

The Gill

Sponsored by Hethersgill Parish Council for everyone in and around Hethersgill. Issue No. 16 Summer 2011

Parish Plan - tell us about the issues!

The Community Plan for the Parish is exactly what it says on the box - a plan about the issues in the parish and how we solve them together.

The Parish Council wants to work with everyone to agree a plan that pinpoints the issues you most want to see being addressed. These will vary according to how we see things. You may be worried about the state of the roads, lack of affordable housing, schooling, access to health care, low broadband speeds affecting the performance of your business, public transport or facilities for the younger members of the Community.

It's vital that everyone has say in the future of the parish especially as the Government is proposing that local councils make more of the decisions about the issues that affect the quality of our lives.

Please contact Clive Moth, Clerk to the Parish Council about the issues that are important to you and those close to you

Stop Crime, call - Crime Stoppers 0800 555 111

SMR Property Maintenance

Plumbing and Bathroom Installations

Floor & Wall Tiling

Joinery Work inc : Wooden Flooring, Decking etc...

General Indoor & Outdoor Maintenance

Contact Steve Ritchie

Tel: 01228 672297 Mob:07872436925 Email : steven-ritchie@o2.co.uk

New Councillor

A warm Welcome to Mrs Gillian Houston who has been co-opted to the Parish Council.

Mrs Houston has also accepted to be the Council's **Broadband Champion**. She is one of 24 Parish Champions in the Carlisle District.

Gillian will help to raise awareness of the benefits for superfast broadband, organise local events, meet clubs and groups, talk with local business and encourage as many as possible to take up the offer of the faster broadband service.

Broadband UK (BDUK) has recently announced that it is making £17.1m available to Cumbria and it is hoped that more money can be granted from European funds to help improve rural broadband services. The Parish Council's May meeting saw a good attendance from those in the parish anxious to see increased broadband speeds to sustain business and education. As a result we have been able to focus on several issues and hope to see progress in the near future.



Highways.

At its last meeting the Parish Council heard from residents living near Hethersgill cross roads about their concerns for road safety. County Councillor John Mallinson who attended the meeting, undertook to address the issues and we have been told the road markings and signs near the crossroads will be "refreshed". The Community police have also been involved in looking at speed limits in the area. It is not likely that there be any change to current limits however. Thanks to John for his help.

Agreed Route Maps for transporting timber - The County Council has decided on an "Agreed Route plan for Timber lorries" The County Council has sought to reassure the Parish Council that there will be no increase in traffic on the C1005. Let's wait and see!

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Kirsty Hiatt BSc (Hons)

Tel. 07874000160

Email. FootstepsPodiatry@hotmail.co.uk

A BT Funding opportunity for Community groups

The BT Community Connections Awards are provided and administered by British Telecom. The awards scheme is intended to provide voluntary groups and charitable organisations working to benefit the community in the UK with IT equipment - a laptop and a year's free broadband internet connection.

In particular, the scheme is keen to target areas of deprivation which normally receive little or no funding and would otherwise have no IT provision and these applications will be given priority. Applications are welcomed from any community group or charitable organisation working to benefit the community, including religious groups who work in the wider community rather than promote religion.

Eligible areas of interest include:

- Older people.
- Family issues.
- Multi-cultural awareness.
- Youth groups.

The deadline for applications is **15 September**. To find out more, please follow this link: <http://bit.ly/ltukfR>



Recycling

The recycling centre at Hethersgill Parish Hall continues to produce good results. For the last two quarters we recycled:-

Cans	- 0.54 Tonnes
Green Glass	- 1.23 Tonnes
Clear Glass	- 1.57 Tonnes
Brown Glass	- 0.45 Tonnes
Paper	- 3.793 Tonnes

Well done everybody!

Hethersgill Parish Council

Recent meetings have covered such topics as Broadband and Bolton Fell Peat Moss (reported in the last issue of the Gill).

At the meeting in July residents were concerned about road safety at Hethersgill Crossroads (see Highways). Concern was also voiced about weeds growing through the newly resurfaced section of the pavement at Netherfield and the Council began the review of the Parish Plan. The Council also agreed to create a Web site and details will be discussed at the September meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 13th September 2011 in the Parish Hall, Hethersgill at 7.30pm - why not come along - the agenda allows for the public to talk about items on the agenda.

Draft minutes of meetings are published on noticeboards soon after meetings.

The role of your Councillors is to represent your views and concerns to the Parish Council and to other public bodies. They are:-

Cllr A Dalgleish - 675388

Cllr P L Nichol - 675383

Cllr N Elliott - 675336

Cllr A Sisson - 675378

Cllr F Heaton - 675516

Cllr G Sisson - 675101

Cllr G Houston - 675212

Cllr H Kay - 675910 (Chair)

Cllr M Kay - 675910

Wind Farm update - A View on the Wind Farm Issue from the leader of Cumbria County Council which we thought you would like to see -



Leader of the Council

The Courts - English Street - CARLISLE - Cumbria - CA3 8NA
Tel 01228 227394 - Fax 01228 227403
Email: eddis.martin@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Our Ref: ETM/KCS
Date: 27th June 2011

The Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP
Department for Communities and Local Government
Minister of State for Decentralisation
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr. Clark,

WINDFARMS in CUMBRIA

Reference A: Your GC/GC/009440/11 of 13th March 2011.
Reference B: My ETM/KCS of 13th March 2011

Thank you for your response at Reference A, and I note your comments. I write in response on behalf of the Cumbria Leaders' Board of which I am the Chairman.

I believe no-one could deny the imperative to seek alternative methods of energy production and, particularly, the increased and increasing use of renewable energy sources in order to reduce carbon emissions and secure a 'greener' future. In that regard, my colleagues (of all political persuasions at Cumbria's county council) endorse your sentiments and support your ambitions.

Where we would take leave to fundamentally disagree with government policy (and notwithstanding whatsoever might finally emerge in the Localism Bill) is in the imposition of wind farms on communities despite the overwhelming, objective and well-argued opposition. **It becomes increasingly difficult to defend government's renewable-energy policies regarding wind farms given:**

- The relative and perceived impotence of local communities, including the local planning authorities (LPA) which ends up paying £60,000 for an invariably futile public inquiry.
- The bizarre, if not absurd/obscene, tax-payer subsidy paid to wind farm developers, yet the government is not prepared to subsidise nuclear power stations. A two or three reactor station at Sellafield would dispense with the need for more wind farms in Cumbria. So, too, would the development and subsidising of hydro-power in Cumbria.
- Payments to wind farm developers even when the turbines are not producing electricity. Each household is subsidising wind farms to the tune of £32 per year. The electorate did not give the government a mandate to impose this charge.
- The relative inefficiency and unreliability of wind farms.

- Successive governments have completely ignored the all-party Cumbria County Council resolution:
 - *The County Council calls on the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to give a commitment to seek to ensure that Government will reduce its over reliance on onshore wind, reduce current wind-related targets and invest, as a matter of urgency, in other low carbon energy generation.*
- In terms of existing and forecast windfarm development in Cumbria we already have 90 operational commercial wind energy schemes with 3 more consented, 6.5 under construction, 40 awaiting construction and a further 46 or more where applications have been submitted. This does not include small scale schemes, offshore schemes or other forms of sustainable energy generation.

I would not wish, of course, to question the expertise, integrity or professionalism of the planning inspectorate but it remains difficult, nonetheless, to convince local communities and, indeed, local politicians that public inquiries of wind farm applications are no more than cosmetic exercises, that the government (of any persuasion) is obsessed with EU imposed targets, and that the concept of local democracy appears to be quite meaningless.. In short, and despite the palliative rhetoric and occasional panaceas, central government is simply not listening. And that is profoundly depressing. And fundamentally undemocratic.

Finally, if I may turn to the financial concessions and the return of the business rate which you mention in your letter, the relationship between the community grants currently afforded by wind farm developers bear little relationship to the vast net profits realised over the 25 year period.

RES Ltd - about to develop a six turbine wind farm (after a public inquiry) at Tallantire in West Cumbria - is offering the community £25,000 per year to be agreed and distributed between several communities/parishes. Frankly, this is a pitiful amount which simply adds further to the sense of profound grievance which communities feel. No amount of community compensation will ever attenuate the strength of feeling against wind farms but it is offensive, if not impertinent, to believe that such a derisory sum could moderate community antipathy.

It follows, therefore, that adequate and agreed compensation to local communities should be a pre-requisite planning condition to be arbitrated and imposed by the local planning authority. I would urge you to consider this possibility whilst the Localism Bill is making its passage through Parliament, in addition to the return of the local business rates to the local communities. I might further enquire which local communities are you referring to: parish councils, District Councils, or even the county council?

Yours sincerely,

Eddie Martin
Leader
Cumbria County Council

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Highways hotline

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Fire Safety in your home - ring 0800 3584777 for a FREE safety assessment, advice and a free smoke alarm.

Comments about the Gill We welcome comments about the newsletter or any topic - please contact:- Clive Moth, Clerk to the Council 01228 675328