

Burton-in-Kendal Parish Council Annual Report for the year 2006/2007



Chairman's Statement by Councillor P.Rogers

During the last twelve months Councillors Bill Willink and Ken Ray have left the council. Bill had been a councillor for many years and Ken had been on the council since 2004. However, we welcomed two new councillors, Janet Alderson and John Brown, although Janet was our former clerk and had also been a councillor. Our District and County Councillor is still Roger Bingham. Roger attends the many of our meetings which we welcome and we thank him for his input and support. Things may change as the Boundary Committee for England has recommended that Burton, Holme, Hutton Roof, Lupton and Preston Patrick should form one electoral ward for South Lakeland District Council, represented by two councillors. However, if local government reorganization does result in a unitary authority for Cumbria these changes will not happen. Our designated police officer, P.C Stuart occasionally attends meetings and forwards a report of incidents in the parish. Fortunately, the Government's proposal to merge the Cumbria Constabulary with the Lancashire Constabulary has been cancelled.

Regarding Quality Parish Status – we did it! There are only eight quality councils in Cumbria and Burton -in- Kendal is one of the three in South Lakeland. Quality Parish Status will enable the council to have more input into the planning and delivery of services. It is recognition by the Government that the council is operating to the highest standards of corporate governance.

As usual we have been inundated by a plethora of consultation documents. They include –

Cumbria Open Spaces –Green Places Questionnaire

Cumbria Wind Energy Scoping Report

The Environment Agency Consultation

The Draft Cumbria Housing Strategy

The North-West Regional Assembly Draft Regional Spatial Strategy

Acute Medical Services Review Consultation

Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Cumbria Public Transport Survey

Cumbria Neighbourhood Forum Survey

As we are adjacent to Lancashire we also receive consultation documents for Lancashire County Council and Lancaster City Council.

Planning applications have suddenly increased – the parish council considered 39 compared to 13 the previous year. At this rate every house in Burton will soon have an extension or a conservatory.

The planning application for affordable housing at the top of Boon Town has caused much discussion and has led to heated exchanges in the community and in council meetings. SLDC Development Control (Planning) Committee approved the application in principle, subject to design modifications.

Finding an available and affordable site which meets planning criteria and the approval of the parish as a whole is well nigh impossible. The parish council persuaded Impact Housing Association to move the planned housing to a part of the site that caused the least loss of important amenity open space. However, Impact would not agree to replace all the existing play equipment with new equipment and had not produced a draft Section 106 agreement as requested. Therefore, the parish council objected to the proposed development in entirety when the last planning application was submitted to the Development Control Committee in January. As you are aware the Development Control Committee approved the application against the wishes of the parish council.

On a more positive note this has been a year of achievement in which several long-standing issues have been resolved and many refurbishment works have been completed.

The pavements in the middle of the village have been resurfaced after five years of lobbying. Station Lane, Moss Lane and a section of the road to Kirkby Lonsdale have been resurfaced. The two historic fingerposts on Station Lane have been refurbished. A replica of a cast-iron Westmorland fingerpost has been erected at Nineteen Trees.

The county council has conducted a comprehensive survey of all footpaths in the parish and has already provided several, new, wooden signs in Clawthorpe.

All direction signs along the A6070 in the parish have been replaced. The signage along Neddy Hill, Drovers' Way and Station Lane has been replaced to be more helpful to non-residents. Clawthorpe Lane has had 'SLOW' road marking and a community sign. Various other measures have been introduced to promote road safety.

After extensive correspondence the Highways Agency have finally admitted to owning the plantation beside the M6. Hopefully the council will be able to persuade the agency to clear the silted-up drainage ditches. Without the determination of Richard Boddy and Charles Dale this ownership issue would not have been resolved.

The parish council now has the services of a lengthsman for one day each week. He is David Holmes and he is already improving the appearance of the parish.

The historic Westmorland County Council fingerpost that was damaged has been repaired and re-erected on the triangle at Station Lane.

Other changes in the village – The King's Arms Hotel has been granted planning permission for radical changes to the internal layout, a car park and holiday apartments to the rear. Work has commenced on the car park and holiday apartments. The Recreation Trust has renewed the lease of the recreation area. A tearoom has opened adjacent to the garden centre at Deerslet Farm. The Clawthorpe Hall Business Centre has opened and all the

units are occupied. The restoration of Dalton Hall Home Farm for use as a business centre proceeds apace. Unfortunately, there is no progress on the refurbishment and re-opening of the Royal Hotel.

In January our historic milepost was stolen for the second time. An example of the type of crime that rural communities suffer from.

THE FUTURE. The major change on the horizon is the proposal by Cumbria County Council to become a unitary authority. If this happens the district and borough councils will be abolished and their functions will be provided by the county council. The county council would be reorganised. A small strategic headquarters would remain at Carlisle. Beneath this would be four area committees made up of the county councillors representing the electoral divisions for those areas. The area committees would be Carlisle City, Barrow -in- Furness, West Cumbria and East Cumbria (currently South Lakeland and Eden Districts). Some powers and budgets would be devolved more locally to approximately 25 community boards covering groups of parishes. This has exciting implications for our parish council, we shall have to wait and see what happens.

There was again no increase in the parish precept, which has remained the same for the past five years. However, there will be a 3% rise in April.

I would like to thank all the parish councillors for their 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
Cumbria Association of Local Councils

Parish councillors give their leisure time to serve the interests of the parish. The council's efforts to serve the people of the parish are often frustrated, as the delivery of services is not usually within its remit, but it does make a difference.

Finally, I would like to thank Charles Dale, the Parish Clerk, for his hard work, commitment and dedication to the council and to the parish and to the invaluable assistance and support given to me as Chairman.

Council Finances

Summary Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 31 March 2007

2005/06	INCOME	2006/07
8,299.00	Precept	8,299.00
414.89	Interest	462.93
0.00	Insurance claim payment for signpost repair	1,974.16
0.00	Grants	3,956.00
504.06	Other	1,312.02
<u>9,217.95</u>	TOTAL	<u>16,004.11</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
1,203.62	Provide Information Centre	0.00
295.57	Renovate bench	0.00
45.00	Re-instal Milestone	0.00
160.90	Training costs for Cllrs.& Clerk	0.00
0.00	Memorial plaque	669.75
0.00	3 new signposts	3,956.00
0.00	New notice board	1,244.33
0.00	Signpost repair	2,466.51
2,871.85	General admin/running costs	3,106.74
80.00	S.137	90.00
458.00	Lighting	437.00
807.05	Maintenance	859.00
3,014.92	Staff costs	3,464.55
27.00	Christmas tree & lights	0.00
<u>8,963.91</u>		<u>16,293.88</u>
	CUMULATIVE FUND BALANCE	
7,273.63	Balances b/f at 1.04.06	7,527.67
<u>9,217.95</u>	Add total income	<u>16,004.11</u>
16,491.58		23,531.78
<u>8,963.91</u>	Less total expenditure	<u>-16,293.88</u>
<u>7,527.67</u>		<u>7,237.90</u>
7,186.13	BANK BALANCE at 31.03.07	9,704.41
341.54	Less cheque not yet presented	-2,466.51
<u>7,527.67</u>		<u>7,237.90</u>

Footnote :- The parish council's share of the Council Tax for each household has increased by 8.4% from the previous year (not 3% as stated above). This has been caused by the district council increasing its charges to the parish council for the provision of footway lighting, automatically adding that increase to the parish council's share of tax to be collected.

The Councillors

Paul Rogers **Chairman** 01524 782660
Cllr Rogers represented the parish council on the Cumbria Association of
Local Councils South Lakeland District Association

Francis Mason-Hornby Vice-Chairman 01524 782414
Cllr Mason-Hornby represented the parish council on the Holme Park
Quarry Liaison Committee

Janet Alderson 01524 781149

John Brown 01224 782066

Richard Boddy 01524 781473
Cllr Boddy represented the parish council on the Burton Recreation Trust.

Jane Hopwood 01524 781248
Cllr Hopwood represented the parish council on:-
Cumbria Association of Local Councils South Lakeland District
Association.
Cumbria Association of Local Councils Executive Committee.

George Isherwood 01524 781132
Cllr Isherwood represented the parish council as a governor of Burton
Morewood School.

Richard Lawson 01524 781576

Alan Wren 01524 781387
Cllr Wren represented the parish council on:-
The Holme Park Quarry Liaison Committee
The Memorial Hall Users' Committee

Clerk to the Council - Charles Dale

Russell Cottage, Dalton, Burton-in-Kendal, via Carnforth LA6 1NN

Tel: 01524 781145

E-mail: parish.clerk@burton-in-kendal-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.burton-in-kendal-pc.gov.uk

The Parish's County and District Councillor is Roger Bingham.

Tel: 015395 63694

E-mail: roger.bingham@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Former Parish Councillor Kath Unsworth continued to represent the parish council on the Burton Education Foundation.