



# Arnside Parish Council

**WELCOME** to the fourth 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

### Busy Times

It has been a busy summer for your Parish Council. In addition to maintaining our verges, allotments, playground, public benches, the toilets, the cemetery and chapel, the pier and foreshore we have been working on several new projects. These include seeking

to develop affordable homes, renewing the children's playground, improving car parking, encouraging the formation of a carbon reduction group and continuing the successful verges restoration project.

Read on for more details of these projects.

### Affordable Homes for Arnside

Following the publication of the results of the Arnside Housing Needs Survey in April which showed that **85%** of respondents would be supportive of a small development of affordable homes (typically 4 to 8 homes) for local people, much work has been going on behind the scenes.

The development of a small number of affordable homes will go some way towards ensuring 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.

Your Parish Council Homes Project Group has held discussions with housing associations, Westmorland and Furness Council, landowners, developers and a local community land trust and attended the opening of an impressive new affordable homes scheme near Lancaster at Halton (photo right).



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### Arnside Carbon Reduction Group

With support from the Parish Council a number of local residents are seeking to form a carbon reduction group. Helen Thompson says: "The aim of our group is to give a greater emphasis in Arnside when addressing the climate emergency. We hope to be informative and helpful to those people in the village who are interested in reducing their carbon footprint."

Our aim is to promote the reduction of carbon by helping residents access the information and advice they need so that we can together build a brighter future."

**Retrofit Made Easy**



Helping you create a warm, healthy, low-energy home

**FREE local info event:**

Thursday 19 October 2023, 7.30pm

Levens Methodist Church, Lowgate, Levens, LA8 8NG

## Are You Concerned About Water Pollution Locally?

The Parish Council has been contacted by parishioners about pollution in the Kent Estuary. Having liaised with the Environment Agency we can pass on their advice:

If you become aware of pollution in the Kent Estuary or other waters you can call the Environment Agency incident hotline to report it.

Environment Agency incident hotline  
Telephone: **0800 80 70 60** 24-hour service

The information you provide to the Environment Agency's advisors is logged onto their system. They combine this incident information with other data. This helps them to assess how serious the incident could be. Some of the factors that determine how they manage the incident are:

- scale of the harm to the environment or people
- duration
- number of times it has occurred.



**Please note** that brown foam on tidal flow of the seawater is usually harmless algal bloom and need not be reported. However if the foam is clearly on the outflowing river water it is more likely to be sewage pollution, especially if solids are visible.

## Reporting Potholes and Blocked Gulleys



**Hold on Jack. The council are on their way!**

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/y93d78kp>

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.





## Arnside Playground Project

The Playground Working Group consists of four members of the Parish Council and three interested residents with experience of fundraising and organising village events. The first event was the Coronation Picnic held on Sunday 7th May on the Memorial Recreation Ground.

Reaching the cost of installing the new children's playground is very challenging. The Working Group have now arranged two more fundraising events:

- Arnside Big Quiz Night Friday 6th October
- Winter Ball Saturday 9th December

### ARNSIDE BIG QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday 6th  
OCTOBER**

Help raise funds for the village playground

STARTS AT 7PM

Teams of 4  
£50 per team to include pie and peas supper

Hurry..... only 10 team places available!

**At Arnside Sailing Club  
Tickets available from Arnside House**



Rothay Park (above) in Ambleside is an example of a new state of the art playground.

## Spending a (Pretty) Penny

The Parish Council remains committed to our approach of ensuring our public toilets are fully self-financed. We're one of a small number of councils that has managed to achieve this goal over the last three years without any increase in entry costs.

However, over the last year there has been a significant increase in operating costs and in order to offset these increases we've unfortunately had to increase entry charges from 40p to 50p. This remains in line with the average public toilet charges across Cumbria.

As part of our overall drive for continuous improvement across all of our assets, we will be reviewing and renegotiating our public toilet cleaning and maintenance contract in December this year. The goal is to ensure that we maintain optimum levels of service and costs. We will be working with other local councils, including Milnthorpe, to exploit any potential economies of scale. Contact Councillor Mike Mann for further information.



## Arnside Verges Restoration Project



The Project currently involves three grass verges in the Arnside area. The plan is to turn Verges 1 and 2 into species-rich meadows, through seeding and plug planting while the plan for Verge 3 is to increase the species diversity of the banked verge by introducing native bulb species such as wild daffodil, snowdrops and English bluebells.

Progress report:

### 1st verge (0.11 ha):

A long stretch of verge as you enter Arnside from the North/East, along Sandside Road. This verge has already been seeded once, but didn't take very well. It may be that the cut-and-drop regime was limiting its success. Positive indicators include yellow rattle, knapweed and red clover. Some negative indicators include docks and creeping thistle, and there are non-native daffodils already planted.

### 2nd verge (0.04 ha):

Smaller slightly sloped verge on a corner of Black Dyke Road, just next to the railway crossing. Volunteers have done a little plug planting here. Positive indicators include yellow rattle, betony, knapweed, oxeye daisy and cuckooflower. Some negative indicators include nettles and docks. It is also very uneven underfoot and lumpy, so difficult to cut.

### 3rd verge (0.03 ha):

Another verge on the other side of the railway crossing on Black Dyke Road from verge 2. A steep bank of a verge, so not suitable for meadow restoration, but will have some bulbs planted. Already some non-native daffodils here.

The cost of the seed, plants and bulbs is to be met out of the Planting for Pollinators project. This project was developed by Cumbria Local Nature Partnership, and is delivered by Cumbria Wildlife Trust (CWT), Cumberland Council and Westmorland & Furness Council. The project is funded by the Councils' Environment Funds.

**In other restoration news** three apple trees of the twelve planted at The Beachwood to replace the Scots Pines felled by Storm Arwen have died. They have recently been replaced by Halecat Nursery. Dougie Watson of the AONB has some deer-proof tree guards to protect them all from nibblers. The Beachwood bank was cut as usual in early autumn by the AONB.

Arnside School children are continuing their excellent planting efforts at The Beachwood .

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

## Your Parish Councillors

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

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## 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/>