

Lanchester Parish Council

Annual Report 2013 / 14



Councillor Ossie Johnson, Chair of Lanchester Parish Council 2013 / 14

Welcome to Lanchester Parish Council's Annual Report for 2013 / 14. The Annual Report provides me with an opportunity to review the last 12 months.

The local elections in May 2013 saw several changes to the Parish Council. Councillors Alan Myers, David Lindsay and Malcolm Clarke did not stand for election and Julie Richardson, Peter Richardson and Philip Richardson were elected in their places.

Lanchester Parish Council has worked with and supported Lanchester Miners' Banner Group in the delivery of a large community project throughout this past year. The Banner Group, established in 2012, secured funding of £25,000 from County Councillor Neighbourhood Funds and private donations to enable the project to commence in 2013. The project included; essential conservation works to the original banner; the production of a replica banner; banner and dance workshops in the local schools and the production of school and community information packs. The project will culminate in a celebration event which will take place on 27 June 2014. The original Fenhall Drift Lodge banner is owned by Durham Miners' Association but has been returned to Lanchester under the custodianship of Lanchester Parish Council and is to be hung and displayed in the Parish Church. This has been a busy and successful project involving many members of the community with the schools fully involved in all aspects of the project.



The Lanchester Village Green Project was awarded a Commendation at the Environment Awards Ceremony at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Durham in October 2013. The Village Green project was undertaken in two stages and was completed in 2012. The project included the installation of a new path, tree planting, tree works, drainage works, planting native flower bulbs, hedge laying, creation of wildlife habitats, litter bin and seat replacement and the installation of wood carvings. The Environment Awards aim to reward great design, environmental guardianship and community spirit in County Durham. The project was considered by the Environment Awards panel in 2013 and awarded a commendation. The project was made possible due to funding from CDENT, Northern Gas Networks, Lanchester Parish Council, Lanchester Dairies and Lanchester Wine Cellars Ltd. The Parish Council were thrilled to receive the award in recognition of the project.

Following the successful trial replacement of the lights in one of the trees on the Village Green in 2012 with new efficient LED lights, funding of £18,000 was secured from the County Council Neighbourhood Fund to replace the Christmas Lights in the remaining six trees on the Village Green. This work was completed in Autumn 2013. The Christmas Light Switch On provided an opportunity to celebrate the new lights. The event included a selection of Christmas Carols from Lanchester Brass Band and Lanchester Choral & Operatic Society. In addition 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 lights looked incredible and gave a festive show throughout December.

In 2013 the Parish Council took over responsibility for cutting the grass in the area either side of the Lanchester Valley Walk between Station Road and Newbiggen Lane following a decision by the County Council to stop cutting the grass. The Parish Council took the decision to arrange and pay for the cutting of the grass in this area following lengthy discussions and representations from concerned residents. The Parish Council entered into a licence agreement with the County Council to cut the grass in this area during 2013 and have renewed the licence to cut the grass during 2014 also.



To commemorate 100 years since the start of World War 1, the Parish Council purchased a supply of Flanders poppy seeds with a donation going to the Royal British Legion. The Parish Council has sowed some of these on the Village Green and in its parks and has given away packs to residents. This is a Royal British Legion campaign which hopes to see the UK awash with poppies throughout 2014 and beyond.

The Parish Council made the decision early in 2014 to commence the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. A working group has been formed to progress the plan which will take approx 18 months to complete. A Neighbourhood Plan will help the local community influence the planning of the area in which they live and work.

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 2014

Payments

General Admin	£51,277.54
Donations / Grants	£1,000.00
Rec. / Envir. Facilities	£28,215.02
Leisure Amenities	£107.40
Development Projects	£436.98
Contingencies	£892.00
VAT	£6,521.77

Receipts

Council Tax Support Grant	£3,622.00
Precept	£50,624.00
Interest Received	£487.96
Garage Rent	£180.00
Bus Shelter Maintenance	£0
Sundries	£0
Wayleaves	£15.44
Grants & Donations	£23,584.00
VAT	£4,181.34
Total	£82,694.74

£88,450.71

Balance at 1 April	£100,285.49
Add Total Income	£82,694.74
	£182,980.23
Less Total Expenditure	£88,450.71
Balance at 31 March	£94,529.52

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

This statement represents fairly the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2014 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 2013 / 14 were:

- **Planning Committee**
- **Finance & Development Committee**
- **Recreation 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 2013 / 14 the Parish Council awarded the following grants / donations:

Lanchester Brass Band	£90
Lanchester Choral & Operatic Society	£90
Royal British Legion	£50
Lanchester Cricket Club (firework event)	£300
Lanchester Parochial Church Council	£200
Lanchester EP Primary School	£75
Lanchester RC Primary School	£75
Great North Air Ambulance	£110
County Durham Stroke Club	£45
Willow Burn Hospice	£200
North East War Memorial Project	£45
Durham County Brass Band Assoc.	£50

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

Ossie Johnson	Stella House, Durham Road,	521937	CHAIR
Colin Burton	15 Deanery View,	520840	
Elizabeth Cook	46 Manor Grange,	529334	
Bob Glass	2 The Paddock	03000 268711	
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	
Julie Richardson	Linden Lodge, Cadger Bank	521741	
Peter Richardson	Linden Lodge, Cadger Bank	521741	
Philip Richardson	Linden Lodge, Cadger Bank	521741	
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

