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

Lanchester Parish Council, Park House, Station Road, Lanchester, DH7 OEX Tel: 01207 521957 www.lanchesterparish.info e-mail lanchesterparish@btopenworld.com

Year ended 31 March 2010PaymentsReceiptsGeneral Admin£31,598.01Contribution from DDC£6,001.00S.137£1,280.00Precept£46,870.50Rec. / Envir. Facilities£10,675.92Interest Received£61.98Leisure Amenities£2,290.80Garage Rent£160.00Development Projects£23,494.58Bus Shelter Maintenance£1,751.00VAT£4,817.65Sundries£420.00Wayleaves£14.34Grants£950.00VAT£15,587.91Katolici StrategiesKatolici Strategies
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£74,156.96 £71,816.73
Balance at 1 April £98,517.94
Add Total Income £71,816.73 This statement represents fairly the
£170,334.67 financial position of the Council at 31
Less Total Expenditure £74 156 96 March 2010 and reflects its income
Balance at 31 March £96,177.71 and expenditure during the year.
Schedule of Meetings Grants Lanchester Parish Council has the powers to give
Lanchester Parish Council has 15 elected members who I financial support to local clubs and organizations
meet in full session in times a year. In addition there are a During 0000 (40 the Darish Coursel swanded the
inditiber of Committees which deal with the important work of [] following grapts / depatience:
the Council. The committees in 2009 / 10 were: Lanchester Brass Band £100
Planning Committee Royal British Legion £25
Recreation Committee British Red Cross £20
Finance, Development and General Purposes Lanchester Lions £400
Committee
Appeals Committee Lanchester EP Primary School £75
Members are elected to the committees on an annual basis. Lanchester RC Primary School £75
Churchas Tagether 5120
All meetings are held in the Conference Room, Park House, Station Road. Notice of all meetings can be found in the 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 Requests for grants / donations are normally
Policy. Public and press attendance and participation is considered by the Parish Council in the March
welcome at all meetings.
Lanchester Parish Councillors Services and Activities
Lanchester Parish Council comprises of 15 elected councillors, a Lead Officer /
Clerk and a Handyperson.
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