

Staveley with Ings Parish Council

2013/14 Annual Report

From the Chair

This last year has been one of the busiest for the Council that I can remember, the main reason for which has been our determination to implement our latest Parish Action Plan. This work is in full swing and rightly now takes a more prominent place on our Council agendas, while our Parish Plan Working Group concentrates almost entirely on working through the detail. Inevitably, other priorities emerge either because we didn't envisage them when constructing the plan, from demands elsewhere or new opportunities that we wish to grasp. While these may well need to be incorporated into the Council's work, they must not allow us to neglect those priorities established as a result of consultation with you, our local community. It is worth remembering that the Action Plan covers the next five years so we have carefully chosen actions that need early implementation or were considered by you as the most important. These are set out in more detail below and form the main focus of this report.

While regular readers will not be surprised to see mention of highways, planning and street lighting, matters which rightly, frequently occupy our agendas, I am also pleased that many new or revived priorities are being tackled such as access to the station, the need for an updated housing need survey, Staveley village centre, activities for young people and restoration work on the war memorial. The introduction of new parking arrangements in Staveley have been particularly significant and have brought much needed order to where car users park within the most congested parts of the village.

During the year we were sorry to record the death of Councillor Eric Ward. While Eric had not been on the Council long, he was a long standing supporter of our work and was often present at meetings as a member of the public. His work for and in support of the Council was much appreciated. We have been pleased to welcome Jonathan Parkinson, co-opted in Eric's place, who brings new skills, experience and interests to the Council.

I wish to pay particular thanks this year to our new clerk Peter Davidson. Peter has picked up his tasks most efficiently and with evident enthusiasm. He has quickly learned the vagaries (it is tempting to say oddities) of council members and has become well acquainted with the community we serve. He has already become a real asset to our work. We have also continued to benefit from the work of our Parish Steward John Morris and have greatly appreciated the care and enthusiasm he brings to the tasks undertaken. Finally, to the councillors themselves, I am again grateful for their support and commitment to their responsibilities and the community. It is not always easy, seldom exciting, sometimes boring and occasionally not appreciated but to represent the local community in this capacity is increasingly important and a privilege. Together we should be proud of the work we do and of our achievements – thank you.

Arthur Capstick
Chairman

Allotments

The Allotments Working Group have worked hard to seek out potential additional land for allotments, but as yet with no success. Looking ahead, the council will therefore be looking again at the feasibility of restoring the current Fellside allotment area.

War Memorial

The War Memorial is in need of some cleaning work and the cobbles surrounding the memorial are damaged in several places. The Council has been assessing how best to undertake restoration work on the memorial and is currently seeking funding support. The aim is to have the memorial cleaned in time for the centenary commemorations

Improved Access to the Station

The Council continues to give this action a high priority and has the full support of the Lakes Line Community Rail Partnership. Some progress has been made, in particular a technical assessment is to be undertaken by Network Rail, for ramped access from the bypass side of the station. This will be a significant project, requiring the re-positioning of the platform to the other side of the track. Nevertheless, if the proposed electrification of the line goes ahead, this would present an obvious opportunity to undertake the platform access improvements.

Public Transport

The Council successfully obtained funding from GoLakes for local joint bus and train timetables to be made available both locally and to visitors, to encourage greater use of public transport. The Council has also obtained funding for new display boards welcoming visitors to Staveley at both the main bus stop and the station, together with finger post signs directing rail passengers to the buses and the village centre.

Improved Provision for Cyclists

The Council has obtained funding for several cycle racks to be placed in appropriate places around the village. The first area identified is in the village centre, next to the recycling centre and permission has now been granted from Cumbria County Council to locate a cycle rack there.

Highways

Earlier this year, parking restrictions were implemented in the most congested parts of the village and overall feedback is that this has improved the flow of traffic. Also on the theme of traffic, the Council now shares the use of a Speed Indication Device with other Upper Kent parishes and this was deployed in Staveley for the first time during February. While the results did not show any immediate issues, the device itself is known to have a moderating influence on driver speeds and will continue to be used from time to time.

Some progress has been made in establishing a marked footway between the station and the surgery. Designs have now been drawn up, which at least takes this project a step closer to implementation.

Highways have the unenviable task of undertaking highway maintenance within an increasingly challenging budget. Nevertheless, the Parish Council has been working closely with the local Highways Area Steward and this is now beginning to reap rewards, with several maintenance priorities having been completed.

The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of 25 assorted streetlights in the parish. Initial efforts to see if Highways would take responsibility for these did not prove successful, so we have now engaged with a streetlighting contractor to undertake their maintenance. A future issue for us is that Electricity North West Ltd (ENWL) have advised all councils of an issue with streetlights on electricity supply telegraph poles. In Staveley, 10 of our lights are on such telegraph poles, and ENWL have declared that some of these lights need to be repositioned further down the pole and one light (on the Banks) removed altogether, although the Council intend to replace this with a freestanding streetlight.

Grants/Donations

The Council once again provided substantial financial support to the “Gowan Stop & Go” group, who continue to do an excellent job in maintaining the public toilets in Staveley.

Funding from the Upper Kent LAP enabled a number of projects to be undertaken over the year, including provision of a new notice board in Staveley village centre, piloting of youth club and music sessions and insulation for the Ayland pavilion. Future UK LAP funding opportunities are coming to an end, but we have at least secured funding this year to support further youth club activities, a housing needs survey and provision of double glazing in Ings village hall.

Housing and Planning

The last housing needs survey was undertaken back to 2008 and so is out of date. So, in association with the embryonic Local Community Land Trust, planning is underway to conduct a new survey which should provide more topical information on local housing needs.

The Council has been consulted on 38 planning applications during the year (compared with 30 in the previous year). The Council has responded to all of these applications and submitted comments where appropriate.

Finance

A summary of the annual accounts can be found at the end of this report. For this year and after careful consideration, the Council agreed to increase the precept by £1000. This means that the annual cost for a band D property will go up from £18.55 to £20.17, an increase of £1.62. For comparison, the average band D charge in South Lakeland last year was £30.64. The increase is to pay for expected increases in streetlight maintenance costs, and also supports the delivery of several projects in our Parish Plan, such as the housing needs survey and support for a new youth club. The Council will do all it can to keep costs down, while working hard to improve our local services.

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:

Peter Davidson, 2 St Marks Fold, Natland, Kendal, LA9 7QU
Tel: 015395 61699 Email: staveleyingsclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Councillors:

Hugill Ward	Mr A Capstick, Whitber, Raven Garth, Staveley (Chairman) Mr GL Wilkinson, The Hill, Ings Mr AS Priestley, 1 Church View, Ings Mr DA Taylor, 18 Rawes Garth, Staveley
Nether Staveley Ward	Mr TC Johnson, 1 Bridge End, Staveley Mr AJ Wilkinson, 7 Station Road, Staveley Mrs SC Goffe, Craggy Wood, 16 Fairfield Close Staveley Mr J.Parkinson, 69 Main Street, Staveley
Over Staveley Ward	Mr R Batty, 56 Seedfield, Staveley Miss A Salisbury, Newlands, Crook Road, Staveley Mr PL Harrison, 5 Rawes Garth, Staveley. Mr M Kidd, Caravan at Sunny Orchard, Kentmere Road, Staveley

The next ordinary election for all seats on the council will be held in May 2016.

Staveley with Ings Parish Council
Summary Receipts and Payments Account for year ending 31 March 2014

Y/E 31/03/2013		Y/E 31/03/2014
£	Receipts	£
13,000.40	Precept	12,209.81
2,902.00	Grants + donations	5,685.19
7.35	Bank interest	6.72
2,228.42	VAT refund	436.15
380.26	Allotments	153.50
60.00	Poor Field	60.00
-	Other	30.12
18,578.43		18,581.49
	Payments	
2,114.47	Insurance	2,080.88
285.00	Audit	100.00
1,665.54	Salaries, Travel & Training	3,081.64
379.87	Room hire	352.20
431.86	Post, phone, stationary, office equip't	312.47
290.50	Subscriptions	334.00
7.44	Parish Plan	530.00
157.00	Website	109.00
475.93	Playground	526.33
-	LAP Grants	2,823.74
970.00	Gowan Stop & Go grant	1,400.00
850.00	Section 137	80.00
252.47	Footway Lighting maintenance	179.62
560.00	Grass cutting	620.00
1,748.22	Parish Steward (manhours)	1,866.75
359.61	Maintenance, Repairs, Materials	618.90
-	SLDC election costs	171.57
-	Speed Indication Device purchase	2,795.45
523.00	Allotments	-
436.15	VAT	1,000.82
11,507.06		18,983.37
7,071.37	Net Receipts/Payment	- 401.88

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2014

Summary	£
Opening balance as at 1 April 2013	16,203.66
Add receipts	18,581.49
	34,785.15
Less Payments	18,983.37
Closing balance as at 31 March 2014	15,801.78
Represented by	
Cash at bank as at 31 March 2014	15,861.78
Less unrepresented payments:	
cheque no. 100703	60.00
Total cash as at 31 March 2014	15,801.78