

Staveley with Ings Parish Council

2017/18 Annual Report

From the Chair

It has been another busy year for Staveley with Ings Parish Council.

Firstly I write this as the new Chair. Our previous Chairman Arthur Capstick has taken well deserved retirement after 11 years as Chair and even longer as Councillor. Arthur has always been well regarded and has been an outstanding advocate for the Staveley and Ings. We are lucky that he is continuing as a Councillor so we may benefit from his experience and persistence.

It is a huge honour to become Staveley with Ings Parish Council's third Chairman. I have previously served as Councillor for 6 years however it is now that I appreciate just how much goes into running a small local Council and am extremely thankful and impressed at all the work given voluntarily by our Councillors and members of the public in making our area a better place to live in.

This year we have welcomed the new Gowan Bridge after it was damaged in the Floods of 2015. We worked hard and doggedly pursued Cumbria County Council to get the bridge open as soon as possible. There were delays but it got done and even slightly ahead of schedule. The Parish Council helped organise an amazing bridge opening event which wasn't just a celebration of the road being open again but of the Village as a whole.

We had the bittersweet end to Staveley Carnival this year. The incredible sunny day last June was a fine send off to a hugely popular event and it is our hope that someday new organisers will continue its success.

The coming year will be a year of Consultations. We have big plans for the area all of which we want you the residents, businesses of and visitors to Staveley and Ings to have a say in. Firstly, we have a consultation on whether dogs should be kept on leads on the Ayland playing fields. We have another on our Parish Strategic plan. One on what to do with 'Jack's corner' and there is also a consultation run by Cumbria Highways about the design of the Footway on Crook Road past the Doctor's surgery.

The results of these consultations and public meetings will shape the Village and it is important that we all get to have a say. Please do, if you can take the time, complete the surveys when they are delivered and released digitally this summer.

We have had a few 'big' meetings this year at the Parish Council. Normally we see a handful of members of the public at a typical meeting; however, when the issue of possible development of the Big Meadow was to be discussed it was standing room only. As a Councillor it is wonderful to see so many local people having their say, even if it is just on one specific issue. It is our aim as a Democratic inclusive Council to get more people involved in all aspects of Village life.

We have 12 Councillors at Staveley with Ings and this year we welcome Yvonne Canon and Andrew Pimblett to the Council. We also say goodbye to Sarah Goffe who has served for 6 years as Councillor. Her experience and enthusiasm will be much missed. She continues to be our liaison with the SLDC/CCC waste less project where Staveley is a pilot area. So we currently have a vacancy for a new Councillor. The pay is Zero but it is immensely rewarding in other ways! Please talk to one of us or June Lee, our Clerk, if you are interested.

A more detailed report follows of just what we get up to at the Parish Council. Please feel free to come to our meetings. All members of the public are welcome. Times and dates can be found on our website www.staveleywithingspc.co.uk

Mark Kidd Chairman

Highways

The state of the roads is always high on our list of tasks at the Parish Council. Cumbria Highways has the responsibility for them and we have always in the past struggled with communication with them. However we are building relationships with some of the key personnel on Cumbria County Council and hope to push our list of works that need doing. We are promised the resurfacing of Windermere Road this coming year however there are urgent works needed elsewhere too such as on Silver Street which is full of pot holes.

On the subject of potholes I would like to ask members of the public to make full use of the 'Hotline' reporting system for road defects that can be found on Cumbria County Council's website. The more we all report issues the more likely they are to come and fix it, even if just a temporary patch until resurfacing funding becomes available.

Crook Road Footway

We have secured funding for a 'footway' from the Railway Bridge to the Doctor's surgery and possibly beyond to Crookfield. Cumbria Highways has drawn up a design and will be running a Consultation this summer.

Public Space Protection Order

We have received a request to restrict dogs on the Playing field at the Pavilion by the Staveley Village association. The main aim is to reduce the amount of dog fouling. Dogs would have to be kept on a lead at all times while on the playing field. This would be enforceable with on the spot fines. Again the consultation will happen this summer so look out for the information leaflet which should be delivered to each home in the Parish. And have your say.

Strategic Plan

This is a long term plan we have been working on to anticipate the needs of Staveley Village in the next 10 to 15 years. It covers such things as housing, 20mph speed limits, parking and railway access amongst other issues.

Barley Bridge Viewing Area

We have been successful in a grant application to tidy up the viewing area at Barley Bridge. For years this area has been a muddy patch often damaged by lorries reversing onto it. We have received funding from SLDC, Cumbria County Council and Cumbria Highways along with some of our own Parish Council money. Kentmere LTD has also generously committed funds.

The wall will be repaired, the kerb built up to prevent HGV damage and a solid base installed with wheelchair friendly access. This overlooking the weir should make it one of the Village's great focal points.

Lake District National Park Land Allocation Review

This year the National Park who handle planning matters in our Parish have been reviewing the current allocations of land in the whole park. The allocation on a piece of land can determine what is likely to receive planning permission there. So if a piece of land is designated residential then houses will be likely built there and if employment then commercial units likely to be built there.

The Parish Council has minor influence in this unfortunately, however we can make our preferences known to the National Park planners. We have submitted that we wish to retain the Big Meadow as undeveloped 'Local Green Space' and that we would support development of the Old Cricket field on Back Lane for Car Parking and sheltered/extra care housing for older people.

Jack's Corner

Many of us know 'Jack's Corner' opposite the Mill Yard entrance in Staveley. Formerly looked after by Jack Castling before his death, it is now a little overgrown. Cumbria County Council owns the land and has indicated to us that we

may take it over if we wish. Current ideas are to remove the wall, widen the pavement and install a dropped kerb opposite Hayton's Butchers. The vegetation would be removed and benches, cycle racks and flower beds would be installed. We have some funding available and are reasonably confident we could obtain grants in the future for the work. We will of course run a consultation and public meeting on the matter first.

Fellfoot Allotments

April 2017 to April 2018 has seen sixteen existing holders complete their second year and three new allotment holders start to develop their allotments and produce crops of fruit and vegetables.

One allotment holder will step down from the end of March 2018 and one new holder will start on an overgrown plot.

The dry stone boundary wall along Elf Howe Road, which had three large holes in it, has now been fully restored and looks much tidier.

Four work party days were held, two in the autumn of 2017 and two in the early spring of 2018 to continue the clearing of brushings, thinning of ash saplings and general tidying work.

The gift of money from the Big Onion Community shop has allowed the parish council to purchase a shared strimmer for the allotment holder's use and most holders have undertaken an induction in its use before this year's growing season.

The Kentmere Road parking area is still in the making and an application has been made to North West Electric to move a wire stay supporting one of the poles taking power to Elf Howe, as it is in the middle of the area to be used for parking.

Craggy Wood

In June 2016 the Lake District National Park Authority informed the Parish Council that 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.

There was a village campaign to try and stop the National Park from selling Craggy Wood with many e-mails and letters to the National Park. The Parish Council made a successful application to register Craggy Wood as an Asset of Community Value with a Community Right to Buy.

After two public meetings, one with the National Park representatives, a small Steering Group was formed to progress a community purchase, once the National Park said they would sell it to the community. Various solutions to the purchase have been discussed and mooted.

The charity Cumbria Wildlife Trust has agreed to buy and manage the woodland, so that it can remain in public hands, if the community can raise the funds to make the purchase.

A Fund Raising Appeal is due to be launched in April/May 2018.

Streetlight maintenance

We have carried out a full review of all the street lights we are responsible for in the Parish. We have 28 of them in total. The others are maintained by the District and County Councils. Most of the lights are in good working order however there are some which don't work and some which never switch off. Ultimately we want to replace all the lights with new LED heads however the cost will have to be spread over many years as each light will be in the order of £1500 to replace. We have decided to prioritise the broken lights first followed by the old sodium 'orange glow' type ones next. We have decided to spread out the replacement schedule to keep down the Council Tax precept that the Parish Council charges.

Emergency Plan/Flood Action Group

The flood action group is still very active. We welcome moves from the Environment Agency to spend millions on flood protection measures in the area some of which will come to Staveley and Ings. Fortunately we have had no major flooding since 2015 although many of us were concerned of the high water levels this winter after what seemed 'ordinary' rainfall. The height of the river under the new Bridge was also pointed out by us to the Environment agency. We are assured the bridge will hold, however a solution to the bottleneck confluence between the Gowan and Kent rivers is being looked at.

We have also been successful in securing money to provide emergency flood equipment should a serious incident occur again. Items include signs, sandbags, flood barriers, shovels and waterproofs. These are stored securely at Staveley and Ings. We have a very detailed emergency plan which we update regularly just in case the worst happens. Details on our website.

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.

Other grant received in the year have been Crookfield footway (£1,000), Barley Bridge Viewing area (£1,100 CCC), (£2,000 allocated from SLDC receivable in 2018/19), Jack Castling Corner (£700 District Council locality fund).

Housing and Planning

The Council has been consulted on 42 Property Planning applications and 3 tree work applications during the year, an increase from the previous year (30). The Council responded to all of these applications and submitted comments where appropriate. One of the significant planning applications to be noted was the extension of Crookfield and 13 new homes.

Ings Playground

Ings Playground is now finished and looking really good. We worked really hard to get value for money on this project. Initial quotes from major playground suppliers suggested we could replace 2 pieces of equipment for our whole budget of £15,000. Instead we sourced the suppliers ourselves and arranged our own contractors. So now we have all 4 pieces of equipment restored, new rubber surfaces all around, 4 brand new pieces of exercise equipment and a covered children's pavilion as well for the same amount. A great example of a few active residents and Councillors getting hands on for the benefit of the community.

Waste Less Project

The Parish Council has welcomed regular reports of the Staveley waste less project. A joint initiative by SLDC and Cumbria County Council to reduce, re-use and recycle the amount of waste generated by the community. Staveley is a pilot area. We have had so far this year had a festive freegle where people brought their unwanted goods to be 're gifted' for free. An Age UK event 'Spring clean your medicine cabinet', A WI food waste event, a real nappy day at the baby and toddler group, fix it Friday and a toy swap with the Beavers. There have also been other activities arranged including a litter pick. We are glad to say that Staveley has the best recycling rates of anywhere in the whole of South Lakeland.

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. Precept remains at £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. 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 resigned March 2018 Miss A Salisbury, Newlands, Crook Road, Staveley. 01539 821305
Over Staveley Ward	Ms Yvonne Cannon, Rose Cottage, 2 Bank Terrace, Crook Road, Staveley 07538-734684 Mr Andrew Pimblett, 10 Caldrigg Fold, Staveley. 073982-83719 Mrs K Jones, 13 Gowan Close, Staveley. 01539 822708 Mr M Kidd, Sunny Orchard Farm, Kentmere Rd, Staveley. (Chairman) 01539 821016

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