

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL

REPORT FOR 2006-7

Dear Parishioner,

Here is a brief account of what your Parish Council has been doing over the last year. We hope you find it interesting.

Residents of Edenhall and Langwathby are always welcome at our meetings and we invite you to raise any matters of concern. We are always open to suggestions for improving local services.

Carol Merrie, Chairman

Affordable Housing

In 2002 the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee undertook a survey of all households in Edenhall and Langwathby. One of the main priorities highlighted was the need for affordable housing. A meeting with Eden District Council followed and out of that came the Eden Housing Association development of 13 homes at Meadowside, now nearing completion. We hope that the residents moving in later this year will find it a pleasant place to make a home.

Recycling

The volume of waste recycled at the Village Hall recycling centre has broken all records, contributing nearly £1,000 to Parish Council funds. It is the 6th most popular centre out of 48 in Eden and collects 15 tonnes of waste each quarter. We still struggle to keep it tidy and request all users only to bring suitable material and to place it in the proper containers. Thank you.

Village Hall

Progress with the refurbishment plans has been hampered by the lack of grants for large-scale schemes and a more modest phased programme is now being worked up. The Hall continues to be well used and thanks are due to the Committee who have worked hard over the last year. As Charity Trustee, the Parish Council has obtained an Order from the Charity Commission, which will enable the constitution of the Village Hall Committee to be updated

Children's Play Facilities

Following an inspection last summer, the children's play equipment on Langwathby Green has been thoroughly overhauled and painted – our thanks to John Dulson and Campbell Little for their hard work and for curing the squeak on the swings!

Roads and Footpaths

Various issues have been raised with the County Council during the year, including an investigation into flooding at Edenhall, which led to road drains being re-routed. Serious and fatal accidents on the A686 continue to be a concern and liaison continues with the police over speed checks, particularly in the summer months.

Grants

We have made grants to a number of local activities, including The Fellrunner Village Bus (£225), The Memo (£200) and £300 each to Edenhall and Langwathby Parochial Church Councils for churchyard maintenance.

Parish Land

The Council is in the process of registering its ownership of land in the Parish, which everyone knows belongs to the Parish but for which there are no deeds. This will avoid problems in the future and ensure that this public land remains so.

Thank you

.....to all who help keep our villages looking attractive, whether it is looking after the war memorials, the recycling centre, the cemetery, the Memorial Garden, the village greens and seats, the sports ground or the bus shelters.....a lot of quiet work goes on behind the scenes and is greatly appreciated.

.....thank you also to the WI and Nan Greeves for providing a new seat at the Memorial Garden.

Planning

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

Finance

The Parish "precept" (the Parish Council's share of the Council Tax) was held at £8,000 (increased to £8,500 in the current year).

The following is a summary of the Council's accounts for the year to 31 March 2007 (previous year's figures in lighter type):-

RECEIPTS	£	£
Precept	8,000	8,000
Grants received	1,508	5,961
Village Hall Committee	4,969	13,003
VAT recovered	1,477	4,476
Cemetery fees	100	465
Recycling credits	951	772
Other income	695	253
Total Receipts	17,700	32,930

PAYMENTS

Village Hall	5,237	12,903
Station lighting	75	6,431
Roundabout	0	7,442
Insurance	1,845	1,816
Administration	2,026	1,870
Village greens, bus shelters, etc	1,305	1,145
Grants made	1,025	1,510
Sports fields	471	354
Cemetery	240	166
Other payments	194	188
VAT	962	4,677
Total Payments	13,380	38,502

The balance carried forward at the year end was £9,787.

We are grateful to Gwen Veitch for once again undertaking the internal audit of the Council's accounts. The external auditor is the Audit Commission.

Parish Councillors 2006/7

Edenhall:

Mr J.E.A.Burne, Bonnie Mount; Mr T.W.Metcalf, Home Farm; Mr W.F.Mounsey (Vice-Chairman), The Luham; Mrs A.R.Strong, 2 Culgaith Road, Langwathby (until November 2006)

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), Caroline Cottage, Back Lane; Ms S.Ripper, Eden Bank Cottage.

During the last year we were sorry to lose Alison Strong from the Council. Another longstanding Edenhall Member, Alan Burne, stood down at the May election after more than 40 years on the Council. We are pleased to welcome two new members to represent Edenhall - William Benn of 1 The Courtyard and Ian Harrington of Helm View.

Parish Clerk:

Mr R.J.Wager, Langley House, Langwathby.
Tel: 01768 881628
E-mail: langwathbypc@dsl.pipex.com

www.langwathby.org

Yes, we now have a Parish website, which can be viewed by anyone who is "on line". Use it to view Parish Council publications and information about Edenhall and Langwathby. There are also pages or links relating to Parish organisations. The site is still being developed but is one more way in which the Parish Council can keep in touch with the community and join the computer age!