

Lanchester Parish Council

Annual Report 2009 / 10



Welcome to Lanchester Parish Council's Annual Report. This report outlines the main achievements and services offered by Lanchester Parish Council during 2009 / 10

Overview by Chair

The Annual Report provides me with an opportunity to review the last 12 months. This year has been extremely busy with several major achievements to celebrate.

The year started well with the official launch of the new Bike Track and Play area at Kitswell Park in April. The facilities which complement the cricket and rugby provision already located at Kitswell Park were opened at a well attended launch event and the facilities are currently being well used by local children. The scheme which cost approximately £100,000 demonstrated successful partnership working and attracted several substantial sources of funding.

In June the Lead Officer successfully attained the Certificate in Local Council Administration, becoming a qualified Clerk, a year after she came into post. This led to the final elements being pulled together for the portfolio of evidence for the Parish Council to achieve Quality Council Status. The award was approved by the County Accreditation Panel in September and



required the Council to demonstrate that it is representative of the community, communicates with its residents and is properly managed and responsible. This is a great achievement for Lanchester Parish Council and demonstrates that the Council is effective and in touch with its community. Lanchester Parish Council were officially presented with their Quality Council Status certificate at the County Durham Association of Local Councils AGM on Saturday 31 October. Lanchester Parish Council becomes one of only 9% of local councils in the country who have achieved Quality Council status.

New legislation in January 2009 allowed local councils who fulfilled certain criteria to adopt and use the Power of Wellbeing allowing them to spend and be involved in a wider range of activities. The Council fulfilled the criteria which included training, policies and a qualified clerk and adopted the power in July.

2009 saw the village compete in the Village of the Year competition. The application which was led by the Parish Council and the Partnership involved all elements of village life. Following a judges visit in August, Lanchester were announced winners of the 'Calor County Durham Village of the Year 2009 Competition'.

In November the Lanchester Locality Map was published, the third document jointly produced by the Partnership and Parish Council. Recognising the need to value the rural community, representatives from the Parish Council, Partnership, farming, wildlife and environment groups worked together over several years to produce the document which provides a framework of actions to safeguard farming, wildlife and the environment in the Parish. External funding is currently being finalised to employ a Development Officer to carry out the actions.

This year also saw the Council look at the Village Green and consult the community on possible developments. Work has continued to finalise plans and 2010 should see improvements being made to 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.

The Parish Council is keenly involved in the newly established Area Action Partnership which provides the opportunity for the Local Council voice to be heard at the County Council and local decisions affecting local communities to be made.

Councillor Ossie Johnson, Chair of Lanchester Parish Council 2009 / 10

Receipts and Payment Account

Year ended 31 March 2010

Payments

General Admin	£31,598.01
S.137	£1,280.00
Rec. / Envir. Facilities	£10,675.92
Leisure Amenities	£2,290.80
Development Projects	£23,494.58
VAT	£4,817.65

£74,156.96

Receipts

Contribution from DDC	£6,001.00
Precept	£46,870.50
Interest Received	£61.98
Garage Rent	£160.00
Bus Shelter Maintenance	£1,751.00
Sundries	£420.00
Wayleaves	£14.34
Grants	£950.00
VAT	£15,587.91
	£71,816.73

Balance at 1 April	£98,517.94
Add Total Income	£71,816.73
	£170,334.67
Less Total Expenditure	£74,156.96
Balance at 31 March	£96,177.71

This statement represents fairly the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2010 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 2009 / 10 were:

- Planning Committee**
- Recreation Committee**
- Finance, Development and General Purposes Committee**
- Appeals 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 at Park House. The Parish Council have in place a Public Participation Policy. Public and press attendance and participation is welcome at all meetings.

Grants

The Parish Council has the powers to give financial support to local clubs and organisations. During 2009 / 10 the Parish Council awarded the following grants / donations:

Lanchester Brass Band	£100
Royal British Legion	£25
British Red Cross	£20
Lanchester Lions	£400
Lanchester Parochial Church Council	£200
Lanchester EP Primary School	£75
Lanchester RC Primary School	£75
Churches Together	£120
Lanchester Lawn Tennis Club	£100
Butterwick Children's Hospice	£100

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

Lanchester Parish Councillors

Lanchester Parish Council comprises of 15 elected councillors, a Lead Officer / Clerk and a Handyperson.

Neil Fleming	11 Broadoak Drive,	520987
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	295765
Patricia 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
Alasdair Nairn	1 St Bedes Court,	529384
Stuart Walker	2 St Bedes Court,	520790
Mike Wardle	8 Ornsby Hill,	521622
David Lindsay	13 Foxhills Crescent,	520102

Councillors do not receive any payment or allowance for attending meetings or for carrying out Council business.

Staff

Lead Officer / Clerk	Mrs Sally Laverick	521957 / 529415
Handyperson	Mr David Maddox	



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
- Public seating (some)
- General upkeep

