



Ravenglass Village Forum

May 2009

No 10

Chairman's Report 2008-09

The good news for the year is that the misunderstandings between the Parish Council and us have been resolved. Information and views are freely exchanged by members attending each others' meetings.

On the down side we are sad to say that Leo Saldanha is to stand down from the Forum Committee this year and his input and enthusiasm will be missed. We wish him well.

The Forum's finances are in a good state. The sales of the Heritage Trail Leaflet have picked up over last year and will cover the reprint that will become necessary in a couple of years, when existing stocks run out. The income these leaflets produce will also cover our website running costs.

The plans for new facilities on the Village Green are near completion. We are awaiting confirmation from the Environment Agency that our proposals are acceptable, then there will be a consultation with the Parish Council to see how the matter can be progressed, funds allowing!

The committee is dismayed at the time taken by the Highways Agency to remove all the old road signs that should have been taken down when the new ones were installed. The delay in the laying of the new white road lines is also of concern but the weather and highways budgets have not been kind to us. We will continue to press for these matters to be resolved.

The committee has recently started communications with the Lake District National Park Authority over the removal of the litter bins around the Village Car Park picnic area; a place where the Forum wished to work with the Authority to improve the facilities. They were removed as a matter of 'efficiency' (a cost cutting exercise) and because they were 'unsightly'. We think that is strange, considering the state of the seats in the picnic area. We feel that the remaining two bins in the Car Park (we used to have five) will not cope during the height of the season. The Forum will work closely with the Parish Council and the LDNPA to try to resolve this situation. ~ *Stuart Robb*

Highways

Last year we reported the hope that something might at last be done to reduce the flow of unnecessary visiting traffic, including large motorhomes and tour buses, into Main Street. The Parish Council adopted our recommendation that an Access Only restriction should be imposed and the Highway Authority made a bid for funds to implement it in 2009-10.

Unfortunately the County Council's Copeland Local Area Committee, which funds highway improvements in this area, was faced with so many other calls on its budget that this one 'fell off the end of the list' last December before it could be considered. The funds delegated to Copeland Local Area Committee by the County Council simply did not stretch that far. The project was submitted for the first time in 2008. It remains on the list for future consideration and its estimated cost is only about £7-8K, but budgetary problems could delay it for at least two years.

The Road Safety Scheme for Walls Drive to Station Hill was higher on the County Council's list, having been considered the previous year and carried forward for consideration as a 'preferred scheme' in 2008. The good news is that £50K has been approved for the first phase of the scheme in 2009-10. The bad news is that Capita Symonds will have to bid for a further £50K to carry the work on into 2010-11 and there will still be a shortfall if that bid is successful. We have asked the Leader of Copeland Borough Council for advice about access to the bonanza that Copeland is supposed to be getting from the nuclear industry for 'community improvements' but, after two months, we have still received no guidance from her. Wake up, Copeland! You do have communities south of Thornhill.

At last year's rather poorly attended Parish Meeting Karl Melville, our local chief highway engineer, received a suggestion that our dangerous triangular junction by the War Memorial should be replaced by a roundabout. We all have horror stories about this junction. He took the suggestion seriously and obtained funding for a feasibility study, which was completed in March. We look forward to more news in due course.

Notice of AGM

The ninth Annual General Meeting of Ravenglass Village Forum will be held on **Tuesday 19 May 2009 at 7.30 p.m.** in Muncaster Parish Hall.

Agenda

Welcome.

To confirm the Minutes of the eighth Annual General Meeting held on 5 June 2008.

Matters arising.

Chairman's report.

Treasurer's report and Statement of Accounts.

Elections for Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and up to six ordinary members of the Committee.

Any other relevant business.

The meeting will be opened for discussion after the formal business. Any resolutions from the floor must be proposed and seconded by members.

Elections

The Committee for 2008-09 consists of:

Chairman: Stuart Robb

Secretary: Mike Harrington

Treasurer: Kate Hunter

Members: Shirley

Broadhurst, David Tyldsley,

Ann Edwards, Leo

Saldanha, Carol Stent and

Peter van Zeller.

The old committee retires at the AGM and a new committee will be elected for 2009-10. Leo wishes to stand down. If you wish to stand for election, you must find a proposer and seconder. You and they must all be registered members of the Forum.

Are you a member?

The Forum now has 41 members and we have plenty of room for more. The more the better!
(Contd, in next column.)

Ravenglass online

The Ravenglass Village website was officially launched by the Mayor of Copeland, Cllr. Keith Hitchen, at a ceremony in the Parish Hall on 20 October last year. You will find it at www.ravenglassvillage.co.uk It is administered locally by Muncaster Parish Council, which has its own site at www.muncasterparishcouncil.org.uk. The Ravenglass Village site is now the focus online for all information about Ravenglass and it carries links to the Parish Council site, the Forum's site, the Muncaster Microbus and other local sites as well as information for visitors and a constantly updated list of local events. Funding to establish both these sites came from Hadrian's Wall Heritage Ltd.

The Forum's site came online shortly afterwards at www.ravenglassforum.org.uk. It highlights our achievements in the village and ongoing projects such as highway improvements and our efforts to improve facilities on the Village Green. It explains how the Forum works and you can download pdf copies of our Constitution, Minutes of all AGMs and Committee Minutes since June 2007.

This explosion of online activity, together with the Parish Council's new Newsletter and the well established Parish Magazine, impressed the judges of the CALOR Cumbria Village of the Year competition. Ravenglass did not win the top prize but it came first in the Communications category; fitting recognition of all those who have helped to raise the village's profile.

You have to be a member to speak and vote at the AGM or to stand for office. Members who are online can also ask to receive copies of the Committee's Agenda and Minutes by email. There are no other privileges but the number of members is evidence of the village's support for the work we do. It increases our authority when we apply for grants and deal with the local authorities and agencies that supply the services on which we depend. Your support is valuable to us.

You can be a member if you broadly support our aims, you are aged at least 18 and your home is in the village, which includes Raven Villa and as far up the road as The Grove. You pay nothing.

If you are not yet a member and you wish to join, please ask the Editor for a registration form or fill one in when you arrive at the AGM. Time will be allowed for enrolment of new members before the formal meeting opens.

Second home owners can join if they have purchased a property in Ravenglass village with a view to eventual full-time residence here, even if they have to be part-time residents for the time being. However, those who rent or borrow the properties for holidays while the owners are not in residence are still excluded. If you are a second home owner and you wish to join, please ask the Editor for a registration form.

*Edited and published for the Ravenglass Village Forum by **RiverEsk**
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