



ANNUAL REPORT

2021/22

Welcome to the Town Council's Annual Report for 2021/22

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.

**Vivien Little
Town Clerk
April 2022**

Contact Details

YOU CAN CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS DIRECT OR VIA

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The offices are normally open as follows: -

Monday to Wednesday
9.30am –1.00pm

Cllr David S Burn	7 Grange Park, Keswick CA12 4AY	07859 140 291
Cllr Allan D Daniels	31 Lakehead Court, Keswick, CA12 5EU	017687 44531
Cllr Alan Dunn	St. Johns House, St. John Street, Keswick, CA12 5AP	077125 91469
Cllr Steve Harwood	3 Browfoot, Penrith Road, Keswick, CA12 4LQ	017687 80708
Cllr Sally Lansbury	The Grange, Manor Brow, Keswick, CA12 4BA	078779 71609
Cllr Tony Lywood	Shu-Le-Crow, 7 Penrith Road, Keswick, CA12 4HF	077898 86015
Cllr Duncan Miller	Linthwaite, Manor Brow, Keswick CA12 4AP	017687 72295
Cllr Adam Paxon	Toll Bar Cottage, Penrith Road, Keswick, CA12 4JR	07989 386599
Cllr Peter Terry	High Cross, Chestnut Hill, Keswick, CA12 4LR	07802 450230
Cllr Paul Titley	32 Penrith Road, Keswick, CA12 4HA	078022 11496

THE COUNCIL

The Town Council consists of 12 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 six gardening and maintenance staff employed in Keswick Parks):

Ms Vivien Little, Town Clerk
Mrs Catherine Parker, Responsible Financial Officer
Miss Ania Mlynczak, Administration & Finance Assistant

The Council meets 12 times per year, 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 and on the noticeboard situated at the front of the Council offices. A copy of the agenda and reports for each Council meeting can also be found on the website and at Keswick Library.

The public are welcome to attend meetings and to ask questions or make comments during the public forum. Trust meetings are held at 7pm in the Council Chamber, 50 Main Street, Keswick, with Town Council meetings being held at 7.30pm.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021-22

Councillor Alan Dunn – Town Mayor

So the Council year beginning in May 2022 stated off pretty much the way the previous Covid year had ended with the exception that the Government ruled that Face to face meetings HAD to be organised and social distancing measures had to continue to be adhered to. We had to rule out the Council chamber as it was considered too small to allow social distancing in particular with the public in mind.

Keswick Town Council went through something of a nomadic period with our first meeting, being the handover of chairmanship and thus Mayor from Paul Titley taking place in St. Johns Parish Church. The acoustics were a bit of a challenge but we muddled through and held our June and July meetings there too. Reverting to the Council chamber in August the social distancing measures seemed OK but we tried the Crosthwaite Parish rooms in September before holding an extraordinary meeting and a scheduled council meeting in the Council chamber. In October we relocated to the Quaker friends meeting house and then we were off to the St. Herbert Centre for our November and December meetings before meeting at the Rawsley centre in January.

Once the Covid restrictions were lifted in February we returned to the Council for the remaining meetings of the year. We certainly got about a bit.

The Local Government reorganisation was announced and decided that Cumberland would be the name of the new authority which comprises Allerdale, Carlisle and Copeland and which will come in to being in April 2023.

July saw the opening up of hospitality in Keswick and accommodation, shops, pubs and restaurants had a very busy summer which continued into the autumn and winter. The huge numbers of visitors caused many problems with parking and associated issues. The issue of the Boxing Day Hunt appearing in the Market Square was discussed and it was agreed to write to the Blencathra Hunt asking them not to come. They chose to ignore our request but came with much reduced numbers and were not made welcome at their usual venues. "The times are a changing"

The long debated subject of holiday and second homes which are slowly but surely destroying our community as prophesised by George Bott in his 1994 book, Keswick, The story of a Lake District Town are coming home to roost. Without National Government intervention they will continue to do so.

The Back Street Parking problems continue but in my view there is no solution that will satisfy all the affected residents and Guest house owners.

The Russian war with Ukraine caused so much heartbreak. It was devastating to witness the daily bombings of innocent people. One Councillor, Peter Terry was so moved that he organised a trip to take specialist medical supplies to Poland and to get them to the right place in Ukraine. I will be joining him and I hope that by the time this report is presented we will be back safe and sound.

On a personal level Heather and I have been involved with many engagements from attending the unveiling of the Max Statue to opening homes built by the Keswick Community Housing Trust and completing a 24 hour walk in support of our amazing Keswick Parks. I hope my Tandem Paraglide in to Fitz Park at Easter is a success.

Mayors £214 Grants

The Alhambra Cinema, Keswick Parks, Keswick Scouts, Keswick Senior Citizens, Robin and Jenny Humphries (House Fire), Papyrus, (Andy Airey.) Gary McKee, (Macmillan Nurses and Hospice at Home), Keswick Rugby Club (£115 Beer sponsorship). Ukraine Appeal (Peter Terry)

PARKS TRUST CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021-22

Councillor Duncan Miller

I write as Chair of the Trust and will start with a huge thank you to our Parks Manager (Christine) and her Staff (Matt, David, Sarah and Kevin) for not only the wonderful work they do in the Parks but for coping with all that the pandemic has thrown at them over past couple of years. We as Trustees can be extremely thankful that Upper and Lower Fitz Park, Hope Park and Townsfield are being managed and maintained to a very high standard. Added to the above I thank the office staff for the support that they have given to myself and also to Christine and her team over the past year. Much appreciated.

Our Park's Manager gives us such wonderful updates/reports at our bi-monthly meetings I do not intend to be repetitive. However, I would like to highlight the much improved Woodland Walk Area in Hope Park which was made possible thanks to a grant from Cumbria County Council. The Max the Miracle Dog Statue has, through donations, allowed us to do some much needed re-surfacing of pathways in Hope Park. On the donation front I would like to thank our Mayor Alan Dunn for the magnificent sum he raised for the Parks when completing his 24 hour circular walk within Lower Fitz.

Income is always difficult to generate in our parks but I was really pleased that Trustees agreed to increase the tariff at our parking facility at Crosthwaite Road with effect from this month. I still feel that the increase offers excellent value for 'all day parking' in Keswick. I confirm that I have now signed the Cricket Club/Athletic Club lease which moves the repair and maintenance liability of the Pavilion onto those clubs. The Bowling Club have also agreed to take responsibility of the Bowling Bower - the signing of their 25 year lease is imminent. I confirm, also on a positive note, that I have signed a licence for Debbie Devereux to operate her Mini Cafe HNW from the games hut in Upper Fitz from Mid-April until the end of September. I met with Debbie (along with Christine, Catherine and Steve Harwood) on-site and I can confirm we were all extremely taken with her plans to re-invigorate the games and food offering with the emphasis on it being a destination for cyclists. We wish her well.

I thank the Trustees who attended our Fitz Park Walk in September, 2021 where Christine emphasised not only the importance of 'tree management' but the cost that will have to be budgeted for with some ageing oak trees needing either major work or felling in the not too distant future. The Hope Park Walk for Trustees in March, 2022 concentrated mainly on the previously mentioned Woodland Walk and the cost of replacing existing fuel driven mowers with electric models. It is the way forward but it certainly will scare our budgets!

This is my second time as Chair of the Parks and I would thank Adam for being a caring and supporting Vice-Chair. With this coming year being my final year on the Council, I think it is sensible to have continuity so I think it appropriate to advise that I will not be standing for either Chair or Vice of the Parks in 22/23.

Thank you for your support Trustees.

Duncan Miller
Chair of Keswick Parks.
April, 2022.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Catherine Parker – Responsible Financial Officer

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022

Expenditure	£
General Administration (inc salaries)	79,147
Mayors Allowance	2,000
Grants awarded	16,327
Christmas Lights	32,547
War Memorial	1,547
Townsfeld	1,150
Open Spaces	1,000
Fitz Park	159,928
Floral Displays	500
Town Events inc Scruffs	5,385
Allotments	397
Advertising	215
Audit fee/Accounts preparation	55
Contingency sum	120
Annual Parish Meeting	285
Professional Fees	5,385
CCTV Annual Maintenance	312
Total	306,300

Income	£
Precept and grants from Allerdale BC	273,697
Grant to Fitz Park (ABC)	20,000
Rent – Walker Park	12,267
Event banner advertising space	50
Allotment income	947
Townsfeld Interest	13
Keswick Events contributions	0
CCTV Contribution	180
Total	307,154

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

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 2021/22:

Citizens Advice Allerdale	£500.00
The CPR Group CIC	£200.00
Keswick Community Emergency Recovery Partnership (KCERP)	£5,825.00
Keswick & District Community First Responders	£120.00
1st Keswick Scouts Group	£1,500.00
1st Keswick Scouts Group	£1,000.00
Keswick St John Parochial Church Council (PCC)	£705.00
Keswick Youth Centre Services	£2,726.65
St Herbert's CE Primary and Nursery School	£1,250.00
Theatre by the Lake	£2,500.00
Total	£16,326.65

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

In 2021/22 the Battersby Hall Charity Trustees have been largely involved with the refurbishments to the Moot Hall and other charitable works

The main part of planned refurbishment works on the Moot Hall have now been completed, albeit slightly later than planned. There is still some outstanding paint stripping and painting to be done and these final works are due to start in mid-March and be finished before Easter. These are at ground level or just above so should not need scaffolding. It needs noting that centuries of layered injurious paint have had to be removed from the cornerstones and these will not be repainted for the foreseeable future.

The works have come in largely on budget which was about £130k and has included a complete refurbishment, and securing, of the weathervane which was in a perilous and dangerous state. Battersby Hall Trust employed Paul Lewis as Works Supervisor and he has proved to be excellent in all respects. A plaque on south wall listing contractors and trustees is planned to be erected on the opposite side to the one at the time of the last refurbishment.

Battersby Hall Charity spent another £5k refurbishing the early 19th century clock and face. This work is still ongoing, and an automatic time adjustor is being added and a maintenance contract with Cumbria Clock Co set up to ensure finally that the Moot Hall will display the correct time.

In 2021 the Battersby Hall Charity made local education grants totalling £7,400. This includes grants of £250 each to twenty 16+ school leavers towards their travel and other costs while undertaking courses in Cumbrian colleges and training facilities. It is our intention in 2022 to double these grants to £500 each. A small number of local families have also received education support grants of £125 each towards their general education costs (school uniform etc). In addition, each of the five local primary schools (Braithwaite, Bassenthwaite, Threlkeld, Borrowdale and St Herbert's) have received grants of £500 towards reading books and musical instruments.

While the Battersby Hall Charity continues to seek effective educational grant giving schemes to assist local school children and school leavers, a grant has also recently been given to local Mother and Toddler Group and a Senior Citizens' Group may also soon receive a grant.

An amendment to the objects and powers of the Charity, to better reflect its current method of working and grant giving, was approved by the Charity Commission in early August. David Leighton, who had served as Treasurer to the Battersby for over 20 years, stood down as a Trustee in May. He was replaced as a Trustee by Brenda Mumford and as Treasurer by John Hayes.

Tony Lywood KTC Rep and Chair of Battersby Hall Charity 08/03/2022

KESWICK IN BLOOM
Council Representative – Councillor Peter Terry

Keswick in Bloom's (KIB) AGM, which I attended, was held on 22nd February. The three main officers were elected unopposed Madam Lady Chairman: Jenny Forbes, Secretary Tricia Horner and Treasurer Tom Rennie.

In his Treasurer's report Tom Rennie identified that although the balance was healthy it had reduced from previous years and as such he recommended that a grant for 2023 be requested from the Town Council. This proposal was adopted unopposed by the meeting.

Discussions ensued on the various areas of responsibilities of members. Two issues that directly affect the Council are the beech hedge on Penrith Road, adjacent to the allotments and the planters on Heads Road. KIB have arranged this year for the whole of the beech hedge to be cut by DSR and will in future organise this annually hence alleviating the Council of its cutting responsibility. It was understood that, in the past, the Council had arranged for the allotment hedge line to be cut. In the case of the Heads Road planters these were full of weeds and not KIB's responsibility. Apparently these beds used to be planted up by the Council at the same time as they did the beds on Penrith Road by the new bus shelter. The Council will need to take a position on the maintenance of these planters.

Because of constraints on both labour and watering duties, KIB will continue with their work but move away from annual plants and look for perennial options.

The keenness of KIB is as enthusiastic as ever and all members are to be congratulated on their continuing efforts to improve the visual aspects of the town.

If any Councillor wishes to view the Minutes of the AGM or the list of planting/maintenance responsibilities for areas of the town please let me know.

KESWICK COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RECOVERY PARTNERSHIP
Council Representative – Councillor Sally Lansbury

Keswick Community Emergency Recovery Partnership is a volunteer led organisation employing a project manager on a part time basis (averaging one day per week). We have a board of trustees, 8 lead volunteers and a further 81 volunteers on standby in the event of an emergency. We have an annually updated Community Emergency

Plan, which is implemented at the point when a flood warning is issued by the Environment Agency which will have an impact on residential properties in Keswick. We have had two significant periods of water rising in 2021 – 24th February 2021 and 29th October 2021. On both occasions no flood warning was issued which would impact on residential properties, so we have experienced a relatively dry twelve month period.

Keswick Community Emergency Recovery Partnership has an emergency plan which is updated on an annual basis and circulated to trustees, lead volunteers and statutory agencies including the Environment Agency, the Police, Cumbria County Council and Allerdale Borough Council. The Project Manager, Kimberley Ward and Chair of Trustees, Sally Lansbury, attended a table top exercise on 4th November 2021 with statutory agencies and were advised that Keswick's Community Emergency Plan was robust and well considered.

Over the last twelve months Keswick Community Emergency Recovery Partnership has achieved the following;

Continuing to support the community response to Covid 19, particularly through the second lockdown – this was through the street warden scheme which helped vulnerable members of the community who were shielding or self- isolating with tasks such as shopping, picking up prescriptions, dog walking and a befriending scheme. This supported continued until July 2021 and has been the main work of the partnership over the past twelve months.

Covid 19 has continued to make flood response training exercises much harder to carry out in person, but a radio training session took place for lead flood volunteers, along with an exercise in the council chambers to ensure lead volunteers were comfortable with the set up in case of an emergency. Unfortunately, Cockermouth's emergency exercise was cancelled, so the Keswick Project Manager and volunteers were unable to attend this. Keswick will carry out an emergency exercise in October 2022.

The priority over the next twelve months is the emergency exercise for all volunteers and refresher radio training being offered to a wider number of volunteers. Our annual leaflet drop will take place in November 2021. We will also be seeking external funding to replace our radios.

The Partnership is grateful for the support of Keswick Town Council and the use of the council chamber in the event of an emergency. We have welcomed Vivien Little to our Trustee Board this year and maintained our trustees otherwise. The financial support given is essential for the ongoing maintenance of the critical voluntary response and Keswick Community Emergency Recovery Partnership thanks the Town Council for the ongoing support.

Should you have any questions regarding KCERP or require further information please do not hesitate to contact Kimberley Ward, Project Manager at keswickfloodrecovery@gmail.com.

KESWICK AND DISTRICT FAIR TRADE COMMITTEE
No current representative

KESWICK FLOOD ACTION GROUP
Council Representative – Paul Titley

We can celebrate a year with no flooding, despite several named storms. The flood mitigation works have worked and as usual go unnoticed unless they fail. Keep our fingers crossed! The Springs Road Pond is working well and has a sensor to ensure that any malfunctions are monitored remotely.

The Calvert Way surface water pipework was more complex than expected with bedrock needing to be excavated - the road is still not open. Atkinsons have promised there will be adequate pavements installed as the works finish. We (KTC) must keep watch on the plans for Phase 2 so this issue is not repeated. (Whilst the pipe to the river will be adequate for runoff, the drainage on the upper site, if not done properly could impact on the homes in Phase 1 because of the slope of the site.)

In terms of release for storm space in Thirlmere there has been no change. The K FAG agreement (i.e. releases of 140 MI/d based on monthly trigger levels) has been incorporated into an environmental/conservation agreement. It confers no legally binding status on the K FAG releases. It is ironic that the road around Thirlmere is closed by UU to avoid a random movement of land harming passing cyclists, but UU continue to have little regard for the potential ruinous affects of uncontrolled waterflows from Thirlmere into a town with rather more residents than a bunch of people on bikes.

The agreement does require UU to make a yearly large spate flow release (targeted at 750 MI/d for ~6hrs) and a 2-3 yearly small flood release (size not defined) provided no natural overspill of 2000 MI/d has occurred in the preceding 2 years. Neither of these are anything to do with storm space, and precise timing is up to UU.

The agreement also sets up a project to look into flow regimes for future releases which could then be incorporated into future agreements (ie 2026). We hope that the project, combined with the requirement to release larger volumes (albeit not for storm space), will give leverage to persuade UU to consider and adopt larger and more flexible releases in the future. However, that is all targeted for 2026 at the earliest and has no legal backing. We are likely to have suffered another major flood before the penny drops.

The West Coast Pipeline project is in commissioning phase but is not yet complete. The West Cumbria Rivers Trust has been appointed to monitor the Vale and liaise with the farmers over potential issues with "larger" releases. There is a risk that the primary focus will be on environmental benefits/issues rather than community misery. It is illogical to be knocking down riverbanks in one part of the county to

reconnect rivers to their flood plain, and yet be concerned that elsewhere releases from Thirlmere may cause 'peripheral wetting'.

KFAG continues to be an outstanding example of community action and expertise.

KESWICK MINISTRIES TOWN LIAISON MEETINGS
Council Representatives – Duncan Miller and Councillor Paul Titley (reserves)

The Town Clerk, Paul Titley and myself (Duncan Miller) attend the quarterly meetings of the Forum representing Keswick Town Council and primarily the precept-payers in the town of Keswick. The next meeting is on Tuesday 3rd May.

James Robson, Simon Overend and Murray Lawrie represent Keswick Ministries at the Forum along with representatives from Keswick Tourism Association, County Highways, Cumbria Tourism, Police including Counter Terrorism along with the Vicars from St. John's and Crosthwaite. Some meetings this past year have been on Zoom and some have been face to face.

This year's Convention will be held from the 16th July until the 5th August and the theme will be 'Grateful'. Phase 2 of the refurbishment of the former Pencil Factory will be completed towards the end of May/beginning of June which will incorporate the use of the first and second floors. Landscaping is also underway in compliance with Planning approval. The event incorporates Seminars, Morning Bible Readings, Lectures, Evening Celebrations as well as a strong Kids and Youth programme. It should be noted that following representation from KTA, KTC and businesses in the town Keswick Ministries now have 'free afternoons' so that their attendees can sample the delights of the area and in turn support local businesses. Community use of the Derwent Project throughout the year is increasing and being encouraged by the team at the Ministries.

Unless County install a Puffin crossing adjacent to the Rawnsley Centre in the near future Keswick Ministries will again use, during the Convention period, the temporary lights to allow safe crossing in that area. Keswick Ministries did not feel that last year's trial of these temporary lights increased congestion at the Tithebarn roundabout.

It has been noted that planning approval has been given for accommodation units in the former ground floor of the Skiddaw Street Centre. These units will predominately be used by volunteers both during Convention and at other times in the year when courses and events are being enjoyed by schools and church groups. Councillors were a little dismayed when it was advised via recent Minutes that surplus capacity at the Centre would be available through Airbnb. Clarity is being sought if this is to be minimal.

I expressed disappointment at the February Meeting of the Forum that Skiddaw Street Car Park was not being utilised as we had expected it to be. No matter which direction the local planning consultation takes I encouraged greater flexibility in the tariff structure so that this 'centre of town' car park can benefit local residents and nearby businesses. Keswick Ministries state that they have been putting all their efforts into the Derwent Project and now that is nearing completion acknowledge that they will do better with the said valuable parking area. Further updates will be given to Councillors following the May Forum.

KESWICK TOURISM ASSOCIATION
Council Representative – Councillor Alan Dunn

2022 is Keswick Tourism Associations centenary year and plans are in progress for celebration events later in the year including an exhibition at Keswick Museum. Following the AGM in December, KTA now has a full Board of Directors (12), with Peter Walter being elected to the role of Chair and Liz Weightman being elected as Vice Chair.

Membership levels remain good with an average of two new businesses joining the Association each month, however, we have seen a steady increase in the number of B&B's cancelling their membership due to selling as self-catering properties. This is a huge concern to the KTA Board and is likely to have a serious impact on income for the 2022/2023 financial year.

This month (April) sees the launch of a trial membership offer with non-accommodation businesses being given the chance to be seen by over one million visitors to the Visit Keswick website this summer (April – September) for only £25. It is hoped that during this trial period businesses will recognise the value of KTA membership and continue their membership at renewals in September.

KTA continues to promote the book direct message via all its marketing platforms. Social media posts during Q1 have reached more than 500,000 people and visits to the website have increased 20% (compared to Q1 2019) and 50% (compared to Q1 2021). The 2022 Visit Keswick Guide has proved incredibly popular, and it is anticipated that all copies will have been distributed by September.

KTA plays an important role in representing the North Lakes on a variety of groups and committees including the Cumbria LEP Visitor Economy Sector Panel and works closely with the Cumbria Tourism, Lake District National Park and other key stakeholders.

The strategic review is ongoing and short, medium and long-term goals and aspirations have been set. In addition to a membership recruitment drive, KTA are actively looking for other potential income streams to ensure it can continue to promote and support a sustainable tourism industry in the long term.

KESWICK YOUTH CENTRE
Council Representative – Councillor Adam Paxon

No report submitted

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Ward Representatives –Allan Daniels and
Sally Lansbury

No report submitted

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL
Ward Representative – Councillor Tony Lywood

No report submitted

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES
Vivien Little – Town Clerk

For myself, it has been a year of settling into a new role following the retirement of Lynda Walker. It has certainly been a challenging one in many ways, but one I've relished. We have moved out of our Covid way of working, with our virtual meetings, back to face to face meetings, in a number of venues as we have tried to ensure that social distancing guidelines were met. Thanks must go to St John's Church, the Quaker Meeting House, Crosthwaite Parish Rooms, St Herbert's Community Centre and the Rawnsley Centre for the use of their venues for our meetings.

Meetings continue to attract public attendance, with members of the public once again raising a number of issues for the Council's consideration. Regular updates from Borough and County Councillors at meetings also ensure good communication. With the announcement that Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon, it is unknown how much of an impact it will have on Town and Parish Councils at this stage, but we should know more following the elections of the Shadow Authority on 5 May.

The Town Council makes most of its decisions at the monthly meeting – there are only two standing committees which cover Events and Staffing.

The Events Committee meets regularly and 'masterminds' the annual Keswick Festival in June and the Christmas Lights Switch On in November. This year they are also preparing an event to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. A core of committed Councillors supported by representatives of other organisations and businesses in the town work hard to put on these regular events, together with other ad hoc events which may arise. An extended Pop and Prom Concert in Fitz Park in September marked a return to a degree of normality, as did the Christmas Lights switch on in November; both were well attended events.

Planning continues to be a major part of the Council's remit – as a statutory consultee the Town Council is asked to comment on all planning applications which affect the parish. A small group of Councillors (the Planning Group) ensure that all members of the Council are fully informed on applications which come before them for comment, giving their free time to research these. This is supplemented by Allerdale Borough Council consulting the Town Council on Licensing Applications, and due to timescales involved, the members of the Planning Group have delegated powers to make decisions in regard to Licensing Applications, which are then reported back to all Councillors.

Working groups have been set up for a number of topics. An Environmental Working has been established, along with a Visitor Management group, which works closely with the Lake District National Park Authority, Allerdale Borough Council, as well as a representative from Threlkeld Parish Council to ensure that the needs of both

residents as well as visitors are being met. There are also smaller working groups set up for topics such as responding to consultations.

The Council continues to look after the War Memorial on Penrith Road.

The Town Council is the sole trustee of Keswick parks with all Councillors meeting in their 'trustee' role every two months. Town Council staff also support Keswick Parks with Fitz Park and Hope Park having their own separate budgets. Visitor numbers were at extremely high levels last year, meaning the parks were extremely busy, but staff kept the parks looking at their best through challenging circumstances.

On a final note, the Town Council had two of its Councillors resign this year, Alexandra Boardman and Markus Campbell-Savours. Lewis Forsyth has just been elected unopposed to one of those vacancies, and we look forward to welcoming him to Council. The other vacancy will be filled by co-option at the Council meeting immediately following this meeting, and we wish anyone who has volunteered well.

This time next year, the current terms of the Councillors will come to an end, and there will be elections for a new Town Council in May next year. If anyone has had any thought about standing for Town Council, but wants to know more about what is involved, please don't hesitate to contact the office and ask to talk to myself, and I can give you an idea of what is involved.