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February 13<sup>th</sup> 2018.  
Dear Parishioner,

Annual Report 2017  
Cassop-cum-Quarrington Parish Council

**Welcome to new Parish Councillors!**

Councillors Dawn Love and John Spoons joined the Parish Council in May 2017, replacing Jan & Alan Blakey. We wish Alan good luck for the future and thank him for his service. Jan continues to attend our Monthly Meetings as a serving County Councillor.

**Summer Flower Baskets, Barrels and Tubs in the Parish Area**

I am sure that all residents in the Parish Area will have enjoyed the wonderful Summer Display of Hanging Flower Baskets, Tubs and Flower Trees provided once again by the Parish Council in Bowburn, Cassop, Parkhill and Tursdale in 2017.

I am sure that, once again, everyone will agree that Messrs. Thinford Nurseries have done a splendid job in preparation and maintenance of the Seasonal Display for the last twelve Summer Seasons. They also prepare Winter & Spring Bedding Plants now for Bowburn and Tursdale.

**Amalgamation of Bowburn Infants & Bowburn Junior Schools**

The Parish Council is delighted to support Durham County Council's Proposal to amalgamate Bowburn Infant & Nursery School and Bowburn Junior School in a New Build Project. It was not deemed practical to make improvements to the existing Junior School, due to its age. The new school building will make a 52 place nursery provision for 2 to 4 year old children. The new building will be able to cope with a combined school population of around 400 pupils by 2030. If the Proposals are approved by County Councillors, the new building will be opened in September 2019.

### **Local Care and Maintenance of Local Footpaths & Rights of Way**

Readers of the Quarterly Parish Newsletter will recall that the Parish Council's Application for Grant under the County Council's Parish Paths Partnership Scheme to trim the grass on various Local Rights of Way was approved for the 2017 Season.

The first and second grass cuts were done on various Local Footpaths in June and August 2017. The works were undertaken by the Parish Council's Allotment Superintendent. This Scheme allows the Parish Council to choose which Local Footpaths require the most attention and WHEN the grass strimming should be done.

The Parish Council will apply to the County Council for Grant Assistance to trim Local Footpaths once again in 2018 for the fourth year running.

### **Provision of Height Restrictor Barrier at Bowburn Recreation Park**

Local County Councillors Jan Blakey, MacWilliams and Maria Plews have jointly provided a sum of £2,000 from within their Neighbourhood Budgets to have a Height Restrictor Barrier installed at the Entrance to Bowburn Recreation Park.

The purpose of the Barrier is to keep vehicles over 6 feet and 6 inches tall from entering the Park and causing avoidable damage there. The Barrier was finally installed in August 2017.

### **Five Yearly Safety Inspection of Monuments in Bowburn Cemetery.**

Messrs. William Allison & Son of Bishop Auckland have completed the Statutory Five Yearly Safety Inspection of the Monuments in Bowburn Cemetery in September 2017. The Inspection revealed 15 Monuments with defects such as loose bases, loose headstones etc. Only 1 Monument was so dangerous that it had to be laid flat on the ground. Please remember that, in the first instance, it is the responsibility of the deceased's person's family to repair a damaged or unsafe Headstone or Base on a Grave Plot.

**Peter Thorpe,  
Parish Clerk**