

Lanchester Parish Council

Annual Report 2012 / 13



Councillor Ossie Johnson, Chair of Lanchester Parish Council 2012 / 13

Welcome to Lanchester Parish Council's Annual Report for 2012 / 13. The Annual Report provides me with an opportunity to review the last 12 months.

The Locality Map project concluded in April 2012. The project employed a full time development officer for 18 months to work with the rural community. It is expected that many aspects of the project including: training, work in schools, the Lanchester Wildlife publication and the Heritage Walks Leaflets will continue to reap benefits for many years to come.

Phase two of the Village Green improvements concluded in 2012. Work included tree planting, tree works, planting wild flowers, hedge laying, litter bin and seat replacement and the installation of wood carvings along the route of the path. Funding for phase two of the scheme had been secured through a Northern Gas Network grant, National Tree Week grant, Lanchester Wine Cellars Ltd. and Lanchester Parish Council. An event to celebrate the completed works took place in April 2012.

The Fenhall Drift Banner has now been returned to Lanchester under the custodianship of Lanchester Parish Council. The banner which was made in 1960, carries illustrations of the Parish Church on one side and a Roman Figure and Miner on the other side. Following the closure of the Fenhall drift, the banner has been relocated in several communities across County Durham before returning to Lanchester this year. Lanchester Miners' Banner Group was established in 2012 to develop and co-ordinate a banner project. The banner group have developed a project which will include; conservation works to the original banner, the production of a replica banner, banner and traditional dance workshops in the schools and the wider community and the production of information packs. The project will culminate with a celebration event. The Banner Group has secured funding of £25,000 from County Councillor Neighbourhood Funds and private donations to enable the project to commence in 2013. It is anticipated that the project will run until June 2014 with lots of activity taking place in the community.

Work has continued on the Gateway project which has introduced physical features at the entrances to the village to slow the speed of traffic. Funded through the Area Action Partnership the project was developed through a working group including the Parish Council representatives.

The Parish Council continues to be involved in the proposed development of Lynwood House and is a member of the Community Interest Company involved in the development. Derwentside Homes a Social Landlord is the developer of the site and it is hoped that the community element of the project will be retained to provide benefit to the community.

The Parish Council took the decision in 2012 following several years of monitoring to begin the process of replacing the Christmas Lights on the Village Green. In November 2012 the lights on the central tree were replaced with new efficient LED lights as a trial. The lights shone bright throughout the Christmas season and the product was deemed suitable for the remaining trees. Funding has now been secured from the County Council Neighbourhood Fund to replace the Christmas Lights in the remaining six trees and this work will take place in Autumn 2013.



The year has seen substantial maintenance works take place throughout the parish. The football field at Kitswell Park was completely overhauled. The playing surface was been stripped back, levelled and re-seeded. The work will improve the playing surface and enhance the quality of experience for all players. In addition a tree maintenance programme has been undertaken at Kitswell Park and the Village Green.

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 2013

Payments

General Admin	£33,394.91
Donations / Grants	£1,000.00
Rec. / Envir. Facilities	£15,075.61
Leisure Amenities	£3,887.95
Development Projects	£3,374.65
Contingencies	£200.00
VAT	£4,334.57

Receipts

Contribution from DDC	£0
Precept	£50,624.00
Interest Received	£241.28
Garage Rent	£180.00
Bus Shelter Maintenance	£1,645.00
Sundries	£110.00
Wayleaves	£15.14
Grants & Donations	£32,416.11
VAT	£4,141.94
	£89,373.47

The Balance figure includes substantial monies received as grants for specific projects as well as monies identified for particular works.

£61,267.69

Balance at 1 April	£72,179.71
Add Total Income	£89,373.47
	£161,553.18
Less Total Expenditure	£61,267.69
Balance at 31 March	£100,285.49

This statement represents fairly the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2013 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 which deal with the important work of the Council. The committees in 2012 / 13 were:

- **Planning Committee**
- **Finance, Development & General Purposes Committee**

Members are elected to the committees on an annual basis. All meetings are held in the Conference Room, Park House, Station 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

The Parish Council has the powers to give financial support to local clubs and organisations. During 2012 / 13 the Parish Council awarded the following grants / donations:

Lanchester Brass Band	£60
Royal British Legion	£30
Lanchester Lions	£400
Lanchester Parochial Church Council	£200
Lanchester EP Primary School	£75
Lanchester RC Primary School	£75
Great North Air Ambulance	£110
Butterwick House Children's Hospice	£110

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

Lanchester Parish Council

Comprises of 15 elected councillors, a Lead Officer / Clerk and a Handyperson
(Elections in May 2013 have resulted in some changes to the list below)

Ossie Johnson	Stella House, Durham Road,	521937	CHAIR
Colin Burton	15 Deanery View,	520840	
Malcolm Clarke	14 Briardene	07542 342352	
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	
David Lindsay	13 Foxhills Crescent,	520102	
Alan Myers	10 Ashdown Grove	07502 163913	
Alasdair Nairn	1 St Bedes Court,	529384	
Stuart Walker	2 St Bedes Court,	520790	
Mike Wardle	8 Ornsby Hill,	521622	

Staff Lead Officer / Clerk Sally Laverick 521957
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 village:

- Play Areas
- Bike Track
- Allotments
- Village Green
- Xmas Lights
- Hanging Baskets
- Bus shelters (some)
- Public seating (some)
- General upkeep
- Partnership working

