

Lanchester Parish Council

February 2011

Newsletter

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.

Snowy Switch On

On Saturday 27 November at 6pm the village Christmas Lights were switched on. Despite the deep snow a crowd gathered on the Village Green for the annual event and the lights were switched on to everyone's delight.

Sue Charlton, Development Officer for Lanchester Parish Council switched on the lights accompanied by Sam Grimes, Lara Whitton and Laura Gerry from Lanchester EP School and Adam Butler and Meghan Williams-Hall from Lanchester All Saints School.

Lanchester Brass Band attended and enhanced the event, playing a selection of Christmas Carols which were enjoyed by all. Following the switch on there was a supper at the Chapter House which was attended by a wide selection of community groups and organisations. The food provided by the church ladies was superb and the festive occasion was enjoyed by all.



DIAL Document

The second edition of the DIAL (Directory of Information About Lanchester) document has been produced and distributed. This document produced by Lanchester Parish Council and Lanchester Partnership provides a valuable and useful guide to public services, societies, clubs and organisations in the Parish. If you have not received your copy through the door, the document can be picked up at the library or community centre or by contacting the Clerk on 521957.

DIRECTORY OF
INFORMATION
ABOUT
LANCHESTER



A guide to public services, local societies, clubs and organisations in the parish.

SECOND EDITION - OCTOBER 2010

Produced by Lanchester Parish Council and The Lanchester Partnership to help local residents

New Councillors

The Parish Council By-Election to fill two vacant seats was held on Thursday 3 February. Five candidates stood and the results were:

BENNETT, Maureen	Independent	344 votes
CLARKE, Malcolm	The Labour Party	473 votes
MULVIE, Catherine	Liberal Democrats	250 votes
MYERS, Alan	The Labour Party	480 votes
REES, David	Liberal Democrats	252 votes



There was a turnout of 28% and Malcolm Clarke and Alan Myers were duly elected.

(seen left with Chair of Lanchester Parish Council Ossie Johnson)

Village Green Project

Work to improve the village green and increase access, is due to commence at the end of January. Developments include the introduction of a recreational path along the side of the burn, surface improvements to an area beside the church, the installation of a Parish Council information board on the main green and the installation of a circular tree seat on the main green to encourage people to sit and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

A grant of £15,000 has been funded by CDEnt from funds received under the Government's Landfill Communities Fund, from the Premier Waste Management Company. A 10% contribution of £1500 has been made available from Lanchester Dairies. It is hoped that the project will be completed in early Spring and we apologise for any inconvenience caused during the work period.



COUNTY DURHAM
Environmental Trust

Locality Map

Despite the terrible weather through November and December, work has started on the Lanchester Locality Map Project. Groups have been set up to discuss and develop projects to support the landbased economy, promote the local historic environment and to produce a record of the wildlife across the Parish.

A group of farmers are discussing ways in which the project could support the rural economy. Initial ideas include researching alternative energy technologies in the face of rising energy costs; sourcing grants to help with winter housing of stock and identifying training requirements.

The historic environment group have begun designing circular walks around the Parish that will take in the rich history of the Parish including the historic estates.

The wildlife audit group have begun gathering together current knowledge of the species and habitats of the Parish and thanks to support from Lanchester Wildlife Group, Durham County Council and the Durham Biodiversity Data Service now have access to a very large pool of records. Training has begun on data entry and volunteers are ensuring that all the information is recorded.

Why not come along and join our monthly conservation volunteer group. The group will be meeting on the fourth Saturday of every month to carry out practical tasks across the Parish and the first meeting will be on Saturday 26th February.

If you would like to become involved with any of the groups please get in touch with Sue the Development Officer email her on sue.charlton@lanchesterparish.info or contact her on 07585 001 355.

You can also find details of everything happening on the Project and more on our website www.lanchesterparish.info or follow us on Twitter (LanchesterLM) and facebook (Lanchester Locality Map).



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas
Funding is being made available through the Rural Development Programme for England, which is jointly funded by Defra and the European Union, and is managed by One NorthEast in the North East region.



Time Banks

Time Banks are community based projects that meet everyday needs through the exchange of time, skills and opportunities. For every hour that someone spends helping someone they are entitled to an hours help in return.

Ellena Coleman a Time Bank support worker is working in Lanchester over the next few months to investigate setting up a Time Bank. If you are interested or would like further information please give Ellena a call on 0750 8281052

Setting the Precept

The Parish Council had a difficult decision to make in setting the precept following an announcement from Durham County Council that they were removing a £6000 contribution paid in previous years. The reduction will be phased out over two years and equates to 12% of the Parish Council budget.

Lanchester Parish Council has set its precept for 2011 / 12 at £49,390.00 which is an increase of only 2.5 % on this year.

Railway Path Network

The Area Action Partnership (AAP) has appointed d3-associates and Southern Green Landscape Architects to develop a master plan on proposed improvements to the railway path network that runs through West Durham.

The extensive network of paths accommodate cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders and the project is seeking to develop a plan that will tie the paths into communities and act as an excellent place to explore, exercise, have fun and enjoy no matter what age you are. As part of the process, the views of the community are being sought on the area at present and how you think the railway paths network could be developed.

A comments form is available to download from www.d3-associates.co.uk. Comment boxes will be situated in local community venues. For information about the project please contact Emma on 01434 610434 before the end of February.

Lanchester Parish Councillors

Ossie Johnson	Stella House, Durham Road,	521937		
Colin Burton	15 Deanery View,	520840		
Elizabeth Cook	46 Manor Grange,	529334		
Bob Glass	2 The Paddock	295765		
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	VICE CHAIR	
Mike Wardle	8 Ornsby Hill,	521622		
David Lindsay	13 Foxhills Crescent,	520102		
Malcolm Clarke	14 Briardene	07542 342352		
Alan Myers	10 Ashdown Grove	07502 163913		
Staff	Lead Officer / Clerk	Sally Laverick		521957 / 529415
	Handyperson	David Maddox		
	Development Officer	Sue Charlton	07585 001355	

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 Park House on:

Tuesday 8 March
Tuesday 10 May
6.30 pm – 7.00 pm.