

Lanchester Parish Council

Annual Report 2011 / 12



Councillor Ossie Johnson, Chair of Lanchester Parish Council 2011 / 12

Welcome to Lanchester Parish Council's Annual Report for 2011 / 12. The Annual Report provides me with an opportunity to review the last 12 months and what a busy year this has been with many successes to celebrate.

The Locality Map project continued to gather strength with a FT project officer employed to deliver the 18 month project which was completed in April 2012. Its achievements included; 132 training days (archive training, sheep shearing, chainsaw, hedge laying etc); 27 businesses supported; over 6000 people benefiting including over 1000 attendances in activities for children (farm visits, pond building, insect hotels etc) and 176 volunteer days (conservation work, way marking walks, wildlife audit etc). Two major parish publications emerged from the project. The 'Lanchester Wildlife' book was researched and written by volunteers. This professional publication was launched at an event in March 2012 by Professor David Bellamy OBE and Mrs Pat Glass MP. The event was well attended and the publication very well received. March 2012 also saw the launch of the Heritage Walk Leaflets. This pack of six walks in the Parish gave valuable and interesting information about the heritage of the area. The beautifully designed packs have been distributed to all households. This major project was possible through a funding package of £73,000 sourced from the Rural Development Programme for England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Lanchester Parish Council.

Following consultation with the community on improvements to the village green, work was completed on phase one which included; the installation of a path along the beck, seating, tree works, a new Parish notice board and surface improvements. The project was made possible through a grant from County Durham Environment Trust, funding from Lanchester Dairies and the Parish Council. The completion of phase one was celebrated at an event in June 2011. Following this work began immediately on phase two and very soon plans were agreed which 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. The works on phase two were completed in March 2012 and an event to celebrate took place in April.

A new Management Agreement was signed in April 2011 between Lanchester Parish Council and Lanchester Allotments Association. The allotments have been successfully managed by the Allotments Association for the past 10 years and the new agreement allows the association to manage them for a further 20 years. In addition a new Licence Agreement was signed in September between Lanchester Parish Council and Lanchester Cricket Club allowing the cricket club to operate and manage the cricket facilities at Kitswell Park for a further 17 Years providing cricket opportunities to children and adults.

This year saw the implementation of the Gateway project which introduced physical features at the entrances to the village to slow the speed of traffic. Funded through the Area Action Partnership, a working group including the Parish Council drew up suggestions and consulted with the community before the features were installed.

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. A public consultation event was held in April 2011 to inform and involve the community in the proposals.

The Fenhall Drift Banner has now been returned to Lanchester under the custodianship of Lanchester Parish Council. A group is to be established to co-ordinate repair works and raise the necessary funds and it is expected that progress will be made on this exciting project throughout 2012.

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 2012

Payments

General Admin	£47,696.90
Donations / Grants	£1,000.00
Rec. / Envir. Facilities	£9,773.08
Leisure Amenities	£52,464.29
Development Projects	£15,074.60
Contingencies	
VAT	£6654.46

£132,663.33

Balance at 1 April	£86,130.17
Add Total Income	£118,712.87
	£204,843.04
Less Total Expenditure	£132,663.33
Balance at 31 March	£72,179.71

Receipts

Contribution from DDC	£3,000.50
Precept	£49,390.00
Interest Received	£253.97
Garage Rent	£180.00
Bus Shelter Maintenance	£1,645.00
Sundries	
Wayleaves	£14.85
Grants	£55,461.43
VAT	£8,767.12

£118,712.87

This statement represents fairly the financial position of the Council at 31 March 2012 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 2011 / 12 were:

- **Planning Committee**
- **Recreation Committee**
- **Finance, Development & 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 on the Village Green. 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 2011 / 12 the Parish Council awarded the following grants / donations:

Lanchester Brass Band	£60
Royal British Legion	£30
Lanchester Lions	£400
Lanchester Parochial Church Council	£120
Lanchester EP Primary School	£75
Lanchester RC Primary School	£75
Churches Together	£100
Willowburn Hospice	£100
Lanchester Playgroup & Tiny Tots	£100

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

Lanchester Parish Council

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	
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	

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

Staff Lead Officer / Clerk Sally Laverick 521957
Handyperson 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
- Locality Map project
- Partnership working

