

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER – Edition July 2008

This Newsletter is produced to inform the residents of the Parish about the work of the Parish Council over the last few months and to inform you of the role undertaken by your Parish Councillors on your behalf. The Parish Council would welcome any feedback from this Newsletter and any contributions that people would like to make to the next one. Volunteer organisations may wish to use this Newsletter to let people know of their work.

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th July 2008 in the Library, Ambleside commencing at 7.30pm and the one after that on the 13th August 2008 at the same time and venue.

Members of the Public are entitled to attend any Parish Council Meeting to listen to items discussed. They may also participate in the Meeting and 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 and positively welcomes contributions from people who live in the Parish of Lakes. If you receive one of these Newsletters – that means **YOU!** Why not come along to listen or raise any issues or concerns that you may have.

PARISH PLAN

The Parish Plan was completed in October 2005 and highlighted many issues within the Parish. The Parish Plan Action Group has worked since then to implement the many action points that arose. They now feel that they have gone as far as they can, and a recent meeting of the group decided that they are to disband. The Parish Council would like to thank everyone who participated in the creation and implementation of this important document. The Council will now look at how they can continue the work that is still outstanding, particularly on Housing, Environment and Youth. There may be an opportunity for YOU to get involved with these three issues so please contact the Clerk if you are interested.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Our Theme for this past year has been 'Partnership'. By their very nature, Parish Councils have no real money or the Powers that go along with it. Where we do have a very significant function is in acting as a Catalyst to reflect the views of our people to the District and County. Increasingly there is a move, initiated from Whitehall, to devolve provision of some services down to Town and Parish Councils. Sadly money seldom seems to flow down to pay for extra devolved services!

It is the view of your Parish Council that we can best achieve our aims for the Community by working in Partnership. Significantly in moving our Council Offices to the Police Station, we are providing an extra service and ensuring a continued police presence in our town. The responses to matters raised in our Parish Newsletter are most helpful to us in formulating our Policies to spend our Parish Precept in a prudent way. Some matters such as Toilets and the extra tidying of our streets should, we believe, be more properly done by the County or District. We had, though, to take a pragmatic view as to whether we reluctantly subsidised these functions, or did without them. We think a major step forward this year is starting to employ our Parish Handyman to 'Reach the parts that others Don't'. Would that we could afford more. We thank those who have helped us – The Parish Plan Group who beaver away unpaid to bring forward ideas and projects for our varied settlements; members of the public who use their local knowledge to feed information about such issues as perceived Rights of Way and abuses of public footways. You are also most helpful in writing on behalf of our Community when we are in danger of being 'Walked Over' by officials who do not understand the depth of feelings aroused by some proposed projects. One of the joys of living in Lakes Parish is that so many people feel deeply about the area. Thank you all for the support given so willingly to your Parish Council. Parish Councillors devote a great deal of time to our voluntary unpaid work over the year and, on behalf of the Community, I thank them for it.

2007/8 - WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

It is interesting to list some of the things the Council has been involved in during the last year.

- Ongoing dialogue with the police on matters of local concern, including vandalism, onstreet car parking, drugs and criminal activities.
- A partnership with the Police by relocating the Parish Council Office to Ambleside Police Station and offering a Counter service to members of the public for three days a week reporting minor Police matters, including lost or found property,.
- Appointment of a Parish Handyman working 10 hours per week to address basic issues including litter, sign cleaning, hedge trimming, seat and bus shelter cleaning and general small maintenance matters within the Parish.
- Parish Councillors serve on many Committees, Charities and Organisations within and on the periphery of the Lakes Parish Council area.
- The Council made recommendations on over 125 planning applications, was represented at 2 Lake District National Park Authority site visits (after major representations on the loss of these visits were accepted by the Park Authority and the invitations to the Parish Council reinstated) and at 3 planning appeal hearings.
- The Council responded to consultation documents from South Lakeland District Council, The Lake District National Park Authority, Cumbria County Council, Central Government, Morecambe Bay Health Authority, Cumbria Association of Local Councils, the Police and others.
- As a result of a Parish Council initiatives and evidence from the community, the lane adjacent to Ambleside Mountain Rescue centre has been adopted as a right of way on the definitive map.
- As a result of Parish Council representations, together with the local community, the tables outside of the Royal Oak public house have been removed and the footpath reinstated.
- The Council has lobbied strongly for better public transport services.

- The Council continues to lobby Government and the University of Cumbria to retain the undergraduate presence in Ambleside.
- After strong representations by Lakes Parish Council, Cumbria County Council is to hold a public meeting to discuss the proposed cycleway through Rothay Park.
- The Council has supported the work of the Parish Plan Action Group and the grant funded Parish Project Officer who delivered work on Recycling, Community Transport and Communication information within the Parish.
- Ensured the retention of public toilets at Chapel Stile, Ambleside, Grasmere and Rothay Park as a result of grant aid of £12505.69p in this financial year.
- Replaced the seat on Lake Road, near the junction with Loughrigg Avenue, in memory of Dr Lancaster, a well respected Ambleside GP. This work was paid for by his family
- Continued with the quarterly Newsletter (the pink sheet) informing the Parish of the work of the Council and also including items of general information and interest.

This list contains only a few examples of the Council's busy schedule in support of local people.

AMBLESIDE SPORTS 2008

You are invited to come to Ambleside Sports on **Thursday July 31st**. The organisers are proud that the Sports are very much a local Community event. And want to encourage as many local supporters as possible. Admission charges are: Adults £5, U12(accompanied) Free, Youths £2.50. Gates open to the public at 10am. Local participation is encouraged, particularly among the younger age groups. There is a separate Children's section with races for the U13 starting at 2pm. In the Fell races there are U12, U14 and U17 events and Junior events in the Wrestling, Track and Cycle that can be entered on the day. There are plenty of extra attractions to keep all the family happy including large marquee areas in the unlikely event of the weather turning a little wet. There is a large range of Trade stands, a Craft marquee, the Made in Cumbria village and lots of bouncy castles, climbing walls etc. Beer Tent, live music and a large array of catering units or bring a picnic. – Make Thursday 31st July a date

PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2007/8

Receipts 2007/8		Payments 2007/8	
Balance b/f	18145.44	Office supplies	343.88
SLDC Precept	51611.00	Telephones	502.58
VAT refund	3741.11	Salaries (net)	13798.39
NSB interest	604.01	PAYE adjust	0.0
Barclays Interest	385.34	Expenses	144.46
Parish Plan grant	6894.22	PAYE (tax)	3756.52
Office rental refund	704.19	NI Employer	1634.53
Lancaster seat	651.00	NI Employee	1404.61
Donation (Office)	200.00	Election Costs	1413.70
		Chairman	0.0
Total	<u>82936.31*</u>	Postage/Bank	666.84
		Grants	3900.00
		CAB Grant	1000.00
		Toilets SLDC	12505.69
		Subscriptions	185.00
		CALC	382.50
		F/way Lighting	743.89
		Bus shelters/seats	4963.75
		Insurance	909.92
		Rent (Office)	3926.82
		Audit Fee	630.00
		VAT	2125.79
		Training	45.00
		Lakes in Bloom	732.68
		Office Move	488.00
		Maintenance	1051.25
		MTI Officer	2500.00
		Newsletter/	1603.20
		Parish Plan	7275.52
			<u>68634.52</u>
		Year End Balances	
		NSB	11418.57
* Balancing figure		Barclays Current	2883.22
			82936.31
Less unrepresented cheque			0.0
			<u>82936.31*</u>

The Annual Accounts have been available for inspection in the Parish Office up to 23rd June 2008. They have been inspected by the Parish Council Internal Auditor and given a clean bill of health. Elector of Lakes Parish may question the External Auditor to the Council about the accounts after 27th June 2008. Further details are available from the Parish Clerk.

Grants awarded were as follows:

South Lakeland District Council – Toilets	12505.69
Ambleside Christmas Lights donation -	2000.00
Langdale PCC – upkeep of graveyard -	175.00
Cumbria Rural CAB -	1000.00
Town Centre Manager SLDT -	2500.00
North West Air Ambulance -	1000.00
Grasmere Youth Theatre -	200.00
St Mary's Ambleside - graveyard	175.00

A full Annual Report is available at the Parish Office or at www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish

LAKES PARISH RECYCLING

We hope you are now getting the hang of the new waste collections and the SLDC recycling team tell us that the Parish has some 'wonderful residents' who are helping to get good results. Everything is recycled and every little helps – even if you only put out a couple of tins and a bottle once a fortnight. There are 50,000 households in South Lakeland and one bottle or a couple of tins per fortnight can soon add up. Grey wheelie bins should be put out once a fortnight as indicated on your recycling calendar and the green bin and blue boxes the following week. Any queries at all (or if you have lost your calendar) – just ring 0845 050 4434. Please remember no cardboard in the blue paper box. Shredded paper is ok but buried in the middle of the paper box – in case of wind!!!

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS

Ambleside Ward (6)

CLr Leslie Johnson 015394 32904 – Chairman of Council

CLr Elwyn Bradshaw 015394 32760

CLr Nick Martin 015394 31124

CLr Anne Sowerbutts 015394 32691

CLr Maureen Colquhoun 015394 34325

CLr Philip Thompson 015394 33410

Grasmere Ward (3)

CLr Elizabeth Braithwaite MBE (Freeman of Lakes) 015394 35297

CLr Allen Green 015394 35238 – Vice Chairman of Council

CLr Vivienne Rees 015394 35401

Rydal and Loughrigg Ward (2)

CLr David Welch 015394 32765

CLr Fiona Sparrow 015394 32441

Langdales Ward (3)

CLr Sheila Ogden 015394 32341

CLr Liz Wilson 015394 37327

CLr Jonathan Smith 015394 37592

Troutbeck Ward (2)

CLr Harry Allen 015394 44021

CLr Roger Westmoreland 015394 33287

Clerk – Michael Johnson J.P. 015394 31656

(lakesparishcouncil@fsmail.net)

AND FINALLY

Apologies to the hard worked staff at Ambleside Health Centre for the mis-information on local Dental services contained in the last Newsletter – **Sorry!!**

Congratulations to Ambleside Juniors Under 12 squad for achieving a cup and league double this season – **Well Done!!**