

St Cuthbert Without Parish Council

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Emergency Services

All emergencies—Fire, Police Ambulance 999 www.cumbriafire.gov.uk

Non Police emergencies 101 www.cumbria.police.gov.uk

Local Policing 0845 33 00 247 www.nwas.nhs.uk

St Cuthbert Without Parish Council

Welcome to your newsletter

Do you know that you have a Parish Council? Just in case you don't it might be helpful to have a little background before you look at the accompanying questionnaire and consider your responses.

Parish Councils are the first tier and most ancient type of local government in Europe and, as you will have seen from press comment, Central Government sees them as a vital element in our local democracy, and it is important that they are not confused with any religious body or political party.

Your parish is comprised of the area bounded by and including the villages of Blackwell, Brisco, Burthwaite, Carleton, Carleton Grange, Durdar, Parkland Village, Pennine View, Scalesceugh and Wreay

There are fifteen Parish Councillors who you elect in the usual way every four years. Meetings of this Parish Council are alternate months, from January (usually on the fourth Thursday) at venues around the parish and the Annual Parish Meeting is held in May each year. These are all open meetings and members of the public are always welcome and details are always available from our web site www.stcuthbertparishcouncil.org, locally on the notice boards or by enquiry of any Parish Councillor. All Parish Councillors are signed up to the Code of Conduct of The Standards Board of England. A list of Parish Councillors is shown on the back page for easy reference.

The responsibilities of the parish council are very varied and include:

- Consultation on all local planning applications
- Local management of street lighting
- Maintenance of common areas including Blackwell and Brisco Commons, Wragmire Moss, Wreay Green
- Provision and maintenance of the picnic area at Carleton
- Responsibility for bus shelters, public seats and notice boards throughout the parish area
- Consultation on road safety and environmental issues
- Local budget and setting of precept
- First point of contact for many people on local issues

Many of you will be thinking 'not another questionnaire' but it really is important that we have an understanding of your aspirations and hopes for the area where you live so that these can be taken into consideration in formulating our development plans—especially living, as we do, in times of change and changing expectations and where many people have recently been welcomed into the area. In addition we are keen to have comments from younger people in your households.

What have we done on your behalf?

Here are some of our achievements both in response to suggestions and requests from you, our residents, to improve facilities and following best practice by the Parish Council in maintaining and enhancing local amenities:

Planning

- Listened to local concerns on some planning applications and, as Statutory Consultees, successfully made representations to the District Council (Carlisle City Council). Over 40 planning applications were considered last year

Blackwell

- Provided a new notice board and bench for the benefit of the community in a more accessible location. Worked in partnership with a local farmer to restore and improve the hedging along the back of the common
- We are working with neighbouring Cummersdale Parish Council to improve the footpath between the two parishes
- Replacement of safety surfacing at the swing park is to be undertaken this summer
- Representing local concerns resulting from public order offences and traffic issues following some events at Carlisle Racecourse

Brisco & Netherton

- Seen the real safety benefits to the revised kerbs to ease turn towards Wreay at the crossroads which was undertaken in partnership with Cumbria County Council
- Clearing of the footpath from Brisco to Carleton and provision of new gates and fencing around St Ninian's Well. The historic well has been cleaned

Burthwaite & Wreay

- In partnership with Cumbria County Council, after sustained canvassing, achieved the resurfacing of the road surface through Burthwaite. Plans are being made for the section of road from the village to Newbiggin Road to be surfaced.
- Working with local landowner and Cumbria County Council to address the problem of water collection/ponding outside Wreay School. This work is ongoing
- In partnership, again with Cumbria County Council, provided safety railings and no-parking areas at Wreay School to improve safety of children and others
- Successfully applied for grant funding on behalf of Wreay Village Hall to surface the car park area which is also used by both the village school and hall users

Carleton

- Negotiations with Cumbria County Council to replace formal bus stops leading to 'on demand' stopping (where safe) on outbound journeys
- Following considerable canvassing the lane adjacent to The Beeches farm has been resurfaced by Cumbria County Council
- Ongoing representations to have weight restrictions imposed on both this lane and that adjacent to the Bluerare Restaurant (subject to access exclusions)
- Drainage improvements undertaken to picnic area and further worked planned this year

Carleton Grange/Pennine View/Parkland Village

- Working with developers to move towards adoption of all roads and sewers once all remedial works had been completed.

- Provision and installation of 'grit bins' at strategic locations
- Provision of new notice board at the end of Leywell Drive
- Worked with several residents regarding trees subject to tree preservation orders

Durdar

- On going activity leading to a welcome reduction in the incidence of careless and indiscriminate parking at the cross roads
- Revision of radius at the kerbs at Durdar Crossroads coupled with alterations to the road layout to improve safety by facilitating the turning of all vehicles from Durdar Road
- Partnership with Cumbria County Council to resurface part of the road near Stoneraise School
- Working with local farmer to cut back trees on Newbiggin Road to improve sight lines and, consequently, road safety

What else has been achieved?

- Development web site www.stcuthbertwithoutpc.org.uk
- Streetlights owned and managed by the parish council are shortly to be numbered, following a suggestion from a resident, to help identification in case of fault
- Liaison with Police and the welcoming of Community Support Officers to the area
- Maintenance of common land throughout parish area
- Consideration and comment, where necessary, on planning issues
- Provision of litter bins and arrangements for emptying
- Responding promptly to the ever increasing incidence of fly tipping throughout the area
- Representation at meetings covering transport, environment and planning issues together with local forums dealing with area specific matters
- The making of grants to local organisations (in response to written requests)

What would we like you to do now?

There are almost 1600 properties within the parish area and these provide homes for some 3000 adults and their children. We think that it is again the right time to consult and seek your views on what you think this parish council could do to improve your local facilities and, where these aspirations are outside our terms of reference, then to speak on your behalf through the various channels which are open to us.

The questionnaire is straightforward and also provides space for comments on matters where opinion is not already sought - please return it in the accompanying postage paid envelope or respond through the web site www.stcuthbertwithoutparishcouncil.org so that you can have a real input and influence into the provision of your local facilities. Please give any young people in your household the opportunity of letting us have their views.

Those of you who respond by Friday 29 June 2012 will be eligible to enter a prize draw for a voucher value £40 which will be redeemable towards the cost of a meal in one of the restaurants within the parish

Thank you for taking the time to help us in shaping plans for the area where you live.

Richard

Richard Workman
Chair, St Cuthbert Without Parish Council

May 2012