

Lanchester Parish Council

Annual Report 2016 / 17



Councillor Ossie Johnson, Chair of Lanchester Parish Council 2016/17

Welcome to Lanchester Parish Council's Annual Report for 2016 / 17. The Annual Report provides me with an opportunity to inform residents of the work of the Council between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017.

The Parish Council continues work to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. Over the last year a working group of approximately 20 people including community representatives have met regularly to progress the plan. A Neighbourhood Plan is a document which will guide development, regeneration and conservation within our Parish over future years. The Plan will set out the views of our local community in terms of planning issues and will contain a number of planning policies for the Parish. In 2016 a second topic based questionnaire was distributed in the Parish. The questionnaire asked for feedback on a draft vision and objectives under 7 key topic areas and some focussed questions were asked under each topic area. There was overwhelming support for the Vision and Objectives. The data received has been analysed and during the year significant work has been undertaken to produce topic papers and begin the process of policy formulation.

An appraisal of the Conservation Area was completed by Durham County Council assisted by volunteers from the community. The appraisal was completed early in 2016 and formally adopted by the County Council in May 2016.

The Lanchester Community Heritage Audit commissioned by the Parish Council has now been completed. A community mapping exercise early in 2016 identified over 200 heritage assets in the Parish. The North of England Civic Trust assisted volunteers in producing the audit which involved surveying and recording the heritage assets. These included significant buildings, archaeological sites, industrial remains, key views and evidence of military activity over the years. Twenty volunteers were involved in the surveying and recording and worked throughout 2016 to complete the audit. The result of the work has been the production of a Lanchester Community Heritage Audit



report, a gazetteer providing information on all the identified assets and a catalogue of photographs. The full range of documents can be viewed at the Library, Community Centre, the Parish Council office at Lynwood House and the archive section at County Hall. An event to present the Heritage Audit to the community took place on Saturday 18 March 2017 at Lynwood House.

In 2018 it will be 100 years since the end of WW1. The Parish Council are leading a project to have the names of those who lost their lives added to the Village Green War Memorial. A working group established in December 2016 is progressing the project.

During 2016 the Parish Council with members of the community worked with the County Council to develop a parking scheme for the village. Plans included time restricted parking, the marking of parking bays and improved signage to existing car parks. The marking of the parking bays took place in February 2017 and the final parts of the plan should be completed shortly.

In February 2017 the Parish Council 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 undertook the tree work ensuring that the trees are maintained and managed to an appropriate standard.

The Christmas Light Switch On event always proves to be a well attended occasion. The event on Saturday 26 November included a selection of Christmas Carols from Lanchester Brass Band and Lanchester Choral & Operatic Society. Mr Terry Deary (best selling author and television personality) formally switched on the lights accompanied by local children. Volunteers manned a gazebo and gave away mulled wine, mince pies and cakes for the adults and juice, sweets and a lucky dip prize for the children. Several hundred people turned out to see the lights being switched on.

The Parish Council have taken the decision to continue to cut the grass in the area either side of the Lanchester Valley Walk between Station Road and Newbiggen Lane. This followed a decision in 2012 by the County Council to stop cutting the grass in this area which they own. The Parish Council entered into a licence agreement with the County Council to cut the grass in this area during 2016 and have also renewed the licence to cut the grass during 2017.

The Council has continued to produce the Annual Report and the quarterly Council Newsletter both of which have been distributed widely throughout the community. Within the village, the Christmas lights and summer hanging baskets once again showed off the Parish to its best.

Receipts and Payment Account

Year ended 31 March 2017

Payments

General Admin	£37,474.96
Donations / Grants	£750.00
Rec. / Envir. Facilities	£13,685.13
Leisure Amenities	£12,153.54
Development Projects	£250.00
Contingencies	£0
VAT	£3,821.98

Receipts

Council Tax Support Grant	£1,358.00
Precept	£55,844.00
Interest Received	£45.48
Garage Rent	£200.00
Bus Shelter Maintenance	£0
Sundries	£33.82
Wayleaves	£16.37
Grants & Donations	£5,150.00
VAT	£4,131.96
Total	£66,779.63

£68,135.61

The Balance figure includes monies identified for particular works.

Balance at 1 April	£99,612.89
Add Total Income	£66,779.63
	£166,392.52
Less Total Expenditure	£68,135.61
Balance at 31 March	£98,256.91

This statement represents fairly the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2017 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.

Schedule of Meetings

Lanchester Parish Council has 15 elected members who meet in full session 11 times a year. In addition there are a number of committees and working groups which deal with the important work of the Council. The committees in 2016 / 17 were:

- **Planning Committee**
- **Finance & Development Committee**
- **Recreation Committee**

Members are elected to the committees on an annual basis. All meetings are held at Lynwood House, Durham Road. Notice of all meetings can be found in the Library or the Parish Council notice board on the Village Green. The Parish Council have in place a Public Participation Policy. Public and press attendance & participation is welcome at all meetings.

Grants / Donations

The Parish Council has the powers to give financial support to local clubs and organisations. During 2016 / 17 the Parish Council awarded the following grants / donations:

Lanchester Brass Band	£90
Lanchester Choral & Operatic Society	£90
Royal British Legion	£50
Lanchester Parochial Church Council	£200
Lanchester All Saints Parish Centre	£200
Citizens Advice County Durham	£100
Great North Air Ambulance	£200
Lanchester EP Primary School	£100
Lanchester RC Primary School	£100

Requests for grants / donations are normally considered by the Parish Council in March.

Lanchester Parish Council

Comprises of 15 elected councillors, a Lead Officer / Clerk and a Handyperson
Please note that the following Councillors sat on the Parish Council between April 2016 and March 2017. Local elections in May 2017 have resulted in some Councillor changes.

Ossie Johnson	Stella House, Durham Road,	CHAIR
Colin Burton	c/o Parish Council, Lynwood House, Durham Road	
Ann Cook	46 Manor Grange,	
Bob Glass	2 The Paddock	
Bill Gray	27 Foxhills Crescent,	
Margaret Gray	27 Foxhills Crescent,	
Keith Harrison	Colepike Home Farm,	
Paul Jackson	Stonebeck, Front Street,	
Kevin Leary	60 Deanery View,	
Alasdair Nairn	1 St Bedes Court,	
Julie Richardson	Linden Lodge, Cadger Bank	
Peter Richardson	Linden Lodge, Cadger Bank	
Philip Richardson	Linden Lodge, Cadger Bank	
Stuart Walker	2 St Bedes Court,	
Mike Wardle	8 Ornsby Hill,	

Staff Lead Officer / Clerk Sally Laverick 520146
 Handyperson David Maddox

Councillors do not receive any payment or allowance for attending meetings or for carrying out Council business.



Services and Activities

Lanchester Parish Council currently provides and maintains the following services within the Parish:

- Play Areas
- Bike Track
- Allotments
- Village Green
- Xmas Lights
- Hanging Baskets
- Grass Cutting (some)
- Tree Maintenance
- Bus Shelters (some)
- Public Seating (some)
- General upkeep
- Partnership working

