



In Touch

With local Conservative County Councillor – David J. Towns

Serving Ulgham Division

www.davidtowns.co.uk

Summer 2008

A Big “Thank You”

From new County Councillor David J. Towns



Thank you to the people of the Ulgham Division for returning me as their new Councillor on Northumberland County Council and the new Northumberland unitary authority

I am delighted to have been elected as your new County Councillor, and I promise to work hard not only to repay the faith you have shown in me, but also to earn the support of those who chose to support another candidate.

It was a closely fought election, and I am grateful to the other candidates for their kind congratulations and the positive way in which all of the campaigns were fought. My view is that although I do represent a political party, representing ALL local people is more important than party politics, and is the fundamental duty of any local

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Ideas on Local Project Funding Sought

Your County Councillor Wants YOUR Views

Cllr David Towns, your local Conservative County Councillor, is pleased to announce the continuation of the Members' Local Improvement Scheme allowance.

Under the Scheme, each County Councillor is allocated £15,000 per annum to spend on community projects within their Division.

“One of my election promises was to consult local people on how this money is to be spent. After all, it is *their* money!” says David.

Applications for the 2008/2009 Scheme year have already been made, with suggested projects being submitted in June. David consulted each Parish Council within the Division in order to compile a list of projects for consideration. These include grants towards the cost of the new playground at Ulgham and improvements to the community centres at Widdrington Station, Hepscott and Mitford

However, David is inviting local residents to suggest projects for the 2009/2010 Scheme year. “I would like local people to think about projects in their area that could benefit from this funding, and tell either myself or their Parish Council”.

The funding is available for capital expenditure schemes and projects which will be of benefit to the wider community, and can be as little as a few hundred pounds up to the annual maximum of £15,000.

David will consider all suggestions for funding, and try to assist where possible.

Please contact David with your views:-

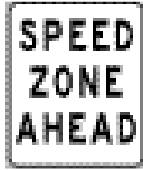
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Councillor. I therefore plan to work with all local people, regardless of political allegiance, to get the best deal for you from the new council.



Road Safety Scheme for Villages

Local County Councillor, David Towns, is pleased to announce that a large-scale road safety scheme for Widdrington, Hebron, Ulgham, Mitford and Hepscott has been given the go ahead by County Highways Officers.

The scheme involves the erection of poles at specially identified sites along the roads into or through each village, onto which a solar-powered speed sensor and flashing warning sign can be mounted. The sign will alert drivers when approaching vehicles break the speed limit, and will be shared between the villages on a 6-week rotation basis.

Former County Councillor, James Grant, set the wheels in motion in conjunction with local Parish Councils, and David has worked with the Parishes and council officers to bring the scheme to a successful conclusion.

“These signs have proved to be very effective in cutting the speed of cars through towns and villages across the UK,” David says. “Rather than trying to catch out drivers for revenue raising, they effectively promote road safety by reminding drivers that they are in a speed controlled area. I am very pleased that we have, through a partnership of the County Council, Parish Councils and Northumberland Camera Safety Partnership, brought the benefit of these traffic calming devices to villages in the Ulgham Division.”

ENERGY SAVING – DOING YOUR BIT

This summer, insulating your home may be the last thing on your mind. However, we can all do our bit to cut CO2 emissions and save money too by insulating lofts and excluding drafts in our houses – and it may cost less than you think! Visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk for information on grants that may be available to you

Well Done Mitford!

One of local County Councillor David Towns’ first duties, on 3 May 2008, was to attend the grant opening of the new children’s playground at Mitford Community Centre.

Local people raised over £25,000 to renew the old playground (which I used as a child!) and it looks great. David said, “I would like to congratulate everyone involved in the scheme. It really shows what communities can achieve if local people work together for a common goal.”

Local Tories Taking Action – and Getting Results

Following concerns raised by a local resident, David has been discussing the state of the surface of Mile Road, Widdrington Station, with County Highways division officers.

“The outcome of my discussions is that whilst Mile Road is not included in the approved capital maintenance programme for 2008/9, officers have now added the repair of Mile Road to the list of potential schemes that should be considered when drawing up the capital maintenance programme for 2009/10,” says David.

In addition to the above, David has passed residents’ concerns onto the Council’s Area Maintenance Manager, requesting the condition of the road be carefully monitored.

“I have asked officers to carry out any necessary remedial work that is required to maintain the road in a safe condition whilst a full resurfacing is considered,” David confirmed.

New Website:-

David has launched a new personal website for local people to access to keep up to date with the latest news and views from David, the Council and our community.

The website, launched at no cost to the taxpayer, is available at www.davidtowns.co.uk

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