



# Ravenglass Village Forum

June 2016

[www.ravenglassforum.org.uk](http://www.ravenglassforum.org.uk)

No 17

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## No pylons, please!

You should all be aware of National Grid's plan to build a line of 50m pylons right across our Parish and our Roman archaeology to make the southbound connection from Moorside to National Grid's main 400 Kv network. These pylons would be nearly twice the height of the pylons on the existing 132 Kv line with a much bigger footprint. Our Parish Council is taking the lead locally in opposition to it in alliance with the LDNPA, Friends of the Lake District, Drigg & Carleton PC and the Power Without Pylons group in Broughton as well as the Forum. At the Parish Council's request Jamie Reed, our MP, arranged a meeting with North West Coast Connections (NWCC) representatives, which took place on 27 May.

NWCC still refuses to route the connection offshore, which would avoid trashing our landscape and our important bit of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site. The Council couldn't extract any promises from NWCC but its Project Director did say that they were *considering* burial of the line. They are still considering pylons too, so the battle continues. The Forum and the Parish Council are not anti-nuclear or anti-Moorside. We understand why the connection is necessary but there are better ways of making it.

The campaign has attracted the attention of The Times, The Guardian and BBC News. NWCC has to do one more Public Consultation before it submits its plans to the Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change for approval. The Consultation, which was originally planned for April, has been put back to the autumn. If NWCC can show more flexibility, a mutually acceptable solution should be possible.

Please support us by writing *now* to Mr Robert Powell, Project Manager, NWCC, National Grid, FREEPOST NG NWCC. Mark the envelope PERSONAL. You don't have to wait for the formal Consultation. This is your chance to influence the proposals that NWCC puts into it and the volume of letters can make a difference. ~ MH

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## Village Green information boards

This project is still incomplete. After the stonework was done on the Green there was a few months' delay in production of the information boards at the request of the Parish Council. The Council wanted to see the design for Copeland's new Coastal Information Board by the sea ramp and make sure that there was no duplication of the content.

When we finally got the word to proceed, we delegated the job to our in-house designer, Peter van Zeller. Unlike me, Peter is not retired. Apart from driving engines on the Ratty, he is their painter, historian and very much involved in the design, layout and content of the Ratty's new Museum. He was heavily involved last year in preparations for the celebration of the centenary of the Ratty's conversion to 15-inch gauge and this year with the acquisition of the Ratty's vintage engine from Spain. In short, he hasn't had a great amount of free time to devote to a major voluntary commitment, which includes making patterns for the bronze castings. That work demands considerable time and skill. Doing it himself, Peter is saving us the considerable cost of employing an outside pattern maker to work from his drawings. If you wish to see the quality of work that Peter can produce, look at the Market Cross plaque in Main Street which was cast from his pattern. ~ MH

## **New bridges**

We helped the National Park with funding for its project to build two substantial wooden bridges for the bridleway along the Esk. One is across the beck that flows out from Brighthouse Farm. The other new bridge is in Beacon Plantation, as you come up to the Waberthwaite ford. The bridges bring the path up to bridleway standards. The Forum contributed half the cost of the materials, the National Park Rangers organised transport, tools and volunteer labour and the project was completed last summer. The new bridges bring the path by the Esk up to bridleway standards so that it will be usable by cyclists, families with young children and push-chairs as well as walkers. The Forum contributed £1500 to the cost of materials.

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## **Notice of AGM**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Ravenglass Village Forum will take place in Muncaster Parish Hall on Thursday 30 June 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

### **Agenda**

Welcome.

To confirm the Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

Committee report.

Treasurer's report and Statement of Accounts.

Election of the Committee for 2016-17.

The meeting will be opened for discussion of any other relevant matters after the formal business. Any resolutions from the floor must be proposed and seconded by members. Time will be allowed before the start of the meeting for registration of new members.

The members of the Committee for 2015-16 are Gary Blythe (Chairman), Ian Bell (Treasurer), Mike Harrington (Secretary), Edna Parr and Peter van Zeller. All are standing for re-election. We have four vacancies, which we would like to fill for the coming year. If you are interested, please consult the Editor or any other serving member.

## **Are you a member of the Forum?**

Our membership at present is 37; a good percentage of our small population, but we would welcome more. The proportion of our membership to our population indicates the degree of public support we enjoy when we make applications for grants or we have opinions to express on matters that affect the wellbeing of our village. Your support, active or passive, is important to us.

To be a member you must be a resident over the age of 18 and broadly in support of the Forum's aims and objectives. Membership entitles you to attend, speak, propose or second motions and vote at General Meetings. You may also stand for election to the Committee if you wish, but you don't have to. Membership is free. You will also be entitled to receive the Agenda and Minutes of all meetings, including Committee meetings, by email.

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

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