



Arnside Parish Council

WELCOME to the third issue of our Parish Council Newsletter. We publish two issues each year in order to keep our community informed of the council's activities.

Editor Neil Punnett



Newsletter

Arnside's Annual Parish Assembly

The 2023 Annual Parish Assembly will take place on **Monday 17th April** in the WI Village Hall.

There will be local guest speakers and an opportunity to discuss issues affecting our village.

The meeting will commence at 7 pm and will be chaired by Mike Mann, the Chair of Arnside Parish Council.

Refreshments will be available from 6.45pm. All parishioners are invited to attend.

Arnside Local Housing Needs Survey

The first summary results of the Housing Needs Survey conducted in January and February have just been received by the Parish Council from Action with Communities in Cumbria. The Survey was conducted to help ensure that our community remains large enough and mixed enough to sustain vital services and enable the protection of the special features of Arnside which makes it such an attractive place to live and to visit.

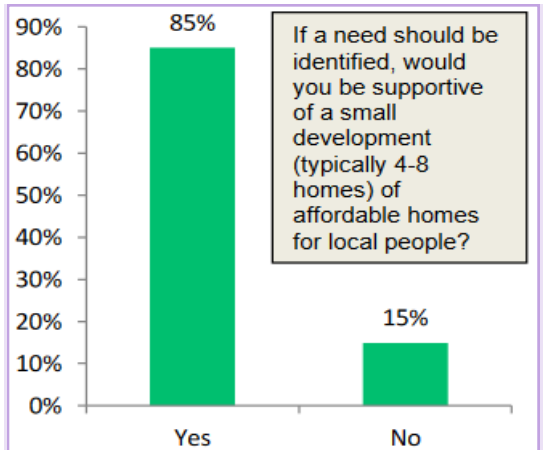
1,136 questionnaires were delivered. 512 were returned. This is a return rate of **45%**. This is a high return rate and shows a high level of engagement from the community—a 30% response rate would be usual for this sort of survey.

The full Report will be sent to the Parish Council later this month. In the meantime ACT has provided the following headlines:

85% of respondents would be supportive of a small development of affordable homes (typically 4 to 8 homes) for local people.

70% of respondents would support a mixed development (typically 4 to 8 homes) for local people, or those with connections to the parish, that includes a number of open market homes.

40% of respondents supported a housing development for open market sale alone.



78 respondents said they were in housing need. Using the Cumbria Choice criteria ACT calculate that **26** of those need affordable housing within the next five years (Cumbria Choice holds the housing register for all local authorities and housing associations across Cumbria).

Of the 26, 12 are seeking a first home and 4 stated that their current home is affecting their health.

In addition another **26** family members have moved away in the last five years due to not being able to find a suitable home locally of whom **15** would return if suitable affordable housing becomes available.

By early May the full Report should be available from the Parish Council in electronic form by request to the Parish Clerk. clerk@arnsideparishcouncil.co.uk

In This Issue

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Annual Parish Assembly | 1 |
| Arnside Housing Needs Survey | 1 |
| Parish Council Appoints New Clerk | 2 |
| Parish Council Appoints New Chair | 2 |
| Reporting Potholes | 2 |
| Local Government Re-organisation | 3 |
| Arnside Playground Project | 3 |
| Arnside Wildflower Verges Project | 4 |
| Meet Your Parish Councillors | 4 |

Parish Council Appoints New Clerk



From a strong field of applicants Pete McSweeney was appointed as the new Clerk, after Carly Taylor decided to leave. Carly says "I have only had a relatively short spell with Arnside Parish Council, and due to a change in personal circumstance I have tendered my resignation. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the council and the varied work that I

have done in this time. It has been a pleasure to work with wonderful councillors who very much care for Arnside! I hand over to a very experienced new clerk in Pete McSweeney who I know will be brilliant!"

The council would like to thank Carly for the excellent service she has provided during her time with APC and wish her well for the future.

Pete McSweeney is well known to Arnside residents. A former vice chair of the Parish Council, Pete has extensive experience of local government as both a senior council officer at Lancashire County Council and as a member of South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria County Council.

Retiring from his councillor roles at the end of March, Pete says: "I believe that I will be able to help APC explore and deliver new initiatives, whilst continuing to provide residents an efficient, cost effective and well-run council. The coming months and years are going to have many significant changes in Local Government in this area. It will need careful negotiation to achieve the best outcomes for residents of Arnside. I believe that I have the knowledge, experience and contacts at the new council to help achieve that."

New Parish Council Chair



Peter Smillie, Chair of Arnside Parish Council for five years, has resigned following his move to Silverdale. The Council thanks Peter for his service to the parish and wishes him well for the future. Peter says: "In my 12 or so years on Arnside PC I have seen many changes, mainly for the good and I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors, Clerks and volunteers that I have worked with, not least the current team. I will miss them all.

Our dedicated councillors have worked on projects including liaising with Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council as well as the AONB and many local and regional organisations, taking over and upgrading the public toilets, re-wilding the parish verges, starting and maintaining this PC Newsletter, upgrading the parish playground, improving and maintaining the PC website, refurbishing the promenade railings and replacing the pier railings, dealing with health & safety, and so much more.

To all parishioners, please support and where possible help your parish council. They give their time freely to try to improve things in your village."

At its March meeting the Council elected Councillor Mike Mann as its new chair.



Reporting Potholes and Blocked Gulleys

Westmorland and Furness Council's telephone number for the public to report pot holes, blocked gulleys and other road maintenance issues is **0300 3032992**.

You can report any such problems online at <https://tinyurl.com/3bbjhey2> .

An advantage of logging the fault via the new online service is that you can provide your email address and receive automatic progress updates direct to your inbox. You can also view faults that have already been reported on a map, view the current status of each fault and register for automated updates on any previously reported fault.





www.westmorlandfurness.gov.uk



On 1 April 2023 local government in Cumbria changed. The former six district councils, along with Cumbria County Council, have been replaced by two new 'unitary' councils.

In the area formerly covered by South Lakeland, Barrow Borough and Eden District councils a new authority, **Westmorland and Furness Council**, has

been created.

Westmorland and Furness Council became responsible for providing all the services formerly delivered in those areas by the three district and borough councils and the county council.

That means everything from your waste and recycling collections to highways and planning matters, adult social care and parking is now looked after by the new Council.

The Parish Council will have a direct link with the new authority as Councillor Helen Chaffey was elected on to it and will continue to serve on the Parish Council.

BRENDA BROCKBANK

The Parish Council was shocked to learn of the death of Brenda last October. Brenda had served as Cemetery Officer for the Council for many years. Former Chair Peter Smillie says: "Having taken on the role Brenda, with assistance from her husband David, organised and researched and then organised and researched some more, until all the Cemetery records were properly up to date and accurate. They made 3, 5 and 10 year plans for the development of the cemetery, which have contributed markedly to the appearance of the cemetery, the driveway around it and of the Chapel itself."

Brenda is sadly missed by us all. We feel privileged to have known her and to have worked with her.

Arnside Playground Project

After the Community Wellbeing Day last October a working group formed to raise funds and oversee the project to install a new playground in Arnside. The playground stall was very busy on that day with both parents and children sharing their views on the state of the current playground and on what should replace it. The children were bursting with great ideas and we had lots of drawings to work with!

Arnside Playground Working Group consists of four members of the Parish Council and three interested residents with experience of fundraising and organising village events. They have children who use the current playground.

Three potential suppliers were given a brief based on the feedback from the Wellbeing Day. They all visited Arnside and carried out detailed site surveys. Presentations were received from all three. One stood out above the others. It represents great value for money, with plenty of pieces of equipment for both group and solo play, sensory play and they have really thought about accessibility.

Now we just need to raise the funds to pay for it! Our community has done it once and we are convinced we can do it again. The Parish Council have secured a grant of £10,000 and the Working Group has received a donation from Councillor McSweeney of £500 and generous donations from Arnside Community Fireworks Committee, The Albion Community Fund and the Dales Divide Cyclists who start one of their weekend races from Arnside every year. Local businesses have also promised to contribute. We have other potential sources of grant funding and will spend the next few months filling in the paperwork. **But we will also need help from you!**

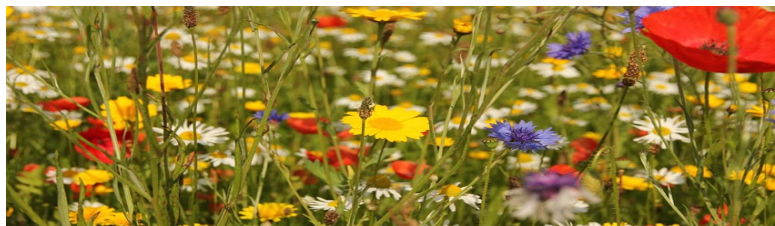
If you have any ideas to raise funds or hold an event the Working Group will support you. We are concentrating on a couple of major fund-raising events. We are holding a Coronation Picnic on the Memorial Playing Field on **Sunday 7th May**. We chose Sunday as the Coronation is on Saturday 6th. After the success of the Platinum Jubilee Picnic last year hopefully everyone can get involved and we can raise lots of money to help us on our way!

Keep your eyes peeled for further events later in the year.

In the meantime the Parish Council will of course continue to carry out maintenance of the existing playground to ensure it meets health and safety requirements.

Save the Date
Sunday 7th May
Coronation Picnic
raising money for the
Arnside Playground Project

Arnside Wildflower Verges Project



The Project is now in its second spring and a major expansion of its scope. Residents may have noticed that the verge beside the Sandside Road from the Leighton Beck bridge (the parish boundary) has been cut and cleared recently. Thanks to a generous grant from the Arnside and Silverdale AONB, we have been able to add this 350-metre length of verge to the Project. It's been prepared for seeding, the wildflower seed has been bought and as soon as the weather permits the AONB volunteers will sow it. The cost of the seed has been covered by a grant from Cumbria CC as part of the Planting for Pollinators partnership, of which the Wildflower Verges project is now a part. So the flowers you will soon see are not only enhancing the amenity of the main approach to the village but also forming an important part of an expanding corridor for pollinators, helping the survival of these essential members of the natural community. We are delighted to be a part of this really important Cumbria-wide initiative managed by Cumbria Wildlife Trust with the County Council.

The pilot verges which formed the first stage of the project are showing good signs of improvement; there are fewer of the tall, rank grasses which overwhelm all the other species and more of the lower-growing flowers. This is a long-term process but it's happening and we will continue to monitor progress and manage the sites as necessary. The areas around the recycling site at Black Dyke

Road are looking particularly well.

The other major development residents may have noticed in our green areas is the new orchard at the Beachwood. Twelve apple trees have been planted to replace the trees sadly lost during the storms of the winter of 2021-2. As far as we could, we've planted local varieties (including the splendidly-named Keswick Coddling, the original of which is reputed to have been found growing on a rubbish dump!). They have been pruned back to promote good root growth this first year but will be in full blossom next spring. The Council have agreed this will form part of the Ashmeadow Community Orchard with the kind approval of the Barnes Trust.

Also look out at Beachwood for the plants the children of Arnside School put in last autumn (in the fenced area). Some are just coming through as this report was written. We hope to continue the collaboration with the children this year.

Finally, an apology: in the previous edition, our stalwart colleague from the AONB, Dougie Watson, was incorrectly named. Please accept our humble apologies, Dougie!

Councillor Steve Porter
Arnside Verges Working Group
<https://www.arnsideparishcouncil.co.uk>

Your Parish Councillors

The Parish Council consists of eight local residents working voluntarily in the interests of the parish.

Arnside Parish Council Clerk

Pete McSweeney
 Arnside Cemetery Chapel
 Silverdale Road
 Arnside
 Cumbria
 LA5 0DX
 Tel: 01524 574584
 Email:
clerk@arnsideparishcouncil.co.uk

| | | |
|-------------|--------------------|--|
| Chair: | Mike Mann | mike.s.mann@icloud.com |
| Vice Chair | Keith Halford | webjkh@icloud.com |
| Councillors | Helen Chaffey | helenchaffey@icloud.com |
| | Clive Christensen | clive.christensen@btinternet.com |
| | Rebecca Kennington | rebeccakennington@btinternet.com |
| | Steve Porter | s.porter673@btinternet.com |
| | Neil Punnett | neilpcarnside@outlook.com |

Meet Your Parish Councillors

Parish Council Meetings are normally held on the second Monday of the month in the Cemetery Office on Silverdale Road commencing at 7.15 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Please contact the Clerk in advance of the meeting if you wish to attend. <https://www.arnsideparishcouncil.co.uk/>