



KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

2011/12

Welcome to the Annual Report 2011/12

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 and Keswick ward representatives on the Borough and County Councils.

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

**Lynda Walker
Town Clerk
April 2012**

Contact Details

YOU CAN CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS DIRECT OR VIA

THE COUNCIL OFFICES
50 MAIN STREET
KESWICK
CA12 5JS

TELEPHONE: 017687 73607

EMAIL: townclerk@keswicktowncouncil.co.uk

The offices are normally open as follows: -

Monday to Friday
9.30am –1.00pm

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Cllr David S Burn | The Bungalow, Ashtree Avenue, Keswick, CA12 5PF | 017687 80371 |
| Cllr David J Etherden | Orchard Cottage, Thornthwaite CA12 5SG | 017687 78277 |
| Cllr Ian M Hall | Orchard House, Applethwaite CA12 4PA | 017687 73175 |
| Cllr R Martin Jordan | Braeside, The Heads, Keswick CA12 5ER | 017687 71249 |
| Cllr Denstone Kemp | 1 Vicarage Hill, Keswick CA12 5QB | 017687 73490 |
| Cllr Susan Leighton | 5 Ratcliffe Place, Keswick, CA12 4DZ | 017687 75195 |
| Cllr Andrew Lysser | Apartment 2, Gatesgarth, Braithwaite CA12 5RY | 017687 78833 |
| Cllr Tony Lywood | Shu-Le-Crow, 7 Penrith Road, Keswick, CA12 4HF | 017687 75253 |
| Cllr D Miller | Linthwaite, Manor Brow, Keswick CA12 4AP | 017687 72295 |
| Cllr M Pugmire | 6 Brandelhow Crescent, Keswick CA12 4JE | 017687 73409 |
| Cllr Keith M G Taylor | Flat 9, School House, Coleridge Court, Keswick, CA12 5QE | 017687 73908 |
| Cllr Paul Titley | West View Guest House, The Heads, Keswick, CA12 5ES | 017687 73638 |

THE COUNCIL

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

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

Mrs Lynda Walker, Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer
Miss Catherine Howe, Administration and Finance Officer

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

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011-12

Councillor Andrew Lysser – Town Mayor

At the local Council elections in May 2011, three new Town Councillors were elected unopposed – Councillors David Burn, Susan Leighton and Keith Taylor - who were subsequently joined by two co-optees - Councillors Paul Titley and Tony Lywood. The Council was fortunate to retain seven members for a further four year term and I would like to thank all Councillors for their all efforts and time, freely given, over the past year.

Keswick has seen a great deal of investment during the past twelve months by both the Environment Agency on the flood defence scheme and by United Utilities on sewer improvements. Whilst these works have caused some disruption, efforts have been made to keep this to a minimum and I am sure that the benefits to the town will be felt over the coming years in reducing the impact of future flooding and improving the town's infrastructure.

The Town Council is looking into the opportunities presented by the Localism agenda to strengthen its role and to achieve greater control over what happens in the town. With the Police Authority's decision to close the Police Station and Allerdale Borough Council's need to reduce the number of buildings it currently maintains, there is an opportunity and need to address the question of the Town Council's future office base and the Town Council has agreed to investigate the possibility of acquiring either the former Magistrates Court building or the current Council offices as a valuable community base.

A major issue of concern continues to be the provision of affordable housing for residents and the Council has supported a number of sites identified by the Lake District National Park Authority which may be suitable for this purpose.

On a personal note I would like to thank all those who have provided hospitality to the Mayoress and myself on the many enjoyable mayoral engagements we have attended this year. I would also like to pay tribute to the Keswick people who give their time and energy in support of the voluntary organisations, clubs and societies which thrive in the town. Thanks are also due to the Mayoress, Ann Pepper, for all her invaluable support and last but not least the Council staff for their commitment and hard work throughout the past year.

The forthcoming year is a particularly special one with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics and we are privileged to welcome the Olympic torch relay through Keswick on Thursday 21st June when the eyes of the world will be upon us. Let us make the most of the opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate and promote our town.

CHARITABLE TRUST CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2011-12

Councillor Ian Hall – Trust Chairman

This has been another year of great achievement in both parks, with a lot of change, a lot of negotiation, and a great deal of work put in by our office staff on our behalf; so I'd like to start by paying due tribute to them and to all the staff who keep our parks places to be proud of. Equally important are all the volunteers behind the sporting organisations based in Fitz Park and it was heartening at a recent meeting of Fitz Park users to hear of the sheer number of teams being encouraged by the Football, Cricket, Bowls, Athletics and Tennis clubs, and of the work put in by Steve Hamer and the Carlisle Leisure Team to make the Community Sports Area a success.

At Hope Park of course the big achievement was the signing of the lease to Hope Leisure Ltd, and it is very pleasing to see the new Café Hope rising like a phoenix from the ashes of the old Ice Cream Kiosk. It looks a fitting new feature, and with the re-vamped toilets in Hope Park we will have a very professional pleasure park for visitors' enjoyment. As ever, James and his staff keep the gardens there in beautiful condition, and I feel we are making a significant contribution to Keswick's economy. Certainly it is a magnet for thousands of our visitors who clearly appreciate the peaceful atmosphere.

In return the business community in the shape of BIDs has of course made a very significant contribution at Fitz Park, being the major sponsor of the new car park that I confidently expect will ease our funding problems in Fitz, and we are very grateful indeed. The car park will be a pay and display, but offering a much cheaper alternative to central parking, and should help to ease congestion in the centre. Clearly this first year will have teething troubles, the first of which is the protracted closure of Crosthwaite Road and all the ongoing work on the bunds in Hospital Field, but the new entrance is now complete and when everything is eventually tidied away we should have a professional car park to assist in our funding.

Hospital Field must be wondering what has hit it. Until just a few years ago it was just an adjunct to Fitz Park: now it is home to the Football Club, two car parks, a great deal of engineering works to provide flood defences, and if all goes well will soon host a Bike Track in response to local children's request for the facility. A lot of work remains to be done on this - planning permission, funding and construction, but I hope we can overcome these hurdles to provide what is clearly an appropriate addition to our provision for the children of Keswick and the surrounding villages.

All in all then, I feel both parks are in good order and making a significant contribution to Keswick's well-being. Fitz Park in its provision of leisure and sporting activity both to our children and adults, and Hope Park in its provision of a place of rest and tranquillity, and a little gentle exercise, for so many of our visitors. Our gardening staff keep both parks in beautiful condition, being responsible in addition for maintenance, litter picking, drainage, tree health and checking all the equipment daily, and I thank them for their work.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Lynda Walker - Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

As the Accounts for the 2011/12 year end have not yet been finalised the following figures provide an indication only of how the Town Council has performed.

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

1st April 2011 – 31st March 2012

Expenditure

| | £ |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| General Administration (inc salaries) | 33,612 |
| Audit Fee | 2,050 |
| Newsletter | 846 |
| Mayors Allowance | 1,860 |
| Grants awarded | 14,867 |
| Christmas Lights | 13,456 |
| War Memorial | 770 |
| Townfield | 770 |
| Open Spaces | 990 |
| Fitz Park Deficit | 100,496 |
| Contingency | 8,200 |
| Floral Displays | 4,324 |
| Town Celebrations | 3,000 |
| Allotments | 400 |
| Contribution to Reserves | 10,000 |
| Miscellaneous (S.137) | 17 |
| Total | 195,658 |

Income

| | £ |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Precept | 218,643* |
| Interest | 19 |
| Rent | 11,000 |
| Event banner advertising space | 357 |
| Townfield | 1,622 |
| Allotment Rent | 605 |
| Total | 232,246 |

* includes £41,477 concurrent grant from Allerdale BC

Provisional surplus £36,588 due to underspends on administration, Christmas lights, Fitz Park deficit, contingency, professional advice and increased rental income.

NB: Figures quoted are provisional pending final year-end adjustments and are subject to audit.

Interested parties and local electors will be able to exercise their right to inspect the financial records before the annual audit takes place. The records will be made available from 18 June to 13 July 2012 for this purpose.

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 2011/12:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Keswick in Bloom | £2,750 |
| 1 st Keswick Scout Group | £1,500 |
| Keswick Tourism Association | £1,000 |
| Theatre by the Lake | £3,500 |
| PARCS scheme Play sessions | £ 180 |
| Keswick Youth Club | £2,000 |
| Keswick Rugby Club | £3,000 |
| Hawthorns Allotment Association | £ 437 |
| Keswick Agricultural Society | £ 500 |

Also, contributions were made to the Keswick Flood Defence Scheme (£5,000) and a 'Lakes Alive' event to be held on Derwentwater in August 2012 (£5,000).

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 TRUST

Council Representative – Councillor Tony Lywood

Councillor David Etherden stood down as the Town Council's nominated Trustee on the Trust in December 2011 and I was appointed as his replacement. Since then there have been two meetings which I have attended. The affairs of the Trust have been put on a more business-like footing and I have taken on the role of Secretary. Following the sale of the Hall and Garden cottage the Trust is now considering how the capital receipts can best be used to continue the aims of the organisation through a replacement facility.

CUMBRIA THEATRE TRUST

Council Representative – Councillor Martin Pugmire

No report available

DERWENTWATER FORESHORE COMMITTEE

Council Representative – Councillor Martin Jordan

The Derwentwater Foreshore management board met in February when we were told everything was nearing completion. The projects still to be completed are:-

- Replacing the oil tank
- The Artwork in the Subway
- Installation of an Information Board at Hope Park Green.

Although we read in the press that a 'no parking' enforcement was to start at the beginning of this month, the only evidence I have seen is 'Activity Providers' are now displaying permits. There were six unauthorised vehicles on Saturday and everyday there has been a least one vehicle, often a white van, parked by the last cabin. On one particular day a mini bus was parked next to the Tea Gardens with a driver waiting, I presume, for his passengers on a 'round the lake' trip, whilst an occupied car was parked at the launching site.

The Ice Cream van currently parked near to the old boat house, on National Trust land, seems to attract cars.

I waited to see the possible effect of the parking enforcement before writing this report.

FITZ PARK SPORTS PAVILLION

Council Representative – Councillor Keith Taylor

(report submitted by Philip Pridmore)

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Chairman | D Beebe | | |
| Secretary | P Pridmore | | |
| Minutes Secretary | K Richardson | | |
| Treasurer | P Pridmore | | |
| Club Representatives | Cricket | K Richardson | E Appleby |
| | Athletics | S Harwood | C Mandale |

The Clubs

Cricket

Comprises 3 senior teams, a midweek X1 and junior teams at levels of U9, U11, U13 and U15. An U13 girls team will again play this season and 3 senior ladies recently gained their level 1 coaching qualifications. The club employs a senior professional who, together with a number of senior club members who have gained their Levels 1 or 2 coaching qualifications, are actively involved in the coaching of the junior section throughout the year. The recently organised junior committee helps administer this thriving section of the club. County and local finals are now a regular fixture at Fitz Park.

Athletics

The club has a junior section. The pavilion is the base for numerous local races, also a number of national races, the Latrigg Race is held each year as part of the Keswick Mountain Festival. Future proposals already being explored are lights around the footpath in Lower Fitz Park to aid training.

General Funding

Each of the remaining two user groups contributes a regular monthly amount towards the running costs and general upkeep of the facility. Monthly income of £200 helps pay the insurance, water, electricity and some general repairs.

Overall Review

The pavilion is now 19 years old and continues to be well utilised throughout the year by the remaining user groups and a small number of outside organisations e.g. Junior Schools cross country. The individual clubs of the user groups continue to flourish with high membership at both senior and junior levels providing vital recreational and social opportunities for people within the area.

The clubs continue to maintain, to a high standard, a large area of Lower Fitz Park. Areas of conflict between the user groups are minimal due mainly to the close liaison of the club representatives.

As the building ages, areas of 'wear and tear' are being assessed by a 'fabric committee' and funds targeted towards renovations are required. Legal requirements continue to be a drain on the club funds with electrical work alone this year costing in the region of £2,000 to satisfy current legislation.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE JOINT MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

Council Representative – Councillor Martin Jordan

There has been no recent JMAG meeting. I am very concerned about the future operation of the Information Centre. I would hope that JMAG will be made part of the decision making on the future of this vital service.

KESWICK BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT LTD

Report from Councillor Paul Titley

The 2011 ballot was lost and this terminated the collection of levies paid by the business of Keswick, and therefore there has been no income since the first half of 2010. The past 12 months has seen the winding down of activities, completion of projects and the spending of small amounts where the team felt it would still contribute to the economy of the town. The largest project – the Hospital Field car park - was completed and should provide extra spaces for visitors and a regular income to the Park Trust. The second Comedy Festival took place in July. The most visible project was the Royal Wedding Market Square event and hopefully this will be copied by the Council for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee event. BIDS also contributed to the Keswick Christmas Traditional Fair to ensure the visit of the reindeer. The food fairs at the wedding and Christmas lights switch-on events also provided the opportunity for local charities to raise a lot of money. The issue of the Christmas lights exercised a large part of the town that suddenly realised that no BIDS meant no lights. The success of some streets in clubbing together to provide lights (with some businesses refusing to contribute anything), and others who could not raise the funds at all does illustrate the benefits of having a levy that cannot be avoided. The regulations permit further ballots and a new ballot is being run; the result will be declared on April 27. The current team will not press for another ballot should the proposed plans be rejected.

KESWICK TOURISM ASSOCIATION

Council Representative – Councillor Duncan Miller

Membership of KTA, in its 90th year since forming in 1922, remains buoyant. Membership is spread through all tourism providers within the Keswick area; there has been a noticeable increase of late in the self-catering sector.

David Jackson, a director of Castlerigg Hall Caravan Park, has recently taken over the Chair of KTA from Martin Lankester. David states in the KTA Spring Newsletter 'We live in turbulent economic times and with seemingly endless financial uncertainties it can be all too easy to feel somewhat helpless and powerless to effect change; however 2012 offers some unique once in a lifetime marketing opportunities for our area which we can all embrace.' Marie Sowerby joined KTA at the end of February, following lengthy employment with HMRC, as the new Tourism Assistant to Linda Furniss.

KTA's theme for 2012 is 'going for gold' and to this effect will be marketing Keswick as THE destination within the Lake District National Park.

The Lakes Alive Spectacular is a free 50 minute show on Derwentwater over 2 nights, the 10th and 11th August. The show is brought to Keswick by Lakes Alive, KTA, The Theatre by the Lake and Keswick Town Council.

The annual Mountain Festival takes place from the 16th to 20th May. The talks/lectures this year will be held in the Rawnsley Hall. KTA will be sponsoring this venue, namely, the Festival Theatre, so that their Attraction and Activity provider members have an opportunity to advertise to an audience of around 300 visitors per talk.

Keswick Golf Club, one of KTA's newest members, are holding a Golf Festival at the end of May.

To mark the nationwide celebrations for HM The Queens's Diamond Jubilee this coming June, KTA in association with Slug and Bull are working on the creation of a mosaic portrait of Her Majesty made up from 2,000 photographs of Keswick The Lake District. Progress on the build up of the portrait can be followed on keswickjubilee.co.uk. This campaign will be a major part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in the town and offer a wonderful PR opportunity.

KESWICK YOUTH CLUB

Council Representative – Councillor David Etherden

After several years of frustration there finally appears to be a way forward for the future of the Keswick Youth Centre. The Centre has been shut for the last 2 years following the effects of the 2005 and 2010 floods which meant the building had become unusable. After many false starts, problems with the Environment Agency and withdrawal from the original scheme by Eden Housing, the Youth Centre in March 2012 gained planning consent for the redevelopment of site.

The new development will include local housing and a new smaller but more sustainable Youth Centre. The Youth Centre is now seeking a development partner to take the scheme forward. In the interim the intention is to demolish the existing building to allow the completion of the town's flood defence works. To fund the demolition, the Youth Centre will be selling Tentas Field to Keswick Rugby Club and the strip of land between the Youth Centre and Tentas field to the residents of Elliott Park.

In the interim Keswick Youth Centre have continued to provide facilities via evening sessions at Costa Coffee.

Particular thanks have to go to Stanley Hinde, the Chairman of the Youth Centre, for his huge investment of time and effort in overcoming the many frustrating hurdles that have been put in the way over the last few years.

NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Council Representative – Councillor David Etherden/Martin Jordan

No report available

KESWICK AND DISTRICT FAIR TRADE CAMPAIGN

Council Representative – Councillor Susan Leighton

This group has a high profile both locally and nationally and is promoting an excellent image of Keswick and its community. Below is a summary of the last year's events.

Annual General Meeting May 2011 Susan Leighton nominated Town Council Representative. May also saw an Exhibition at the Theatre by the Lake of 'Choche, lives and livelihoods' a documentation of the campaign to assist the coffee farmers of this area of Ethiopia. The 'Celebrate coffee – Celebrate Ethiopia' included a Coffee Ceremony.

The Strawberry Tea in July was again a success.

In November the Cumbria Local and Fair Conference took place at Rheged which was attended by many including an MP and MEP. During the conference experiences were shared between a Cumbrian Milk Farmer and a Banana Farmer from the Windward Islands.

The Renewal of Fairtrade Town Status for Keswick is in progress. Since this status was first achieved in 2005 there have been 310 Educative talks, exchange visits to Choche Coffee Farmers in Ethiopia, a visit by a Milawian Tea farmer, an increase in membership from 100 to 240, and an increase in local retailers, Bed and Breakfast, Hotel and Cafe's stocking and serving Fairtrade products.

In February it was resolved that the Town Council will continue to support the principles of Fair Trade by: -

- Using influence to urge local businesses to provide Fair Trade options for their customers and employees.
- Encouraging the stocking and use of Fair Trade products in the Town Parks Cafes where possible.
- Supporting the Keswick Fair Trade Groups application to achieve Fair Trade Town Status renewal.
- Seeking to have representation at events organised by the Keswick Fair Trade Campaign.
- Using Fair Trade Tea and coffee at Council Functions.
- Appointing a member to be on the local Fair Trade Group.
- Continuing to use the Fair trade logo on the Council's headed notepaper.

The committee seeks to continue to work in the local primary Schools and will involve CDEC (Cumbria Development Education Centre) from the autumn term 2012. CDEC aims to support students, teachers and community groups in participating in a multicultural society and an interdependent world.

The Trade Justice Lobbying Group has been active seeking to support the Christian Aid 'End Tax Haven Secrecy' Campaign, the Jubilee Debt Campaign, and preventing the exploitation of Haitian workers in the Dominican Republic.

KESWICK FLOOD ACTION GROUP

Council Representative – Councillor Martin Pugmire

KFAG has of course had a hugely successful period of effort. The Environmental Agency flood alleviation work will be completed shortly, though not in time for Easter. For this we owe thanks to the whole of KFAG, but especially to its now retired Chair Graham Thompson. Lynne Jones has become Chair.

Two areas of concern are not fully resolved. One is the Penrith Road, where surface water and backed up tributary water may still create a problem. We will not know if engineering solutions have been fully successful until we have a really heavy rainfall event to test things. Plans are in place to handle any crisis, however. The other area of concern is Elliott Park; where in the past surface water and polluted sewerage water have overflowed. The current work being done by United Utilities, when finished, should ensure that sewerage does not escape. This will also take care of much surface water, which enters the sewerage system. We cannot know till that work is completed and is tested by heavy rainfall whether this work will also prevent surface water flooding.

It should be emphasised that the output from Thirlmere is much more heavily controlled by United Utilities than in the past, greatly reducing the risk of a crisis. Again, we have KFAG to thank. We will continue to benefit from this much more aggressive approach of United Utilities to control of levels and output in Thirlmere.

KFAG has become involved with the problems of insurance that face many people on the flood plain, and continues with its work related to flood drains and culverts around town. But its main work is likely to end when the EA and UU works are both complete.

THE HAWTHORNS ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Council Representative – Councillor Duncan Miller

There has not been a meeting since my report last autumn. The Town Council now manages the site in conjunction with input from Suskes, Keswick in Bloom and of course the plot holders.

The Association has now wound-down, with surplus funds financing a fence at the edge of the plot holder's car park. Prior to the fence being erected I consulted the near neighbour regarding its design and situation. The fence screens the water trough and gives a little more cover/privacy to the near property.

The plots, in early April 2012, look well managed and cultivated.

ALLERDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ward Representatives – Councillors Denstone Kemp, Martin Pugmire and Ron Munby MBE

No report available

CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL

Ward Representative – Councillor Ron Munby MBE

Upon taking up my position on the Council it was apparent that massive savings had to be made, due to the economic situation. This has duly happened, with more to come.

My involvement on behalf of this ward has taken me to regular meetings with Keswick Town Council/Above Derwent Parish Council/Borrowdale Parish Council and St John's Castlerigg Parish Council, coupled with attending meetings with outside bodies representing the County. These meetings involve senior officers of Cumbria County Council which enables me to press local issues on behalf of Keswick and District electorate.

The Council still needs to save a substantial amount in order to satisfy government requirements, which means tougher and possibly unpopular decisions have to be made, including non-statutory duties etc., 'leaner and meaner' could describe all councils' positions at this time. However, front line services have to be maintained even within restricted budgets and this Cumbria County Council is endeavouring to achieve.

Working with other agencies, I can report that the flood defences in Keswick are progressing well. The defences are an essential improvement and vital to the wellbeing of the community and the fabric of Keswick. At the same time one needs to understand the difficulties faced during this process by local individuals, visitors and businesses. Most, though not all, appreciate the necessity for these major works and the inevitable temporary disruption which they cause. Ongoing dialogue needs to be maintained in order to ensure continuity of the works and also to understand human concerns.

For information, my representation comprises:

Keswick School (Charity Governor)

Keswick Rugby Club

Corporate Parenting Panel

Virtual Parenting Governor

Cumbria Playing Fields Association

Joint Local ABC/CCC Committee

Rights of Way

Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny

Plus various Ad Hoc and Task and Finish Groups

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Since the May 2011 elections five new members have joined the Town Council, four existing Councillors having stepped down and following one resignation.

Almost £25,000 was distributed in grant funding from the year's budget to local organisations and included substantial contributions to both the Flood Defence Scheme and a free 'Lakes Alive' event to be held on Derwentwater in August 2012 as part of the Olympic legacy programme.

The Council continued to act as the accountable body for the Keswick Flood & Emergency Recovery Group which meets on a regular basis and has organised a number of training sessions for volunteers during the year.

The Christmas lights switch on was again a great success incorporating the illumination of the Rotary club's Tree of Light for the first time and involving local school children in a musical parade.

The Council continues to maintain the War Memorial, Wivell Park and other open spaces in the town and has now taken over the management of the allotment site at the Hawthorns, Penrith Road. Floral displays were again provided around the town in conjunction with Keswick In Bloom and the Town Council has taken on responsibility for the new seat which has been provided by Keswick in Bloom at the exit from Lake Road the subway adjacent to Hope Park. The Council has also been instrumental in ensuring the future delivery of the public art installation inside the subway by agreeing to its future maintenance.

The Council meets regularly in its capacity as Sole Trustee of Keswick Parks Charitable Trusts to ensure the provision and maintenance of public parks and recreation grounds for use of the residents of and visitors to Keswick. The major part of the Town Council's expenditure supports Fitz Park which is home to a number of sporting organisations and has a destination play area and Community Sports Area together with a new car park.

The Town Council has continued to remain active in the Derwent 7 Parishes cluster with representation on the sub groups and the Steering Committee. Funding is now being sought to continue the partnership's work. Representatives have also attended partnership meetings with the Borough and County Councils and the Lake District National Park Authority.

Discussions have continued throughout the year with Allerdale Borough Council regarding future public toilet provision in Keswick and the Council is investigating opportunities presented by the Localism Act to deliver services at the local level. Office accommodation needs are being looked at following the decision by the County Council to sell the former Magistrates Court building and the Borough Council's review of Town Halls.

Ongoing consultation has taken place on planning applications and highways issues with the introduction by Cumbria County Council of licenses for pavement cafes and A boards. Other major consultation exercises to which the Council responded included the Lake District National Park's allocations of land document and the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership's consultation on disposal of higher level nuclear waste.

During the year the Council received a number of presentations on issues of local concern e.g. expenditure on provision of adult social services, proposed housing developments at Derwent Close, Greta Court and St Johns Churchyard, the Choice Based Lettings scheme, Community Emergency planning, and has received reports from the local Police at each meeting.

Administration of the voluntary Busking Badge scheme has been undertaken by the office throughout the year together with control of advertising on banners adjacent to the Moot Hall.

Planning has also been ongoing in preparation for a town event in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic torch relay which passes through Keswick in June 2012.