

CARNFORTH EXPRESS

Carnforth Town Council – Working for you

September & October 2021



Carnforth Street Festival serves up a day to remember!

Saturday 21st August saw over 3,500 residents and visitors from far and wide come together to enjoy a plethora of food and craft offerings at the first ever Carnforth Street Festival. Visitors enjoyed a traffic free Market Street from 3pm until late with a whole host of tasty offerings that were, literally from around the World including America; Jamaica; Italy; Spain; Scotland and England!

The crafts included handmade jewellery, candles; wood-turned ornaments and gadgets; designer flowers and even vegan bath bombs! Many local craft vendors attended, displaying high-quality items and gifts - for those who usually only sell their products online, this was the perfect opportunity to pick up a host of new customers.

From the minute that that event opened the town centre was rocking with an entertainment stage in the War Memorial Gardens where many people spent time enjoying and singing along to the variety of great acts that were performing.

Our friends at Beyond Radio were also located right in the middle of Market Street offering a mix of music and commentary which certainly added to the incredible atmosphere that many people have since commented on.





After the last 18 months where we have all faced many challenges, the Council was on a mission to welcome everyone back into our town and support our local businesses with a fun event that had something for everyone.

We faced many obstacles including organising street closures and traffic management; meticulously planning a wide variety of vendors and how to safely fit over forty of them into Market Street and Ashtrees Way and then re-visiting those plans when several withdrew at a late stage! Added to that we faced the possibility of awful weather but, in the end, we got away with just a pretty damp day – especially for those of us who put in a twelve-hour shift!

We have learnt a lot over the last few months and we now know that putting on an event such as this is no easy task – it would be fair to say that for every one of the five hours of the Street Festival, 100 hours of work was put in 'behind the scenes'!

But from the overwhelmingly positive feedback that we have received from residents, visitors, vendors and local businesses, I think we can safely say '*Mission accomplished*'!

A massive THANK YOU to all our volunteers who worked throughout the event to ensure we had a safe and clean environment for everyone to enjoy. Thanks also to Lancaster City Council for cleaning the streets before and after the event, Carnforth Wombles and our wonderful Marshalls who were on hand to help people throughout the day.

I am grateful to Booths Supermarkets for providing car park spaces for vendors and to Ventbrook Ltd; Tech-Hub Ltd and North West Private Ambulance Liaison Services for all their advice and support.

My thanks also to our Town Councillors for their assistance and to our staff who worked tirelessly to promote the event and provide daily updates on our social media pages and making sure that all the administration and statutory stuff was in place to deliver a safe and successful event – as well as put in an unpaid 12 hour shift on the day!

Feedback has made it very clear that people would like to see this event repeated, so (virtual drum roll please!) it is with great pleasure that we can announce that Carnforth Street Festival 2022 will be held on **Saturday 4th June 2022** as part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations planned for the whole weekend! Please do get in touch with your thoughts and ideas on what you would you like to see at next year's Street Festival. **Councillor Steve Watson**





CARNFORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – WHAT YOU SAID

Thank you to everyone who submitted a response to the Regulation 14 consultation on the draft Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan.

The consultation period ran from Monday 26th July through to Sunday 5th September. The draft plan and all its supporting policies and documents were available on the Town Council's website and to view at Carnforth Library, Carnforth Civic Hall or by request to the Clerk & Proper Officer, Bob Bailey.

The Carnforth Neighbourhood Working Group, supported by Carnforth Town Council arranged four open-air and drop-in events held on:

- Saturday 4th August at Ashtrees Way from 10 am to 1 pm and Carnforth Civic Hall from 6 pm to 8 pm
- Wednesday 25th August at Ashtrees Way and Highfield Road from 10 am to 1 pm and Crag Bank Village Hall Car Park from 6 pm to 8 pm

Your feedback has been very welcome and helpful and will enable us to make small adjustments to the plan before taking the next steps in the neighbourhood planning process.

Two-thirds of residents and local businesses and groups who took the time to respond to the main elements in each of the sixteen policies in the Neighbourhood Plan said that they '*Strongly agree*' or '*Agree*' with them.

We also consulted with thirteen neighbouring parish and town councils and a host of statutory consultees, including Lancashire County and Lancaster City Councils. All of these who responded were in support of the plan, offering constructive comments to help enhance it. It can be assumed that those who did not respond also support the draft plan. There were no objections to our Neighbourhood Plan from any source!

Residents commented on the housing policies and proposed housing developments and the need for good infrastructure to support these if/when they go ahead. Other comments related to traffic management and transport links; preserving the character and heritage of our town and its open spaces and, most strongly of all, the need for the provision of or improvement to local sports and leisure facilities with, particular support for a satisfactory resolution being found to the impact of the proposed Lundsfield Quarry project on Carnforth Rangers Football Club. All of those who commented were in support of the plans aspirations and projects and its proposed actions to be carbon neutral.

Overall, the representations made during the consultation are a resounding endorsement of the draft Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan.



What happens next? All comments received will be reviewed and any relevant amendments made to the Neighbourhood Plan. It will then go to Lancaster City Council who will formally consult on the plan and appoint an independent examiner to review it. If the examiner is happy that the Neighbourhood Plan has followed due process, a referendum will then take place.

What is the referendum? Everyone who is eligible to vote within the town boundary will have the chance to say whether they think the Neighbourhood Plan should be used to begin

shaping future change and determining planning applications. If more than 50% of the votes cast agree with the Neighbourhood Plan then it will become part of formal planning policy for Carnforth.

What is the purpose of the plan? The purpose of the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan is to help improve the quality of life and environment for the community as a whole. The Neighbourhood Plan is set in the context of the Lancaster District Local Plan recently adopted by Lancaster City Council.

The Local Plan has set housing targets for new development across the district, including land for development in Carnforth, at Lundsfield Quarry and the former TDG Depot on Warton Road. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to influence the form and quality of new development, on these sites and elsewhere, as well as seeking to protect green spaces and locally important heritage assets and moving towards a more sustainable future. Importantly, because the Neighbourhood Plan has been produced with extensive input from the local community, it reflects local issues, concerns and aspirations.

It gives local residents a say in planning decisions and sets out policies which will be used by Lancaster City Council to determine planning applications.

It covers a large number of important local issues including housing and design, landscape, green spaces and heritage assets, access, local services and facilities. It also allows the local community to identify essential infrastructure projects such as important road junctions, green spaces and play areas, walking and cycling routes, and improved community facilities that could be funded through development or in partnership with other delivery partners.

In short, the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan has the very real potential to influence change for the better for decades to come!

Thank you for helping to shape the town's future. Bob Bailey, Clerk & Proper Officer.

Draft Plan Consultation

The purpose of the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan is to help improve the quality of life and the built and natural environment for our community. It will establish policies for new development that calls for high standards of design and sustainability.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been developed in consultation with you, the Carnforth community. It responds to issues of local concern, as well as identified opportunities, and will enable us to influence the form of new development and infrastructure that comes forward in Carnforth.

Please do read the draft Plan and let us know what you think.

Please respond between 26 July and 5 September.

<https://carnforthtowncouncil.org/neighbourhood-planning/>

Please tell us what you think:

To find out more about the Plan please visit the Town Council website: <https://carnforthtowncouncil.org/neighbourhood-planning/>

Please submit your views by completing the questionnaire online or by hand and returning to the Town Council Offices. The consultation period runs from 26 July to 5 September.



Crag Bank Village Hall

Both halls can be hired for as little as £12 per hour and the meeting room at Carnforth Civic Hall from as just £10 per hour!

We have also introduced an online system where bookings and payments can be made conveniently, quickly and easily! Full details and terms and conditions are available on the Carnforth Town Council website and our dedicated Facebook page – just search for *Carnforth Town Council – Venues for Hire*.

If you have any comments or questions on the hiring of our venues or payment enquiries, please contact Bob Bailey by email at: clerk@carnforthtowncouncil.org or call 07846 256 006.

Venues for hire! Having recently taken on the stewardship of Crag Bank Village Hall on Jesson Way, we now have two excellent venues suitable for a range of activities – the other venue being Carnforth Civic hall on North Road. In recent weeks we have invested in both buildings to improve user experience, provide a high standard of maintenance and cleanliness and to make both halls sustainable and economical to run.

Along with the meeting room at the Civic Hall, our venues are suitable for training and workshops; societies and clubs; sports and fitness; parties; meetings; music practice; exhibitions; corporate events; ceremonies, baby groups and our popular Film nights!



Carnforth Civic Hall

John steps aside: May I say how sorry I am to leave the council and end my public service to our community at such short notice. Like many of you, the pandemic has made me take stock and consider our place in a rapidly changing world. Being a councillor was not my full-time job but the role has often demanded this level of attention and I became painfully aware that whilst I tried very hard, I wasn't doing my public or private commitments justice. I'm a passionate believer in doing things well, so consistently feeling like I wasn't, was very difficult for me and I was aware that my family were suffering as a result of my many commitments and so I reluctantly decided to step aside.

We've been on quite a journey together since I was elected on a manifesto of community action and engagement in 2016 - and how our community has changed since then! We have faced many challenges together - planning issues, anti-social behaviour, litter, dog fouling, pot- holes, speeding traffic - and we have raised the profile of Carnforth across Lancashire and around the Bay. I'm very proud of our achievements and to the people I have served faithfully I say thank you for your strength, energy and determination. During lockdown you proved how powerful our shared sense of community has become. We councillors acted as nothing more than facilitators - you instinctively knew how to handle that crisis, and you all did, and continue to do a wonderful job. I wish everyone and my successor well. **John Reynolds**



That's what Friends are for!

Over the past few months, the Friends of Crag Bank Park have been working hard to finalise plans to renovate the park between Johnson Close and Calder Close in Crag Bank. We have some big ambitions for this area and working alongside our friends at Lancaster City Council we are about to see these plans come to fruition. Over the past twenty months we consulted with residents to find out the reasons why they use the park and their aspirations on making the best possible use of this open space for everyone to enjoy. We have worked really hard to include many of the suggestions received in the final plan.

Over the last twelve months opportunities for any fundraising has been difficult but the team has used this time to really plan out how we can improve the area for everyone to enjoy. In the past three months our fundraising efforts have been incredibly successful as we were able to secure two large grants totalling £57,400 - with the help of the local community and other funding opportunities we have driven our total up to almost £63,000.

This is a massive achievement that will allow us to deliver the improvements our community wanted. As well as replacing dated and worn-out play equipment, our project has focused on environmental features of the park and we are working with our partners to deliver these. In early December we will be planting fourteen fruit trees and building a Community Orchard with the support of Stop Hunger Foundation & Sodexo. We will also be introducing 120 hedgerow saplings, donated to us by The Woodland Trust, to build a new natural barrier between the community orchard and other parts of the park. In time these will create a fantastic natural environment for wildlife providing a source of food and shelter for birds.

Feedback from community engagement has resulted in new composite picnic tables and benches being ordered to improve visitor experience in a sustainable way. We plan to create a family area and place benches throughout the park so that it can be enjoyed from anywhere.

The largest investment will be in developing the play area with new state-of-the-art equipment being installed for children to enjoy all year round. Work on installing this equipment, along with a high quality safety surface, will start in December and be completed early in the New Year. The image above will give you a good idea of the exciting things to expect.

If you are planning to visit the park in the coming months and you are travelling by car, we ask you to be respectful to our neighbours by parking sensibly. Crag Bank Village Hall car park is always available and is just a minute's walk from the play area and the surrounding grounds.

Councillor Steve Watson

Wildlife bear the brunt of water shortages: Given the rain we have recently had it may seem odd to be talking about the need to save water, but the water levels in the reservoirs which supply our water have continued to drop and United Utilities are asking consumers to do all they can to save or re-use water.

Our tap water comes from reservoirs in the Lake District, such as Haweswater and Thirlmere. On 19th September (the latest data available at the time of print) reservoirs were just 36% full – levels at this time of year should be around 70%!



Although there have been some wet days in North West cities and towns and even flooding in some areas, it has been the driest June to September in over 130 years in the Lake District.

To keep precious water in the reservoirs until they have a chance to recover and help protect local wildlife, PLEASE save water and only use what you need.

We can all do this with very little impact on our usual routine. Every drop is precious. Over 40,000 United Utilities customers have already signed up to Get-Water-Fit - I am one of them! Through the quick questionnaire it is easy to see how much you use in your home and get hints and tips on using less water in a way that suits you. It can save you money on your water and energy bills, help the environment and get you some great goodies at the same time...and all for free! Plus, if you take part in the challenges, UU will make a donation to some amazing charities – like MacMillan, RSPB, Rivers Trust and Fareshare. They will all benefit from our water saving efforts so go on, get water fit and help save water right now. More information is available at <https://www.getwaterfit.co.uk/> **Councillor Chris Smith**

Conclusion of Audit: Between 1895 and 1974 Carnforth had its own Urban District Council which provided many public services in the town and the outlying villages. The UDC was swept away as part of the local government reorganisation of 1974 and in its place the new Lancaster City Council assumed many of its former responsibilities. Carnforth was left with parish status and, like Kendal and Morecambe, was able to assume the title of Town Council.

Since 1974, as part of the annual Council Tax payments that all householders pay, Carnforth Town Council raises a precept (a sum of money) and generates income to deliver its annual plans and projects for the benefit of our community. As a public body, the monies spent by the Town Council must be scrupulously accounted for; accounts are audited annually by an internal auditor before being passed for external audit by a government appointed agency.

As a group of twelve elected volunteers, your Town Councillors have a wide range of experience and strive to manage our annual budget of c.£100,000 efficiently and effectively, ably assisted by our Clerk & Proper Officer, Bob Bailey. I hope you will be pleased to learn that the external auditor has just reported that our accounts for the last financial year are *“in accordance with Proper Practices, [and] there are no matters giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met”*.

In short, we hope you share our view, and that of the external auditor, that the Council takes good care to spend your hard-earned cash sensibly and prudently in supporting our objective to develop Carnforth for residents and visitors alike. **Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite**

Community Shorts: Sounds of Christmas: Bring your friends and family to enjoy community entertainment provided by the wonderful sounds of our local bands. The Carnforth Salvation Army Band and Morecambe Brass Band will be carolling for you this festive period. Please come and enjoy the music – you can even request your favourite carol!



Morecambe Brass Band

Booths, Carnforth

Saturday 11th December 10 30am – 12pm

Saturday 18th December 10 30am – 12pm

Thursday 23rd December 6pm – 7.30 pm

Tesco, Carnforth (To be confirmed)

Saturday 18th December 1.30 pm-3 pm

Carnforth Community Carol Service: Good news the Community Carol Service is back – and everyone is invited! The open-air service will be held at the **War Memorial Gardens, Carnforth** on **Friday 24th December** starting at **4pm**.

Don't miss the opportunity to all get together at Christmas!

Councillor Rebecca Stretch

Carnforth Community Primary School: After so many months of remote learning, then “bubbles”, it is fantastic to be back together as one school family. It isn't without its challenges, and we are still staying vigilant to keep everyone safe, but watching the children interact, play and learn together is just wonderful. Our new Reception cohort have settled beautifully and Year 6 are taking on their new responsibilities around school.

Looking ahead – if you know anybody with a child due to start school in September 2022 let them know of our Open Day. We are also hoping to start a toddler group very soon so look out for more details. For all of our up to date news and to see what is going on at school follow us on Facebook – Carnforth Community Primary!!

North West Private Ambulance Liaison Services: We are grateful to all our friends at NWPALS for providing a top class medical service at the Carnforth Street Festival recently and for kindly sponsoring this edition of the *Carnforth Express*! We have also recently had the pleasure of using them for first aid training! Find them on Facebook and Twitter!

War Memorial Gardens Carnforth

Saturday 4th December 10.30 am – 12pm

Saturday 4th December 12pm – 2pm

Saturday 11th December 12pm – 2pm



Carnforth Salvation Army Band



OPEN DAY

DOES YOUR CHILD START SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2022?

Come and visit our fantastic school
on Tuesday 12th October
between 9:30am - 11:30am and 1:15pm - 2:45pm

If you would prefer to look round at another time please call
01524 732435 to make an appointment