

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2007-8

Dear Parishioner,

Our aim as a Parish Council is to make Edenhall and Langwathby good places to live. Our powers and resources are limited but here are some of the things we have done over the last 12 months.

Carol Merrie, Chairman

Meadowside

It was good to see the new housing come to fruition and to know that the Parish Council's residents' survey in 2002 had been the spark that got the scheme going. Congratulations to Eden Housing Association on a successful development.

Recycling Centre

Our search for a new site did not produce a better alternative and many people said they liked the convenience of the present location. We have, therefore, proposed that the old compound should be replaced by a larger one nearby that will contain all the bins and be easier to keep tidy. Eden District Council have agreed to fund this and the Parish Council will continue to manage the centre.

Village Hall

The Parish Council is trustee of the Village Hall and its operation is managed by the Village Hall Committee (directly elected by parishioners). The constitution was amended during the year to enable people living outside the Parish to play a part on the Committee, although the chairperson has to live in the Parish. There are a number of vacancies on the Committee and some new blood would be welcomed. Progress with the refurbishment plans has been hampered by a shortage of grants

but the Parish Council has agreed to take out a loan to fund a scheme of essential works. Repayment costs will be shared with the Village Hall Committee.

Blockage of the drains caused by vandalism unfortunately led to a lot of unnecessary expense.

Roads and Footpaths

Various highway problems were taken up with the County Council, including flooding incidents, potholes and problems with the river bridge (to be resurfaced this summer).

A scheme has been worked up with Hunsby Parish Council to provide a raised walkway on part of the Briggie Beck footpath. We will hear in June whether our grant application has been successful.

Village Greens

Extensive work was undertaken on the trees in Langwathby to keep them safe. Another health & safety concern has led the Council to prohibit horses from being taken onto the greens.



Parish Fishing

A portfolio of evidence was put together on the use of part of the River Eden for fishing and other recreational use by parishioners. This has formed the basis of an application to Cumbria County Council under the Commons Act 2006 to register these rights and safeguard them for the future. Due to a backlog of applications, it could be a year before the outcome is known.

Grants

We have made grants to a number of local activities, including The Fellrunner Village

Bus (£320), Langwathby & Edenhall First Responders (£200), The Memo (£200) and £350 each to Edenhall and Langwathby Parochial Church Councils for churchyard maintenance.

Quality Parish Council

We became a designated "quality parish council" this year, having met all the national standards for quality of administration, engagement with residents (through news sheets, press reports, website and notice boards) and achievements.

Website: www.langwathby.org

Thank you

.....to all the volunteers who have painted seats, looked after sports fields and memorials, collected litter, helped with May Day or the Village Hall or made any other contribution to the local community this year – you make a difference!

Planning

The Council has made comments on 10 planning applications during the year.

Finance

The Parish "precept" (the Parish Council's share of the Council Tax) was increased to £8,500 for 2007/8 but there is no increase in the current year.

The following is a summary of the Council's accounts for the year to 31 March 2008 (previous year's figures in lighter type). The balance carried forward at the year end was £9,013.

RECEIPTS	£	£
Precept	8,500	8,000
Grants received	0	1,508
Village Hall Committee	9,796	4,969
VAT recovered	1,994	1,477
Cemetery fees	200	100
Recycling credits	816	951
Other income	188	695
Total Receipts	21,494	17,700

PAYMENTS

Village Hall	10,026	5,237
Station lighting	0	75
Insurance	1,681	1,845
Administration	3,317	2,026
Village greens, bus shelters, etc	1,476	1,305
Grants made	1,420	1,025
Sports/play areas	1,826	471
Cemetery	247	240
Other payments	240	194
VAT	2,035	962
Total Payments	22,268	13,380

We are grateful to Gwen Veitch for once again undertaking the internal audit of the Council's accounts. The external auditor is BDO Stoy Hayward LLP.

Parish Councillors 2007/8

Edenhall:

Mr W.H.Benn, 1 The Courtyard; Mr I.S.Harrington, Helm View; Mr T.W.Metcalf, Home Farm; Mr W.F.Mounsey (Vice-Chairman to May 2008), The Luham.

Langwathby:

Mr D.H.Banks, The New Mill; Mr J.M.Holliday (District Councillor), Townhead Farm; Mr P.M.Jackson, Powley's Farm; Mr G.C.Little, Auchenbrae, Salkeld Road; Mrs C.Merrie (Chairman to May 2008), Caroline Cottage, Back Lane; Ms S.Ripper, Eden Bank Cottage.

Parish Clerk:

Mr R.J.Wager, Langley House, Langwathby.

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Footnote: Mrs Merrie stood down as Chairman at the May meeting and was thanked for her exceptional hard work on behalf of the community over the last 7 years. Mr W.Mounsey, previously Vice-Chairman was elected as Chairman and Mr D.Banks as Vice-Chairman.