

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – No. 7 January 2008

PARISH PLAN ACTION GROUP

Work continues with the appointment of a Parish Project Officer to look at and deliver three key initiatives identified by the Action Group. These are community communication systems, community transport and rural recycling systems. Outside funding has been obtained for this appointment. The Action Group meet on a regular basis in the Library, Ambleside. Everyone who would like to be involved is welcome to listen to the discussion or to raise issues at a designated point during the meeting. There is a section on the Agenda where the public can make representations. Geographical groups represent all areas of the Parish. The Chairman of the Action Group is Margaret Lewis from Troutbeck. If you are interested in playing a part in the Parish Plan, please contact Michael Johnson, the Lakes Parish Clerk, on 015394 31656. .

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT IN THE LAKES

As part of the Parish Plan the Project Officer is now looking at community transport. There are a number of differing schemes operating and available to residents of Lakes Parish including Community Minibus, Rural Wheels, Wheels to Work, Dial-a-Ride and other small local social car schemes. These schemes have the potential to meet many of the transport needs of people in the Parish who either do not have access to, or who wish to reduce their use of, private vehicles. Lakes Parish Council is concerned about the lack of take up and public awareness of these schemes. Using a small grant from DEFRA, a promotional campaign will be undertaken in the New Year to give comprehensive information on what is available and how to access Community Transport. There is also a shortage of locally based, trained, volunteer drivers for the community minibus. Would you consider being a volunteer? More information from the Clerk.

ROTHAY VALLEY ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Excellent progress has been made on dealing with Himalayan Balsam and Knotweed. 70% of known Balsam sites and 60% of known Knotweed sites have been tackled. The Group will be concentrating on the Ambleside area

next year. A priority job will also be dealing with the grey squirrels that seem to have spread back into local woodland. Butterfly conservation will also be part of the work. More information from Dave Welch on 015394 32765

2008/9 BUDGET

Your Parish Council have recently approved a budget for the next financial year. An increase of £5000 on the previous year has been approved which represents just over £1 per household per annum. **HOWEVER** the Parish Council have again included £13000, out of a total precept of £55000, for the Public Convenience Partnership with South Lakeland District Council, together with some local businesses such as the Grasmere Traders Association. This equates to approximately £5 per household per year to keep 5 public toilets open within Lakes Parish. The most recent public toilet to be re-opened, as a result of this Partnership, is the one in Rothay Park Ambleside, that opens from Spring through to November annually and is a much used facility by visitors and locals alike. Your Parish Council would like to know if you, the Council Tax payer in Lakes Parish, feel that this is a prudent use of **YOUR** money. Without the £13000 subsidy it is almost certain that the 5 public conveniences will close. There is no statutory obligation on the District Council to provide public toilets and it is a demand on their financial resources, however, by contributing locally to the Partnership, Lakes Parish Council are helping to keep open these facilities. Do you wish this to continue? Or do you feel that the money could be spent usefully in other areas? Please write to or telephone the Clerk and let him know what you think. The Council is to fully review the Budget at a Meeting early in the new year, so all comments will be taken in to consideration.

As part of the budget for 2008/9, £3500 has been put aside for a new Bus Shelter at Chapel Stile. This shelter will be sited near the Glebe where the bus to Ambleside stops at present. £2000 has also been allocated towards the off road footpath proposed between the Glebe and the Coop in Chapel Stile. This is a medium term scheme. Local residents/businesses will be consulted in due

course on this new plan that will hopefully address the problems highlighted in the original scheme. The Council has also allocated £5000 towards grant aid for groups and organisations within the Parish. Applications will be considered during the new financial year commencing April 2008.

LAKES PARISH HANDYMAN

Following on from the Budget setting meeting, Lakes Parish Council has decided to use the £1600 already in the budget (allocated to the Lengthsman scheme) for a pilot scheme employing a Parish Handyman from December 1st 2007 to 31st March 2008. The Lengthsman scheme has hit a public liability insurance problem that cannot be resolved at present, therefore the Parish Council have decided to try to address those small problems within the Parish that the larger authorities seem reluctant to deal with. We welcome Robin Lees, the newly appointed Parish Handyman, onboard. No doubt you will see him about in the Parish. Robin is a community orientated person with lots of local knowledge within Grasmere and Ambleside. He will work throughout all communities in the Parish so please let any Councillor or the Clerk know of any areas of concern, be it litter, dog fouling, sign painting and cleaning, bench/seat maintenance or repair etc that you feel needs attention and we will try to sort it out. The Council anticipate that the pilot scheme may well be a success, so have put a further £5000 in the 2008/9 budget to enable it to continue. Again, do you think this is an acceptable way to spend **YOUR** money? Let us know.

WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLORS

The Council has co-opted two new Councillors to replace Edna Garlick and Anne Parker. For Langdales we have Cllr Mrs Sheila Ogden and for Ambleside, Cllr Philip Thompson. All **Parish** Councillors, be they new or experienced, **work as volunteers and receive no financial support for the job that they do. They work for the benefit of their communities and are strictly governed by the Standards Board for England.**

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th January 2008 in the Library, Ambleside commencing at 7.30pm and the one after that will be a Plans Meeting on the 23rd January 2008 at the same time and venue. There is now a Parish Council Noticeboard in the Library that will carry a list

of forthcoming Meetings and other information of interest to the public.

Members of the Public are entitled to attend any Parish Council Meeting to listen to items discussed. The Chairman will adjourn at 8pm to allow the public to speak on any matter that concerns you or on anything that you think the Parish Council should know.

The Parish Council deal with a whole range of local issues on your behalf. It positively welcomes contributions from people who live in the Parish of Lakes.

Why not come along to listen or raise your points of concern?

LAKES PARISH OFFICE IS MOVING

After a number of years in the Church Street Office, the Parish Council is moving to new premises. Ambleside Police Station will now be home to Lakes Parish Council. We are taking over the redundant charge room at the end of the building adjacent to the A591 and hope to be in occupation by the end of January 2008.

This will be a joint initiative between Cumbria Police and Lakes Parish Council and will secure the future of the Police Station in Ambleside for at least the next three years. The Clerk to the Council, Michael Johnson, in addition to his normal Parish duties, will be on hand to accept any minor queries or requests raised by members of the public attending the Police Station. An immediate benefit to callers will be that the new Office will be on the ground floor and easily accessible for disabled persons. Another benefit to Council Tax payers will be a saving of £5000 over two years in the rental payable for Parish office space. The telephone number of the Office will remain the same (31656) and opening days/times will be Monday and Wednesday from 9.45am to 5.15pm plus one other unspecified day weekly.

HOUSING AND POLICE INFORMATION SURGERIES IN AMBLESIDE LIBRARY

Just a reminder that the monthly surgeries continue in the library's ground floor extension on the second Tuesday of every month. Housing is from 10.30am to 12.30 and the Police from 11.30am to 12.30. Housing have an **Appointments only system** on 0845 0570080. The Police do not need appointments. As the Library is closed on a Tuesday morning, access to both surgeries is through the entrance to the rear of the library building from Lake Road car park and not through the main entrance on Kelsick Road.

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ambleside Ward

Cllr Leslie Johnson (Chairman of Council)
015394 32904

Cllr Elwyn Bradshaw 015394 32760

Cllr Maureen Colquhoun 015394 34325

Cllr Nick Martin 015394 31124

Cllr Mrs Anne Sowerbutts 015394 32691

Cllr Philip Thompson 015394 33410

Grasmere Ward

Cllr Elizabeth Braithwaite MBE (Freeman of
Lakes) 015394 35297

Cllr Allen Green (Vice-Chairman of Council)
015394 35238

Cllr Vivienne Rees 015394 35401

Rydal and Loughrigg Ward

Cllr Fiona Sparrow 015394 32441

Cllr David Welch 015394 32765

Langdales Ward

Cllr Liz Wilson 015394 37327

Cllr Jonathan Smith 015394 37592

Cllr Mrs Sheila Ogden 015394 32341

Troutbeck Ward

Cllr Harry Allen 015394 44021

Cllr Roger Westmoreland 015394 33287

Clerk – Michael Johnson JP. 015394 31656

The Address of the new Parish Office from 1st
February 2008 will be
Lakes Parish Council
Ambleside Police Station
Rydal Road
Ambleside
LA22
Telephone/Fax 015394 31656
Email - lakesparishcouncil@fsmail.net
Webpage www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish