

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

**Council Offices
50 Main Street
Keswick
CA12 5JS**

Email: townclerk@keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk

10th September 2020

A meeting of Keswick Town Council will be held via the Zoom app on Thursday 17th September 2020 at **7.30 pm**.

The meeting will be open to the press and public, however access to a laptop/pc/iPad will be required to use 'Zoom', together with the link and password for the meeting which will be sent by email and made available on request to members of the public.

Any members of the public who wish to raise matters under item 6 on the agenda are asked to notify the Clerk no later than 24 hours before the meeting by email to townclerk@keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk



**Lynda Walker
Town Clerk**

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies**
To receive apologies for absence.
- 2. Minutes**
To authorise the Chairman to sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 20th August 2020 (pages 16 -20).
- 3. Requests for Dispensations**
The Clerk to report any requests received since the previous meeting for dispensations to speak and/or vote on any matter where a member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.
- 4. Declarations of Interests**
To receive declarations by elected and co-opted members of interests in respect of items on this agenda.
- 5. Police Attendance**
To receive the latest 'Allerdale Focus' Police newsletter for Cockermouth and Keswick and to note crime statistics from the website (see below).
Total crimes in Keswick in July = 31 broken down as follows:
Violence and sexual offences – 12
Anti – social behaviour – 11
Public order – 3
All other crimes - 5
Total crimes in the area = 53
Police attendance is expected at the meeting.

At the request of Councillors Boardman and Daniels, to consider making representations to the Police about antisocial behaviour on Bank Street.

- 6. Matters to be received from the Public**
Such matters may be received throughout the meeting, however items raised should not be discussed for longer than ten minutes and the Chairman reserves the right to curtail repetitious matters. Public participation shall not be longer than half an hour throughout the meeting.
- 7. Matters to be raised by Councillors**
An opportunity for Councillors to raise any **unforeseen** matters which are not on the agenda, with the consent of the Chair, and which do not require a decision – items raised should not be discussed for longer than 10 minutes.
- 8. Review of Temporary One-Way System – Station Street/St John’s Street**
To review how the temporary one-way system in Station Street/ St John’s Street is operating and to consider any issues for the attention of the highway authority (Cumbria County Council).
- 9. Applications for Development**
 - i) To examine applications for development and to agree observations for submission to the Lake District National Park Authority.
 - ii) To receive update on National Park planning decisions.
- 10. Reports from Ward Representatives**
To receive reports from the following representatives:
 - i) LDNPA North Distinctive Area Parishes
 - ii) Allerdale Borough Council
 - iii) Cumbria County Council
- 11. Payment of Accounts**
To confirm the payment of accounts for September 2020 as approved by the Inspection Committee
 - i) For the Town Council
 - ii) For the Trusts
- 12. CCTV**
To receive an update from Councillor Burn and to consider the report of the Responsible Financial Officer.
- 13. A Boards**
To consider the report of Councillors Burn and Daniels.
- 14. Climate Change - Green Working Group**
To receive an update from Councillor Boardman and to consider the following:
 - i) Inclusion of proposed ‘local procurement rules’ in the Council’s Financial Regulations
 - ii) Report of Councillor Terry on himalayan balsam ‘bashing’
- 15. Clerk’s Report**
To receive the Clerk’s report.
- 16. Liaison Meetings**
To receive the notes of Keswick Ministries Town Liaison Forum held on 8th September 2020.
- 17. Correspondence**
To consider the following correspondence:
 - i) Allerdale Borough Council – Car Parking Payments (response)
 - ii) Allerdale Borough Council – Otley Road Recycling Centre (response)

Prior to the following business the Chairman will move the following resolution:

‘That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted’

18. Minutes of Staffing Committee Meeting

To receive for information the draft Minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 10th September 2020 and to agree the Committee's recommendations.

To: All Councillors, Police, Press, Library

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Keswick Town Council held using the Zoom app on Thursday 20th August 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Chairman
Councillor Paul Titley

Alexandra Boardman
Alan Dunn
Tony Lywood
Peter Terry

David Burn
Steve Harwood
Duncan Miller

Allan Daniels
Sally Lansbury
Adam Paxon

Also present were Lynda Walker (Town Clerk), Catherine Parker (Responsible Financial Officer), Dr Geoff Davies (Lake District National Park Authority North Distinctive Area Parishes representative) one member of the press and six members of the public.

63. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Markus Campbell-Savours (holiday).

64. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on the 16th July 2020 (pages 11- 15).

65. Requests for Dispensations

The Clerk reported that no requests for dispensations to speak and/or vote on any matter where a member had a disclosable pecuniary interest had been received.

66. Declarations of Interests

Declarations of interests in respect of items on the agenda were received from:
Councillor Dunn – item 10 – resident of St John’s Street.

67. Police Report

RECEIVED: the Cockermouth and Keswick ‘Allerdale Focus’ newsletter for July 2020 (circulated prior to the meeting). No police officers were present. Councillor Lywood listed three incidents which had taken place in the town in recent days and Councillors agreed that the current policing situation was unsatisfactory. The Mayor said that he would take this up with the Police.

(Councillor Paxon joined the meeting).

68. Matters to be received from the Public

A local hotelier asked that the Council continue its objection to the Premier Inn proposal on the former Ravensfield site following submission of a revised planning application. The Mayor advised that no comment could be made pending consideration of the updated plans.

69. Matters to be raised by Councillors

No issues were raised.

70. Applications for Development

- i) **RESOLVED** that the following observations be submitted to the Lake District National Park Authority:

Plan Ref:	Description of Development Location
1604.416/JSW/LNW	<p>Tree preservation order (No. 416) - Beech tree (T/2020/0072) Land at 25 St Johns Street <i>Support TPO No1 on plan but recommend that tree no. 2 on application T/2020/0072 also have a TPO</i> SUPPORT</p>
7/2020/2039	<p>Erection of Hotel (C1) with restaurant/bar (A3/A4) at ground floor, together with means of access, car parking, creation of loading/delivery bay and ancillary works Former Ravensfield Care Home, High Hill, Keswick, CA12 5NX Response deferred until September Town Council meeting – Extension request sent to LDNPA.</p>
7/2020/2165	<p>Development of 5 no. flats/maisonettes for local occupancy Acorn Garage, Helvellyn Street, Keswick, CA12 4EH <i>Object – We are supportive of the principle of providing local occupancy housing on this site and consider the opening up of the courtyard area at the rear for parking is a significant improvement to the existing building. The design details are in keeping with the area and the submitted proposals are an improvement on the previous application with a reduction in height of the rear dwelling adjacent to 16 Leonard Street. Following a site visit to appraise concerns raised by residents of neighbouring properties, we remain concerned at the overbearing impact of the three storey unit on the Leonard Street properties in such close proximity to the boundary. We would ask the applicant to consider how the walls, on both sides of the site up to the boundary, can physically be built as detailed without access from neighbouring properties – whose owners are objectors to this application. Despite comments made by CCC Highways, we remain concerned about restricted visibility for cars exiting onto Helvellyn Street adjacent to the existing store building on the site frontage. We recommend the overall design is revisited to address these concerns and provide a more neighbourly development</i> OBJECT</p>
7/2020/2166	<p>One projecting sign and two signs to new shop front 7 Museum Square, Keswick, CA12 5DZ <i>No comments made</i> SUPPORT</p>
7/2020/2170	<p>Approval of details reserved by condition no. 3 of planning approval 7/2018/2118 (Forming new 2 storey dedicated family entrance, extension to vehicle bays & two storey garage and silver command, office space with high ropes training area.) - Details of windows & doors Lakeside Car Park, Keswick Mountain Rescue Team Base, Lake Road, Keswick, CA12 5DJ</p>

No comments made

SUPPORT

7/2020/2171

Proposed extensions and alterations to existing dwelling including demolition of existing single storey garage/utility room

Nandi Hills, Lonsties, Keswick, CA12 4TD

No comments made

SUPPORT

7/2020/2178

Siting of tables and chairs to facilitate eating and drinking area
25 Main Street, Keswick, CA12 5BL

No comments made

SUPPORT

7/2020/2188

Change of use of vacant retail store to 4 x 1 no. bed dwellings following approval of planning application 7/2019/2269

18 Otley Road, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5LE

No comments made

SUPPORT

ii) **RECEIVED** update on National Park planning decisions.

71. **Planning White Paper**

Consideration was given to the implications of the White Paper 'Planning for the Future' and how the Council could best respond to the consultation. The Chair reminded Councillors that there was currently an opportunity to submit a nomination to the Executive Committee of the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) and suggested that having a representative on this Committee would enable more input into the National Association of Local Councils' (NALC) response.

RESOLVED that the Planning Group supplemented by Councillor Terry prepare a draft consultation response for approval by the Council to the White Paper, and that Councillor Terry be nominated for the vacant position on the CALC Executive Committee.

72. **Review of Station Street/St John's Street One Way System**

Consideration was given to the effectiveness of the current temporary one way system in Station Street/St John's Street. Members of the public presented views for and against. It was agreed that there were issues with signage and enforcement and that monthly monitoring should take place.

RESOLVED that the temporary one-way system remain in place with monthly monitoring and that a request for traffic calming and better signage be made to Cumbria Highways.

(Councillor Paxon left the meeting).

73. **Reports from Ward Representatives**

RECEIVED reports from the following representatives:

- i. LDNPA North Distinctive Area Parishes Representative – Dr Davies presented a written report and gave his initial comments on the Planning White Paper. Councillor Lywood advised that a funding application had been submitted for a spur from the K2T multi-user trail on the A66 to St John's in the Vale.
(Dr Davies left the meeting)
- ii. Allerdale Borough Council
Councillor Daniels said that the 'no cash' policy on the Borough Council's car parks was discriminatory and leading to large queues building up due to the poor functionality of the system. He asked that representations be made to allow cash payments to be re-introduced. The Clerk was asked to write to the Borough Council.

Councillor Lansbury advised that grants were available to Sports Clubs using Fitz Park and that she had informed the clubs of this opportunity.

iii. **Cumbria County Council**

Councillor Lywood advised that five artists had expressed an interest in designing the mural for the new bus shelter at Penrith Road and outlined how the Working Group proposed to decide a theme and involve the schoolchildren from St. Herbert's School. Councillors were happy with the action proposed.

74. Otley Road Recycling Centre

Councillor Daniels raised the issue of the state of the Otley Road recycling centre which was being used for flytipping by businesses and becoming a health hazard due to the accumulation of waste. **RESOLVED** that representations be made to Allerdale Borough Council for action to be taken to monitor the use of the site and to keep it tidier.

75. Keswick to Threlkeld Trail

Consideration was given to the report of Councillor Harwood and the response from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to the Council's letter of 16th June 2020.

RESOLVED that the action recommended in the report be approved i.e.

- i. A formal response be sent to DEFRA recording the Council's concern that its principal request has not been addressed
- ii. A submission be made to the Local Government Ombudsman
- iii. Contact be made with the Langdale 4x4 team to establish progress of their case and any learning points

76. Recognition of Fundraising Achievement

Councillor Lywood proposed that an art work should be commissioned and sited in the town to honour 'Max' the dog and his achievement (with his owner) in raising over £300,000 for charity. Crowd funding was suggested as a way of covering any costs.

RESOLVED that the proposal be supported and that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Titley and Max's owner form a working group to take it forward.

77. Proposed Cycling Station

Councillor Lywood advised that Keswick Community Asset Company had agreed to fund a 'cycling station' outside Keswick Mini Market. Consultation had taken place with County Highways and local businesses who were all supportive.

RESOLVED that the Town Council support the proposal to install the Cycling Station in the suggested location.

78. Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts for July 2020 as approved by the Inspection Committee be authorised for payment:

- i) For the Town Council, vouchers 46 – 71, amounting to £44,995.29 (forty four thousand nine hundred and ninety five pounds and twenty nine pence)
- ii) For the Trusts, vouchers HP55 – FP69, amounting to £8,942.73 (eight thousand nine hundred and forty two pounds and seventy three pence)

79. Mayor's Allowance

Consideration was given to re-allocating the budget provision for the Mayor's allowance for 2020-21 (£2,000) to another budget head as the Mayor had indicated that he did not wish to accept it in the current circumstances.

RESOLVED that £2,000 be vired from the Mayor's Allowance to the Grants allocation in the current year's budget.

80. Quarterly Budgets

RECEIVED for information the quarterly budgets comparison.

81. Climate Change Working Group Update

RECEIVED an update from Councillor Boardman.

82. Clerk's Report

Consideration was given to the Clerk's report.

RESOLVED:

- i) that Councillor Lansbury replace Councillor Harwood on the Staffing Committee
- ii) that the offer of free membership of the Rural Market Towns Group be accepted
(Councillor Daniels offered to represent the Council on this group)

83. Minutes of Committee Meetings

RECEIVED for information the Minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 16th July 2020.

84. Correspondence

RECEIVED the following correspondence:

- i) Keswick Senior Citizens Club – thanks for grant.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Chairman

Date

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Receive Updates



Cockermouth and Keswick

[View in browser](#)

November 2019 - Cockermouth & Keswick

Please let us know how useful these newsletter updates are, [Click Here](#)

Anti-Social Camping Operation

Operation aimed at targeting those responsible for damage, littering and anti-social camping in the Keswick area.

Results

TOR

Sixteen parking tickets for obstruction on the B5289 between Great Wood and the turn off for Waterdloth and One for



Great wood and the turn off for waterfalls and one for driving off road at the same location. (17 in total) happy bus drivers!

Derwentwater, Anti-social camping

Brandlehow (upper, off the side road); two camping in the field. Moved on.

Brandlehow (lower, on the foreshore) a group of three and a group of eight moved on.

Low Manesty (centre of the woods) couple with ground fire located. Site inspection required during the day for criminal damage.

Hawse End (near the Adventure Centre) three moved on.

Thirlmere Anti-social camping

A group of three moved on

A group of two stumbled on in hammocks. Asked to leave.

Two groups of five asked to leave.

Police in West Cumbria are tackling underage drinking

Thinking of buying alcohol for under 18s?

Did you know it is illegal to buy alcohol on behalf of someone who is under 18. If you're caught you could get a £90 on-the-spot fine or end up in court with a criminal record and an unlimited fine.

Police in the Keswick area will be tackling underage drinking with partner agencies.

Sergeant Scott Adams said:



“Like many large towns, unfortunately Keswick sees cases of young people drinking too much over the weekends and holiday periods.

“As well as causing health problems and increasing hospital admissions, this can also be associated with anti-social behaviour which effects the wider community.

“It is important to educate the licensees and retailers about challenging those under 25, to limit the access that youngsters have to alcohol.

“However, it is also important to educate those young people in the hope we can impact them early to prevent them misusing alcohol not only while they are underage, but in later life too.

“Drinking alcohol brings serious risks to children, putting them in danger of physical and social harm. They are far more likely to injure themselves or someone else, fail to reach their potential at school and engage in anti-social behaviour.”

Officers in west Cumbria are aware of a number of reports on reports on social media around properties being reportedly marked with chalk or similar associated with the theft of animals.

If anyone has been victim to a dog theft or witnessed any suspicious activity we would encourage the public to report it to police.

The number of reports we receive of suspected dog thefts in the county remains relatively low. However, such an occurrence is obviously extremely upsetting for the owner of the dog.

There are a number of steps people should take before contacting the police if their pet goes missing including

checking with family and friends who have access to the pet and neighbours who might have seen the dog.

If you do believe your dog has been stolen, contact the police giving as much detail as you can about the circumstances and a description of the dog.

Advice

- Don't leave your pet tied-up unattended, such as outside shops.
- Make sure your dog is wearing a collar and ID tag when in a public place, as you are now required to do by law. Include details such as your surname, telephone number, address and full post code and if there's room, put 'microchipped' on the tag if your dog has a chip (from 6 April 2016, all dogs must be microchipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are eight weeks old).
- Ask your vet to check your dog's microchip every year to ensure your details are accurate and up-to-date
- From April 2016, all dogs must be microchipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are eight weeks old.
- Ensure your garden or yard is secure.

Members of the public can report stray dogs to Allerdale Borough Council through their website at <https://www.allerdale.gov.uk/en/report/report-stray-dog/>

Anyone with any information or to report suspicious activity contact police on 101, email 101@cumbria.police.uk or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Officers in west Cumbria are aware of a number of reports on reports on social media around properties being reportedlv

reports on social media and other properties being reported, marked with chalk or similar associated with the theft of animals.

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Offence Group	Crimes	Same Period Last Year	Difference	% Change
Arson and Criminal Damage	23	25	-2	-8.0%
Burglary	10	10	0	0.0%
Drug offences	8	5	3	60.0%
Hate Incident	0	0	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous Crimes Against Society	3	6	-3	-50.0%
Possession of weapons offences	2	0	2	0.0%
Public order offences	17	19	-2	-10.5%
Reported Incidents	0	1	-1	-100.0%
Robbery	0	1	-1	-100.0%
Sexual offences	4	12	-8	-66.7%
Theft offences	24	36	-12	-33.3%
Vehicle Offences	7	6	1	16.7%
Violence against the person	95	81	14	17.3%
Total	193	202	-9	-4.5%

● Month Total ● Previous Year ● Average Previous 3 Years



CRIME FIGURES

Crime figures can also be obtained via the Cumbria Police Website:

<https://www.cumbria.police.uk/Your-Area/Your-area.aspx>

To receive more policing news, sign up to our other area newsletters by clicking on the links below:

newsletters by clicking on the links below:

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[Maryport, Aspatria, Silloth & Wigton](#)

[Cumbria \(covering the whole county\)](#)



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KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL
17TH SEPTEMBER 2020

ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ON BANK STREET

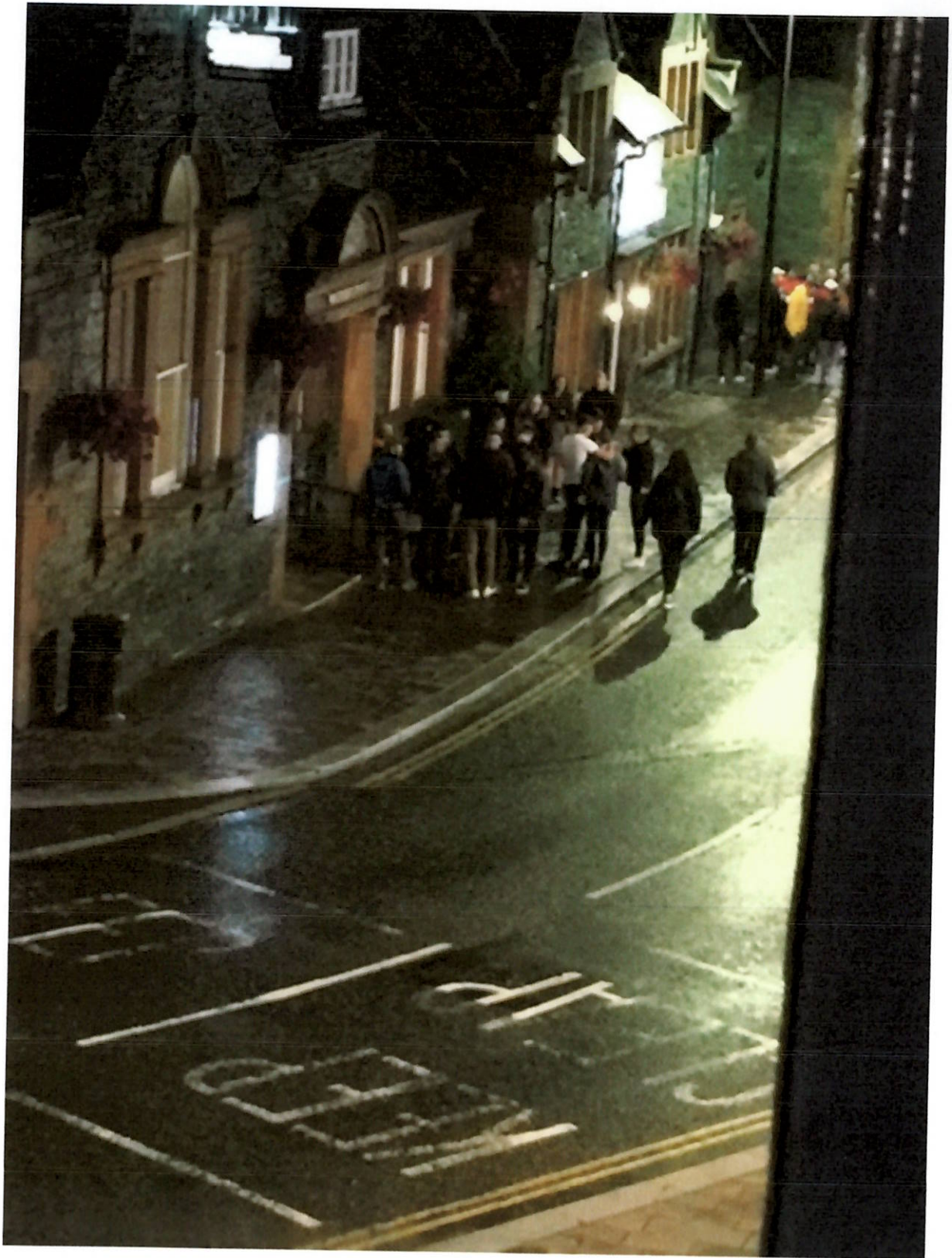
Since lockdown rules eased and Wetherspoons and Crafty Baa opened on Bank Street, Councillors have had numerous reports about the lack of social distancing in the queues for these establishments as well as an increase in noise/nuisance from local residents and business owners.

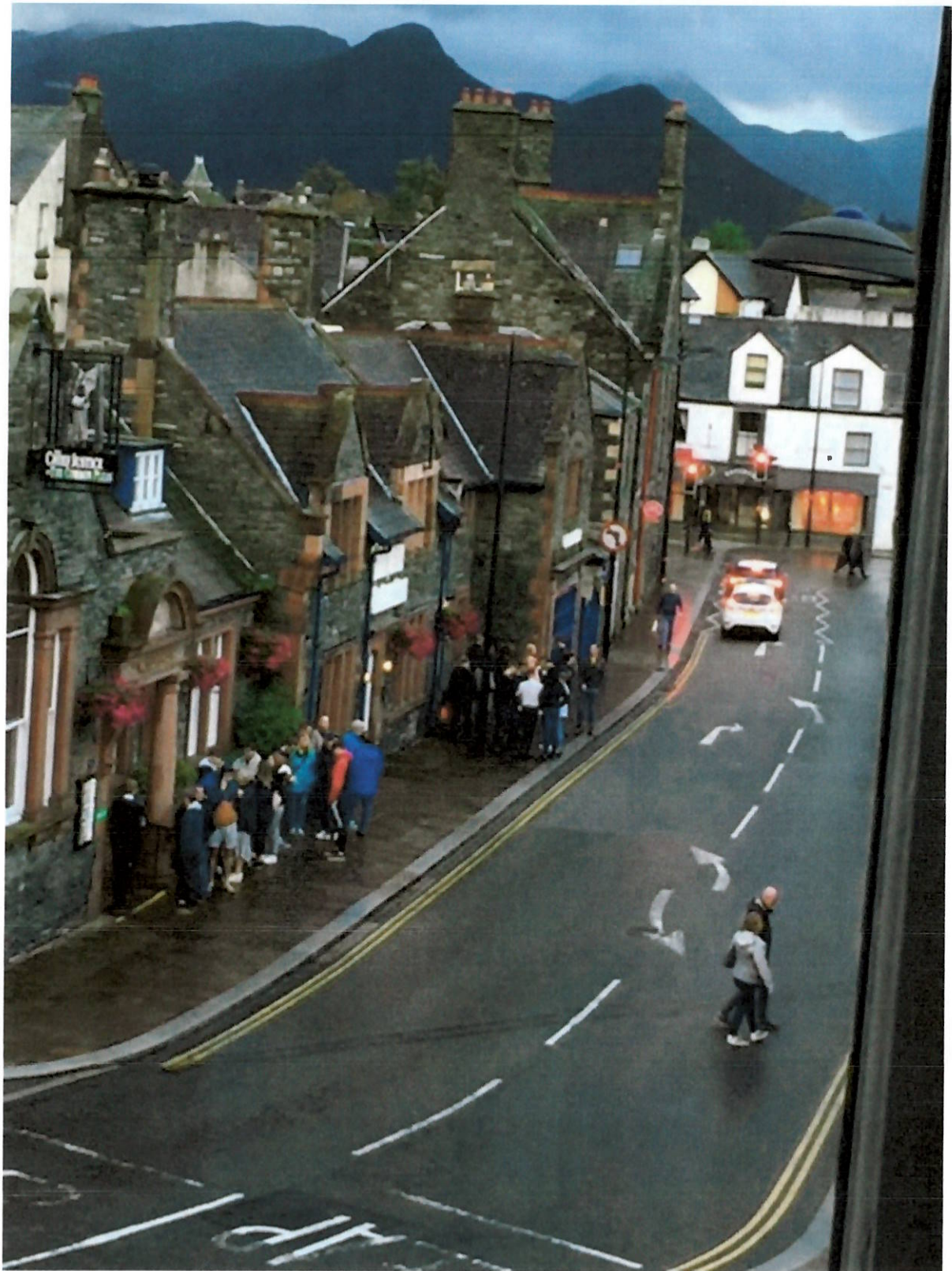
Part of the issue is the queuing outside Wetherspoons and Crafty Baa and the blocking of the pavements. Wetherspoons generally have someone on their door but they do not manage the queue, so rather than people waiting in a line alongside the building in small groups they are allowed to 'cluster' in larger groups and block the pavements. This is in contrast to the Fish and Chip shop which does have a long orderly queue. The pavement is wide on the Wetherspoons side of the Street compared to the Crafty Baa. During the day New Balance also has queues on the narrow section of pavement but I have not heard anything negative about that.

The photos below give an example (taken on Saturday 5th September 2020 by one of the Guest House owners on Bank Street). As you can see there are large groups so the only way to walk past is on the road. There are also video clips later in the evening where large groupings congregate in Wetherspoons' temporary beer garden which had been their staff car park.

I would like to request that the Town Council write to the Police regarding the antisocial behaviour/lack of social distancing (draft letter attached), and also to Allerdale Borough Council Licensing Department, as when residents have contacted Allerdale they have had no response. Allerdale has assured the Town Council that the Beer Garden in what was the staff car park will end at the end of September; again I would like confirmation of this.

Councillor Alexandra Boardman





DRAFT LETTER TO THE POLICE

Dear

The Town Council would like to raise its concerns with you regarding the increase in antisocial behaviour in Bank Street, Keswick.

Wetherspoons and the new Crafty Baa opened post-lockdown, since then residents have raised their concerns and Councillors would like the opportunity to meet you to discuss how this increase in antisocial behaviour can be addressed.

The majority of issues arise when Wetherspoons and the Crafty Baa have customers queuing outside. Although Wetherspoons do have someone on the door they do not manage the queue and allow their customers to group in large groups blocking the pavement. From early evening the queues are also very noisy in what is a residential part of town.

Attached are a couple of photographs taken on Saturday 5th September early evening so you can see the issue.

We look forward to meeting with you soon.

Planning Applications received between 14/08/2020 - 10/09/2020

Plan ref	Location	Description of Proposed Development
7/2020/0104	70 Main Street, Keswick, CA12 5DX	Fell 2 x Cypress trees
7/2020/2039 (revised amended plans)	Former Ravensfield Care Home, High Hill, Keswick, CA12 5NX	Erection of Hotel (C1) with restaurant / bar (A3/A4) at ground floor, together with means of access, car parking, creation of loading/ delivery bay and ancillary works
7/2020/2160	48, Millfield Gardens, Keswick, CA12 4PD	To extend the dwelling at the front and to the side of the dwelling - including building second storey over the part of the garage roof
7/2020/2191	Land adjacent to Spring Road, Keswick, CA12 4AH	Approval of details reserved by condition no. 3 of planning permission 7/2019/2104 (Landscaping scheme): Creation of a new detention basin (including new access track and site entrance), with a new below ground connection to the Castlehead Drain, emergency spillway, landscaping and associated works
7/2020/2197	Fenton Lea, 2, Fenton, Keswick, CA12 4AZ	Demolition of flat roof garage and construction of annex/studio
7/2020/2199	Fell House, 28, Stanger Street, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5JU	Change of Use of Guest House (C1) to Holiday Letting Accommodation (C3) (following withdrawal of application 7/2020/2142)
7/2020/2202	7, Grizedale Close, Keswick, CA12 4JL	Proposed extensions & alterations to dwelling including demolition of prefab garage
7/2020/2204	Serendipity, Eleventrees, Keswick, CA12 4LW	Amendment to local occupancy condition, condition no. 3 of planning approval 7/2012/222 - Local needs dwelling.
<p>NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: Interested parties are invited to let the Town Clerk have their comments, in writing, prior to the meeting regarding any of the planning applications on this sheet.</p>		

Decisions Received from LDNPA

Planning Decisions Received between 14/08/2020 & 10/09/2020

Plan Ref	Date of Application	Location	Postcode	Description	KTC Observations	LDNPA Decision	Appeal	Appeal Decision
7/2020/2001	January-20	Site off George Street, Rear of 16 Church Street, Keswick	CA12 4DT	Demolition of a semi - derelict workshop/store building and construction of a 1 bedroom local needs dwelling following refusal of planning application 7/2019/2149	OBJECT	REFUSED	Aug-20	
7/2020/2144	June-20	Field on Chestnut Hill, Chestnut Hill, Keswick	CA12 4LR	Permanent retention of concrete apron and double access gates installed as site access as part of United Utilities West Cumbria Water Supply Project	SUPPORT	GRANTED		
7/2020/2148	June-20	34, Blencathra Street, Keswick	CA12 4HP	Alterations and extension to provide an annexe. To include a bedroom, lounge/kitchen/dining area and utility room following withdrawal of application ref 7/2020/2084	OBJECT	GRANTED		
7/2020/2153	June-20	7, Vendace Court, Keswick	CA12 4EU	Erection of a single storey timber outdoor storage building on the west wall of the house	SUPPORT	GRANTED		
7/2020/2165	June-20	Acorn Garage, Helvellyn Street, Keswick	CA12 4EH	Development of 5 no. flats/maisonettes for local occupancy	OBJECT	REFUSED		
7/2020/2166	July-20	7, Museum Square, Keswick	CA12 5DZ	One projecting sign and two signs to new shop front	SUPPORT	GRANTED		
7/2020/2171	July-20	Nandi Hills, Lonsties, Keswick	CA12 4TD	Proposed extensions and alterations to existing dwelling including demolition of existing single storey garage/utility room	SUPPORT	GRANTED		
7/2020/2178	August-20	25, Main Street, Keswick	CA12 5BL	Use of land for the siting of tables and chairs for an eating and drinking area	SUPPORT	GRANTED		
7/2020/2188	August-20	18 Otley Road, Keswick, Cumbria	CA12 5LE	Change of use of vacant retail store to 4 x 1 no. bed dwellings following approval of planning application 7/2019/2269	SUPPORT	GRANTED		

Report from the North DA Parishes Member of the LDNPA – August 2020

On 8 October 2019 I chaired the meeting of Rights of Way Committee where it was agreed that:

Tilberthwaite Road (U5001) should be maintained in its current condition by our partner Cumbria County Council and that we create a partnership management group of invited key partners and stakeholders to work collaboratively to monitor usage and condition; undertaking necessary activities to help mitigate any new issues that may arise. And for the High Oxen Fell Road (U5004), again Cumbria County Council maintains the road surface at its current condition, and we work with them and the National Trust to monitor surface condition.

Subsequent to this decision, a Judicial review was brought by the Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement (GLEAM) and the judgment¹ was handed down on 21st August. The Honourable Mr Justice Dove dismissed all three of GLEAM's claims.

One of the claims was of very general interest to all National Parks because it challenged an interpretation of the Sandford Principle that has been widely used. It was claimed that LDNPA officers had misdirected members by advising them in their Assessment Report (AR) that they could only proceed to pursue a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) if the conflict between the two National Park purposes was irreconcilable and all other management measures apart from the TRO had been exhausted. These purposes were originally set out in Section 5(1) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949 (the 1949 Act), as follows:

The provisions of this Part of this Act shall have effect for the purpose of preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the areas specified in the next following subsection, and for the purpose of promoting their enjoyment by the public.

In effect, the 1949 Act gave equal weight to the two purposes. This was picked up by the National Park Policies Review Committee, chaired by Lord Sandford, which issued its report in 1974.

But there have also been uncertainties and differing views about the purposes of a national parks, which stem from the ambiguities of the statute, which gives equal weight to the preservation and enhancement of natural beauty on the one hand, and the promotion of public enjoyment on the other. The apparent assumption that any conflict between the purposes could be easily resolved has been disproved by experience, which shows that public use of the parks can be of such a kind and on such a scale as to be destructive of their environment qualities.

The Committee also stated that:

We have no doubt that where the conflict between the two purposes, which has always been inherent, becomes acute, the first one must prevail in order that the beauty and ecological qualities of national parks may be maintained.

Although the 1949 Act is still on the statute book, the Environment Act, 1995, amended it in a number of ways. While Section 5 was redrafted, it remains the case today that there are two

¹ <https://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2020/2293.pdf>

purposes, which may be referred to as the “conservation” and “public enjoyment” purposes. The Environment Act also inserted Section 11A into the 1949 Act, and Section 11A(2) in particular includes what is regarded as the statutory implementation of the Sandford Principle, as follows:

... if it appears that there is a conflict between those purposes, [the National Park Authority] shall attach greater weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area

Counsel for the claimant noted that “conflict” is not qualified by words such as “acute” or “irreconcilable”. However, Circular 12/96 published by the Department of the Environment flowed directly from the enactment of the 1995 Act. at paragraph 17 it observed that it was expected that National Park Authorities and other public bodies would make every effort to reconcile conflicts between the two National Park statutory purposes by encouraging mediation, negotiation and cooperation, “but there may be instances where reconciliation proves impossible.” In those cases the conservation purpose would take precedence.

A DEFRA circular in 2005 observed that “if it appears there is an irreconcilable conflict between the parks’ two purposes then greater weight should be attached to the conservation purpose”. By contrast in further advice published by DEFRA in 2007 relating to TROs it is stated that:

where there is an apparent conflict between these twin statutory purposes, section 11A [of the 1949 Act] (the so-called Sandford Principle) requires that greater weight is given to conservation.

The picture regarding the use of “acute” or “irreconcilable” to qualify “conflict” is, then, not consistent.

In Section 39 of his judgment, Dove J says that:

It is clear to me that section 11A(2) is included within the 1949 Act as a means of resolving situations where it is no longer possible to treat both of the purposes equally, and not possible through management or stewardship to satisfactorily accommodate both purposes. [...] Thus, something more than simply conflict which is not managed must arise for the provisions of section 11A(2) to be triggered [...] Section 11A(2) is a necessary means of breaking the deadlock where the interests of the two purposes cannot be mediated through a management or stewardship solution. [...] It follows that I am satisfied that the approach taken by the AR in the present case to section 11A(2) of the 1949 Act was a reliable and accurate interpretation of that statutory provision.

Details of the cases are on the LDNPA website².

Geoff Davies

Geoff.Davies@lakedistrict.gov.uk

² https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/visiting/things-to-do/green_roads/future-management-of-tilberthwaite-and-oxen-fell-roads

CCTV Update & Cost Implications
17th September 2020

Tellemachus have now made their initial site visit to Keswick and provided us with a quotation for the two cameras to be installed and ongoing costs, however the quotation is more than the indicative costs given in August 2019.

Keswick Town Council – Approved spend	Amount
Police & Crime Commissioner Fund	£6000.00
General Reserves	£8505.00
Annual Budget	£3000.00
Total	£17505.00

Telemachus Indicative Costs	
2 x CCTV camera @ £6371.00 each	£12742.00
Surveys & installation	£1763.00
SIMs (12 months) and annual maintenance £1500.00 per camera	£3000.00
Total	£17505.00

Telemachus Quotation	
2 x CCTV cameras @ £5900.00 each	£11800.00
Initial survey (<i>already paid</i>)	£756.53
Wall mounted bracket – John Youngs	£57.20
SIMs (18 months) and annual maintenance £1903.65 per camera	£3807.30
Licences, test and preconfigure	£942.42
Installation including operated van mounted platform lift	£990.00
Total	£18353.45
Electrical work to be completed by Keswick Town Council contractor (<i>as per terms of contract</i>)	£557.90
Total	£18911.35
Cost above agreed amount	£1406.35*

**Note: this does not include any 'out of scope' call outs or system failure once out of warranty period.*

Tellemachus have given the following explanation for the increase: -

- All costs sent out initially were indicative
- Some of the costs have increased this is due to the only contract available for the primary SIM being 18 months. By example, the 12month EE SIM card that they were quoting on last year no longer exists as an option, the closest suitable alternative is an 18 month SIM card that is costing more but there's nothing that can be done about those prices. EE is the only reliable service provider in the Keswick area.
- In regard to maintenance, Tellemachus will visit site, clean and inspect the camera for damage once per year. This will be included when they do the Cumbria Constabulary maintenance.

- The RDC build is guaranteed for 1 year. The camera will come with a manufacturer's 3-year warranty.
- As these cameras are hand built the cost of parts, software and licences are fluctuating all the time.
- As per the support SLA in the quote, if a site visit is required to return the camera to base this will be chargeable; however, if the Council removes the unit and returns it to Tellemachus there will be no charge.

Councillors are therefore asked to approve: -

- The additional costs of £1406.35 from General Reserves*
- Setting up a new earmarked reserve for any 'out of scope' call outs plus the system failing when out of the 12 month (RDC)/3 year warranty (camera) – To cover RDC and camera supply & installation of 1 unit - £6400.00.

**For information, the total of 'free' reserves is £17834.00 at this point in time.*

Catherine Parker

RFO

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL
17TH SEPTEMBER 2020

A-BOARDS, KESWICK TOWN CENTRE

Councillors may be aware that Keswick has had an A-Board scheme in place since 2017. The guidelines were set up by Cumbria County Council (CCC) in partnership with Keswick Town Council, Allerdale Borough Council, the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA), Cumbria Constabulary, Keswick Retailers Association, Keswick Tourism Association and the Federation of Small Business. The agreed guidelines were designed to help ensure that Keswick remains an attractive, vibrant and safe place to visit for all, including wheelchair users and those who are partially sighted. In drawing up the guidelines there was recognition of the important role A-Boards can play in advertising local businesses.

The guidelines say that only one board per business is permitted, that the board should be in direct contact with the front or side of the business premises, and that it should be taken in when the business is closed. There are size restrictions, and there must be an unobstructed footway width of 1.5 metres between the edge of the board and the kerb.

Although the scheme was a multi-agency initiative, led by CCC, monitoring has been left to Keswick Town Council and Cllr Allan Daniels and I have assumed this role. We try, and have been largely successful, in persuading transgressors to revert and stick to the guidelines. We have however had one or two traders who have refused to do so and our last resort is to make a report to CCC. There is scope for traders who want to do something outside the guidelines to apply to the LDNPA, at a cost, for advertising consent.

Adherence to the guidelines has become a bit patchy of late and Cllr Daniels and I would normally have visited and spoken to the businesses concerned. We are aware however that this has been, and continues to be, a difficult year for local traders. On the other hand we know that the longer we allow non-adherence to go on, the harder it is to secure compliance.

The obvious options are:

Do nothing at this stage, and turn a blind eye to any non-compliance, or

Remind traders who are not complying with the guidelines that they should be doing so.

Councillors are invited to give us a steer on this.

Cllr David Burn
Cllr Allan Daniels
11 September 2020

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL
17TH SEPTEMBER 2020

UPDATE FROM THE GREEN WORKING GROUP

1. TAKE AWAY LITTER ON MARKET SQUARE

Although new bins have been installed this does not tackle the source of the extra litter. (Paul Titley reported that in August 2019 25,000 people used the toilets compared to 41,000 this August which gives an idea for the number of extra visitors we have had).

We are pleased that when the Kingfisher re-opened they had changed their policy and now have environmentally friendly packaging. As a group we plan a positive well done/ congratulations press release to hopefully encourage others to follow suit. We want to recognise that that they have made a personal financial commitment to benefit the environment.

2. DRAFT LOCAL PROCUREMENT RULES

Rather than create a new Procurement Policy for Keswick Town Council we would like to add some new more environmentally sound procurement rules. These are for discussion at the September Council meeting and are as follows:

When purchasing goods and services the Town Council will take into consideration the following:

1. Evaluate tenders on a whole life-cycle basis (from conception to disposal) taking into account long term impacts (including environmental impacts) and maximising social return on investment.
2. Purchase fair trade, recycled and sustainable goods where possible (i.e. meet the required functional standard) for example use re-useable glassware rather than single use plastics.
3. Use locally sourced goods and services where possible.
4. Review the supply chain for services to ensure they are free from modern slavery and all companies pay the living wage as set by the Living Wage Foundation (this includes the processes of any recruitment agency or other third party used). *For example, when purchasing new uniforms for the Parks staff ensure that they have been responsibly produced.*
5. When making purchases consider reducing waste. *For example, rather than simply recycle the printer ink cartridges look into new market developments such as the Epson Ecotab.*

3. GREEN ACCREDITATION FOR BUSINESS IN KESWICK

There are several schemes e.g. Green Tourism Award but if you want the accreditation you need to subscribe and pay. We agreed to leave this on the agenda for future meetings - it may be that now that CAFS (Cumbrian Action For Sustainability) has been given a pot of money they may develop one that we can piggy back onto!

4. TERRACYCLE

Sally Lansbury reported back that this has been on hold a bit due to COVID. BIFFA will collect but then won't necessarily separate out so it's not worth it! Carlisle Council have done it but there is no financial benefit for Allerdale to do this. It was then suggested that we promote that people do not contaminate their plastic bins with things such as Pringle Crisp containers.

5. TETRAPAK

St John's and Booths would be OK having collection points. A member of Sustainable Keswick is going to try and chase up Tetrapak for this. This may result in a request for Town Council support to a letter-writing campaign to Alpro etc.

6. BALSAM BASHING

We acknowledge that planned activities were put on hold for 2020. But Peter Terry is keen to co-ordinate plans for 2021 to make this a town initiative involving lots of separate groups. It could become a town 'Event' so would be presented to the Events Committee for their support. Peter is to do some more research and report back based on the information provided by Sally's email as well as other input.

7. GREEN GET TOGETHER NOV 9TH 7PM

CAFS (Cumbria Action for Sustainability) have received a £2.5m grant for Cumbria and will present plans at this meeting for discussions etc. This will be via zoom and all Councillors will receive the invite should they wish to find out more.

Councillor Alexandra Boardman

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL
17TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Himalayan Balsam

Recently, like all Councillors, I was e-mailed by Sustainable Keswick (SK), about a 'Balsam Bash'. I was unfortunately unable to attend. I did think at the time that it was short notice and seemed to be somewhat disorganised in its approach. After receiving an e-mail from Councillor Lansbury I realised that I was wrong in this assertion and that SK had a programme for the year of balsam eradication but like many other things Covid played its part in cancelling these plans. I did however think at the time that possibly the Council, rather than a single issue group, could play a lead role in this eradication programme. By getting the Council to lead, I feel that it could be a 'town issue' in which all residents have an interest.

It was as a result of my thoughts and subsequently speaking with Councillor Boardman that I asked for it to be included as an agenda item at last Thursday's Climate Change Group meeting. As I promised at this meeting I would put together some of my ideas for the Group to consider. Detailed below in no particular order, importance or preference are my thoughts:-

- The Council take the lead in a 2021 'balsam bash' campaign. I am fully aware that other organisations e.g. SK & the Lions, have made efforts to eradicate the balsam and as such I feel that it is important that we do not step on their toes and cause resentment. If the campaign is given the 'go-ahead' by the Council I would suggest that these two organisations are contacted very early on to gain their full support.
- To assist in this campaign a small working group be formed, fronted by a Councillor.
- The working group to be by invitation but include a representative from SK and other identified knowledgeable individuals.
- The working group make use of knowledgeable individuals as 'consultants'
- To attempt to include the town's population and at the same time engender a feeling within the people of Keswick of togetherness by newspaper and social media build up a 'head of steam' over the winter and in the spring period of the Council's 'bashing' intentions.
- Draw up and advertise a diary of 'bashes'. My initial understanding of the timing of bashes seems to suggest three weekends one each in the spring, summer and autumn. I have been reading on the eradication tactics. The timing of when bashes are done is very important as actions at the wrong time can do more harm than good. The timing is therefore one subject that we would need specialist guidance.
- Other Councillors be involved as area leaders. For those Councillors who can afford the time they be allocated areas of the town where during the winter period they can log areas of balsam infestation. These logged areas would form the basis of the eradication programme. I appreciate that as the plant is an annual variety, winter logging is not necessarily an easy task.
- Involve and invite to the bashes local groups, e.g. Scouts; Guides; Schools; Lions; Rotary; Round Table; ramblers; Sports' Club; etc. The Golf Club does have heavy infestations along the river bank.
- Liaise with other organisations including Governmental with local knowledge e.g. Environment Agency; CCC; ABC

- Liaise with and involve other Parish Councils, it is not just a Keswick town problem.
- Liaise with and involve other organisations such as the West Cumbria River Trust
- At the suggestion of the Mayor, make a social event of the ‘bashes’ e.g. soup and sandwiches; tea/coffee etc.
- The campaign is likely to be ongoing for more than just 2021. Total eradication in just one year is likely to be a fond dream. At best I believe that control is the best we could hope for in the immediate future. Concerted efforts over a number of years will be required to effect full eradication.

For this initiative to succeed I believe that it needs the full support of the Council. I would be happy to coordinate the campaign if it is the wish of the Council but I cannot stress enough that on-going support and work of Councillors would be essential for it to be a successful control/eradication campaign.

Councillor Peter D Terry
6th September 2020

KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL
17TH SEPTEMBER 2020

CLERK'S REPORT

1. Award of Grants

At the last meeting it was agreed to re-allocate the £2,000 for the Mayor's allowance in the current year's budget to the grants 'pot'. The availability of this funding was featured in the Reminder editorial and a few enquiries have followed from local groups. It has now been advertised on the Council's website and in the Keswick Reminder with a closing date for applications of 5th October. It is suggested that applications be considered by a small group, or by all Councillors who wish to take part, prior to 8th October so that the grants can be approved at the next Council meeting on 15th October 2020.

2. Planning White Paper

The Working Group (Councillors Miller, Daniels, Harwood, Terry and Campbell-Savours) met on 9th September 2020 to share initial thoughts about the implications of the Planning White Paper. It was agreed that in addition to answering the questions posed in the consultation document, there should be a letter from the Town Council covering other points. The Group will work through the questions to provide draft responses for agreement by the Council at the October meeting (the deadline is 29th October 2020) and agreed with the principle of simplifying the planning system.

The following priorities were identified:

- Affordable housing supply (impact on S.106 agreements)
- Impact of flooding (need to listen to Flood Action Groups comments)
- Protecting the National Park (including impact of Climate Change)
- Maintaining community input to planning applications

Neighbourhood plans will be more important under the proposed new system and it was felt that the Council should revisit this. The Group has agreed to meet again on Thursday 24th September.

3. Representation on Outside Bodies – Rota for Reporting

The rota for reports from representatives on Outside Bodies would normally be agreed at the June Council meeting. However, due to the Covid restrictions, this was put on hold. It is now recognised that many groups are still meeting remotely and that it may be opportune for Councillors to update on how the current circumstances are affecting local organisations. A timetable for reports back is attached – reminders will be sent out as previously to ensure that reports are submitted prior to agenda day.

4. Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria

The Government is actively driving a devolution agenda across the UK – this is most likely to result in the reform of the existing two tiers of local government within the County. There are various options currently under discussion including all the present Councils being replaced with one or two unitary authorities providing public services and the creation of a combined authority to receive the additional powers. The Executive Committee of Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) gave consideration to the association's position at its virtual meeting on 12th August 2020 and the Committee's view is that CALC should be active in the debate that is now taking place. The

Committee has therefore agreed an 'Interim Position' statement (see attached). All local Councils are being asked for their views on this statement which should be sent to CALC as soon as possible.

Cumbria County Council announced on 3rd September that a proposal was to be submitted which, if supported by Government, would see the creation of a single new unitary council for the whole of Cumbria. Amongst the benefits cited from such an arrangement are:

- More powers to Cumbria's many and varied local communities over what happens in their area – through stronger town and parish Councils and building on the existing strengths of locality working

5. Covid 19 Outbreak – Business Grant Scheme

I am pleased to say that notification has been received that the Council has been awarded £10,000 grant funding under the above scheme as a business which is eligible for Small Business Rate Relief. This will be a welcome addition to our income.

LW
100920

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2020-2021

The Battersby Charity – Report Due Date 6 October 2020

Councillor Tony Lywood

Keswick in Bloom - Reports Due Date 6 October 2020

Councillor Peter Terry

**Keswick Community Emergency
Recovery Partnership – Report Due Date 10 November 2020**

Councillor Sally Lansbury

Keswick Tourism Association – Report Due Date 8 December 2020

Councillor Alan Dunn

Keswick Fair Trade Committee – Report Due Date 12 January 2021

Councillor Markus Campbell - Savours

Keswick Youth Centre – Report Due Date 9 February 2021

Councillor Markus Campbell - Savours

Keswick Flood Action Group – Report Due Date 9 March 2021

Councillor Paul Titley

Keswick Convention Town Liaison Group - Report Due Date 6 April 2021

Councillor Adam Paxon
Councillor Markus Campbell - Savours
Councillor Duncan Miller (substitute)

**Liaison Meetings – Report Due as and when meetings take place to the next
available Council meeting**

Councillor Alexandra Boardman
Councillor Steve Harwood
Councillor Paul Titley

Please note:

Reports from Outside Bodies and any other items which are to be included in an Agenda must be received no later than the Tuesday before Agenda day. The Agendas are always posted one week prior to the meeting, as a legal requirement. *The dates stated above are the report due date (not the meeting date).*



Local government reorganisation in Cumbria Interim position - August 2020

The purpose of this paper is to clarify CALC's current position on the future of local government in Cumbria and the role of town and parish councils.

Summary of Cumbria Association of Local Councils' interim position

1. Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) welcomes in principle the aim of delivering better public services through a local government reorganisation in Cumbria.
2. CALC feels that local government in two tier areas like Cumbria faces additional challenges that can sometimes make it harder to achieve the strong leadership and clear accountability which our communities need. There are risks of duplication and inefficiency between tiers resulting in confusion for local residents and the stretching of limited resources for small districts.
3. CALC agrees with the government's view that in two tier local government areas like Cumbria, maintaining the status quo is no longer an option. Our view is that the people of Cumbria are not as well served by existing local government as they could be and the time has come to make significant changes in the way local government operates within the county.
4. The best prospect of achieving high quality local government in Cumbria in the future lies in the replacement of the present two tier local government structure with one or more unitary authorities delivering services and the creation of a combined authority to receive the additional powers. We understand that any new model of local government will be subject to consultation but the decision will be made by ministers.
5. CALC will consider and take a position on any proposals submitted to the government and hopes that the present county and district councils will produce practical proposals for a unitary local authority structure in Cumbria by the government's deadline.
6. In any reorganisation, CALC would expect to see arrangements in place which allow communities, through their elected town and parish councils, greater influence over what happens in their areas. We are looking for decentralised decision making which enables service planning and delivery to be sensitive to local aspirations and circumstances. CALC is looking for this level of community influence to be integral to any new arrangements.

Empowered communities

7. CALC's particular interest in any future local government arrangements is focussed on how town and parish councils and a principle authority could work together to achieve empowered communities. The following paragraphs are a contribution to debate on how this may be achieved.
8. Some general principles are:
 - a. The empowerment of local communities should be an explicit objective of the principle authority. It will need to organise itself appropriately and allocate adequate resources to achieve the objective.

- b. Governance at the local community level should be led by elected town and parish councils in partnership with the principle authority and other community groups. This means town or parish councils should be created in those areas where they currently do not exist.
 - c. The principle authority should not micro-manage at the community level itself but should empower town and parish councils and others to do so.
 - d. Arrangements for community governance and empowerment should be flexible to allow for variations in capacity and aspirations amongst town and parish councils. Communities should be free to choose the nature and extent of their involvement.
 - e. Local diversity should be viewed as an opportunity, not a problem. There should be no 'one size fits all' solutions.
9. The interest of town and parish councils in empowerment covers:
- a. Influencing principle authority decisions before they are made
 - b. The opportunity to take on responsibility for the management of local services, facilities and land
 - c. scrutinising and challenging principle authority performance

Influencing decisions

10. Influencing decisions is about town and parish councils collectively influencing broader policy decisions and also about individual councils influencing decisions affecting their specific area.
11. Currently decisions are taken at local level within the framework of policies that have been decided at a more strategic level. This presents a dilemma for town and parish councils – their forté is handling detailed local matters yet they need to find time and resources to participate at the strategic level to ensure the options at local level are not closed down. This means that individual council representatives or CALC representatives need to commit, often over lengthy time scales, to debates, discussions and consultations. Sometimes representatives with sufficient expertise and free time are difficult to find. A way will need to be found to resource community participation in strategic policy making.
12. At the individual parish level, councils want consultation and participation processes to leave them with the feeling that they have been listened to and their views actually taken into account. This is particularly important in town and country planning where the current process leaves local councillors feeling that sometimes decisions have been taken without their views being properly heard or considered. The 'neighbourhood plan' initiative has helped in recent years but many smaller communities are not in a position to develop their own neighbourhood planning strategy.
13. Town and parish councils have been increasingly working with their communities to prepare and adopt a 'community plan', which is a constructive contribution to place shaping by the community. It is increasingly the main way that a community will seek to highlight and prioritise matters of importance to them. The principle authority should actively engage in the preparation of community plans and establish protocols which enable them to influence policy decisions and initiate actions. In particular, there needs to be arrangements that enable all aspects of a parish plan to influence community strategies and local development frameworks.

Devolution of service responsibility

14. A town or parish council's interest in taking on a service responsibility from the principle authority will depend on whether the council believes it can provide a better service or better value for money, the benefits of the service or facility to the community and the adequacy of resources and officer support from the principle authority. It will also depend on the council's preferences and its assessment of its own capacity.
15. A principle authority should not think in terms of either 'we' do it or 'they' do it. Often the combination of local resources, local knowledge and sensitivity to local considerations provided by the town or parish council, coupled with the professional officer expertise and support provided by the principle authority will provide the best arrangement.
16. The initiative to encourage town and parish councils to take on ownership and management of services, facilities and land should come in the first instance from the principle authority. The principle authority is in the best position to shape some possibilities for discussion, enabling town and parish councils to explore the specific opportunities.
19. Proposals for the devolution of service responsibility should be accompanied by the necessary financial resources from the principle authority to deliver the service. This does not mean that town and parish councils are always looking to undertake service provisions at no cost to themselves and their communities. In fact they will sometimes be prepared to provide some form of 'added value' from their own resources.
20. Arrangements to enable town and parish councils to take on the ownership and management of services, facilities and land will need to be flexible to allow for the variations in capacity and aspirations. Allowances will need to be made for the likely increase in capacity and aspirations over time. It is anticipated that in the future, more councils will be recognised under the Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS) and as more clerks qualify with the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA), an increasing number of councils will also become eligible to implement the General Power of Competence. However until that time, fixed long term contractual arrangements will not always be appropriate.
21. Although town and parish councils will resist being pushed into geographical 'clusters' where a loss of identity will be feared, they recognise that working in groups on cross boundary service provisions will often be the only practical arrangement. This can also deliver economies of scale.

Scrutinising performance

22. The 2000+ town and parish councillors across the county have considerable knowledge and experience of principle authority performance in the delivery of services. At present feedback to the principle authority is random, partial and most commonly in the form of complaints. There needs to be a mechanism for this wealth of experience to be gathered in a more systematic and constructive manner. There should be a clear role for town and parish councils (perhaps via CALC) in formal scrutiny and review of activities, as well as more informal mechanisms through the principle authority's own front line councillors.
23. Arrangements which enable town and parish councils to hold principle authorities to account are of no value unless they also enable town and parish councils to influence change. Following the scrutiny and review of existing performance, processes need to be in place to either implement change or give full explanations of why change is not possible.

Capacity of town and parish councils and availability of resources

24. A review by CALC indicates that in relation to 'good practice' the performance of town and parish councils has improved in recent years. There is good attendance at CALC training courses, there was an encouraging cross section of councillors from across the county at the 2019 summer conference, there is a more professional approach amongst parish clerks with a growing number serving more than one council, there is widespread interest in the preparation of community plans, the use of IT and the internet is now universal despite variations in availability of Broadband, most councils have recently embraced virtual meetings as routine and there is a willingness to raise money through the precept to implement projects.
25. However there remain differences in capacity across the parish sector which will need to be taken into account if empowerment of communities through town and parish councils is to be a reality across the county. A variety of measures will need to be implemented with the support of the principle authority.
26. CALC and other organisations will need to continue to provide basic training for councillors and clerks. This work may include a mix of traditional courses, workshops and conferences (Covid-19 restrictions permitting), discussions and coaching via virtual meeting platforms and webinars. The Local Council Award Scheme will need to be promoted more actively, alongside the Certificate in Local Council Administration qualification course.
27. Efforts will need to be made to attract new people to local council activities and this will require a higher profile for parish elections without the fear of the financial burden of a poll. It is acknowledged that some parish councils are too small to generate sufficient capacity and should be encouraged to join with an adjacent council, while many other councils should be encouraged to reduce their number of councillors to improve decision making.
28. Town and parish councils have to raise their income from the parish precept. There is an understandable reluctance amongst town and parish councillors to add to the council tax burden and face the disapproval of their neighbours. All town and parish councils have considerable 'back office' costs, including salaries, insurance, audit fees, health and safety inspections, subscriptions and IT costs. As a consequence, financial allocations for training and parish elections are often lower down the list of annual budget priorities and there is a wariness about taking on new responsibilities unless the financial consequences are small.
29. Town and parish councils' natural caution about spending will constrain efforts to empower them unless the principle authority is prepared to help find economies of scale in meeting their 'back office' costs and where appropriate fund or subsidise specific expenditure such as training costs, election costs, IT costs etc.
30. CALC is capable of helping to facilitate change and assist in the empowerment of town and parish councils but has limited income provided by its member councils and grants from county and district councils. In view of the potential contribution CALC could make to successfully implementing an agreed local government reorganisation in Cumbria, CALC will be seeking principle authority assistance to promote and support the key training and development programmes of Local Council Award Scheme and Certificate in Local Council Administration.

CALC Executive Committee
August 2020

**Notes of Keswick Ministries Town Liaison Forum
Tuesday 8th September 2020**



Attendees: Adam Paxon, Markus Campbell-Savours, Lynda Walker, Vanessa Metcalfe, Andy Murphy, Katie Callon, James Robson, Sarah Robinson, David Sawday, Murray Lawrie & Simon Overend (Chair).

1. **Welcome & apologies:** Apologies received from Becks Skinner, Duncan Miller and Joe Broomfield. (During the meeting an apology was also received from Charles Hope.) All participating in the Zoom call were welcomed and thanked for their time.
2. **Notes from previous meeting held on 12th May.** Pencil Factory tour planned for 12noon on Tuesday 8th December ahead of next meeting at 2pm that day – site works and Covid permitting. The notes of the previous meeting were agreed.
3. **Items raised:** No agenda items had been raised by invitees.
4. **Situation report and updates from forum representatives:**
 - a. **Markus (Town Council):** Town Council busy in these challenging times; businesses have been struggling – appreciation of KM’s use of local businesses for VKC.
 - b. **Lynda (Town Council):** Offices still closed; more phone calls; parks struggling with lack of income.
 - c. **Andy (Crosthwaite Church):** Most churches now meeting again with Covid restrictions; cash flow hit; Keswick volunteers initiative very positive.
 - d. **Adam (Town Council):** Missing interaction with people; Council very busy.
 - e. **Vanessa (KTA):** Now back in offices but not open to public; town and accommodation providers – esp self-catering - busy since easing of lockdown with bookings well into the autumn; retailer takings down reflecting job uncertainties. Some behaviour issues with first-time visitors to the area.
 - f. **Katie (Police):** Have been working differently; call volumes up.
5. **Updates from KM:**
 - a. **Virtually Keswick Convention 2020 – On-line Convention:** Great support from local businesses, Fluid Productions and for VKC website KCS. c.75k devices, from all over the world, logged into VKC, promoting the town globally, supported by some excellent drone footage. Many who would have attended Convention were in town over the three weeks having kept their accommodation booking. The programme continues to be available for catchup via KM’s VKC website <https://vkc.keswickministries.org/> and via KM’s You Tube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/keswickconvention>. Giving has been negatively impacted by the lack of a physical event.
 - b. **Derwent Project / Skiddaw Street updates - including works in progress and planned:** Work on the Pencil Factory site has continued during lockdown using many local contractors; The front elevation is nearing completion with new windows, insulation and render. Phase One works for the ground floor and M&E are out to tender with local firms; work due to start by November and be finished by May 2021. Site access is being improved with modifications to the Pencil Museum. Car park income has been hit by lockdown and then a failure of the card payment system installed by Allerdale. Skiddaw Street offices have been let to West Cumbria Rivers Trust. The group self-catering accommodation on the first floor has had very few bookings over the Summer as a result of Covid.

Community groups are being offered space in the Rawnsley building at a discounted rate which, given its size, allows them to meet with self-distancing.

Covid testing has been based on the Rawnsley and Pencil Factory sites free of charge.

Action: Marcus asked that someone pick up with him on issues with Allerdale - Murray or David to do so.

- c. **Teaching & Training Events:** As part of KM's year-round ministry, events have continued on-line, with some small events to be held in Keswick. Courses include engaging with science, faith and the environment – details on the KM website - <https://keswickministries.org/teaching-training-events/>
 - d. **Keswick Convention 2021:** Whilst there are obvious uncertainties, we plan in hope for the best case of a convention in Keswick next year. The theme is Faithful - <https://keswickministries.org/convention-2021/>
6. **Next meeting – 2.00pm Tuesday 8th December; preceded by tour of Pencil Factory at 12noon.**

Our Ref: AS/JW

Your Ref:

This matter is being dealt with by:

Mr A Seekings, Chief Executive

Direct Line: 01900 702528



27 August 2020

Lynda Walker
Town Clerk
Keswick Town Council
Council Offices
50 Main Street
Keswick
Cumbria
CA12 5JS

By email to: townclerk@keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk

Dear Lynda

Car Parking Payments

Thank you for your letter dated the 21 August 2020 in respect of the above.

We are aware that delays, due to signal failure, have occurred recently processing card (including contactless) payment at some of our car parking machines. To rectify this problem we have taken the decision to reinstate cash payments on an interim basis, until the signal problems are resolved.

Whilst I acknowledge your comments regarding the use of technology, I would point out that 85% of all of the UK population use a smart phone and there are 160m credit and debit cards active in the UK today. This data alongside guidelines not to use cash where possible to help stop the spread of COVID19 was an integral part of our decision to cease cash payments at car parking machines.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Seekings
Chief Executive



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place to live,
work and visit**

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From: Charles Holmes <Charles.Holmes@allerdalewasteservices.co.uk>
Sent: 24 August 2020 08:57
To: Lynda Walker <lynda@keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk>
Cc: Johnson, Mike <Mike.Johnson@allerdale.gov.uk>; Allan Daniels <danieall3@aol.com>; Sally Lansbury <sallylansbury@gmail.com>; Markus Campbell Savours <mcsavours.labour@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Otley Road Recycling Centre

Lynda

Many thanks for the attached letter. As explained to Cllr Daniels, Allerdale Waste Services are endeavouring to keep the Otley Road bring site in a clean and tidy condition. I understand that the underlying issue with the Otley Road site, is that it is being misused by business, both locally and through market traders. These businesses are legally bound to have trade waste contracts and if the site was used properly there should be no reason for the issues with capacity.

Most people in Keswick are now on full recycling – therefore the sites should only be used by people that live in harder to reach areas that do not receive recycling. The solution to this lies in an increased degree of enforcement at the site, stopping the misuse. I'll be raising the need for increased enforcement with officers from the Borough Council this week.

Kind regards

Charles Holmes | Managing Director
Allerdale Waste Services, Solway House, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 3XH
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<https://www.allerdale.gov.uk/en/waste-recycling/allerdale-waste-services/>