

# CARNFORTH EXPRESS



## On the right path!

For those who walk from Crag Bank towards town, or from the ramp at Tesco towards Carnforth Cricket Club, you will know that in spring of last year the County Council laid a new tarmac path along what is commonly known as Footpath number 8. The new path was a welcome addition to this area and left a small sliver of land between the path and the fence which eventually became overgrown to a point where nettles and brambles were beginning to encroach on the pathway itself.

Walking this pathway every day I could see the potential to tidy this up and with the support of my colleagues on Carnforth Town Council, and led by Terry Allum our Outdoor Maintenance Officer, we held an event on a beautiful day at the beginning of last December to make a positive difference to this little piece of Carnforth.

A group of Councillors and residents got straight into action by strimming the overgrowth, digging up all the weeds, removing stone, bricks, broken paving slabs and a whole host of other materials! Following right behind us was another team who prepared the ground for planting a variety of trees and shrubs, funded by Carnforth Town Council, that Terry had been asked to select specifically for this footpath.

After nearly four hours of solid graft by the team of twelve the footpath was completely transformed with the new trees and shrubs looking fantastic in the Winter sun! Our friends at Lancaster City Council helped by providing a tonne of bark chippings which were used to cover the ground a couple of days later to complete this project – they also kindly disposed of all the waste and rubbish that we had cleared away! People passing by were certainly impressed and this has been backed up by comments on social media and directly to the Town Council since then. Carnforth Town Council will now maintain this area, tending to the trees and plants and we are certain that in the coming weeks this area will fill out to provide a rich natural environment for wildlife and make this stretch of pathway that little more enjoyable to walk down. **Councillor Steve Watson**





I don't know about you but I was taught from a very early age not to drop litter - anyone remember the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaigns?

In turn, I taught my children not to litter and they would always return home from school with pockets stuffed with all sorts of rubbish that they would then proceed [or sometimes not] to empty into the bin - sometimes the debris would only be discovered when clothes were removed from the washing machine for drying and ironing!

The other day when I was out exercising with my son I stooped to pick up a discarded crisp packet. Now, although he is the first to tut-tut at someone dropping litter, he looked at me rather strangely and asked me why I had picked this up - after all I didn't drop it. *"Well son it's all about civic pride - having respect for where we live - you see although I didn't drop it, if I have an old carrier bag in my pocket, or a bin is close by - why wouldn't I pick it up? Not everyone thinks this way but most people do, and if everyone picked up a single item just think how much cleaner our town would be."*

I was reminded of this when I passed a fellow walker that I often see on the canal. He was carrying an all too familiarly shaped plastic sack - but with no dog in sight! I spoke to him about this and he explained that he regularly picks up dog waste when out on his walks and drops it in to the dog waste bins. Now that's what I really call civic pride! Heart-warming but rather sad that it is necessary.

You may have noticed some new bins that have appeared around town. One that I am particularly proud of - if you can be proud of a bin - is the one at the gated access to the canal at the bottom of Arkholme Close on Whelmar Estate. It had only been there a couple of days when it was already full of waste. A quick call to the City Council soon fixed that, but how fantastic that a new bin had received so much immediate use.



Your Town Council works hard to make the town a brighter, tidier and healthier place in which to live, shop and conduct business - but we can't do this without you. Please think about our town and 'your patch' - use bins provided; clean up after your dog; pull a weed; pick up a piece of litter; keep dogs away from children's play areas.

Lancaster City Council are about to launch their 'Grassland Management Strategy'. This is all about managing green spaces; grassy areas and verges, in a way that enhances the environment and balances amenity with nature - like wild flowers, insects and birds.

From my post bag I know that this subject is dear to the heart of quite a few of our residents. I will write more about this on another occasion as we will be seeking your views on green spaces, making space for nature, and future priorities for City Council services.

The Town Council's investment in Footpath 8 shows our commitment and, with your help, residents and visitors can enjoy our town and its surrounding countryside in a clean and safe environment that we can all be justifiably proud of! **Councillor Chris Smith**

## Money matters (but sadly doesn't grow on trees!)

Very few people would dispute that 2020 was the most difficult year in recent living memory. In response to the remorseless surge of the Covid pandemic, thousands of schools and businesses closed and millions of people were furloughed or made redundant. And almost a year on, at the time of writing, the Covid mortality figure for this country has now exceeded 100,000. The impact has been both tragic and devastating for so many of us.

When considering the way in which our world has been stood on its head in the last year, it may seem insensitive to begin talking about money but life must go on and we must plan for a future without restrictions and without a pandemic. From a central and a local government perspective, planning involves money and the process has already begun to plan what services will be required in the year ahead and what the cost will be.

Next month all householders will be receiving their Council Tax bills for 2021/22 from their local authorities. Locally our bills will be sent out by Lancaster City Council and will set out not only how much we will be asked to pay but also how and where our money will be allocated. The biggest slice will go to Lancashire County Council to pay for adult social care, roads, schools and libraries amongst other things. Next in line is Lancaster City Council who provide waste collection, environmental health and housing amongst their services. After the two largest local authorities come the Police and the Fire Services. Finally, our bills will show how much Carnforth Town Council, a minnow by comparison to the others, will be asking for.



In cash terms, Carnforth Town Council will be asking householders, in Band D properties for example, for just under £1 a week. In return the aim is to build on the achievements of the last dark year when, despite the pandemic, the Town Council installed two new bus shelters; gave financial support to numerous local community groups including the swimming pool, Carnforth Rangers FC, Christchurch School Friends and the Crag Bank Park Group; cleaned up our footpaths and streets; planted flowers and trees; masterminded the "Carnforth Steps into the Light"

Christmas celebrations; collaborated with, and assisted, the Carnforth Covid 19 local support group and kept you - our residents and local community - up-to-date with news and official information – and there has been a lot of it - through our website and social media platforms as well as through the pages of the *Carnforth Express*.

Our planning for the next financial year has been hampered to some extent by a recent decision taken elsewhere by the National Health Service. After a lengthy period of negotiation with the NHS throughout the autumn, extensive planning and preparations followed to transform Carnforth Civic Hall into an Emergency Covid Vaccination Centre for the town and surrounding villages.

Regrettably, at the eleventh hour, the plans were shelved, leaving the Town Council with little or no prospect of generating any income from its principal asset, the Civic Hall, for the foreseeable future. Consequently, all of our financial plans have had to be overhauled at short notice to take account of a sizeable shortfall in our income in 2021/22.

I'm pleased to report that after great deliberation and some difficult choices, the Town Council has agreed a budget for next year that will not increase the financial burden we as residents face in the coming year but that will, hopefully, enable us to continue our work to improve our town for the benefit of everyone. **Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite**



## Have your say on the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan



The Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan is now reaching the final stages and you will soon be invited to comment on it. The plan will affect the whole of the local community and you have a great opportunity to shape where we live now and in the future.

The consultation – that will adhere to Covid-19 restrictions - will commence in late April or early May over a six week period - **PLEASE** follow our website and social media pages and check out the next

edition of the *Carnforth Express* for more information.

In the meantime, the University of Manchester is inviting residents to respond to an online survey on decarbonising local travel and transport in the town. This project, funded by DecarboN8, explores how bottom-up community initiatives can support the decarbonisation agenda by reducing the need for car journeys, providing residents with viable options for sustainable transport, influencing land use policy, and providing change behaviour incentives at the neighbourhood level.

The online survey should take no more than five minutes to complete. It seeks to understand residents' views on the decarbonisation agenda and the suitability of some social and technological innovations to decarbonise transport in Carnforth. This work – which will inform, and be a part of, the final Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan – will make it one of, if not THE first such plan to be Carbon Neutral in the country!

For more information and to take the survey, please click on the following link: [www.carnforthdecarbon8.com](http://www.carnforthdecarbon8.com) or contact the lead researcher Dr Caglar Koksal, Lecturer in Planning, University of Manchester ([caglar.koks@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:caglar.koks@manchester.ac.uk)).

**Bob Bailey, Clerk & Proper Officer**

## The National Census 2021

You may be forgiven if you didn't know that the 2021 national population census is scheduled for 21 March. The Office of National Statistics (ONS), which is responsible for administering the census and collating the data collected, has issued advice to local councils in which it says that it's aiming to get a 75% online response to enable the quicker analysis of information. We thought you might like to know more about what the national census is and what it's for. Here are some facts:

- The UK has taken a national census of population every ten years since 1801;
- The only break in the decennial series was in 1941 when there was no census because of World War 2;
- The purpose of the census is to provide central and local government with an information "snapshot" to help the planning and provision of public services;
- Over the last two hundred and twenty years the information gathered by each census has increased in quantity and quality;
- Detailed census information is only made available to the general public 100 years after it was gathered. The most recent information in the public domain (which is invaluable to family historians) is from the 1911 Census. We have to wait until 2022 for information from the 1921 Census;
- The last census in 2011 had a 94% response rate

Every household in the country will receive a detailed questionnaire before 21 March.

The Office of National Statistics is presenting this year's census as the first digital census in which they are encouraging people to respond online. However, people will be provided with the option to request paper questionnaires and additionally there will be assistance from local centres to provide help via telephone; web chat and social media with comprehensive guidance and support in many languages and formats, and accessible census questionnaires, for example large print versions. The ONS will also have field staff who will contact households that do not respond, **BUT PLEASE NOTE** that no one from the ONS will ever ask for payment to help anyone fill in their questionnaire. We will provide more information on local arrangements for the 2021 Census when available on the Carnforth Town Council website and social media pages. **Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite**

## Council Shorts

**Articles for your Carnforth Express:** We're keen to receive articles for future editions of the *Carnforth Express* from residents and local business owners. If you feel you have something that would be of interest to our growing readership then please contact [clerk@carnforthtowncouncil.org](mailto:clerk@carnforthtowncouncil.org) or drop a line to Bob Bailey at the Council Office, 46-48 Market Street, Carnforth.

We're looking for articles that are:

- no more than 600 words long;
- topical and relevant to Carnforth;
- factual and informative

We do not want anything:

- containing blatant advertising;
- overtly political;
- religious opinions, or that is;
- defamatory about individuals, groups or organisations.

Space permitting, we'll also consider including photographs. **Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite**



**On the Market!** Carnforth holds its Market Day every Wednesday at the Memorial Gardens and it's great to see old friends and new. We have the ever popular Key Bar; Dean McGinley with his fresh fish from Fleetwood; Barry with his Pet Store, Nikita from Milnthorpe with beautiful cakes, scones, and much more. Joining us again after a break are Amanda and Paul with their tasty bread from Cartmel plus samosas and Indian takeaways. A fantastic opportunity to shop safely in the good old British fresh air. Please support our local market!

**Shop local vouchers – calling all local businesses:** From time to time the Town Council will promote an event that livens up the town and sometimes will offer a small prize to encourage participation - for example the recent '*Carnforth Steps into the Light*' event, or our short story competition.

We are keen that when prizes are offered these benefit not just the individual winner but also the community. In future, where possible, all prizes will be in the form of vouchers that can be used in our local shops. Several businesses have agreed to accept such vouchers - the value of which will be reimbursed by the Town Council. If you would like to become part of this scheme, at no cost to you, or want more information please contact Bob Bailey, Clerk and Proper Officer. **Councillor Chris Smith**

**Our lights Fantastic!** Our lovely town has looked so welcoming over these dark months and a big thank you to our tiny team of four volunteers, for getting all the lights up and looking so fantastic, and to the Town Council for securing a grant for additional lights from the City Council. It has been lovely to see so many happy comments about them on social media.

We also hope that the children of our three local primary schools enjoyed the online panto 'Cinderella' that we were delighted to provide for them as we couldn't host our annual Switch-On event. Also a big thanks to Father Christmas for reading our children a Christmas story, it was very kind of him to take time out of his hectic schedule!



Whilst we are all in lockdown, life goes on, albeit in an unusual way! You might need gifts for those special occasions; want to titivate your home, be thinking of taking up a creative hobby; finally be finishing those projects or just feel like a treat for getting through another week – we can cover it all! On our Carnforth Virtual Facebook page you can contact lots of local businesses for any inspiration or help you may need! You could click and collect on your daily exercise or have it delivered to you - all done within current guidelines and social distancing rules. Your local businesses are ready and willing to support you and our community. **Alison Seddon, Carnforth Business Network.**

**Walking our heritage:** Out for your daily exercise? Why not select a section of the heritage trail as your route - or even do it all. Maps of the route are available at the Market Street Post Office and other outlets COVID-19 restrictions permitting.

**Taking Notice of our Boards:** We hope you are enjoying our newly reinvigorated notice boards located at the War Memorial Gardens, Highfield Road and at Crag Bank Village Hall. In particular have a look at the new photographs of the town and surrounding areas that will appear from time to time, courtesy of local photographer Ginny Koppenhol.



**Fond farewell to the town's Barrie Crier!** Many readers will remember the sterling work, over many years, given to the town by Councillor Frank Barton in the position of Carnforth Town Crier. Before my involvement with the Town Council, Frank was arranging the National Town Crier Championship here in Carnforth with Town Criers from around the country descending on the town to see who would be the National Champion. A certificate from the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers hangs in the Council Chamber in Market Street thanking him for his involvement. Unfortunately we lost Frank in 2014 when he was promoted to his heavenly reward.

Barrie Haddon of Coniston Road, a real Brummie, who with his wife Dot had made their retirement home in Carnforth, stepped forward and has undertaken the role of Town Crier in the last few years. He was our very own 'Barrie Crier'! Sadly, poor health has overtaken Barrie which means that he can no longer undertake the Town Crier duties. We thank him for his services and wish him the best in the days ahead.

This does mean that we are looking for a new Town Crier to perform his/her duties at future Civic Events. If you think that person could be you, why not send me an email [Malcolm.watkins@carnforthtowncouncil.org](mailto:Malcolm.watkins@carnforthtowncouncil.org) or give me a call to discuss the position on 07429314547. We hope to be able to have a 'shout off' when pandemic rules permit.





## The Keer - Boardwalk to Bay Project

Following an application to the Lancashire Environment Fund, the Lune Rivers Trust has been invited to submit a full application for funding. The project will enhance an existing footpath from the footbridge (SD 49345 71322)

that links Carnforth and Millhead to Warton, the old Slag Tip and the Bay. Although well used by locals, it is overgrown, incredibly muddy and access is slippery and dangerous. A boardwalk will be installed and access points, benches and signage allowing year round access will also be provided. Gaps in the existing hedge will be filled in to create further habitat. The path will also encourage dog walkers to use it rather than walking their dogs through nesting bird sites.

The application follows extensive engagement with the local community in 2018 to establish that the desire for a boardwalk path to improve the accessibility to this area of the Bay existed. After originally rejecting the proposals Natural England have now accepted the proposal as being good for the local environment.

This project has potential to create a beautiful, family friendly walk with breath-taking views across the Bay and the Town Council has given the project its backing along with Carnforth Business Network and Carnforth Rotary Club. **Councillor Malcolm Watkins**

## Help us to prevent fly-tipping



This little lot - including the perpetrator's sweeping brush, it seems – was recently dumped in a layby at the Crag Bank Road end of Shore Road! Residents and the Town Council contacted Lancaster City Council and their Enforcement team were soon on the scene looking for evidence that could lead them to those who have blighted our town so blatantly! The City's Public Realm team needed a special Hiab truck to get it all moved, quickly and safely, for which we are very grateful!

Fly-tipping has been reported to have increased by 300% in the UK under lockdown, sadly. What many people don't realise is that any householder or business can be issued with a £400 fixed penalty notice, or fined up to £5,000 if their bulky household waste is fly-tipped by an illegitimate waste removal service and charged the cost to clear it up!

If you're looking to have waste removed from your property or business, a legitimate waste carrier will always:

- Be registered with the Environment Agency and have a waste carrier licence
- Provide a waste transfer note for removal of any waste on request;

- Provide details of the site licence where the waste is to be disposed;
- Be able to provide an official weight ticket which will identify the disposal site;

Reporting fly-tipping is easy. You can:

- Report online: [https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/forms/ShowForm.asp?fm\\_fid=228](https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/forms/ShowForm.asp?fm_fid=228)
- Email: [customerservices@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@lancaster.gov.uk)
- Call Lancaster City Council customer services team on 01524 582491

**Bob Bailey, Clerk & Proper Officer**

## Looking for Practical Support at Home?



Age UK Lancashire provides a range of services across Lancashire to help residents remain independent within their own homes for as long as possible. This includes advice and information, benefits checks and help completing applications for Attendance Allowance and Blue Badges. The Take Home and Settle and Hospital Aftercare service team provides transport home from hospital and practical support for a limited period for anyone over the age of 18. This commissioned service is for those living alone who do not have practical support from family members when discharged from hospital. Our staff will ensure the client is safe, warm and has essential shopping and prescriptions when they return home. They will also undertake a full assessment of needs and make referrals to other services as appropriate.

Age UK Lancashire's paid for Home Help service offers personalised practical support. Francesca Walsh, local services coordinator says "we offer flexibility of weekly or fortnightly appointments'. We can tailor our service to your needs whether you need help with cleaning, ironing, shopping, paperwork and other errands. We are COVID-19 secure and all Home Helps are DBS checked, live locally and are fully trained and insured.



For those looking for respite care and stimulating activities for a family member, Age UK Lancashire are now able to offer Day Time Support at Ellel Village Hall. This service is delivered two days per week in very small COVID-19 secure bubbles. Places are available via Lancashire County Council or on a private basis.

If you are looking for help developing your self-confidence using IT equipment and/or would like to borrow a device to see how you get on our Digital Inclusion Coordinator, Sam Connelly, would love to hear from you. She says "this year we have provided 50 tablets to clients across the county who have benefited from being able to contact family members over Zoom and social media during Lockdown and we are intending to distribute a similar number during December and January. We have also helped individuals living with dementia and their carers to log onto our regular Zoom Dementia Hub meetings."

For further information on any of these services or would like to volunteer in our local Charity shop please see [www.ageuklancs.org.uk](http://www.ageuklancs.org.uk) email [advice@ageuklancs.org.uk](mailto:advice@ageuklancs.org.uk) or phone our Customer Services Team on 0300 303 1234.