



Bishop Auckland Town Council

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Town Clerk: Sarah Harris

15 December 2025

Dear Sir,

The Town Council manage the Towns Allotment Service and run a small events programme regeneration, highways, business development, paths cycleways, planning etc is all managed by Durham County Council.

Most of your questions are in relation to Durham County Council managed services or regeneration. You can access information on regeneration here at <https://bishopaucklandregeneration.com/> and you can contact your local Durham County Council elected councillor via Durham County Councils website 'Your Councillor Page' <https://democracy.durham.gov.uk/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1> however I have endeavoured to answer your questions below.

11.8 million invested into the new bus station is built where, and also when?

The bus station is in development at the moment, on the site of the old one, it is due to open early 2026. <https://bishopaucklandregeneration.com/projects/area-one/bus-station/>

why is nobody getting any monthly update letters or at least ever couple of months?

Durham County Council issue a quarterly magazine in relation to the regeneration funding which has been allocated to Bishop Auckland copies and further updates can be found here <https://bishopaucklandregeneration.com/previous-editions-of-the-newsletter/> Edition 11 is available here <https://online.fliphtml5.com/xtasp/bkgx/#p=1>

Press stories are also issued via the regeneration website <https://bishopaucklandregeneration.com/> and often also feature in the local press too such as the Bishops Press <https://swd.news/bishop-press/>

3) did you include the extension onto the leisure centre in dl146bn, in the budget letters you sent around to everyone months ago? I think you send the budgeting letter in 2024 but my seizures do mess with my memory a little.

We are unable to comment on what Durham County Council included in their Budget letters, as they manage the leisure service. The leisure centre is being developed currently <https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/33116/News-Work-to-begin-on-new-Bishop-Auckland-leisure-centre>

Why has the post office in cockton hill closed, didn't the funding help? After all, it is government funding.

We are unable to comment on the Cockton Hill Post office, as this was ran via a private business. However as I understand it the Spar shop is now operating a Post Office service <https://www.businessdurham.co.uk/post/spar-steps-in-and-secures-bishop-auckland-s-post-office-service>

5) would you assist in keeping the countryside paths and historical architecture that this area brings in its original form?

You would need to direct this question to Durham County Council as they are responsible for footpaths, highways and planning, including listed buildings and conservation.

6) I will be looking at the animals in your farms from the 30 odd fields you have in this area to make sure they look healthy

Noted however the Town Council does not own any farms.

Kindest regards

Sarah Harris

Bishop Auckland Town Council.