

# Lanchester Parish Council

## Annual Report 2014 / 15



### Councillor Ossie Johnson, Chair of Lanchester Parish Council 2014/15

Welcome to Lanchester Parish Council's Annual Report for 2014 / 15. The Annual Report provides me with an opportunity to review the last 12 months.

The Parish Council made the decision early in 2014 to commence the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan. Over the last year a working group has been meeting 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 Neighbourhood 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. Once adopted Durham County Council will have to consult the Neighbourhood Plan when making planning decisions in our Parish. During January a questionnaire was distributed in the community. This questionnaire asked some general questions about your likes, dislikes, ideas and concerns about living or working in the Parish. This early community engagement aimed to identify key themes and issues that can be further investigated to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Completed questionnaires were received which represented views from 450 members of the community. The results of the questionnaire are being fed back to the community. The working group have secured a £4000 grant and are working with consultants to develop a more detailed questionnaire which will be distributed later in 2015.

Lanchester Parish Council has worked with and supported Lanchester Miners' Banner Group in the delivery of a large community project which was completed in 2014. 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 (now displayed in the Parish Church); 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 culminated in a celebration event which took place on 27 June 2014. The road was closed and crowds gathered as the banner led by Lanchester Brass Band and representatives from the three local churches was marched through the village. Hundreds of school children marched with the banner, waving flags. Children gave demonstrations of may-pole and traditional miners' rapper dancing on the green and music was provided by Lanchester Brass Band and St Bedes students. This was a spectacular finale to a great community project.



The lights on the main Christmas Tree were replaced in 2014 following the successful replacement of the Christmas lights in the six trees on the Village Green in 2012 and 2013 with new efficient LED lights. This now completes the replacement of all the lights on the Village Green. 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 great festive show.



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 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 2014 and have renewed the licence to cut the grass during 2015 also.

During 2014 / 15 the Parish Council have worked with the Cricket Club to administer a £47,700 grant to refurbish the changing rooms at Kitswell Park. The project was completed in early 2015 and provides a much enhanced facility for the community.



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.

In September 2014 the Parish Council moved office from Park House to Lynwood House on Durham Road. Parish Council meetings now take place in the community room at Lynwood House.

## Receipts and Payment Account

Year ended 31 March 2015

### Payments

General Admin	£41,607.98
Donations / Grants	£950.00
Rec. / Envir. Facilities	£13,305.44
Leisure Amenities	£327.81
Development Projects	£44,539.44
Contingencies	£150.00
VAT	£3,216.82

### Receipts

Council Tax Support Grant	£3,341.00
Precept	£51,636.00
Interest Received	£53.73
Garage Rent	£180.00
Bus Shelter Maintenance	£0
Sundries	£1,059.26
Wayleaves	£15.74
Grants & Donations	£47,744.00
VAT	£6,177.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>£110,206.97</b>

**£104,097.49**

Balance at 1 April	<b>£94,529.52</b>
Add Total Income	£110,206.97
	<b>£204,736.49</b>
Less Total Expenditure	£104,097.49
<b>Balance at 31 March</b>	<b>£100,639.00</b>

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 2015 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 2014 / 15 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 2014 / 15 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	£300
All Saints Parish Centre	£300
Lanchester Agricultural Society	£300
Lanchester EP Primary School	£75
Lanchester RC Primary School	£75

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	<b>CHAIR</b>
Colin Burton	3 Lynwood House, Durham Road	07985 551615	
Ann 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 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 village:

- 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

