

Burton-in-Kendal Parish Council
Chairman's Statement for the year 2011/12
by Councillor P.Rogers

This is the last Chairman's Statement before the 2012 Election and it definitely will be my last. Our designated Police Community Support Officer, Jess Bullock has attended meetings when she has been able and forwards a report of incidents in the parish. Our District and County Councillor Roger Bingham and District Councillor Brian Cooper attend the majority of our meetings and I thank them for their input and support.

As usual we have been asked to consider consultation documents from other authorities. They include –

The proposed change to the Parliamentary Constituency boundaries from the Electoral Commission.

The ongoing Local Development Framework from South Lakeland District Council.

The Community Infrastructure Levy as part of the Localism Act.

The proposed levy from the South Cumbria Water Level Management Group.

Cumbria Highways consulted the council on proposed routes through the parish for timber extraction vehicles. The council's concerns were listened to and as a result none of these vehicles will pass through Dalton or use Vicarage Lane.

The council applied to South Lakeland District Council to become the pilot community for producing a Neighbourhood Plan, as legislated for in the Localism Act. Unfortunately the council was unsuccessful.

Possibly the most momentous event was the publication by SLDC of the final proposed development sites in the parish. Sustained pressure by the council and members of the public has reduced the list of sites down to three locations. Namely, 31 dwellings south of Church Bank, 23 dwellings north of Boon Town and 92 dwellings plus employment units west of Green Dragon Farm and Barton Row. A grand total of 146 dwellings. The council believes, however, this is still too many and would like to reduce the number of sites. We await the results of the independent review.

Planning applications have continued to decrease, probably due to the straightened financial climate.

The Parish Lengthsman, David Holmes has been working most Wednesdays in the parish and he continues to maintain the appearance of our three settlements and the connecting roads and footpaths. David regularly digs out the grips, soakaways and smoot-holes leading to much reduced winter flooding on the roads despite the torrential rainfall in December and January. Most significantly for our residents the longstanding problems of flooding underneath the railway arch on Moss Lane and outside The Creamery on the Main Street has been resolved by Cumbria Highways.

The council signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Forest Enterprise to ensure the continued maintenance of the Plain Quarry picnic area. The reconstruction of the perimeter wall on the north side was completed and a new kissing gate installed.

The Market Cross was repaired and re-pointed by Able Memorials in February. The map case opposite the Butcher's shop was repaired by Cllr Wren.

Other developments include the approval by Lancaster City Council for the erection of a wind turbine to the south of Burton Services. A data gathering mast has already been erected and is visible from many parts of the parish. A more happy event was the award of funding by the National Lottery to the Burton Memorial Hall for further improvements to the Hall and the construction of a new toilet block.

Other parish council projects that will be carried out this year are the cleaning and installation of flags around the war memorial in the churchyard; together with the repair and repainting of the Dalton milestone on the A6070 south of the village.

2012 will be a momentous year, in that the country will host the Olympic and Para-Olympic Games and it is of course the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth. Burton will be celebrating with a beacon, distribution of souvenir mugs to the primary schoolchildren (courtesy of Bardon Aggregates), two exhibitions, a jubilee party at the Memorial Hall and hopefully several street parties.

I would like to thank all the parish councillors for their continued commitment during the last year. Individual councillors represent our interests on:-

The Memorial Hall Committee

Burton Recreation Trust
Burton Morewood School Governors
Holme Park Quarry Liaison Committee
South Westmorland Local Area Partnership

I would also like to thank Peter Smith, the Parish Clerk for his commitment to the council and to the parish and to the assistance and support given to me as Chairman.

Finally, I should like to thank those doughty ladies of the local press Anne Craig and Joyce Bye who keep us on our toes and partake as members of the public. Anne has decided to take a back seat for the moment but her husband, David, has jumped into the breach and we shall all still feature in Burton News, for good or for bad.