council leases land at Waterhouses Play Area and Broompark Play Area from Durham County Council, and land to the rear of Coronation Homes in Esh Winning from Durham Aged Mineworkers' Homes Association. The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the

grassed areas and play equipment at Waterhouses, the grassed area at Esh Winning, and the play equipment at Broompark Play Area, ensuring these spaces are kept safe, tidy, and accessible for the community to enjoy.

The Parish Council has responsibility for the village greens at Brandon, Browney and Ushaw Moor, provides public seats, maintains 3 War Memorials at Brandon Village, New Brancepeth and Ushaw Moor and provides floral containers and displays throughout the Parish.

The Council supports numerous local community groups and organisations.

The Council works in partnership with Durham County Council to provide services such as the Community Highways Worker in order to improve the street scene of the Parish.

OVERVIEW OF WORK CARRIED OUT IN 2025/2026

Allotments

The Parish Council maintains 16 allotment/grazing sites, this includes fencing, clearance, water consumption, tap repairs, tree cutting, provision of skips and general management of the sites.

Grass Cutting

The Parish Council continue to maintain grass cutting at the following locations:

- Village Green, Browney
- Brandon Carrside Youth Club
- Brandon Community Centre
- Land opposite Bay Horse and War Memorial, Brandon Village
- Waterhouses Play Area
- New Brancepeth Village Hall
- St. Andrew's Methodist Church, Brandon
- Brandon Road, Esh Winning
- Rear Aged Miners Homes, Esh Winning
- Path at Alder Park allotments
- Path at Durham Road allotments, Esh Winning

Floral Containers

The Parish Council has recently entered into a new contract with DK Horticulture to provide floral displays throughout the Parish, including both summer and winter bedding. These displays play an important role in enhancing the appearance of our villages and community spaces. The Parish Council looks forward to working with DK Horticulture and seeing the positive impact the displays will have across the Parish.

The Parish Council would like to express its sincere thanks to Durham County Council for providing the winter and summer bedding displays in previous years. The floral displays have made a valuable contribution to enhancing the appearance of our villages and are greatly appreciated by both the Council and residents alike.

Community Highways Worker (CHW)

The Parish Council continues to work in partnership with Durham County Council to provide a Community Highways Worker, with the Parish Council funding the majority of the associated costs. Our Community Highways Worker has continued to work diligently across all villages within the Parish, helping to improve the local environment and enhance the overall street scene.

The work undertaken includes pruning trees and shrubs, hedge cutting, assisting with the Parish Council allotments, weed removal and spraying, litter picking, maintaining accessible pathways and bus stops, and strimming around signs and planters. This ongoing work makes a valuable contribution towards maintaining clean, safe, and attractive community spaces for residents and visitors alike.

Public Rights of Way Programme (PROW)

The Parish Council has continued to work in partnership with Durham County Council through the Public Rights of Way (PROW) Maintenance Programme to carry out strimming and weed spraying on various public footpaths and rights of way throughout the Parish.

Poppy Appeal

Wreaths were laid at all three war memorial sites within the Parish to commemorate the fallen, with Members of the Council attending services across the villages to pay their respects.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council has been consulted on numerous planning applications during the year for proposed developments in our area. Comments of support or objection were conveyed to Durham County Council. These comments can be viewed on the County Council's website [Find and comment on planning applications - Durham County Council](#). Weekly lists of applications relevant to the parish area can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

Youth Service

The Parish Council continues to assist with funding the youth services delivered by Brandon Carrside Youth and Community Project. The service provides valuable opportunities for young people across the Parish, including a range of trips and outings, as well as activities designed to help them develop new skills, including cookery and other practical and social activities.

In addition to the main provision, Brandon Carrside Youth and Community Project also delivers outreach sessions within New Brancepeth, Esh Winning, and Ushaw Moor, helping to ensure that young people across the wider community can access support and activities.

Further information can be found on their Facebook page: [Brandon Carrside Youth and Community Project](#).

Local Community Groups and Organisations

A brief look at some of the groups Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council has supported over the last year.

Friends of Langley Moor

A local residents' association formed with the aim of improving and enhancing the local community in Langley Moor.

The residents organise the annual Christmas tree within the village, while the Parish Council supports the initiative by meeting the associated electricity costs throughout the year.

Further information can be found on their Facebook page: [Friends of Langley Moor](#)

Browney Residents Association

The group works to represent residents' interests and support local improvements and community-led initiatives.

The group has worked hard to develop and open a community garden, which is available for members of the public to visit and volunteer in. This initiative provides a valuable community space and encourages local involvement and wellbeing.

The Parish Council has supported this project at the Browney Allotments and has recently donated funds towards the decoration of the fencing, helping to enhance the appearance of the site and support the ongoing development of the garden.

Further information can be found on their Facebook page: [Browney Residents Association](#)

Esh Winning Residents Association

Esh Winning Residents Association plays an active role within the community by supporting local initiatives, organising events, and working to improve the village environment for residents.

The Parish Council has provided a donation towards the annual fun day, helping to support a range of free activities for residents and families to enjoy. The Council looks forward to this year's event and seeing the community come together once again for another successful fun day.

Further information can be found on their Facebook page: [Esh Winning Residents Association](#)

Ushaw Moor Cricket Club

Ushaw Moor Cricket Club is a valued local sports club providing opportunities for people of all ages to participate in and enjoy cricket, while also contributing to community life and promoting sport within the village.

The Parish Council was pleased to provide a donation towards the local firework display, helping to support a popular community event enjoyed by residents and families.

Further information can be found on their Facebook page: [Ushaw Moor Cricket Club](#)

New Brancepeth Revellers Band

New Brancepeth Revellers is a long-established local marching band that brings together members of all ages and proudly represents the community through music, performance, and local events.

The Parish Council was pleased to provide a donation to support the band with its ongoing and increasing costs, helping to ensure that this valued community organisation can continue its activities and represent the area with pride.

Christmas Trees

The Parish Council also organised Christmas trees to be located at the following sites:

Esh Winning
Ushaw Moor
Brandon Carrside

The Parish Council continues to meet the electricity costs for Christmas trees at these locations, with the exception of Brandon Carrside, and also contributes towards the electricity costs for the Christmas tree at New Brancepeth.

Mining Banners

The Parish Council made contributions to support local community groups in taking the mining banners to the Durham Miners' Gala. This support helps ensure that the banners can continue to be displayed and carried with pride at the event.

Chair's Charity Evenings

The Chair's Charity Evenings took place in September 2025 and April 2026 at Browney Social Club. The Chair's chosen charity was St Cuthbert's Hospice, and the events were a great success, raising a total of £2,438.95.

The Chair would like to extend sincere thanks to everyone who attended, donated prizes, or assisted in any way to support the evenings. A wide range of fabulous prizes were generously received, which helped to make the events particularly enjoyable and successful.

Dog Poo Bags

The Council continue to provide ‘dog poo’ bags free of charge. The bags can be collected from the following locations:

Parish Council Office, Langley Moor – during visiting office hours.
Brandon Library
Esh Winning Library
New Brancepeth Village Hall
R & B Convenience Store, Ushaw Moor
St. John’s Hall, Meadowfield
The Hut, Ushaw Moor
Waterhouses Village Hall
Woodland Road Communal Hall, Esh Winning

Please be a responsible dog owner by picking up after your dog and helping to keep our Parish clean and pleasant for everyone to enjoy. Your cooperation is appreciated in maintaining a tidy and welcoming environment for all residents and visitors.

Supporting Local Communities

Below are some of the groups the Parish Council supported with donations in 2025 and 2026.

St Cuthberts Hospice	£600.00
Man Club	£792.00
Esh Winning Resident Association	£500.00
Browney Resident Association	£300.00
Brandon Banner Group	£300.00
Friends of Addison Park	£500.00
New Brancepeth Banner	£300.00
Ushaw Moor Action Group	£500.00
New Brancepeth Revellers	£500.00
Building Better Community Partnerships	£300.00
Durham Mayors Charity (St Cuthberts Hospice)	£600.00
St Andrews Church, Brandon	£1,000.00
Durham United Football Club	£250.00
Ushaw Moor Cricket Club	£500.00
Brandon United Football Club - Youth	£1,131.50
Wellbeing, New Brancepeth	£150.00
Ushaw Moor Action Group	£350.00
The Allotment Project, Waterhouses	£600.00
The Salvation Army	£800.00
Esh Winning Academy	£400.00
North East Brass Band	£500.00
Brandon United Football Club – Youth	£1131.50

St Johns Hall	£50.00
Wellbeing Group, New Brancepeth	£150.00

In addition, Christmas Donations were given to the following groups:

Christmas Donations

St Johns Hall	£200.00
Salvation Army	£75.00
St Andrews Youth Group	£150.00
St Andrews Church	£200.00
Brandon Academy	£200.00
Browney Academy	£200.00
St Patricks Primary School	£200.00
5th Durham City Scouts	£50.00
St Patricks Church	£200.00
Langley Moor Nursery and Primary School	£400.00
Brandon Community Hall	£350.00
The Orchards, Brandon	£75.00
Browney Club	£400.00
Meadowfield and Langley Moor Over 60's	£225.00
St Johns Ambulance	£175.00
Browney Residents Association	£100.00
New Brancepeth Academy	£150.00
New Brancepeth Village Hall	£100.00
New Brancepeth Church	£100.00
St Lukes Church, Ushaw Moor	£100.00
St Josephs Church, Ushaw Moor	£100.00
Broompark WI	£100.00
Silver Tree Primary School	£100.00
Ushaw Moor Catholic Club	£150.00
St Josephs RC School	£100.00
Ushaw Moor Cricket Club	£100.00
Ushaw Moor Action Group	£250.00
2-4 Club St Josephs Parish Hall	£100.00
Woodland Road Elderly Group	£100.00
Esh Winning Banner Group	£100.00
St John Boste (Newhouse Church)	£100.00
Esh Winning Cricket Club	£100.00
Esh Winning Residents Association	£100.00
Esh Winning Baptist Church	£100.00
Woodland Road Community Hall	£100.00
20th Durham City Scouts, Waterhouses	£100.00
Waterhouses Community Association	£100.00
Waterhouses WI	£100.00
St Pauls Church	£100.00

The Parish Council remains committed to working in partnership with residents, local groups, and organisations to maintain and improve the Parish for everyone. We are grateful to all councillors, staff, volunteers, and partners for their continued dedication and support throughout the year.

Together, we take pride in our community and the positive difference that is made through collective effort. We look forward to the year ahead continuing to build a welcoming, vibrant, and thriving Parish for all.