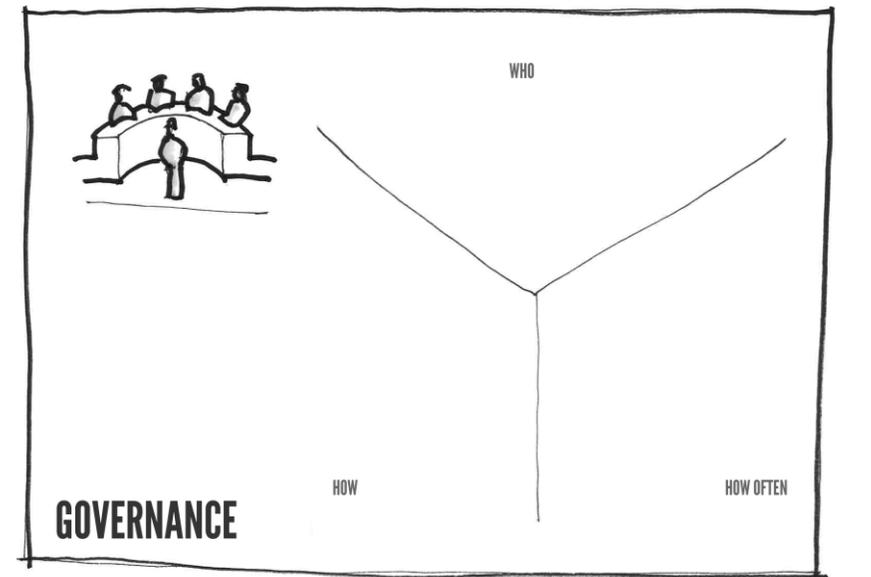


# Blyth Town Council

## Review of the Year 18/19

# New Governance Arrangements - May 2018

- The committee system slimmed down to enable cross cutting issues to come under the control of three new committees.
- The new committees deal with the Environment, Community Development and Governance.



# Tree Sculptures

- Following the success of the sculpture of a miner at the junction of Hodgson Road and Cowpen Road the Council decided to add another very different work at Twelfth Avenue.
- This depicts a Spartan Warrior and is situated near the ground of the Town's well-known football team Blyth Spartans.



# Speed Sensors

- ▶ The Council agreed a programme for the installation of speed sensors that can be moved to different locations.
- ▶ The police are closely involved with this project and give advice on locations and any corrective action that is needed.



# War Memorials

- ▶ An extensive programme of restoration of the war memorials at Ridley Park, Cowpen and Newsham was approved by the Council in 2017 and completed in 2018.
- ▶ Many compliments have been received from members of the public on the work and the Duke of Gloucester was impressed with the work at Ridley Park when he visited the area.



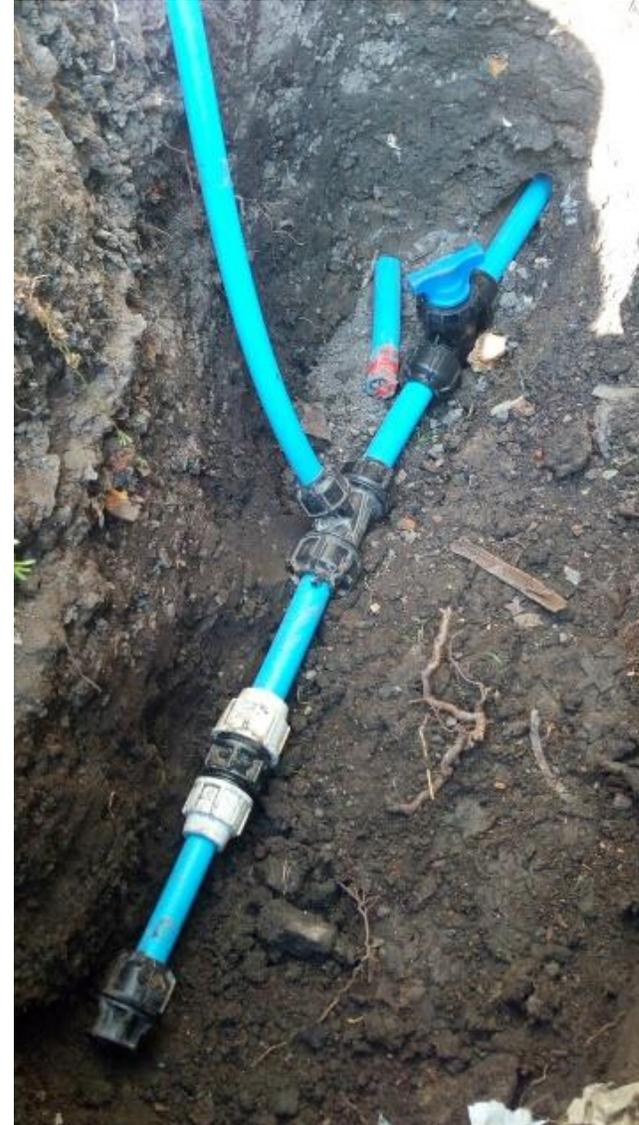
# Carpet Bedding Display



- The theme of 2018's carpet bedding at the beach was to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I.
- The poppy carpet bedding was flanked by two art installations.

# New Water Systems

- ▶ During the last year the council agreed to provide a new water supply to control the use of water on various allotment sites.
- ▶ This initiative by councillors has enabled savings of approximately £3,000 in the first year.



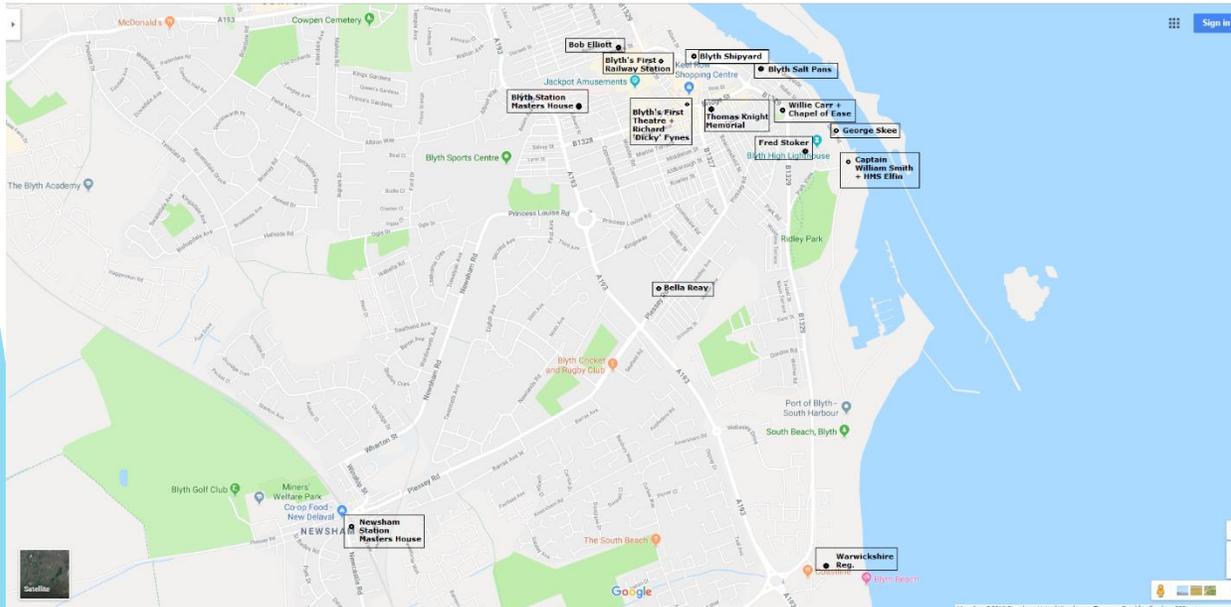
# Bus Shelter Repairs/Repainting

- ▶ The Council agreed a repainting programme of all bus shelters in the Town whereby a common uniform scheme was adopted.
- ▶ During this process several repairs were needed on some of the older shelters and this work along with the repainting programme was coordinated by the General Services Assistant



# Blue Plaque Scheme

- A Blue Plaque initiative commenced in 2017 and funds have been approved by Council to continue with this successful scheme.
- Several additional topics have been identified and researched by the Committee Clerk responsible for the work.
- This initiative will continue to record some of the rich history of Blyth Town and former inhabitants.



# New Play Areas

- ▶ The Council policy is to refurbish one play area a year and the refurbishment at the North Farm play area started in late April.



# Good Citizen Award

- ▶ A good citizen award scheme was established during the year by the council to recognise acts of public service and other worthy contributions to Blyth society.
- ▶ To date the Council has made awards to two townspeople - Graham Short, RNLI (Individual) and Ian Herron, Engage (Business).



# CCTV

- ▶ There has been cooperation between the police, Northumberland County Council and the Town Council which has resulted in a reduction of Vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour following the installation of the CCTV
- ▶ The County Council had agreed to install CCTV on the market place for a 6-month trial period which has now come to an end. Following this the Town Council has installed new cameras to replace these.



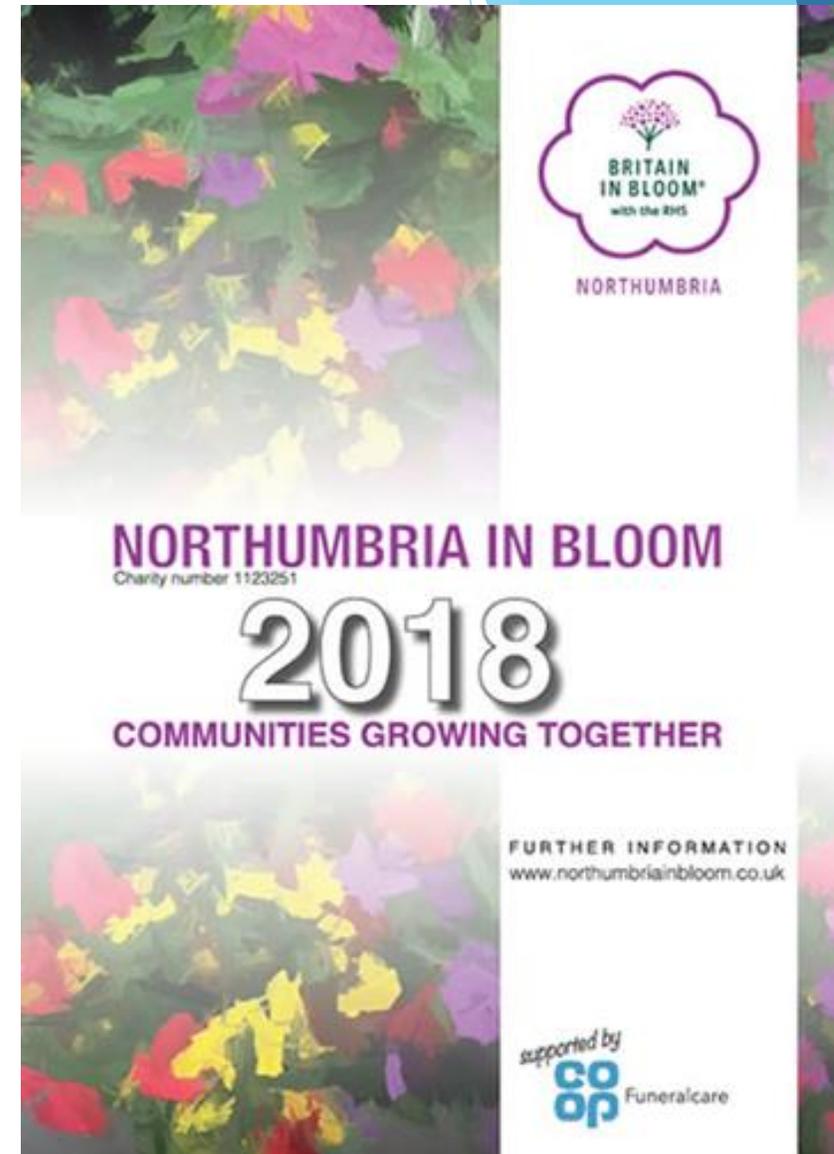
# Blyth in Bloom

- ▶ We were delighted to have 20 entrants in the second year of the competition
- ▶ This year we awarded 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes in four categories.
- ▶ The winners were presented with a trophy, certificate and a £20 gift voucher for Perennial Favourites who sponsor the competition.



# Northumbria in Bloom

- ▶ The Town Council enters this competition run by the Royal Horticultural Society every year.
- ▶ The results for our Special Entries in 2018 were as follows:
- ▶ **Ridley Park - Gold**
- ▶ **Bebside Allotment Site - Gold**
- ▶ **St Cuthbert's Church 'Holy Weeds' - Silver**
- ▶ **St Cuthbert's Court - Silver**
- ▶ **Tynedale House Care Home Sensory Garden - Silver**



# Litter

- ▶ An audit of litter bins was undertaken by Town Council Officers during April/May 2018.
- ▶ All bins have been re-numbered with a ward-specific ID number to make identification of problem areas easier and for residents to report any problems.
- ▶ In addition, some new bins have been introduced, bin sizes changed and collection schedules revised.



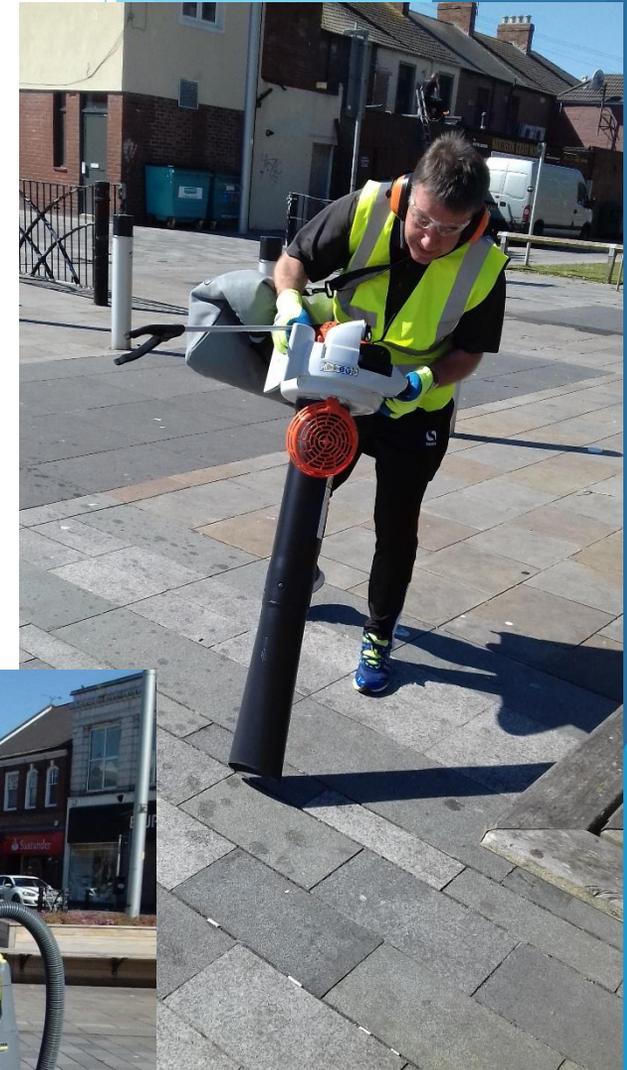
# Litter Picking

- ▶ Litter picks have been organised by the Town Council and various organisations as part of the Great British Spring Clean.
- ▶ This brought together volunteers from various groups as well as individual residents, staff and Councillors.



# Blyth Community Volunteers A Bloom Group for Blyth

- ▶ Following from the success of the Litter Picks over 18/19, the Blyth Community Volunteers Group has been formed.
- ▶ This Group will be organising Litter Picks and gardening projects within the Town.



# Bowes Street Development

- ▶ The Town Council recognise the need to make the town centre more appealing to shoppers and reinvigorate the area.
- ▶ The Environment Committee recognise the need to invest in Bowes Street's outdated infrastructure and have put a significant sum in next year's budget (2019/20) to carry out suitable work
- ▶ Consultation is currently taking place regarding the scheme and the work will hopefully begin this year (2019).



# Market Initiative

- ▶ Members of the Council have recognised the deteriorating market trader's presence over several years
- ▶ A sum of £130,000 was set aside in the last two financial years to try to improve market attendance but sadly markets seem to be out of favour.
- ▶ Reluctantly, after spending considerable sums in the last two years and following feedback and consultation with the County Council, it was decided that further expenditure on this initiative could not be justified.



# Town Forum

- ▶ A Town Forum has been formed which will:
  - ▶ bring together strategic partners in Blyth to ensure a cohesive approach to the development, prosperity and community of the Town
  - ▶ Strive for a thriving retail, business, living, tourist and evening economy.
  - ▶ Respect and uphold the town's history and heritage.
- 
- ▶ The first meeting of the Town Forum was on 1 February 2019 and hopefully will bring new ideas and stakeholders to help regenerate the area.

# Events

- ▶ The Town Council organises a variety of free events for the residents of Blyth and, hopefully, to attract more people to visit our Town.

