

LANGWATHBY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

November 2007

I wish all residents of Edenhall and Langwathby a Very Happy Christmas! This newsletter will bring you up to date on some of the current issues in the Parish and we hope you find it of interest.

Carol Merrie (Chairman)

Briggle Beck Footpath

As keeping fit becomes more and more important, so does the value of our public footpaths. Our two main routes are Lady's Walk, Edenhall, and Briggle Beck footpath, linking Langwathby and Winskill. The latter suffers from a very muddy stretch where the route crosses Briggle Beck and we are in the early stages of planning a joint improvement scheme with Hunsonby Parish Council. This might entail some form of board walk over the muddy section.

We hope to take advantage of a County Council scheme, whereby each parish is able to apply for a grant of up to £1,000 to improve public rights of way in their area. If the cost exceeds this figure, we may need to undertake some of the work through voluntary effort so, if you would be willing to help, please let us know.

A Village Green on the River Eden?

Sounds strange doesn't it but a village green is defined as land on which local people have indulged in lawful sports and pastimes as of right for a period of at least 20 years. That includes fishing and for as long as anyone can remember local people have fished in a stretch of the River Eden next to Langwathby bridge.

To preserve these rights for the future and to enable the Parish Council to exercise some control over the area, we will be making an application under the Commons Act 2006 to register this area as a village green.

We have been consulting the owners of adjoining land and fishing rights and also collecting witness statements from people who have exercised the parish fishing rights over the years or know of someone who has.

We have to show that a significant number of locals have exercised the rights so need as many witness statements as possible. We are not just interested in fishing – if you have used the land for swimming or picnics or any other recreational activity, we would like to know. If you can help, please let us know as soon as possible.

Recycling Centre at Langwathby Village Hall

Please note:

We cannot recycle TVs etc – they need to be taken to Flusco

We cannot recycle polystyrene

Dumping inappropriate items at recycling centres constitutes fly tipping and is a criminal offence

A Community Travel Plan for Langwathby?

Langwathby is likely to be included in the County Council's Community Travel Plan programme for 2008/9. The programme invites communities to identify an agreed list of highways improvement schemes for their area and an order of priorities. The highest priority is then considered for funding.

This gives us an opportunity to look at traffic problems in the Parish and suggest solutions. One problem area already identified by the Parish Council is road safety in Back Lane, Langwathby, at the junction with Storey Bank.

You may have other ideas for improving road safety in the villages or improving arrangements for travel to school for example. There is likely to be a public meeting in the Spring to discuss your ideas.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 17th January, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall side room.

Parishioners are warmly invited to attend and participate. Why not come along?

Police Advice

Make sure your sheds and outhouses are secure, particularly during the run up to Christmas.

Visit www.langwathby.org for information on the area, dates of meetings, minutes etc

Parish Precept

The Parish Council's "precept" (the amount added to Council Tax bills for Parish services) will remain unchanged next year at £8,500.

New System of Highway Response Teams

We have received details of new arrangements for maintaining our highways, currently being tried on an experimental basis. The new system has three different teams:

Area Highway Team – undertaking programmed basic road maintenance and spending a number of days in each area every 6 months or so

Emergency Response Teams – dealing with emergency repairs

Permanent Repair Teams – undertaking permanent repairs to carriageways using "Hot Box" technology

The Area Highway Team will be in the Langwathby area the week beginning 3 March. The Parish Council at its meeting in January will need to suggest the work we would like them to do. This might involve kerbs, drainage, obstructions, signs etc. If you have any suggestions, please speak to a parish councillor or come to the meeting.

Village Hall

Planning permission has been given for the refurbishment scheme and several grant applications are under consideration. To obtain a £5,000 grant from the Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust, there has to be a third party willing to contribute £500. The Parish Council has agreed to provide this.

Trees, Greens and Gardens

We have had a survey done of trees on Langwathby Village Green. As a result several have been tidied up and a number of potentially unsafe branches removed. The view has also been opened up from the seat on Eden Straits by removing a hawthorn and some undergrowth.

Thanks are due to those who have maintained the war memorials during the last year, the memorial garden, cemetery, greens and sports fields – thank you for keeping these looking so good.

Railway Station

It is good to see the improvement to the station access track after several years of pressing the case with the railway authorities – just a pity the scheme did not include a turning circle.

Got a problem?

To report potholes, smells or street lights not working, please ring the following:

Highways hotline 0845 6096609

Smells hotline 01768 899327

Street lights 01768 212378

Police (non-emergencies) 0845 3300247

Helping the Fellrunner

Residents of Langwathby and Edenhall have made good use of the Fellrunner community bus services during the last year. Each Parish Council is asked to make a contribution based on a formula of 20p per passenger journey made by villagers in their area. Our contribution this year is £320.

Day Centre Charges

We fear that some elderly people are being deterred from attending day centres by the increased charges – does this affect you or someone you know? We are taking our concerns to the County Council.

Parish Councillors

Edenhall:

Mr W.Benn, 1 The Courtyard; Mr I.S.Harrington, Helm View; Mr T.W.Metcalf, Home Farm; Mr W.F.Mounsey (Vice-Chairman)

Langwathby:

Mr D.H.Banks, The New Mill; Mr J.M.Holliday (District Councillor), Townhead Farm; Mr P.M.Jackson, Powley's Farm; Mr G.C.Little, Auchenbrae, Salkeld Road; Mrs C.Merrie (Chairman), Caroline Cottage, Back Lane; Ms S.Ripper, Eden Bank Cottage.

Parish Clerk

Mr R.J.Wager, Langley House, Langwathby.

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