

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – No. 8 April 2008

PARISH PLAN ACTION GROUP

Work continues on the implementation of the Plan. Over the past six months the group have looked at three key initiatives, community communication systems, community transport and rural recycling systems. Everyone in the Parish will receive information on how to access a pack relating to community transport, please take the time to study it, it has much useful information. The Action Group meet on a regular basis in Ambleside Library. If you are interested in playing a part in the Parish Plan, please contact Michael Johnson, the Lakes Parish Clerk, on 015394 31656.

REGISTRATION FOR DENTAL TREATMENT AT AMBLESIDE UNDER THE NHS

Dental Services will continue at Ambleside under the auspicious of the N.H.S. However it is vital that all would be patients both existing and new, register with this Practice. This includes everyone who wishes to join the Ambleside Dentist i.e. those people who are not registered with any NHS surgery; those that are already registered with another surgery and who wish to transfer to Ambleside and all existing patients of the Ambleside Surgery. The last group of patients should already have been sent a registration card but this may not have happened in all cases. To make sure, please complete a registration card. These cards can be obtained from the Health Centre in Ambleside.

LAKES PARISH OFFICE HAS MOVED

After a number of years in the Church Street Office, the Parish Council has now moved to new premises. Ambleside Police Station is now our home and the Parish Council is acting as a reception facility for minor Police matters. This means that for the first time in many years the Parish Clerk will be the 'face' at the Police station for locals and visitors alike. This is a joint initiative between Cumbria Police and Lakes Parish Council. It will secure the future of the Police Station in Ambleside for at least the next three years. The telephone number remains the same (31656) and opening days/times will be Monday and Wednesday from 9.45am to 5.15 plus one other unspecified day during the week.

CHAPEL STILE BUS SHELTER AND FOOTWAY

Lakes Parish Council has agreed to fund a bus shelter at Chapel Stile. To enable highway safety to be maintained, a small section of footpath will be formed near the Glebe at its junction with the main road where the bus for Ambleside presently stops. Cumbria County Council have agreed to fund the footpath and work may even now be completed. Once this is done then a bus shelter will be erected on the site. These arrangements are in hand at the time of going to press and will hopefully complete within a short period of time.

There is also a medium term proposal to have an off road footpath between the new bus shelter and the Co-op. This will be a redesign of the original proposal from a few years ago and prior to any work being done, all local residents will be invited to a public meeting to express their views. The amended plans will not involve any loss of parking space for the Co-op and make it much safer for all who use the highway at present.

DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2008

This year there are South Lakeland District Council Elections for the whole of the area. The Boundary Commission has altered the local District boundaries and, instead of three Councillors representing you, there will be only two. Grasmere, Rydal and Langdale have been combined with Ambleside to form one District Ward that will elect two Councillors. Troutbeck will no longer elect for the District within Lakes Parish and they will vote for a District Councillor in the new Windermere Ward. Troutbeck will still remain part of Lakes Parish for election of Parish Councillors. Polling day will be Thursday 1st May 2008 from 7am to 10pm.

If you are interested in becoming a District Councillor then please contact Claire Wheatman on 015397 33333 or speak to the Parish Clerk and he will point you in the right direction. Unlike Parish Councillors, District Councillors receive payment for the work they do.

2008/9 BUDGET

Lakes Parish Council thank all those who have taken the time to telephone, call in, write or email in response to the last Newsletter. Unusually for a survey, **everyone** who responded was in agreement that the Council should continue to subsidise the opening of the public toilets. This was seen as an important facility for both locals and tourists alike. An example given by one respondent was of a coach party of elderly ladies that arrived at Grasmere, after a long journey, to find that the local toilets were closed, causing much anguish and distress. These toilets are now open as part of the initiative funded by the Parish Council with SLDC and others. The Council is to review the budget shortly and will take into account all comments that have been made. There is still time for you to let us know what your opinion is on this, and any other matter you consider important.

LAKES PARISH HANDYMAN

Over the past two or three months you might have seen the Handyman about in the Parish. Jobs done include litter picking hedgerows from Waterhead to Wansfell road, Rothay Holme car park, the layby near Skelwith Bridge on the A593, an assessment of Chapel Stile, central Ambleside lanes and hedgerows, an assessment of Grasmere including litter picking Stock Lane, the car park and cleaning road signs on the A591. Litterpicking in Clappersgate, Nook Lane, pathways Borrans Road to Lake Road, Fisherbeck car park, Old Lake Road, Compston Street, assessment of Troutbeck village and clearance of laybys including three en route to the Low Wood Hotel and Waterhead car park/beach plus Mclver Lane and down to the Power Station. The Handyman only works for 10 hours a week so cannot get to everything immediately but if you see something that you think needs attention then please tell any Councillor or contact the Clerk and we will try to sort it out. The Council will decide shortly whether to extend the scheme through 2008/9 and have budgeted for this eventuality.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th April in the Library, Ambleside commencing at 7.30pm and the one after that will be a Plans Meeting on the 23rd April 2008 at the same time and venue. The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Library on Wednesday 7th May 2008.

There are now Parish Council Noticeboards in the Library, outside of the old Church Street premises (thanks to Saint and Co, the new occupants) and also one to be shared between the Council and the Constabulary outside of the Police Station. All will carry lists 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 deals with a whole range of local issues on your behalf and positively welcomes contributions from people who live in the Parish of Lakes.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Leslie Johnson has decided that the Annual Parish Meeting this year will be held in the Kelsick Main Hall on Wednesday 14th May 2008 commencing at 7pm. This is an opportunity for any Elector of Lakes Parish to come along and raise any issue of concern. There will be a guest speaker and the Chairman will give his annual Parish report.

CUMBRIA RURAL CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Lakes Parish Council has agreed to donate £1000 of your money in the next financial year towards the services provided by the CAB. In the half-year to December, 679 clients have been helped, of which 58 live in Lakes Parish. Systems have been set up for helping people who are unable to travel to Windermere for advice, but the Bureau has had very few requests for this help. Most of the problems concern debt and other main issues are welfare benefits, employment and housing. Lakes Parish Council wish to advertise the services of the CAB who can be located on the first floor of the Library, Ellerthwaite Road, Windermere and contacted on 015394 46464

PARISH COUNCIL SUCCESSES

Over the past couple of years representations have been made to try to solve the problem of tables blocking the footway outside of the Royal Oak at the top of Church Street, Ambleside and also the gate that appeared on the perceived right of way next to the Mountain Rescue base at Ambleside. The Council is pleased to report that the footway at the top of Church Street has now been restored. A draft

order has also been published by Cumbria County Council to add a new footpath to the definitive map of Public Rights of Way from Old Lake Road beside the Mountain Rescue base. Thanks to everyone who helped to resolve both of these problems.

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER (PCSO) – THEIR ROLE – PART 1

Over the past months you will have become aware of the PCSO, Laura Jackson, who is working in our communities. Now that Lakes Parish Council are closely associated with the Neighbourhood Policing Team, this might be an opportune moment to highlight some of her powers and, in the next edition of the Newsletter, 'A Day in the Life of a PCSO' !!

The core role of a PCSO is to be highly visible and to engage with the local community. This is to improve community confidence, provide advice and support and to be a named point of contact during targeted patrols. PCSOs deal mainly with instances of nuisance and anti social behaviour using their assigned powers. These powers include issuing Fixed Penalty notices for littering/dog fouling and cycling on a footway. They can also request the name and address of someone acting in an anti social manner. Other powers include requesting a person to stop drinking in a designated area; confiscate alcohol and tobacco from young people; enter and search premises for the purpose of saving life and limb; remove abandoned vehicles; stop a vehicle for test and carry out authorised road checks; direct traffic and place road signs; deal with begging; issue Fixed penalty notices for possession of fireworks; power to seize vehicles used to cause alarm; power to stop and search in authorised areas and power to issue a Fixed penalty notice for expired or not displaying a tax disc. So you can see that they have the power to make a difference to the quality of life in the local communities. In the next newsletter Laura will give you a flavour of a day in her life working in Lakes Parish.

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 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 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 is
Lakes Parish Council
Ambleside Police Station
Rydal Road
Ambleside
LA22 9AY
Telephone/Fax 015394 31656
Email - lakesparishcouncil@fsmail.net
Webpage www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish