

NEWS IN BRIEF

New Police non-emergency number: 101 is now the number to call when you want to contact your local police for non-emergencies—for example, reporting a stolen item, suspicious activity, poaching, or illegal off-roading.

Colton Oil Purchasing Syndicate Meeting: The soaring cost of heating oil is a worry for many of us. A group of residents has set up a syndicate to gain the best price from suppliers. If you would like to join, call Mike Postle on 01229 861685 and attend the meeting on 10th Feb, 7.00pm, The Manor, Oxen Park.

Queen's Jubilee Beacons: Communities are being asked whether they want to light a beacon for the Queen's Jubilee. If you want to mark the occasion in this way, then please contact the Clerk for details of how to register and what to do.

Field of Pigs, Nr Finsthwaite: Your Council is as exasperated as some of you are about the flooding, potholes, pollution, escapees etc. arising from this field, and is putting strong pressure on the various agencies to resolve the issues.

Future Parish Council Meetings

20th Feb 2012	Parish Council Meeting	Finsthwaite Village Hall
26th Mar 2012	Open Meeting & Parish Council	Rusland Reading Rooms
2nd May 2012	Annual Parish Council Meeting	Bouth Village Hall
11th Jun 2012	Parish Council Meeting	Colton Church Hall

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

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 Vanessa Champion 015395 31132 Mrs Anne Robinson 01229 860242

Mr John Watson 01229 861450

East Ward (Lakeside & Finsthwaite)

Mr Ken Dean 01229 861435 Mr David Hoyle 01229 860390

Mr Chris Potts 015395 31735 (Vice-chair)

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

01229 861408 Email: coltonpc@btinternet.com

Website: www.coltonparishcouncil.org.uk

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

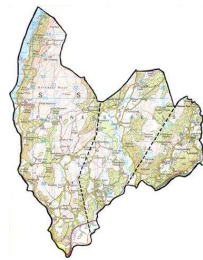
S. Lakeland District Cllr (Hawkshead Ward): Mr Colin Davies 015394 36100



Colton Parish Council

Newsletter Winter 2011-2012

www.coltonparishcouncil.org.uk



ILLEGAL 'OFF-ROADING' AND HOW TO REPORT IT



The growing number of motorised vehicles (mainly 4x4s and trail bikes) driving illegally on Colton's footpaths, bridleways, fellsides and fields is an increasing concern because of the damage they do and their sometimes inconsiderate behaviour. A working group of representatives from the National

Park, the Police, Parish Councils, the Forestry Commission, English Nature and the Trail Riders' Fellowship (which promotes responsible trail riding) is trying to tackle the problem. The police have had some success in our area, issuing fixed penalty notices (fines). However, we need more people to be the eyes and ears of the community and report incidences of illegal activity and/or bad behaviour. First, it is important to be clear about what is and what is not legal:



- Motor-vehicles have a right of way **ONLY** on public vehicular highways. The only legal unsealed routes in Colton are 7 Unsealed, Unclassified Country Roads (UUCRs) and 1 By-way Open to All Traffic (BOAT). See www.coltonparishcouncil.org.uk/Off-Road.htm for details and maps.
- Using a motor vehicle on any other land without the express permission of the land owner, is a **criminal offence** under section 34.1(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988. (Please note that land-owners and those with 'common rights' on land usually DO have a legal right to do so.)
- The 8 legal routes above are subject to the same laws as any other road. Vehicles/drivers/riders must be fully road legal (tax, insurance, MOT, number plates etc.) and must drive/ride in a safe and considerate manner.
- Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) can be applied to prohibit motor vehicles on legal routes in certain circumstances. At present, Colton has one seasonal TRO (October to May) in operation on the UCR 5566, across the Rusland Pool.

- An aside about bicycles: these have a right of way on the green roads listed above and on bridleways, but not on footpaths or other land without permission.

How to Report Illegal 'Off-Road' Activity by Motor Vehicles

1. Immediate reporting to the police of illegal activity: Ring the new non-emergency police number **101**, report location, number plates if possible, descriptions and direction of travel. It is sometimes possible for the police to get to a location in time. If you can safely get pictures, without placing yourself in danger, then do, as this will help with any subsequent prosecutions.
2. Later reporting of full details of the incident: Please report details of the incident as listed below, with any pictures, to the Clerk preferably by email: coltonpc@btinternet.com. These incidents will be followed up by the police, if sufficient information is given, and will also be logged on the National Park's Trails Register. Please report:
 - **Date and Time**
 - **Location: description and 100m grid ref. if possible (e.g. SD eee nnn)**
 - **Whether on Footpath, Bridleway, route with TRO, open fellside, or 'other route'**
 - **Vehicle description, including type, make and model if possible**
 - **Vehicle Registration**
 - **If motorbike, colour of rider's crash helmet and clothing.**
 - **Whether registration plate displayed, clean and visible**
 - **Description of circumstances and behaviour**

Clerk

UPDATE ON THE 'COLTON GREEN ROADS PILOT STUDY'

It is well known that the County Council struggles to find funding to repair ordinary tarmac roads, let alone green lanes which are being used more and more by recreational traffic. As reported in previous newsletters, the idea of this Pilot Study is to assess exactly what is needed to bring our green lanes back into serviceable and manageable condition, estimate how much this would cost, raise money from wherever possible, carry out repairs on one or two of the lanes and then monitor the condition of these over a period of years, while doing our best to maintain them. From this, the 'sustainability' (and associated maintenance costs) of green lanes in general will be better understood. Two lanes were selected as being fairly representative of the general situation: those leading west and south from High Ickenthwaite. The group running the project, including the Highways Authority, the National Park, your Parish Council and County Councillor

can now report that the surveys have been carried out (to assess repair costs) and money has been found from a variety of sources which may enable one of the lanes to be repaired soon. Once the work has been completed, help with monitoring condition over subsequent years would be welcomed. *Cllr Barr*

BOUTHREY BRIDGE RE-OPENS

On a rather blustery and windswept Monday, 19th of December, Bouthrey Bridge, which had been badly damaged in the floods two years ago, was finally re-opened. Over one hundred people turned up to see County Councillors Claire Salisbury and Rod Wilson cut the ribbon which permits traffic to cross the River Crake again. Thanks go to local residents for their patience with the inconvenience this outage has caused, particularly to Mr Hodgson who farms the land straddling the river. One particular issue that did cause some delay, was the sensitivity of the site, as the river at this point is part of the salmon spawning grounds. The bridge has been rebuilt to a high standard, in its original style, and includes an otter pass and an open area to allow a greater flow of water if required to avoid, hopefully, such damage in the future. It's worth taking a look what has been achieved by the authorities and their contractors when you next drive through Water Yeat!



Cllr Potts

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Colton Parish Council Elections will be held in May: look out for notices on your local notice boards. If you are over 18 and interested in standing for election, please get in touch with the Clerk (see back page). For information on the role of Councils and Councillors, speak to an existing Councillor and/or go to www.calc.org.uk and click on 'About Parish Councils'.

Clerk

COLTON HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The repeat Colton Housing Needs Survey is still scheduled to take place, but the delay is due to an overload of work for the dedicated team at the Cumbria Rural Housing Trust. The Trust has incorporated some of the additional questions that your Councillors asked to be included, and we hope to have the final version agreed shortly so that we can gather your views.

Clerk