



# **KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2016/17**

**Welcome to the Town Council's Annual Report for 2016/17**

**This report gives information about the Town Council, the money it spends and the activities it carries out and also includes reports from Council representatives on voluntary organisations in the town.**

**A complete list of all Town Councillors is included on the next page of the report, where you will also find details of how to contact them.**

**Lynda Walker  
Town Clerk  
April 2017**

## Contact Details

### YOU CAN CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS DIRECT OR VIA

The Council Offices  
50 Main Street  
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Cumbria  
CA12 5JS

Telephone: 017687 73607

Website: [www.keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk)

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The offices are normally open as follows: -

Monday to Friday  
9.30am –1.00pm

<b>Clr David S Burn</b>	The Bungalow, Ashtree Avenue, Keswick, CA12 5PF	017687 80371
<b>Clr Allan D Daniels</b>	31 Lakehead Court, Keswick, CA12 5EU	017687 44531
<b>Clr R Martin Jordan</b>	Braeside, The Heads, Keswick CA12 5ER	017687 71249
<b>Clr Denstone Kemp</b>	1 Vicarage Hill, Keswick CA12 5QB	017687 73490
<b>Clr Graham Kendall</b>	32 Stanger Street, Keswick, CA12 5LZ	017687 80894
<b>Clr Susan Leighton</b>	5 Ratcliffe Place, Keswick, CA12 4DZ	017687 75195
<b>Clr Andrew Lysser</b>	Fourwinds, 6 Fieldside Close, Keswick, CA12 4LN	017687 75440
<b>Clr Tony Lywood</b>	Shu-Le-Crow, 7 Penrith Road, Keswick, CA12 4HF	017687 75253
<b>Clr D Miller</b>	Linthwaite, Manor Brow, Keswick CA12 4AP	017687 72295
<b>Clr Adam Paxon</b>	Toll Bar Cottage, Penrith Road, Keswick, CA12 4JR	07989 386599
<b>Clr M Pugmire</b>	6 Brandlehow Crescent, Keswick CA12 4JE	017687 73409
<b>Clr Paul Titley</b>	32 Penrith Road, Keswick, CA12 4HA	017686 06015

## THE COUNCIL

The Town Council consists of 12 voluntary Councillors who receive no remuneration. They are appointed through election or co-option and can serve for a period of up to four years before having to be re-elected. The Town Council is the sole trustee for both Hope and Fitz Parks and the Townsfield Charitable Trusts.

The Council employs one full time and two part time members of staff (in addition to five gardening and maintenance staff employed in Keswick parks):

Mrs Lynda Walker, Town Clerk  
Mrs Catherine Parker, Responsible Financial Officer  
Mrs Wendy Lerigo, Administration & Finance Assistant

The Council meets 12 times per year, normally on the third Thursday of each month and holds its Annual Meeting during May. It also meets separately in its capacity as Trustee of the Hope Park, Fitz Park and Townsfield Charitable Trusts 6 times per year with an Annual Trust meeting, also during May. All meetings are advertised on the Council's website [www.keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk) and on the noticeboard situated at the front of the Council offices.

The public are welcome to attend meetings and to ask questions or make comments during the public forum.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2016-17**

### **Councillor David Burn – Town Mayor**

It is hard to believe that my year as Mayor is coming to an end. I said when I was elected last May that I felt privileged to have been chosen to represent the town and now, almost 12 months later, my view has not changed. It has been an amazing year and I have established good and hopefully lasting relationships with Councillors who have been representing their communities in a similar way.

Councillor Paul Titley, my predecessor said in his report last year that Storm Desmond had dominated his thoughts in writing his report. And I have to say that some 16 months on, it is still dominating my own thoughts.

I had three priorities when I became Mayor. First, that I would try, by whatever means, to help ensure that Keswick would not be decimated by floods in the future. Second, that we must ensure we did not lose the in-patient beds in our hospital. And third, that I would try to establish better links between Keswick School and Keswick Town Council (KTC).

The flood prevention issue has proved to be a huge challenge. In August, I chaired a meeting of owners and/or representatives of businesses and organisations that had flooded during Storm Desmond. The meeting endorsed the view that we needed better management of Thirlmere, better gravel management in the River Greta, and – more controversially – a re-routing of the River Greta so that when it was in spate it did not have to negotiate so many bends in the town. The Floods Minister quickly put paid to any hopes we had about re-routing the river!

After that August meeting, I came to the view that Keswick would have a better chance of securing improvements in our flood resilience if KTC and Keswick Flood Action Group (KFAG) tried to progress major matters together rather than separately. And I am pleased to record that the Council now has a good and much closer relationship with KFAG.

In December, Jamie Reed (our then MP), arranged a meeting in Westminster with the Floods Minister which I attended together with the Chair of KFAG and another of its members. We asked that legislation be introduced to compel water supply companies (United Utilities [UU] in our case) to build flood resilience measures into their operations. The Minister was not minded to do this so we are still relying on voluntary arrangements with UU. We also put forward the Derwent Catchment as pathfinder for a “whole of catchment” management trial and we are still awaiting the Minister’s decision on this. At a town level we asked that a flood relief channel be built close to Greta Bridge, and should hear soon whether we have been successful with this.

The threat to the inpatient beds at Keswick Community Hospital also proved to be a huge challenge. We had a town meeting, and three public meetings organised by the Success Regime. Every meeting was packed, often with standing room only, and

we left the Success Regime in no doubt that the retention of these beds was hugely important to the town. Our efforts were rewarded last month when the NHS Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group announced not only that Keswick's inpatient beds were to be retained but also that they would be increased from 12 to 16. This was a great victory for the town.

We all know that Keswick School has an excellent reputation and is marked "Outstanding" in every category examined by Ofsted. But this apart, I felt that we at KTC had little feel for the challenges and opportunities the school faces. Simon Jackson, the school's Headteacher, is also keen to develop better links with the town, and will be attending two KTC meetings a year with this in mind. Simon has already been to one meeting this year and I look forward to his next visit.

And, finally, it goes without saying that we are all justifiably proud of our town. But we at KTC had become concerned about the proliferation of A-boards in Market Square and the outer streets. While recognising the important role that A-boards can play in advertising local businesses, we felt a need to ensure that Keswick remains an attractive, vibrant and safe place to visit for all, including wheelchair users and those who are partially sighted. Cumbria County Council, Allerdale Borough Council, the Lake District National Park Authority, Cumbria Constabulary, Keswick Retailers Association, Keswick Tourism Association, the Federation of Small Businesses and KTC worked together and have drawn up guidance which has been issued to all traders in the town. Most traders are co-operating, and I believe that the town is now a smarter and safer place.

In conclusion, my year as Mayor has been enjoyable (most of the time!), thought provoking, and always interesting. I wish my successor every success in their year of office.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Catherine Parker – Responsible Financial Officer

### GENERAL FUND SUMMARY 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
General Administration (inc salaries)	68,806
Mayors Allowance	2,000
Grants awarded	15,600
Christmas Lights	31,444
War Memorial	1,399
Townsfeld	1,050
Open Spaces	1,000
Fitz Park	88,994
Floral Displays	6,593
Town Events/Scruffs	13,909
Allotments	496
Advertising	179
Audit fee/Accounts preparation	10
Youth Projects	500
Contingency sum	7,856
Annual Parish Meeting	79
Communications	1,200
Professional Advice	1,000
Event Banner Expenditure	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>242,365</b>

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>
Precept and grants from Allerdale BC	201,554
Interest (inc Townsfeld)	77
Rent	12,267
Event banner advertising space	1,250
Allotment income	890
Town Events/Scruffs Income	10,652
Christmas lights contributions inc ABC Market towns grant	5,300
ABC Market towns grant - other	5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>254,808</b>

NB: Figures quoted are subject to prepayment/accruals adjustments and audit.

Interested parties and local electors are able to exercise their right to inspect the financial records before the annual audit takes place.

## GRANTS

Each year the Town Council makes financial contributions to local organisations which provide valuable services that bring benefit to the local community. Grants were made to the following organisations during 2016/17:

Citizens Advice Bureau Keswick	500
Keswick in Bloom	3000
Keswick Museum & Art Gallery	1510
1 <sup>st</sup> Keswick Scouts Group	1500
Keswick Tourism Association	750
Keswick Youth Centre	3840
Pet Lifeline	500
St Johns Ambulance	400
Theatre by the Lake	3500
Keswick & District First Responders	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>15600</b>

## **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Council appoints members as representatives on various outside bodies. This helps to ensure good working relationships with local organisations. The following reports have been submitted by the nominated representatives.

### **THE BATTERSBY CHARITY Council Representative – Councillor Tony Lywood**

Battersby Hall Charity is alive and well. We are still in the final stages of concluding the sale of the Moot Hall. The lease with the National Park remains unchanged at present and only the ownership of the freehold is affected. Repairs are on-going and defects to the tower and to the roof of the lean-to side toilets and the supports therein have proved to be more substantial than expected. Allerdale Borough Council is undertaking these works and my understanding is that they likely to be on going for at least 2 more months as of March 2017.

The Battersby Hall Charity is also morphing into a less restrictive and more educationally based charity by use of a CIO which is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This enables the charitable funds to be used more widely for community benefit. This does not change our commitment to the purchase of the Moot Hall but does untie our hands a little in that we can put the charity's coffers into other good causes within Keswick.

### **CUMBRIA THEATRE TRUST Council Representative – Councillor Martin Pugmire**

Report to be submitted.

### **KESWICK TOURISM ASSOCIATION Council Representative – Councillor Duncan Miller**

I continue to attend the April and October Board Meetings of Keswick Tourism Association on behalf of Keswick Town Council. I am able to advise those organisations attending about recent work/initiatives completed or planned by the Council and the Parks Trust. If any concerns/issues are raised by those organisations attending I will normally follow these through by advising our Clerk, Councillors and/or Trustees.

KTA remain proud that they are still able to produce an 'Annual Visitor Guide'. Many similar organisations in the country are not able to attract the advertising income to sustain such guides. The membership is 'overwhelmingly' in favour of continuing the production, in 2018, of this valuable marketing tool.



Membership numbers remain similar to 2016 which sees a small increase in retailers and agencies joining the Association.

KTA re-branded their public image 'strap-line' in January of this year changing it to 'Visit Keswick The Lake District'. This is in line with many national destinations e.g. Visit England, Visit Yorkshire etc.

The Association is presently working on a new advertising campaign which will include a 'suite' of adverts for use in 'hard copy', their website and social media. The different elements of culture, the great outdoors, retail, local food and drink and active families can be actioned to suit the market or a time of year. This new campaign is expected to launch in early Summer.

Once again, I applaud the excellent work of the staff at KTA and the volunteer Board in their achievements in bringing visitors to the area which creates employment and a vibrancy in the town of Keswick.

**KESWICK COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP**  
**Council Representative – Councillor Martin Pugmire**

Report to be submitted.

**KESWICK AND DISTRICT FAIR TRADE CAMPAIGN**  
**Council Representative – Councillor Adam Paxon**

Report to be submitted.

**KESWICK FLOOD ACTION GROUP**  
**Council Representative – Councillor Paul Titley**

A whole year has passed since the drama of Desmond and his younger siblings. We are fortunate to have escaped any more soakings during the recent winter. K FAG has been a model for other similar groups established in the wake of Desmond and the efforts of the group to mobilise action by the authorities has been unstinting. However, K FAG and other groups in the Derwent catchment have been somewhat suffocated by the desire of those authorities for local engagement and community input. Involvement and engagement are of course highly desirable, but the result has been the growth of new inter-group groups, various combinations of groups, and the endless desire of all them to report to each other and ask each other for further inputs.

Most politicians seem to lean on this community wall of engagement as if it delivers flood protection. One sensible outcome is the objective to deal with flooding on a catchment area basis. This should avoid a problem solved in Keswick creating a new problem for Cockermouth or Workington. The cat's cradle of inter-connected groups and meetings described above has this laudable objective but is choked by its own complexity.

KFAG has met with politicians of every hue and has met the Flood Minister (Therese Coffey) at least twice. She does not agree that the utility company UU should have a responsibility to manage water with respect to flooding (as well as providing water to houses). KFAG continues to meet with UU to discuss the management of Thirlmere. KFAG has senior scientists at its disposal with their own interpretation of data recorded during Desmond and observations at the time. Safe to say KFAG interpretations do not match those of UU scientists. However, it will be academic the next time water overtops the dam wall! Thirlmere remains the hottest topic on the KFAG agenda.

The pump system at Elliot Park, installed after many months of pressure from KFAG, was revealed to be quite useless during two periods of heavy rain. CCC has determined the control problems, and claims to have solved them, so we await the next storm test.

The Elliot Park project has informed the Penrith Road project, such that its initial estimate of £250K has risen to £2.3M. The latest installation plan is mid-2018, but KFAG have had many promises. Unfortunately, residents of Penrith Road and the back streets must keep their fingers crossed during another winter despite the best efforts of KFAG to energise the system.

KFAG has a long list of other concerns: bridges, river banks, trees, Bassenthwaite, dredging, farmland, flood plains, and home insurance. Their terrier-like attitude of never letting go serves us all well.

**ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**Ward Representative – Councillor Tony Lywood**

Most of my work on Allerdale Borough Council this year has been to do with car parking.

As a follow up to last month's report to the Town Council, a Freedom of Information request has been lodged with Allerdale Borough Council by Cllr Kendall to find out the total amount of money that is generated by Keswick car parks and its percentage of the Borough's revenue from car parking in total. In addition we have asked for the number of permits issued for Allerdale's car parks. This has now been replied to and £1.2m is generated by Keswick's Allerdale car parks which is 60% of their entire parking income from the Borough and 10% of their entire base budget.

Parking in the back streets is a mess and I am now in agreement with Glenn Savage and the Fair Parking for Keswick group that we must step up our game. I am now calling for both Allerdale Borough Council and Cumbria County Council to jointly fund an independent study for solutions to our parking mess. This may include residents' permits, disk zones and even park and ride.

In addition, Allerdale's parking permits should be reduced from £300 per year to £100 for local residents and town workers. It is interesting that Cumbria Tourism's figures show that within Allerdale £322m is generated by tourism. Over 80% of this is from Keswick and the surrounding area. Over 5000 people are employed directly by tourism (1930 are employed in accommodation alone). Local residents should get a dividend for living in and creating a buoyant tourist town. A change in policy would alleviate the parking pressure on our back streets and show that Allerdale Borough Council is serious about looking after the locals that make this town the vibrant 'cash producing' hub that it is. It may well actually produce more money for Allerdale not less.

As always, I try to keep an active profile in all matters on Allerdale that affect Keswick.

**Ward Representative – Councillor Martin Pugmire**

Report to be submitted.

**CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Ward Representative – Councillor Andrew Lysser**

Report to be submitted.

## COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

### Lynda Walker – Town Clerk

The last year has been dominated by the aftermath of Storm Desmond and the clear up of Keswick parks – particularly Fitz Park. This resulted in an increased workload not only for the Parks staff but also for the administrative staff in dealing with insurance claims and financial issues, and co-ordinating the work of contractors. Thankfully this work is nearing completion and efforts are ongoing to achieve better flood resilience for the future, not only for the parks but for the town as a whole.

Following the resignation of Peter Price in September due to work commitments, Graham Kendall was elected to the Town Council and he attended his first Council meeting in November. A new Parks Manager, Christine Fawcett, was appointed in September and James Hewitt has returned part time on a temporary basis to support the flood reinstatement work in Fitz Park.

The Council carried out its usual activities during the year including management and trusteeship of Fitz Park, Hope Park and the Townsfield; Christmas lighting provision and Switch On event; maintenance of the War Memorial and other open spaces in the town; management of the allotment site at the Hawthorns, Penrith Road; floral displays and event organisation; issue of busking badges and car parking discs. The Council's Events Committee once again organised a successful Keswick Festival and will repeat this event in 2017. All planning applications affecting the town have been scrutinised and comments passed onto the planning authority, and consultation has taken place on strategic documents affecting the town. A good relationship exists between the Council and Police Community Support Officers for Keswick who attend most meetings.

The Town Council decided in October 2016 that designation be sought for Keswick as a 'neighbourhood area' and that a Neighbourhood Plan be developed for the parish. A Steering Group has now been set up to develop this community-led framework for guiding the future development of the area. The local planning authority (Lake District National Park Authority) will be obliged to consider the contents of this plan, if adopted, when making decisions on future planning applications.

As well as monthly Town Council meetings, the Council meets every two months in its capacity as Sole Trustee of Keswick Parks Charitable Trusts to ensure the provision and maintenance of public parks and recreation grounds for use of Keswick's residents and visitors. The major part of the Town Council's expenditure supports Fitz Park, and Hope Park Trust continues to enjoy a beneficial relationship with Hope Leisure Ltd, the commercial operator of the games and catering at the park.

The Town Council has continued to remain active in the Derwent 7 Parishes cluster and Councillors have also attended partnership meetings with the Borough and County Councils, the Lake District National Park Authority and the Allerdale Flood Resilience Group throughout the year.