

News in Brief

Winter Gritting of Roads: Our negotiations with Highways have resulted in an agreement to designate the Penny Bridge to Hawkshead road (C5022) as a 'Priority 2 pre-treatment route' i.e. it will be routinely gritted. We have also prepared maps for Highways showing where we need salt bins and heaps this winter.

Lengthsman: Some of you may have noticed our country lanes haven't been quite as tidy as usual. Our trusty 'Parish Steward', Chris Slater, (the Lengthsman!) has suffered an injury. He is on the mend now and we wish him well and look forward to seeing him 'out & about' again, doing his usual sterling work.

Bouth Village Hall has had another grant success! Low Furness Neighbourhood Forum have given a grant of £1000 towards a disabled access toilet.

Neighbourhood Policing: To make efficient use of resources, priority issues are being targeted in each 'neighbourhood area'. The current issue for our area is speeding traffic in Broughton. Once tackled, other issues will then be prioritised.

Future Parish Council Meetings

7th Dec 2009	Parish Council Meeting	Rusland Reading Rooms
11th Jan 2010	Parish Council Meeting	Water Yeat Village Hall
22nd Feb 2010	Parish Council Meeting	Finsthwaite Village Hall
29th Mar 2010	Open Meeting & Parish Council	Rusland Reading Rooms

All meetings begin at 7.30pm. The Chairman, Cllr Barr, is available from 7.00 before each meeting for a 'surgery session'. Agendas and minutes of meetings are available from the Clerk, on the website and on your notice boards.

Your Councillors

West Ward (Colton, Oxen Park, Spark Bridge E. & Nibthwaite)

Mr Colin Barr (Chairman) 01229 861408 Mr Ian Cunliffe 01229 861440

Mrs Brenda Fishwick 01229 885329

Central Ward (Bouth & Rusland)

Mrs Penny Lovegrove 01229 861091 Mrs Anne Robinson 01229 860242

Mr John Watson 01229 861450

East Ward (Lakeside & Finsthwaite)

Mr Ken Dean 01229 861435 Mr Chris Potts 015395 31735 (Vice-chair)

Mr John Taylor 015395 31665

Clerk: Ms Mandy Lane, Lilac Cottage, Oxen Park, Ulverston LA12 8HG

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Website: www.coltonparishcouncil.org.uk

Cumbria County Councillor (Cartmel Division): Mr Rod Wilson 015395 36673

South Lakeland District Councillor (Hawkshead Ward):

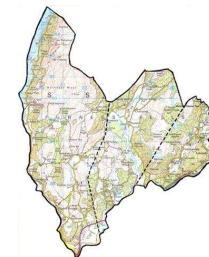
Mr Colin Davies 015394 36100



Colton Parish Council

Newsletter Autumn 2009

www.coltonparishcouncil.org.uk



GREEN ENERGY

The Council is starting to look at options for 'green' energy generation in the Parish and your Chairman attended a workshop at Staveley in July - 'Acting on Climate Change in Cumbria' - to hear some ideas and recommendations from County and District Council climate change officers, sustainable energy consultants and locals involved in green initiatives. Useful messages for us from the workshop were that we should focus on micro-generation schemes, bids for funding should be linked to Community Plans (consistent with Colton's ideas for a forward-looking Plan: 'Colton 2020'), and the National Park's new Local Development Framework was likely to be supportive of small-scale community projects.



The Lowick Community Hall initiative is generating a lot of interest as an example of a very successful small-scale project. The Committee secured a range of sizeable grants for insulating the hall, installing an air heat-exchanger and fitting photovoltaic cells on the roof.

Local 'mini-hydro' schemes for energy generation are also attracting interest. A useful presentation covered the barriers, environmental issues and success factors to be aware of when embarking on hydro schemes.



For the workshop report and links to the presentations, see www.cumbriastrategicpartnership.org.uk/Climate_Change/events.asp.

If you are interested in local green energy schemes, then come to our December 7th Parish Council meeting at Rusland Reading Rooms. Elizabeth Bruce, a local sustainable energy consultant, will be giving a presentation to help us with ideas, make recommendations and alert us to issues to take into account when planning appropriate green energy schemes in our area.

Clerk

NEW PRIVATE WATER SUPPLY REGULATIONS

At the High Furness Neighbourhood Forum meeting on 12th October, we heard about new private water supply regulations, due to come into force in December. This will mean a change to practice and charging regimes for those of us not on mains water. Householders will be sent questionnaires and asked to complete a risk assessment of their water supply every 5 years, for which there will be a charge. Commercial properties will be contacted first, then those on shared water supplies. There was concern at the late notification about these regulations and the lack of information available. However, there is some useful information on: www.privatewatersupplies.gov.uk, although at present the website covers Scotland only. We will try to keep you informed as we learn more. *Clerk*

SPEED LIMIT FOR BOUTH ?

Renewed concern from Bouth residents about speeding motorists and the increase in traffic through the village in the past few years, prompted the Council to reconsider the possible introduction of a speed limit. Concerns had been raised for the safety of children crossing the road to and from the Village Green and Playground, and for the many walkers, runners, children on bikes,

horse riders etc., not to mention the Christmas Eve Carol Service on the Village Green, which always spills over onto the road! A previous survey conducted a few years ago had been inconclusive. However, the recent survey showed **overwhelming support for a 20 mph speed limit**. The Council has written to Highways asking for a speed limit to be imposed. *Cllr Penny Lovegrove*



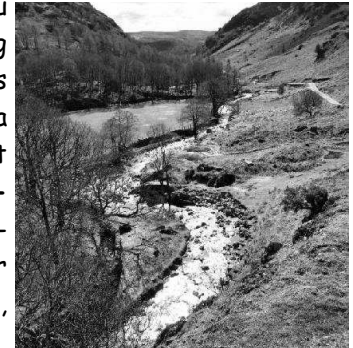
GREEN ROADS UPDATE

The Parish Council web-pages on Colton's 'Green Roads' and off-road traffic have been updated to include the latest correspondence between the Parish Council, the National Park and Cumbria Highways. We will try to keep these pages as up to date as possible as we continue to lobby strongly for recognition of the problems caused to local people by the appalling condition of these roads, and the damage to fellsides caused by illegal activity of some off-roaders. The Council's request for a temporary Traffic Regulation Order on the Nibthwaite to Parkmoor track brought a fairly negative response from the Park, who are unwilling to impose one unless Highways have a definite intention to make repairs. Our County Councillor, Rod Wilson, is lobbying hard in an attempt to get some agreement from Highways to allocate funds. There was, however, a much more en-

couraging response to the Parish Council's suggestion that Colton be used as a pilot for a scheme analogous to 'Fix the Fells' for green roads. This would involve cooperation between agencies including the Trail Riders Fellowship who are keen to volunteer help for repairs where possible. Of course, this will also require funding, at the very least for materials and machinery. The next step will be to establish how the necessary funds will be obtained. *Clerk*

HOW CLEAN ARE OUR RIVERS & LAKES?

Given the treasured nature of the Lake District you might expect the lakes, rivers, becks and surrounding habitat to be of pristine quality. Unfortunately this is not the case and urgent action is required. At a meeting at the Waterhead Hotel, Coniston on Sept 11th, the newly formed **Coniston and Crake Partnership** was launched as part of the South Cumbria Rivers Trust. The objectives are to improve the water quality and conserve the wildlife of Coniston Water, its headwaters and the River Crake.



Numbers of salmon and sea trout have dropped to such low levels that there is now a statutory ban on taking rod caught fish. The population of arctic char also continues to decline in Coniston Water. A key issue is high phosphate levels which increase the rate of plant growth which in turn reduce the water's oxygen level required by the fish. Pollution comes from many sources including mining, roads and vehicles, sewage, agriculture and land drainage. The rich diversity of wild life living in and around our rivers and lakes include otters, kingfishers, eels, lampreys, crayfish and water voles; the populations of these species are in decline or threatened by introductions of non native species. Recent good news has been the decision of United Utilities to install a phosphate stripper (to reduce phosphate levels flowing into the lake) at the Coniston Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The Partnership plans to work together with community volunteers, the National Park, the Environment Agency, the National Trust, the Freshwater Biological Association and local landowners. Beck surveys will be used to identify sources of problems and establish populations of insects and fish. Work will include the eradication of invasive plant species and the improvement of habitats. If you would like to find out more or to pull on your wellies and get cracking contact Les Higgins on 015394 41861 or Paul Chamberlain on 01229 885424. If you want to know more about the SCRT please contact the Trust Manager, Ben Lamb, on 01539 816311 or go to the website www.scrt.org.uk. *Cllr Chris Potts*