

Lanchester Parish Council

Newsletter

August 2015

Welcome to Lanchester Parish Council's newsletter. This newsletter is produced quarterly to provide the community with information on the services and activities that the Council provides.

Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan working group are pleased that many residents took the opportunity to view the displays of information gathered from the January questionnaire on current Parish issues and concerns. The group are now developing a more detailed survey which will be sent to all households and be available on line too. A Neighbourhood Plan cannot provide a solution to every problem, but this next survey will be focussed on what a Neighbourhood Plan can do in four key ways:

PROTECTING – the things which people cherish within the area

IMPROVING – the things within the area which detract from its appeal

PROVIDING – for development and use of land which will best meet the needs and aspirations of the community

MANAGING – by setting out those aspects of new development which need to be carefully managed.

This focus is because a Neighbourhood Plan is concerned with matters which fall under the town and country planning system. The plan cannot deal with non-planning matters. Many of the issues raised in our first consultation fall outside of this strict definition. These concerns will not be ignored but may well be recorded as supplementary issues to be addressed by negotiation with public bodies or by developing community projects. So issues like parking, traffic management, and maintenance of footpaths and so on are most likely to fall in this category. The protection of open spaces, location and volume of new housing, business expansion and so on are capable of direct planning guidance and will fall into the first category.

The precise content of the next survey will be worked on over the summer. We will keep residents informed of progress.

The group are also keen to produce a Conservation Area Appraisal and Heritage Audit. These documents will be supplementary documents to the Neighbourhood Plan and will provide evidence to support the policies it contains.



If you would like further information about the Lanchester Neighbourhood Plan please contact the Parish Council on 01207 520146.

Annual Report 2014/15

Lanchester Parish Council's Annual Report for 2014 / 15 was published in June and distributed to houses in the Lanchester Parish. If you didn't receive your copy or would like further copies, please contact the Clerk on the number below or pick up a copy at the Library or Community Centre.

The report outlines the services that the Parish Council provides and the main achievements of the year. The report also provides an overview of expenditure and income for the year. A summary of the financial picture is shown as follows:

Balance at 1 April 2014	£94,529.52
Total Income	£110,206.97
Total Expenditure	£104,097.49
Balance at 31 March 2015	£100,639.00



The Balance figure includes monies received as grants for specific projects as well as monies identified for particular works.

Lanchester Community Emergency Plan

Work continues to produce a Community Emergency Plan for Lanchester. A small group has been progressing this for some time with support from the Civil Contingencies Unit.

If an emergency occurs i.e. flooding alert, missing person etc the plan will be activated. A telephone tree will commence, the results of which will be that key groups, organisations etc in the parish will be informed. Other actions may include the use of equipment from the emergency sheds and opening of a number of agreed safe rest centres.

We are still looking for people to be involved in the project. If you would like to be involved or require more information please contact Sally on 01207 520146.

Parish Council Steps In To Maintain Grassed Area

In 2012 the Parish Council were informed that the County Council was to stop cutting the grass in the area either side of the Lanchester Valley Walk between Station Road and Newbiggen Lane.

The Parish Council took the decision to arrange and pay for the cutting of the grass in this area and grass cutting recommenced in 2013.

The Parish Council have renewed the licence agreement with the County Council to cut the grass again this year and will review this arrangement at the end of the year.

Tree Works

The Parish Council recently sought a comprehensive report on the trees at Kitswell Park and on the Village Green which identified necessary maintenance works to the trees in these areas.

The Parish Council appointed a local company who have undertaken the tree work over the last few months. This work will ensure that the trees are maintained and managed to an appropriate standard.

Lanchester Parish Councillors

Ossie Johnson	Stella House, Durham Road,	521937	CHAIR
Colin Burton	3 Lynwood House, Durham Road,	07985 551615	
Ann Cook	46 Manor Grange,	529334	
Bob Glass	2 The Paddock	03000 268711	
Bill Gray	27 Foxhills Crescent,	520656	
Margaret Gray	27 Foxhills Crescent,	520656	
Keith Harrison	Colepike Home Farm,	529522	
Paul Jackson	Stonebeck, Front Street,	521208	
Kevin Leary	60 Deanery View,	521627	
Alasdair Nairn	1 St Bedes Court,	529384	
Stuart Walker	2 St Bedes Court,	520790	
Mike Wardle	8 Ornsby Hill,	521622	
Julie Richardson	Linden Lodge, Cadger Bank	521741	
Peter Richardson	Linden Lodge, Cadger Bank	521741	
Philip Richardson	Linden Lodge, Cadger Bank	521741	

Staff Lead Officer / Clerk Sally Laverick 520146 / 529415
Handyperson David Maddox



Grants received

Since 2008 the Parish Council, working with partners and independently have secured over **£288,000** to deliver projects and improve services.

Sources of funding have included: Heritage Lottery Fund, Rural Development Programme for England, Durham County Council, Youth Opportunities Fund, Northern Gas Networks, County Durham Environment Trust, CIF grant, Area Action Partnership, Sport England, local businesses etc.

Projects undertaken include:

Bike Track & Play Area	- £90,000.00
Village Green phase one	- £16,700.00
Village Green phase two	- £1,955.00
Tree Grants	- £450.00
Locality Map project	- £68,000.00
Walk Leaflets	- £3,200.00
Quality Status Bursary	- £500.00
Gateway Project	- £12,274.00
Lynwood	- £800.00
Village Comp. Prize Money	- £800.00
Xmas Light Replacement	- £18,000.00
Miners' Banner project	- £23,500.00
Neighbourhood Plan	- £4,000.00
Cricket Changing rooms	- £47,700.00
DIAL document	- £400.00
Village Improvements	- £500.00



Many thanks go to the organisations and individuals who have worked with us on these projects

Hanging Baskets

The hanging baskets are once again providing a colourful display throughout the village during the summer months.



Need to speak to your Councillor?

Lanchester Parish Council has introduced open sessions to allow time for residents to speak to their councillors about issues that concern or affect them. The next session will be at Lynwood House on:

**Tues 8 September
6.30 pm - 7.00pm**

