

Draft Press Release

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New Parish Hall Receives Backing From Local Business

Belmont Parish Hall Association have received a grant of £5,556 from The Banks Community Fund which is administered by the County Durham Foundation, a local grant making organisation, The grant has been used to help build a brand new community facility next to Belmont Church for the people of Belmont and Carville which replaces facilities lost to the community 13 and 20 years previously.

The association are aiming to bring together various local and voluntary organisations in a common effort to provide education and facilities to improve the quality of life for the inhabitants of the Parish and neighbouring mining villages.

“The new parish hall has given a much needed boost to local community spirit. The activities available at the centre are really encouraging community involvement and will go a long way to creating a more vibrant community life.”
Fundraising manager, Christopher Percival.

Since opening, the parish hall, which has full disabled access, has already had a great impact within the community. Many local groups that had previously disbanded due to lack of facilities are now reforming, including a popular Luncheon Club, salsa evenings and Weight Watchers classes. The facility will also be used to raise awareness of important local issues. It is expected the project will benefit over 700 people.

The Banks Community Fund is funded by The Banks Group, a County Durham based company specialising in mining, property development, renewable energy and waste management. Through their fund with County

Durham Foundation they provided extra cash for this ambitious build to cover the cost of internal furniture for the main hall.

Mark Dowdall, divisional director at Banks said: “We were delighted to support this community project with funding to enhance this impressive new facility. We are particularly keen to support community groups and voluntary organisations in the vicinity of our operations and groups based in Tow Law, West Cornforth and Wolsingham are eligible to apply”

Working with the County Durham Foundation, allows companies like Banks access to thousands of local charities and people in need. The Foundation uses their knowledge of the area and expertise in grant making to identify worthwhile causes, saving businesses valuable time and money whilst maximising the impact of their contributions.

Application forms and further information on the Banks Community Fund are available from County Durham Foundation on 0191 383 0055 or by Email from info@countydurhamfoundation.co.uk.