

Staveley with Ings Parish Council

2016/17 Annual Report

From the Chair

Once again this year, Staveley with Ings Parish Council has ‘punched well above its weight’ – nothing personal intended!

The detailed report that follows clearly demonstrates the wide range of activities in which we have been actively engaged. I encourage all electors to find time to read it through so that you can understand better what we get up to once a month - and lots of times in between.

While the aftermath of the floods has continued to dominate our agenda and Staveley remains divided by a broken bridge, we have successfully helped to bring forward its repair, supported local people with flood resources and shared in the leadership to create better resilience and reduce future risks. As we approach this report, Scroggs Bridge is now much safer, lots of other repair work has been completed and the re-opening of Gowan Bridge is now an early prospect – I hope you will join us to celebrate finally ‘putting Staveley back together’.

But our year has not just been about floods. Work on the allotments moves on apace with extended tenancies and real produce now to show for all the hard labours. What a great achievement! Meanwhile at Ings the playground has truly been reinvigorated from the tired place that it had become to the real gem it can be for children and families. Good progress is being made on plans for better pedestrian safety to and from the surgery and beyond. With our help, station access is the subject of a full scale, professional study which will hopefully enable us to make a stronger case for future, much needed improvements. The potential sale of Craggy Wood has rightly captured concerns locally and we have played a leading role in considering options for its future ownership. I could go on but far better if you just read what follows!

At the start of the year as the new Council formed we welcomed Paul Riley from Ings to our ranks and later were pleased to co-opt Keren Jones. Both have brought new ideas and experience which is all to the good. We have been sorry to lose the services of Jonathan Parkinson, after 3 years, and more recently Roy Batty, having served for 4 years. They have provided valuable local knowledge and expertise and the Council will miss this. These changes mean that we currently have two vacancies which we are keen to fill. Please talk to one of us or June Lee, our Clerk, if you are interested.

And finally, after eleven years as Chairman, it is time for me to step back from this position and enable others to come forward and take the helm. Since picking up the baton following John Fishwick’s sudden death back in 2006, I have been delighted to work with colleagues to cement the three wards together as Staveley with Ings and to build ways in which we can both support and lead the development of our two communities, for which remember we are all ambassadors. Without any complacency, Councillors should be truly proud of what they have achieved. It has been a privilege working on your behalf and I wish my successor well as we move forward.

Of course, none of this would happen without the willing support of our clerks over the years. From the incomparable Stan Simpson, the vigour and tenacity of Peter Davidson to the conscientious and meticulous work currently of June Lee, I (and all of us) have been truly well supported. We owe them our thanks and a huge debt of gratitude.

Arthur Capstick
Chairman

War Memorial

The War Memorial project has been successfully completed with the mounting of the plaques on the surrounding wall recording the names of the fallen soldiers. This will provide a permanent memorial as the names on the stone plinth continue to fade.

Improved Access to the Station

Efforts to convince Network Rail and the train providers of the need to make our station fully accessible have continued. The Council has fully supported a Feasibility Study, initiated by the Lakes Line Community Rail Partnership, for both Staveley and Burneside, which will shortly be concluded. It is hoped that this will provide a definitive view of what is possible both in terms of access and parking and be the basis on which future improvement plans can be based.

Highways

Highways work, from pot hole filling to significant improvement schemes, continues to occupy a huge amount of the Council's time and energy. Defects are regularly reported to Highways but the previously enjoyed and valuable contact with the Area Steward has 'dried up' making communication and action more difficult. However, following our reporting, many drains have been cleared over the winter period and some of the white lining that needed renewing has been completed. Despite a definite promise that sections of Windermere Road would be re-surfaced during the year, disappointingly it has recently been learnt that this has been delayed until the 2017-18 financial year. Under Council pressure, a similar promise has been made following an assessment of Brow Lane, which is in urgent need of attention.

Barley Bridge Viewing Area and Crook Road Footway

Plans have been drawn up and a bid made to SLDC's Locally Important Project Fund for the repair and upgrading of the small segment of land that overlooks Barley Bridge weir and which is regularly damaged by heavy lorries. Kentmere Packaging has already offered financial support. If successful, the area will be protected by high kerbs, while allowing it to be accessed for those with reduced mobility. Regrettably the grant bid was unsuccessful.

Plans are now well advanced and finance available for the consideration of improved footway arrangements for Crook Road linking the station to Seedfield. Designation of a walking route is planned in places due to the narrowness of the road. Consultation will shortly be arranged but it is hoped improvements can be made during this coming financial year.

Parish Seats

Work has been undertaken to repaint our parish seats on a phased basis. Following the theft of a seat by the road to Littlewood Farm, the Council has been grateful to the Edmondson family for a donation in memory of their parents David and Catherine which has enabled this to be replaced.

Safer Routes to School

The Council remains concerned to ensure safe routes through the village as children and parents walk to and from school. In consultation with the school a parental questionnaire was initiated to provide a better understanding of the routes taken and possible future options. Our discussions are continuing as we engage with interested parties.

Train and Bus Timetables

Regularly updated bus and train timetable cards for the village continue to be made available in six outlets as part of an on-going Council initiative. These, together with large scale posters at the station and main bus stop, remain very popular with both locals and visitors.

Strategic Plan

The parish council has started to look at planning for the future of the whole parish from a strategic point of view. We are looking at what might be important issues in the next 10-15 years. So far, Councillors have considered housing, land allocations, parking, road transport and infrastructure. It is our hope to collate this into a written long term plan which will help us anticipate future trends that may affect our Parish area.

Fellfoot Allotments

April 2016 to April 2017 has seen sixteen allotment holders work very hard to clear their plots and start the growing process, with much success. Three new holders start in April 2017 as per the agreed staged redevelopment of the allotments.

Ten work party afternoons were held, mostly in autumn and early spring, to continue to clear the smaller branches left after the initial tree felling. As a result many bags of logs have been sold to local people and more are now available.

One big project this past year has been the making of the car park area off Elf Howe Road, keeping roadside parking on the Kentmere Road to a minimum.

Work continues to remove the old sheds close to the Kentmere Road entrance. This will become another parking area in due course, once the drainage issues have been resolved and it is suitably surfaced.

Craggy Wood

In June 2016 LDNP informed the Parish Council of they were considering selling off Craggy Wood. The wood (8.63 hectares) was bought by LDNP in 1985 to preserve its very diverse and environmentally important nature. Councillors and the public are overwhelmingly in support of the woodland not being sold off. The current valuation of the land is £175,000 but the amenity value of the woods to the local community is of much greater value than this over the decades. The parish council is not in a position to purchase and maintain the woodland under the Community Right to Buy scheme but would be supportive of a local group considering a Community Transfer of Assets agreement and has now submitted an application form to SLDC to register the wood as an asset of community value. This has now been agreed by SLDC.

Streetlight maintenance

An improvement from 12 months ago. Some of the outstanding issues have now been resolved. The Wesleyan chapel light has now been replaced and the Kendal Road streetlights are now working again. There will naturally be the occasional light that still needs replacing and to maintain cost effectiveness, repairs will only be carried out when more than one light needs replacing.

Emergency Plan/Flood Action Group

Working closely, and at times not without challenge, with statutory bodies to restore the infrastructure and prepare for any future deluge has been a high priority and taken considerable time and resource this year. As a recognised Pilot Community following the 2015 floods, a constructive dialogue with the Environment Agency and others has been developed with plans under preparation for more long term flood avoidance measures and river management. More immediately, the Council has been at the forefront in pushing for a much better response to flood repairs, with much of this work now complete or in the case of Gowan Bridge well on its way. It has offered valuable support to local residents and businesses. A Flood Action Group is now established, a successful grant application made for essential equipment, a new river measuring gauge installed in the Gowan and rainfall gauges added upstream. The Kent river bank has been lowered to allow flood water to escape more quickly. A meeting with United Utilities resulted in a promised review of Staveley's sewerage system to assess its capacity and ensure that foul water is controlled within it at periods of heavy rain.

Grants/Donations

The Council continues to provide substantial financial support to Gowan Stop & Go to enable the group to continue to carry out an excellent job of maintaining the public conveniences.

A small donation was given to the N W Air Ambulance.

The Council received a further grant of £500 to allocate to business applicants who wish to improve their Shop Fronts. Four grants of £250 each were paid out to businesses in 2016/17. A maximum of £250 per applicant is payable.

The Parish Council received grants & donations of £15,295 towards the Ings playground refurbishment and was also awarded a £7,500 grant from the Locally Important Project fund (SLDC) to enable repair and refurbishment of the Ings Playground. This equates to 50% of the projected cost.

Cumbria County Council awarded £6,268 from the Flood appeal fund to the Flood Action Group for equipment and resources.

SLDC gave £750 towards a celebration event for the opening of Gowan bridge

Housing and Planning, including the Proposed development on Crookfield

The Council has been consulted on 30 Property Planning applications and 3 tree work applications during the year, a slight fall from the previous year (39). The Council responded to all of these applications and submitted comments where appropriate.

A Drop in public consultation event was on hosted by Two Castles Housing in March 2017 to enable the plans to be viewed and questions submitted to Two Castles.

Ings Playground

Ings playground is something of a hidden gem. Unfortunately the years have caught up with it. The equipment was tired but in particular the old rubber safety matting had become worn and dangerously slippery. The surface area has now been replaced and new equipment is in the process of being purchased and installed. However the new playground is fully open for use. The council received generous grants and donations to enable this to happen. Details are as follows. Donations from individuals(£145), SLDC (£7,500), Lakes Leisure (£3,000), Hadfield Trust (£2,000), Windermere & Ambleside Lions (£1,500), Cumbria Community Foundation (£1,000),Furness Building Society (£150). A plaque acknowledging the contributions is to be placed in the playground when complete.

Ings Bus Shelter

As indicated last year and after frustrating delays, the badly damaged bus shelter in Ings was finally completed last summer. An extension to the seating is proposed for the shelter on the north side of the road.

Digital Inclusion Workshop

The roll-out of superfast broadband has been encouraged. Together with Kentmere, the Council sponsored a Digital Inclusion Workshop to help people understand and take advantage of the opportunities this provides.

Waste Less Project

Andrew Vickers & Katherine Smith from CCC gave a brief presentation to the Parish Council in October 2016 outlining a proposal for a community "Waste Less" project. Cllr Goffe has taken on the role of representative of the Parish Council for the project. Monthly meetings are taking place to discuss future activities, ways to include other residents and to bring together the many relevant activities that are already taking place in the village. This is a 2

year project to encourage all residents to take a fresh look at what they already recycle and to re think everyday items which may have the potential to be re-used.

Finance

A summary of the annual accounts can be found at the end of this report. For the forthcoming year (2017/18), the Council agreed that the precept should be held at its current level, apart from a 2% allowance for inflation. Precept increased from £14,566 to £14,860 The summary includes details of the earmarked funds the Council holds in reserves for future projects.

Parish Council

The Parish Council of Staveley with Ings exists to represent residents of the three wards of Hugill, Nether Staveley and Over Staveley. Residents are welcome to attend meetings of the council and provision is made early in the meeting to raise matters of interest or concern and to ask questions about the council's work. You can also bring issues to the attention of the council either through the clerk or by contacting any of the councillors. Contact details are:

The Clerk: June Lee, 31 Wattsfield Road, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 5JN

Tel: 01539 729382 Email: staveleyings.parish@gmail.com

Councillors:

Hugill Ward	Mr A Capstick, Whitber, Raven Garth, Staveley (Chairman). 01539 821719
	Mr GL Wilkinson, The Hill, Ings. 01539 822237
	Mr PL Harrison, 5 Rawes Garth, Staveley. 01539 821706
	Mr P. M. Riley, Burnthwaite, Ings, Kendal 079799-64880
Nether Staveley Ward	Mr TC Johnson, 1 Bridge End, Staveley. 01539 821329
	Mr AJ Wilkinson, 7 Station Road, Staveley. 01539 821069
	Mrs SC Goffe, Middle Fell, Crook Road, Staveley 01539 821146
	Miss A Salisbury, Newlands, Crook Road, Staveley. 01539 821305
Over Staveley Ward	Mr R Batty, 56 Seedfield, Staveley. 01539 822109 (resigned March 2017)
	Mr J. Parkinson, 69 Main Street, Staveley. 01539 821458 (resigned Jan 2017)
	Mrs K Jones, 13 Gowan Close, Staveley. 01539 822708
	Mr M Kidd, Sunny Orchard Farm, Kentmere Rd, Staveley. 01539 821016

The next ordinary election for all seats on the council will be held in May 2020