

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.

Christmas Lights

On Saturday 24 November at 6pm a large crowd gathered on the Village Green for the annual Christmas Light Switch On.

Dennis Laycock (Olympic Torchbearer) switched on the lights accompanied by Alice Davis and Andrew Smith from Lanchester EP Primary School and Lucia Castro-Atkinson and James Kimes from Lanchester All Saints Primary School and Councillor Ossie Johnson, Chair of Lanchester Parish Council.

Lanchester Brass Band attended and played a selection of Christmas Carols which were enjoyed by all.

Following the switch on there was a supper at the Chapter House attended by many of the sports clubs from the village which provided an opportunity to celebrate the excellent sporting opportunities available in the Parish.

The Christmas Lights are provided and maintained by Lanchester Parish Council and the lights in the trees on the Village Green always look wonderful on the dark winter nights.



New Lights Shine Bright

Many of you may have noticed that the lights on the middle tree on the Village Green shone more brightly than the rest this year.

This is because the Parish Council took the decision to replace the lights on this tree as a trial with new LED energy efficient lights.

The current lights in the trees have lasted 13 years and over the last few years a considerable amount of work has had to be undertaken to ensure that they continue to provide an adequate display.

It will be necessary to replace the lights on the remaining 6 trees at some time in the near

future and following the success of the trial tree this year, the Parish Council is working towards replacing the lights on the remaining trees with the same product. The cost of the lights is however considerable and the Parish Council is seeking ways in which this can be achieved financially.



Lanchester Miners' Banner Group

The Fenhall Drift Banner, made in 1960, has now been returned to Lanchester under the custodianship of Lanchester Parish Council.

Lanchester Miners' Banner Group have been meeting regularly over the past year to develop a project which will conserve the original banner, produce a replica banner and involve the schools and wider community in banner and traditional dance workshops all culminating in a celebration event in the village.

Funding is currently being sought to enable the £20,000 project to become a reality and it is hoped that the project will commence this June.

Lanchester Miners' Banner Group would like to make contact with anyone who worked in Fenhall Drift Mine or indeed anyone who may have memories or photos of the drift mine.

The group would welcome new members. If any members of the community are interested in becoming part of the working group please contact Sally on 01207 521957.

Tree Grant

A grant of £150 has been successfully secured from Durham County Council. The grant will be used to replace a number of trees on the bike track at Kitswell Park.



Precept

The Parish Council considered its precept requirement at a recent Council meeting and set the precept for 2013 / 14 at £50,624.00

The Parish Council considered a number of factors which combined to reduce the income received by the Council.

- The removal in 2012 / 13 of the annual £6,000 payment previously received from Derwentside District Council and then from Durham County Council
- The removal from 2013 / 14 of the annual £1645 double taxation payment previously received from Durham County Council
- The introduction from 2013 / 14 of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme managed by Durham County Council. The effect of this is that the council tax base will be reduced although the Parish Council will receive a grant to partially cover the loss of income.

The net effect of these factors is to reduce the annual income received by the Parish Council by over £8300

The agreed precept of £50,624 for 2013 / 14 is the same as the precept request for 2012 / 13. However the reduced council tax base will result in an increase in council tax per household. A property in band D will see an increase of £3.05 (9.3%) this year. This equates to less than 6p per week.

The Parish Council were reluctant to impose any increase in precept but realise that there was a need to partially bridge the gap caused by the reduction in income received. The Parish Council will continue to work hard to realise efficiencies and to develop projects for the community. Over the last 4 years almost £195,000 has been secured by the Parish Council and in partnership with other organisations to deliver projects in the Parish and improve services.

Lanchester Parish Councillors

Ossie Johnson	Stella House, Durham Road,	521937	CHAIR
Colin Burton	15 Deanery View,	520840	VICE CHAIR
Ann 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	
Mike Wardle	8 Ornsby Hill,	521622	
David Lindsay	13 Foxhills Crescent,	520102	
Malcolm Clarke	14 Briardene	07542	
Alan Myers	10 Ashdown Grove	07502 163913	
Staff	Lead Officer / Clerk	Sally Laverick	521957 / 529415
	Handyperson	David Maddox	



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QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL

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:

Tues 12 March
10.00am - 11.00am
(coffee morning)