

# LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER – No. 6 September 07

### PARISH PLAN

This was completed in October 2005 and highlighted many issues within the Parish. The Action Group is meeting on a regular basis in the Library, Ambleside. September 10<sup>th</sup> and October 8<sup>th</sup> are the next scheduled meetings both commencing at 7pm. 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 of the Parish Wards, Ambleside, Grasmere, Rydal/Under Loughrigg, Troutbeck and Langdales.

The Plan is now updated with progress markers and monitoring bodies. Items include Dog Fouling and Litter, Affordable Housing, Disc Parking system, local bus services and transport, road surfaces, traffic calming, NHS services, public toilets, environmental improvements, recycling facilities, local shopping, facilities for young people, late night noise, Community Police, reduction in speeding, winter gritting, traffic management and many other matters. If you are interested in playing a part in the Parish Plan, please contact Michael Johnson, the Lakes Parish Clerk, on 015394 31656. The Chairman of the Action Group is Margaret Lewis from Troutbeck.

### THE LAKELAND HOUSING TRUST.

The Trust (originally established as a Society in 1937) is a registered Charity that tries to address the lack of affordable housing where many local people are unable to live in the villages of their birth, or where they work. This is a key issue for many local communities. The Trust has grown, with over 30 properties in Grasmere, Ambleside, Hawkshead, Troutbeck, Little Langdale, Coniston and a number of smaller hamlets. These properties are let at affordable rents to local people on low incomes. The rent is no more than £72 a week, the average being considerably lower. All the Trustees live or work locally. The Trust has both bought and built houses in the area but can only do so with the financial resources at its disposal. Its net income is no more than £20,000 but it does receive a regular flow

of legacies and cash gifts. A number of houses have been purchased at a discount to the market value, reflecting vendor's wishes to sell their house so that it is retained for use in the local community.

The Trust asks homeowners to consider selling them a property. They would like to speak to anyone who is interested in selling them a property at a discount to the market value, whether it is a house or land on which houses can be built, on the basis that the Trust can only afford to buy very few properties at the full market value. You may know, for example, of someone in your village who is uncertain what to do with their property in the long term and is anxious to preserve it for the benefit of local residents. You can also help by making a cash gift. Donations are always welcome and are normally eligible for gift aid as the Trust is a registered charity. Legacies are eligible for inheritance tax relief. You might also consider letting them manage your property. The Trust has managed properties for letting to local people and anyone interested in any of the above should contact their Kendal office on 01539 721548

### PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY- LANGDALES

Lakes Parish Council has a Vacancy for a Councillor in the Langdales Ward. The Vacancy was advertised but no request for an election was received. The Parish Council can now co-opt a Councillor and they invite interested electors of Lakes Parish, and particularly those from Langdales Ward, to write to the Clerk and express their interest in becoming a Councillor. The letter should include any relevant experience and reasons for wanting to become a Parish Councillor. The deadline for receipt of applications is Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September. The Vacancy will be filled at the Council Meeting to be held in the Library, Ambleside on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Any person on the electoral roll for Langdales Ward or Lakes Parish can put themselves forward for co-option to the Council. The Clerk (31656) will be happy to supply more details to interested persons.

## **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY - AMBLESIDE**

Lakes Parish also has a further Vacancy in Ambleside Ward due to the resignation of Mrs Anne Parker. This Vacancy will shortly be advertised. If no request for an Election is received then the Parish Council will be inviting interested members of the electorate to put their names forward for co-option as in the Langdales Vacancy. If you are an elector of Lakes Parish and interested in becoming a Parish Councillor for Ambleside, please contact the Clerk, Michael Johnson, at the Parish Office in The Old Courthouse Church Street Ambleside or telephone him on 015394 31656. The Parish Office is open every Monday from 0930 until 5pm (excluding bank holidays) and every Wednesday from 0930 to 5pm (to 6.15pm fortnightly on a Parish Council Meeting night). It is also open on one further unspecified day each week. It must also be remembered that **Lakes Parish Councillors work as volunteers and receive no financial support for the work 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 19<sup>th</sup> September 2007 in the Library, Ambleside commencing at 7.30pm and the one after that will be a Plans Meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2007 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?

## **CONCLUSION OF 2006/7 AUDIT**

The external Auditor to the Parish Council has now signed off the Accounts for the last financial year. The Auditor is satisfied that there are no matters affecting the opinion of the Auditor that the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements. The Annual

return of the Council is available for inspection by any local government elector for the Parish.

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW COUNCILLOR**

The By-election held recently in Ambleside Ward has resulted in Mrs Anne Sowerbutts joining the Council. The Chairman, Cllr Leslie Johnson, welcomed her to her first Meeting where she signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

## **APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT OFFICER**

*(Part-time – Fixed Term Contract to 31.3.08)*  
Funding has been secured to appoint a Project Officer for the Parish Plan Action Group who will be required to research and implement, as appropriate, key elements of the Lakes Parish Plan. This includes community communication systems, community transport and rural recycling systems in the Wards of Ambleside, Grasmere, Troutbeck, Langdale and Rydal.. Informal enquiries to Elwyn Bradshaw (015394 32760). Further details and an information pack can be obtained from the Clerk, (015394 31656). Applications in writing, together with your CV to:-Clerk to Lakes Parish Council, The Old Courthouse, Church Street, Ambleside LA22 0BT. Closing date for applications is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007. Interviews in Ambleside on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

## **HOUSING AND POLICE INFORMATION SURGERIES IN AMBLESIDE LIBRARY**

A new monthly surgery will be held for both of the above in the library's ground floor extension on the second Tuesday of every month. Housing will be from 10.30am to 12.30 and the Police from 11.30am to 12.30.

Appointments for Housing can be made on 0845 0570080 and for the Police on 0845 3300247. 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.

## **AMBLESIDE RADIO – MERZ FM**

Listen out for this new community radio project on air from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2007. It is being run as part of the first International Kurt Schwitters Autumn School which is taking place in Ambleside and Elterwater from 24<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September. New music, audio arts, radio works etc . Contact Littoral Arts 01706 827961 or go on line at [www.littoral.org.uk](http://www.littoral.org.uk)

## **WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA**

There has been much publicity on the creation of the new University. The Parish Council will watch developments as they affect Ambleside and the surrounding areas. The most recent planning application for the University has been to replace all of the old signage throughout the area. Lakes Parish Council are represented on the College Liaison Group (which will no doubt be renamed shortly) and are active in pursuing matters of concern with the relevant authorities. The new campuses will stretch from Lancaster, south of the County to Whitehaven in the west, Carlisle in the north, Penrith in the east and Ambleside in the centre. The new University is the result of a merger between St Martin's College, Cumbria Institute of the Arts and the Cumbrian campuses of the University of Central Lancashire. It is expected to take 15,000 students at first but hopes that this will increase to 20,000 covering all campuses with the University.

### **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

**One Vacancy (see this newsletter)**

#### **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

**One Vacancy (see this newsletter)**

#### **Troutbeck Ward**

Cllr Harry Allen 015394 44021

Cllr Roger Westmoreland 015394 33287

**Clerk** – Michael Johnson JP. 015394 31656

[lakesparishcouncil@fsmail.net](mailto:lakesparishcouncil@fsmail.net))

[www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish](http://www.amblesideonline.co.uk/parish))