



Annual General Meeting

16th May 2012

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome & Introductions
- 2 Chairman's Report
- 3 Treasurer's Report
- 4 Election of Committee Members
- 5 Police Update – Sarah Blacow PCSO
- 6 Limefitt Appeal Update
- 7 Members' Feedback and Ideas
- 8 Close & Refreshments

Chairman's Report for 2011–2012

Introduction

The members of Village Association (VA) Committee are currently:

Alex Brooker

Anthony Close (PCC representative)

Brenda Varley (Women's Institute representative)

Brian Liddell

Christine Tinn

Katharine Brown

Les Bradley

Louise Waterhouse (Parish Councillor)

Margaret Lewis (Secretary)

Pip Simpson (Parish Councillor)

Roger Westmoreland (Institute & Social Committee representative)

Sue Black (Treasurer)

Tony Ashton (Chairman)

The Committee has met on five occasions during the year.

There have been several changes to the Committee since the last AGM. Sylvia Waring sadly passed away in September. Geoff Brown resigned in August. Alex Brooker and Les Bradley were co-opted onto the Committee in January. Chris Hogg resigned in February as a result of his move to the Penrith area.

Main Activities during the Year

Snow Clearance

Since February 2010 the VA has been campaigning for some form of 'self help' snow clearing and gritting services. A great deal of letters and emails have been written since then, together with many meetings and phone calls.

When in February last year we secured a substantial grant from the Lakes Local Area Partnership we began seeking additional funds to raise the balance needed to meet the estimated cost of £13,500 for

suitable equipment. By July the Association had raised a total of £11,500 (as shown below).

Lakes Local Area Partnership	£8,500
Lakes Parish Council Grant	£1,000
Neighbourhood Forum	£1,000
SLDC Community Fund	£500
Jesus Church	£500

The Association had previously committed funds to the purchase and we felt we were now in a position where we could proceed with the purchase. We finalised our equipment selection and visited the supplier. The final negotiated cost for suitable equipment came to £12,535.67 excluding VAT.

Following discussions with the Parish Council it was agreed that they would purchase the equipment, thus avoiding VAT, and allocate the equipment on a permanent basis to be stored, operated and maintained in Troutbeck. It was further agreed that the village would have first call on the equipment, with it being used in other wards of the Parish where it would be funded by the Parish Council. Agreements are in place between the VA and the Parish Council, and between the VA and the contractor for the operation of the equipment. There is also an agreement in place with Cumbria Highways for the provision of salt-grit and for paying the contractor for operating the equipment in the Troutbeck ward.

The gritter has been used some 25 times during the winter. The snow plough has been used once.

Limefitt Park's Application to extend

In August last year South Lakeland Parks, operator of the Limefitt Park, made an application to add 14 extra lodges to a new area further up the valley.

Whilst the VA does not normally comment on planning applications the Committee had long since agreed that any application to extend Limefitt outside their permitted area would be actively resisted. In support of this the VA:

- held a public meeting in the Institute;
- organised a petition; and

- publicised the application and the grounds for objection.

The open meeting was well attended, the petition received 127 signatures and a large number of residents commented by letter and on the National Park's web site. Friends of the Lake District and the National Park also made detailed comments recommending refusal.

In November the National Park refused the application on a number of grounds.

On 17th April 2012 South Lakeland Parks appealed against the refusal. Details of the appeal have been circulated. Nevertheless at the time of writing matters are far from clear and I propose that we discuss this in detail at the AGM.

Troutbeck Garden Trail

The Association once again coordinated the Trail held on the second May Bank Holiday on Monday 30th May 2011. Fifteen gardens were open to the public, complemented by the usual additional attractions of garden quiz and raffle, Institute home-made teas, a plant and garden produce stall, ice-cream stall, children's attractions and heritage information boards around the village.

The Trail raised £5,800 which, less costs, was distributed equally between the Institute, Jesus Church, First Responders and the VA.

Flooding

The brief but extreme rainfall on 8th December flooded eight properties, washed away a long section of Low Gate Lane, and caused serious damage to Robin Lane, Anthony Gate bridleway, Nanny Lane and several other small bridleways. Large quantities of rubble were deposited on the main road in several places and in two properties opposite the Post Office.

In order to expedite repairs but mainly to establish what changes could be undertaken to avoid or at least mitigate the effects of future periods of heavy rain the VA contacted numerous organisations including the Environment Agency, Cumbria Highways and the South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) Environment Team.

Much investigative work has since been done, including CCTV inspection of two of the offending watercourses. I'm pleased to report that several improvements have been identified and in some cases

already completed. The exception to this is the water course which flooded Syke Villa and caused damage to Longmire Yeat and washed out Low Gate Lane. We continue to explore ways in which this problem can be resolved.

Highways & Byways

Numerous highways problems have arisen and been reported during the year. Whilst we eventually get a response, the repairs frequently look to be of a temporary nature.

We continue to recommend that residents report highways problems directly to the Cumbria Highways, and only if the problem persists to contact VA. We will then try and escalate the request through our various contacts. Please note the County Council hotline has changed and is now 01539713006 or email keith.massar@cumbriahighways.co.uk

Garburn Track

In 2006 the LDNP designated the Garburn Pass as a 'restricted byway'. This meant it was only open to pedestrians, horses and cycles and not mechanically propelled vehicles (MPVs) such as 4 by 4s and trail bikes. This designation was challenged and resulted in the Planning Inspectorate issuing an interim order decision to make the Garburn Pass a 'byway open to all traffic', meaning the track would become a public right of way open to all traffic including MPVs.

I'm delighted to report that following a legal challenge this interim decision was amended and in September 2011 we were finally advised that the Garburn track would be permanently designated a 'restricted byway', meaning that it would be closed to recreational motorized vehicles.

Footpath between Jesus Church and the Queens Head

The VA have for many years been attempting to create a footpath between Jesus Church and the Queens Head. I am pleased to report that after many discussions and meetings with the National Park, National Trust and Cumbria Highways agreement has now been reached with the National Trust to establish an unsurfaced permissive path on the east side of the A592 from the Limefitt Park entrance to the Queens Head. The National Trust are planning to complete the works by 2013.

Village Web Site www.troutbeck.org

We continue to receive a steady flow of queries on the site, many raising questions about the village or concerned with tracing family history.

The site now has 50 subscribers to the email-based service which provides updates on local matters including all the local planning applications. Please join if you haven't already done so and encourage others to do likewise. The service is an excellent way of disseminating information and proved very successful last year during the Limefitt planning application.

Invasive Weeds

Since 2006 we have been producing a record of invasive weeds in the area. Katharine Brown continues to maintain this record and to represent the VA on the 'Windermere Invasive Species Local Action Group'. This group provides funding for spraying Japanese Knotweed which has now been mostly eradicated from the village.

Himalayan Balsam is proving more difficult to eliminate and Katharine continues to organize annual work parties to pull up the weed. Please contact Katharine direct if you wish to help.

National Park Planning

The Committee continue to be concerned with several aspects of planning within the National Park. I attended the National Park Development & Control Committee meeting in August and had the opportunity to express these concerns. In brief these were that:

- there are too many retrospective planning applications and there is growing evidence that such applications are invariably passed with few if any effective conditions;
- there is no monitoring of substantial planning applications once they have been granted;
- planning decisions often appear to be made with little local knowledge and no site visit;
- there is often insufficient feedback from the local community to gain a true understanding of the issues involved.

I closed by expressing our concern that over time the reduced effectiveness and changing attitudes to the planning process will erode the character and appearance of our village. Not surprisingly I

received little positive feedback from the Committee although the VA were given the opportunity to discuss these matters further with Dave McGowan, Head of Planning. Accordingly, Dave McGowan together with a number of Troutbeck residents attended the Association Committee meeting held in November. The NP have documented their response to the major issues we raised and these are available if you would like a copy.

Village Tidy-up Day

A small amount of clearing work was undertaken by some members of the Committee during the year.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

After much discussion a number of the Committee agreed to organise a 1950's themed evening celebration on Monday 4th June. Advertising for the event has been placed on the village noticeboards. We are also proposing to renovate the three 'Queen Elizabeth' stones.

Friends of Cumbria Archives (FOCAS)

In March the Committee agreed to a request by Ian Jones, a local historian and member of FOCAS, to jointly promote a performance of **music in Jesus Church on 21st October**. Advertising and tickets for the event will be available at the end of June.

Finally

Once again I would like to thank all Troutbeck residents and Committee members for the help and support I have received during the year.

Please continue to give me and members of the Committee your feedback and suggestions. Also note you can also provide your feedback, anonymously or otherwise, through the Association's web site at www.troutbeck.org .

Tony Ashton
Chairman
Troutbeck Village Association
13th May 2011

Treasurer's Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2012

<u>Receipts & Payments Account</u>	£	£
Receipts:		
Snow Clearance Grants (excluding Parish Council grant)		10,500.00
Profit from 2011 Garden Trail		1556.65
Donations		427.00
		12,483.65
Payments:		
Snowplough & gritter (less Parish Council contribution)	11,535.67	
Web Domain & Hosting	73.27	
AGM Costs	47.00	
Local maps	29.52	
		11,685.46
<u>Surplus for the Year</u>		798.19

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Balance at Bank 1 st April 2011	2,312.52
Plus Surplus for the Year	798.19
Balance at Bank 31 st March 2012	3,110.71

Note: A cheque for £130 covering the cost of room hire for the year has yet to be cleared and is therefore not reflected in the payments, surplus for the year or closing bank balance.

Sue Black
Treasurer
Troutbeck Village Association
30th April 2012