

CARNFORTH EXPRESS

Carnforth Town Council – Working for you

January & February 2022



I'm a Councillor Get me out of here!

In early December, there was an unexpected shake-up at Carnforth Town Council with all twelve councillors suddenly deciding that had had enough and all walking out, handing over all their responsibilities to the 1st Carnforth Scouts! But there was no need for residents to worry – or celebrate – as this was simply an interesting experiment designed to introduce young people to local democracy and to encourage their interest, and influence, in what happens in their local community.

The Scouts, who range in age between 10 and 14 years old, were given the task of producing a budget that takes account not only of the Town Council's normal expenditure and fixed costs, such as the Town's community amenities, but that also balanced these with income projections and plans for new projects like the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street Festival in June 2022 or, indeed, any new plans that the Scouts could come up with!

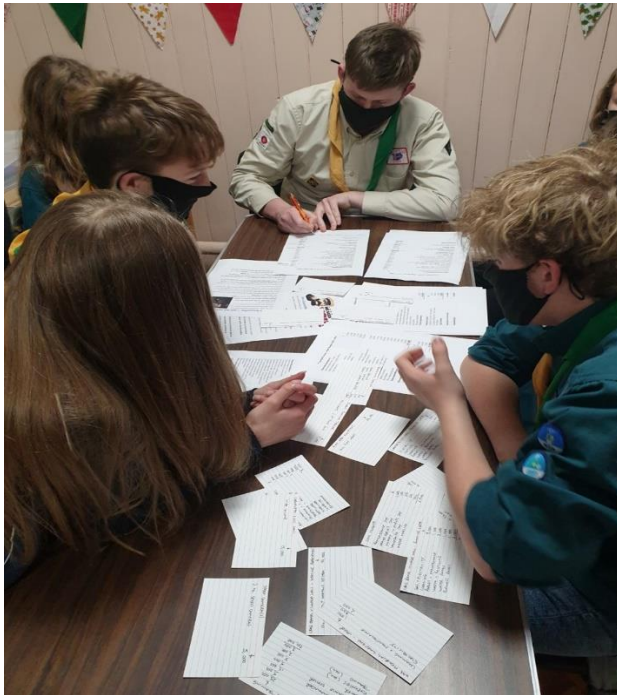
The first item of the night was to elect the new Town Mayor! There were 5 nominations and each was given an opportunity to say why they wanted to be the Mayor. After a close vote Jake Lawton was duly elected and immediately took control of the Chair's Gavel and the meeting!

The group then split into three teams and were soon fully engaged in debate about what was essential, desirable or just not needed for our town and its residents. They also considered where savings and efficiencies could be made and income generated – democracy at its finest!

There was a bit of a risk at one point that I might lose my job, but I am glad to say that soon passed! There was much discussion on just how much positive influence they, as elected Councillors, could have on shaping our local community.



They became so engaged in their deliberations that they worked through their break – just grabbing a biscuit and a drink before getting back to it!



After about 45 minutes of intense debate Town Mayor Jake called for order and each group was given the opportunity to feedback on their decisions and to explain how they had managed to balance the budget – they even set out their plans for what they would do in the next few years! They all recognised how difficult it can be to deliver services within a limited budget but all of them fully justified their decisions even when challenged by the residents (being ‘former’ Councillors in attendance)! In the remaining 15 minutes all the Scouts were given an opportunity to have their say on what they would like to see improved or developed in their town. They provided some fantastic ideas for the Town Council to consider.

Every one of the Scouts was a shining example of our local youth and showed how invested they all are in what happens in their community. If they are the Councillors of the future it looks very bright indeed! Carnforth Town Council is delighted to have planned and hosted this event and to have given the Scouts an opportunity to achieve an element of their Chief Scout Gold Award and to see democracy in action. Thank you to them and their Scout Leaders for sharing this with us and for engaging so wholeheartedly! **Bob Bailey, Proper Officer**

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

Very few people would dispute that the last two years have been the most difficult in recent living memory. In response to the remorseless surge of the Covid pandemic, thousands of schools and businesses closed and millions of people have been furloughed or made redundant. And almost two years on, the Covid mortality figure for this country now exceeds 153,000. The impact has been both tragic and devastating for so many of us.

When considering how our world has been stood on its head during this time, it may seem insensitive to begin talking about money but we must now plan for a future without restrictions and where we are all managing to live with coronavirus.

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 2022/23 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 over £1 a week.



During 2021 we built on our achievements in recent years, despite the ongoing pandemic to: deliver a highly successful Street Festival; take on the stewardship of Crag Bank Village Hall and invest in its long term future as a valuable community asset; organise a welcome return to the Remembrance Day Parade; continued to take a lead on the emerging *Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan*; presented the Town with a 'buddy bench' in recognition of our wonderful NHS and keyworkers; secured the efficiency and effectiveness of the Town Council in serving our local community through modern technology and kept 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 and the pages of the popular *Carnforth Express*. We also gave financial support to local community groups and collaborated with, and assisted, others including the Carnforth Covid 19 local support group, Carnforth Business Network and the Friends of Crag Bank Play Area as well as continuing to promote the Town and maintain part of its public realm and environment.

Our planning for the next financial year has considered the impact of the coronavirus and the 'cost of living' on our finances; our plans to maintain or enhance current services and activities and to build on our capacity to improve our resilience whilst delivering our ambitious plans and aspirations for the Town in the coming year and beyond – and all for around a £1 a week!

Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite

Trunk call! The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Chris Smith recently welcomed Speedo Mick to Carnforth when he had an overnight stay at the Station Hotel. Dressed in his trademark Everton swimming trunks and hat, Mick - Michael Cullen – was walking on his latest charity venture - a 2,000 mile, five-month trek across the UK and Ireland!



Mick was on the last leg of his 'stomp' before finishing in Liverpool on December 17. Speedo had just walked from Kendal with several cold water swimmers who were also in full swim wear!

As he was leaving Carnforth he said "*I would like to say a big thank you to the Royal Station Hotel, Carnforth, for looking after me so well last night and also thanks to the Naked Ramblers who made yesterday such an easy day to Stomp. What a cracking bunch they are. We are on the final stretch of this little stroll so keep smiling gang.*"

He added: "*The reason I'm doing the tour is to give back to the people and the communities who have supported me in the past. The Covid-19 pandemic has placed a huge strain on the finances of so many worthy charities and shone a light on how difficult life can be for a lot of young people in this country, whether because of a lack of food, money or opportunities. So I'll do anything I can to help.*"

Homelessness, mental health and disadvantaged young people are issues very close to my own heart as I've been through those struggles and I know how hard it is to come out the other side. In my life, I've been in some dark, lonely, hopeless places and for me, one the most rewarding parts of my fundraising has been to help people who are facing what I have faced" **Donations can be made at <https://www.thespeedomickfoundation.org/> Bob Bailey, Proper Officer**

Community News: The Salvation Army were – as usual- busy over the Christmas period and with changes in government guidelines, amongst other things, it sometimes felt as though nothing would work out – but it did!



The Band, after assisting the Town Council with the Remembrance Sunday Service were busy out and about in the area playing carols and generally helping to lift spirits in our community. Many thanks to Booths, Tesco, DPD, and the Town Council for allowing us to do this in genuinely difficult times. As the band played, many were generous and donated into their bucket. Funds from these events all go to the local work of The Salvation Army in and around Carnforth. The playing of Carols culminated in our now regular Carol Service in the War Memorial Gardens on Christmas Eve. We were delighted to see so many people join us, especially as our own Carol Service in the church had to be restricted for numbers.

This year the Town Council assisted us in promoting the event with banners placed on their new advertising boards located at the entrances into town.

Early in December we were contacted by Carnforth High School and asked if we would accept food for the foodbank which had been collected by the pupils in lieu of a non-uniform day. What a great idea! The school brought a lot to the collection point in our shop and we later collected more from the school which resulted in almost a full van load of food going to Morecambe Bay Foodbank on their next pick up from our Preston Street building. Thank you so much to Carnforth High School staff and pupils for your generosity and allowing us to assist another of our partner agencies. The basket at our shop is always available for Foodbank donations and some donors have brought bags of food to Preston Street – please just bear in mind that we are only usually in Preston Street on Tuesday & Wednesday mornings.



In the two weeks up to Christmas we received requests to assist families in our area. It was our privilege to be entrusted with these tasks and we pray that all received something that helped make their Christmas a little more special. On Christmas Day we served up around twenty-five meals to people who otherwise might have been alone or vulnerable on this special day. This would not be possible without our volunteers and helpers like Tracy and Tina who created the meal; the Stretch family who helped with the cooking and serving and ensured that every guest got a present; Dave & Julie Wattam and Michael Burrows who picked up guests and took them home afterwards. But special thanks to our local community whose donations ensured that meals could be provided and cooked in our lovely new kitchen!

As we go into the New Year, we are following guidance and looking to restart some activities such as Singing By Heart and Lunch Club. Watch this space! Meanwhile the Prop Up Project has continued throughout the pandemic and family social meetings every Wednesday morning during school holidays has returned. Coffee Morning also on a Wednesday remains popular and held in our main worship hall to allow for social distancing. The Band rehearses on Tuesday evenings and we have an online prayer group and Bible Study on Wednesday nights. Worship continues at 10am on Sunday mornings. We are a little restricted to numbers due to space but do get in touch if you would like to join us. Our shop is open Monday – Saturday (except Wednesday). If you have spare time and can volunteer for us, pop into the shop and speak to Elaine, the Shop Manager, who will be pleased to assist you.

Contact us by phone on 01524 736217 or email carnforth@salvationarmy.org.uk



Happy New Year from **Carnforth & District Chamber of Trade** - formerly known as the Carnforth Business Network. We thought we'd start the new year with a new name - well it's actually our former name but we thought it might be nice to have it back!

It's always a little sad to see the lights coming down, but we hope you enjoyed them while they were up. We have read some lovely comments on social media and want to say thank you to our small band of volunteers who organise the trees and put them up namely Keith Moore (Moore n Wife) Keith and Mark Quinn (Dyno Start) and Glen Pearson (The Royal Station Hotel). This year they had help from Paul Turner, who armed with his chainsaw, made light work of trimming the trees and made the whole job so much easier – we are incredibly grateful.

We organise and mostly fund all Christmas trees (apart from the one on the War Memorial Gardens that is donated to the Town Council) and the Carnforth Switch On. Again, we have read some lovely comments on social media and want to thank all our fantastic stall holders, entertainers, Carnforth Rotary, Santa and his elves and of course all of you who come out to support the event! We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

At our monthly meeting, we discovered that you can now park for an hour at the train station for just £1.50 and up to 4 hours for just £4.00! We think this is great news and we know that the Town Council have raised the need for new signage with Lancashire County Council and Northern Rail and we hope to see these going up soon.

All businesses are welcome to join our friendly and active group. Membership is just £35.00 a year and we meet on the second Monday of every month at 5.30pm at The Royal Station Hotel. If you're a business owner and would like to pop along, you'll receive a very warm welcome!



At the start of National Tree Week, the **Friends of Crag Bank Park** and residents worked alongside Lancaster City Council to create a new community orchard. A total of 14 fruit trees and a hedgerow with 120 saplings were planted.

This is all part of the wider scheme to develop this part of Crag Bank. The play area is currently closed and over the next few weeks a new playpark will take shape as well as a new woodland trim trail, picnic tables and seats. Full details will be published in the next edition of the *Carnforth Express*!



Carnforth's Business Class!

Guided Dreams on Preston Street recently won the English Business Awards for the best beauty salon in Lancashire. Jennifer Hanford, the salon owner said *"We are so thrilled to have received this recognition but know we could never have achieved this without the unwavering support of our amazing clients and our incredibly talented therapists."*

Gilded Dreams Salon opened its doors over 5 years ago with the aim to provide luxury and everyday services to both women and men at an affordable price because we all deserve a little pampering.

From the very beginning we have been very well supported by all our surrounding communities and have had the most amazing clients through our doors. Even through these last tough couple of years we survived because people obviously appreciate what we do and we couldn't be more thankful and happier!

Meanwhile, the **Carnforth Pharmacy** team headed to the Winter Gardens in Blackpool to attend the Red Rose Award ceremony where they were successful in becoming one of seven finalists in the New Business award category. Emily Fell, co-owner of the Pharmacy said *'To be a finalist in the category is a huge achievement in itself as there were hundreds of entrants. The team had everything crossed that we would win but knew we were up against some fantastic competition. As the finalists in the category were read out we were all on the edge of our seats and couldn't believe it when Carnforth Pharmacy Market Street Carnforth was announced as the winner of the New Business Award! The whole team are so thankful to all our customers and patients, without their support and encouragement we wouldn't have won this award. We love what we do and keeping our community happy and healthy is top of our list.'*



**Featured from left to right are: Jenny, Karen, Ben and Emily
(another team member, Jan, was unavailable on the night)**

Councillor Chris Smith



Carnforth Library News: Come along to our friendly and informal **Baby Bounce and Rhyme Group every Friday 11am – 12 noon** where you can meet and chat with other parents and carers and enjoy quality time spent interacting and learning with your baby. The session includes familiar sing-along songs, gentle movements and rhymes. There are also instruments and soft toys available to explore and experiment with (subject to current Covid restrictions).

The sessions can help build confidence and language skills, as well as supporting bonds between children and their parents or carers. The group is free and most suited to babies and pre-school children, but older siblings are also welcome. For more information please contact us via Telephone: 0300 123 6703 or Email: carnforth.library@lancashire.gov.uk

We have a range of other activities including: Homework Club: Tuesday's 3:30pm – 5pm; Family History: Wednesday's 11am -12 noon; Get Online at Your Library: Thursday's 2pm – 3pm and every Saturday, Quiet Hour: 9am -10am; Children's Book club: 10am - 11am and Construction Club: 11am -1pm



A Mark VI Mosquito, similar to the type flown by Robert Bagguley

Street Names in honour of local heroes:

Many residents of Carnforth will have seen the second leaflet in our Men on the Monument series, published last November, honouring the men who died in World War II and whose names can be found on Carnforth's War Memorial.

A copy of the leaflet came to the attention of Lancaster City Council's Street Naming Officer who contacted the Proper Officer, Bob Bailey requesting to name some of the roads and streets at the new Rowland Homes estate of houses, that have just started to be built on the A6 near Truckhaven, after the men on the monument. We were asked to contact any surviving relations to seek their permission and an appeal on social media and by word of mouth brought forward several fascinating and poignant responses from descendants of some of these brave men.



Herbert Dumbleton

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that Rowland Homes intend to name **Bagguley Grove** in honour of Squadron Leader Robert Beck Bagguley DFC (died 1943), **Dumbleton Road** in honour of Stoker 1st Class Herbert Dumbleton, RN, (died 1944) and **Walkden Way** in honour of Lance Corporal James Watson Walkden of the Royal Armoured Corps (died 1944). It is worth remembering that these



James Watson Walkden and family

three Carnforth men represent more than sixty who gave their lives for this country in the two World Wars. We shouldn't forget the sacrifice made by them all and if you'd like to know a little more about each of them then please contact Bob Bailey for a copy of our *Men on the Monument leaflets*. **Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite**



CARNFORTH TOWN COUNCIL

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2020 - 2031

SUBMISSION VERSION



Carnforth submits its Neighbourhood Plan

Carnforth Town Council is delighted to have submitted the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) and supporting documents to Lancaster City Council. They will check that the CNP meets all legal requirements before arranging a statutory six week consultation period and the subsequent appointment of an independent examiner.

The submission is the culmination of a great deal of work over almost 4 years. The CNP has been developed to enable our community to take greater control on the type and scale of development and land use in the town as well as measures and aspirations to protect our heritage; tackle climate change, traffic management and air quality and influence our local economy and tourism.

The Plan sets out our vision, objectives and aspirations for the Town to 2031 and implementation will be regularly monitored and reviewed. This CNP is a great achievement and the Town Council is very proud of the final product. We would like to thank the local community, Lancaster City Council and everyone who has helped to reach this important milestone. **Bob Bailey, Proper Officer**

Carnforth's Big Weekend

On 6th February this year Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives are taking place throughout the year, culminating in a four day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. The bank holiday will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate this historic milestone and Carnforth will be part of it!



In collaboration with local community groups, businesses and schools the Town Council is planning activities over the four days including a national Beacon lighting; a Sports Day; 'Royalty' Street Festival; Sunday Service and street parties. This will be a huge undertaking and we will need plenty of stewards and volunteers for a wide variety of activities.

If you can help, please contact Leah Longhorn, Administrative Officer by emailing: admin@carnforthtowncouncil.org or call 07846256006