



# **KESWICK TOWN COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2012/13**

**Welcome to the Town Council's Annual Report for 2012/13**

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

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

**Lynda Walker  
Town Clerk  
April 2013**

## Contact Details

**YOU CAN CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS DIRECT OR VIA**

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The offices are normally open as follows: -

Monday to Friday  
9.30am –1.00pm

<b>Cllr David S Burn</b>	The Bungalow, Ashtree Avenue, Keswick, CA12 5PF	017687 80371
<b>Cllr David J Etherden</b>	Orchard Cottage, Thornthwaite CA12 5SG	017687 78277
<b>Cllr R Martin Jordan</b>	Braeside, The Heads, Keswick CA12 5ER	017687 71249
<b>Cllr Denstone Kemp</b>	1 Vicarage Hill, Keswick CA12 5QB	017687 73490
<b>Cllr Susan Leighton</b>	5 Ratcliffe Place, Keswick, CA12 4DZ	017687 75195
<b>Cllr Andrew Lysser</b>	Apartment 2, Gatesgarth, Braithwaite CA12 5RY	017687 78833
<b>Cllr Tony Lywood</b>	Shu-Le-Crow, 7 Penrith Road, Keswick, CA12 4HF	017687 75253
<b>Cllr D Miller</b>	Linthwaite, Manor Brow, Keswick CA12 4AP	017687 72295
<b>Cllr M Pugmire</b>	6 Brandelhow Crescent, Keswick CA12 4JE	017687 73409
<b>Cllr Keith M G Taylor</b>	Flat 9, School House, Coleridge Court, Keswick, CA12 5QE	017687 73908
<b>Cllr Lorraine Taylor</b>	21 Stanger Street, Keswick CA12 5JU	017687 72034
<b>Cllr Paul Titley</b>	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 Parks 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](http://www.keswicktowncouncil.gov.uk) and on the noticeboard situated at the front of the Council offices.

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

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2012-13**

### **Councillor Andrew Lysser – Town Mayor**

It has been another busy year for the Town Council as we try to come to grips with the implications of localism and the new opportunities which are becoming available to local Councils.

Attempts to achieve a Community Asset Transfer of the former Magistrates Court building on Bank Street, to be used for a Town Council and community base, were unsuccessful and the building went up for sale as one lot with the police station last September. It remains unsold. Following assurances from Allerdale Borough Council that they do not plan to vacate the Council Offices at 50 Main Street in the near future, the Town Council's tenancy of two offices and the Council Chamber within the building appears to be secure for the time being, however further consideration will need to be given to how this building might be secured for the town in the future. Financial constraints at Allerdale Borough Council have led to cuts in concurrent grants which have affected Keswick, especially Fitz Park.

On a more positive note, there were many opportunities to celebrate during the past year and the Town Council organised events to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Torch relay, all of which went well and were much appreciated. Another major event was the Lakes Alive 'Fous de Bassin' spectacular on Derwentwater in August which was made possible by grant funding from the Town Council amongst others. This was a massive success and brought many extra visitors into the town.

Investment by United Utilities and the Environment Agency in flood alleviation measures in the town has been massive and the work is now almost complete. Work has finally started on Keswick Museum improvements which I am sure will make it a great asset to the town and Fitz Park. Congratulations go to all concerned – it has been a rocky road for you. Keswick Community Housing Trust has made a start on a local affordable housing scheme at The Hopes, and the Town Council was delighted to help in raising the necessary funding to secure this important development. Again, congratulations to all involved with the Housing Trust and every success for the future. Without all the volunteers in every organisation Keswick would be a much poorer place.

Keswick now has a part time Town Centre Manager (employed by Allerdale Borough Council) and a good working relationship has been established with a Joint Action Group formed to tackle environmental and other issues which can detract from the town's attractiveness. Keswick Tourism Association has been very active during the past year and I would like to thank them for their excellent and professional promotion of the town.

Looking to the future, the Town Council has begun work on a five year Business Plan which will be based on community consultation funded by Awards for All and facilitated by Action for Market Towns. I look forward to hearing your views on what the Council's main priorities should be over the next few years and would encourage you to get involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our office staff, Lynda and Catherine, and the community for supporting Ann as Mayoress and myself. The Town Council is a strong group whose commitment must be applauded and I would like to thank all Councillors for their time, given freely, for the benefit of the town. It has been a pleasure to oversee all the past year's events and I have been proud to represent the town on every occasion.

## **CHARITABLE TRUST CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2012-13**

### **Councillor Duncan Miller – Trust Chairman**

Many past Chairmen will be aware that issues/problems/successes are on going within our wonderful parks in Keswick. However it looks as though it is onwards and upwards at Hope Park with some calm, and less building work, as we enter the 2013 season. Recent on site meetings have raised drainage issues to the right of the 7<sup>th</sup> fairway on the pitch and putt course. This will hopefully be remedied with new drainage to the less than active Hope Park stream. It is therefore important to have this stream dredged of the silt build up and liaise with Allerdale BC and the National Trust regarding similar problems towards the Lake.

I am pleased to say that the lease for the games and catering in Fitz Park has been awarded to Ray and Sandra Dowding for the 2013 summer season. Trustees will, following completion of the Museum development, be then in a position to plan a longer-term future for this revenue stream. Continuing with Fitz Park, I am pleased to report that we are organising another Sports Club Users meeting to address any issues and keep our users up to date. The Community Sports Area continues to be well used as predominately a pre-booked Tennis Club facility and a 'free access' area. The Children's Play Area also continues to attract huge numbers of both local children and children from away.

Turning now to Hospital Field it is with some satisfaction that I think we now, certainly in dry conditions, have a car park 'fit for purpose'. The East side of the field towards Park Holme path has recently seen some long awaited drainage work completed successfully. Hopefully by autumn, we will see a new BMX/pump track to the rear of the football pavilion. I am pleased to report that, at the time of writing, upwards of 65% of the project costs have been raised.

Of course one of the most important issues affecting the Parks is the loss of the grant from Allerdale Borough Council. We are in dialogue with the portfolio holder for Locality Services at the Borough Council and we shall endeavour to put forward our case for fair treatment within the District.

At this time I must mention the Friends of the Park led by Elizabeth Barraclough who all give up their free time to enhance some of the Parks weaker areas. We wish you all well with progress on the Sensory Garden.

Let us hope that the weather is kinder to us this year in Keswick making life easier for the gardening staff, sports clubs and all those who enjoy a bit of peaceful relaxation.

Thanks to all trustees, particularly Martin (Vice Chairman) for support and input to various on-going issues/projects.

Finally, and most importantly, many thanks to James and his team of gardening staff and to Lynda and Catherine for their enthusiasm and back up to myself.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Lynda Walker - Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

As the Accounts for the 2012/13 year end have not yet been finalised the following figures provide an indication only of the Town Council's expenditure and income for the year.

### GENERAL FUND SUMMARY

1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013

#### Expenditure

	£
General Administration (inc salaries)	43,956
Audit Fee	1,800
Newsletter	840
Mayors Allowance	1,960
Grants awarded	17,025
Christmas Lights	18,774
War Memorial	2,300
Townfield	1,428
Open Spaces	908
Fitz Park Deficit	86,995
Contingency	8,586
Floral Displays	6,621
Town Celebrations	3,348
Allotments	580
Contribution to Reserves	10,000
Miscellaneous (S.137)	20
Professional advice	300
Council Chamber expenditure	41
Event banner expenditure	193
<b>Total</b>	<b>205,675</b>

#### Income

	£
Precept	226,182*
Interest	42
Rent	11,000
Event banner advertising space	750
Townfield	22
Allotment income	975
Christmas lights contributions	5,060
<b>Total</b>	<b>244,031</b>

\* includes £41,477 concurrent grant from Allerdale BC

Provisional surplus £38,356  
(due to underspends on administration, contingency, town celebrations and professional advice, less than anticipated Fitz Park deficit, and additional income received towards Christmas lights).

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 24 June to 19 July 2013 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 2012/13:

Keswick in Bloom (environmental enhancements)	£2,750
1 <sup>st</sup> Keswick Scout Group (insurance costs)	£1,250
Keswick Tourism Association (marketing & promotion)	£ 500
Theatre by the Lake (youth etc work)	£3,500
Keswick Youth Club (temp venue and insurance )	£1,500
Keswick Rugby Club (ground improvements)	£3,000
Citizens Advice (Keswick service)	£ 500
Keswick Archers (straw butts and arrows)	£ 200
Keswick Cricket Club (new mower)	£2,325
Keswick Out of School Club (after school care)	£ 500
Total	£16,025

An additional grant of £1,000 was also awarded to Keswick Scout Group to assist with unforeseen costs in replacing the Scout Hall roof.

## 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 Nominee – Councillor Tony Lywood

Battersby Hall Trust is now in substantive negotiations with the Keswick Methodist Church to enter into a joint project which will result in the Methodist Church in Southey Street being converted into a multi-purpose community centre catering for a wide range of uses. The intention is to create a flexible, attractive and well equipped centre with a variety of meeting spaces including a main hall with an estimated seating capacity of 150. The centre will be available to the entire Keswick area community and will operate on a non-denominational and non-political basis with the view to being economically sustainable over the long term. Negotiations are at an advanced stage and the results will be revealed in due course. Battersby Hall Trust has retained ownership of number 3 Church Street and has under taken a number of renovations for the improvement of the property.

### CUMBRIA THEATRE TRUST

#### Council Representative – Councillor Martin Pugmire

(Report submitted by Patric Gilchrist, Executive Director, Theatre by the Lake)

Cumbria Theatre Trust is the not-for-profit company and registered charity that owns and operates Theatre by the Lake. Cllr Martin Pugmire represents Keswick Town Council on the voluntary Board of Trustees.

2012/13 was a difficult year for the theatre. Although the core performance programme of home-produced drama got off to a great start with a magnificent production of Alan Bennett's *The History Boys* at Easter 2012, the financial climate, and reduced visitor numbers, had a significant impact on income for the five and a half month Summer Season. Whilst the Studio season proved to be the most popular ever, the crucial Main House programme fell far short of its income targets, threatening the theatre with its first ever year-end deficit. However, a successful Christmas season with *The Railway Children*, a strong end to the year with *Rogue Herries*, together with some additional fund raising and careful management of resources has meant that a deficit has been averted. The theatre even managed to offer an additional Studio production, *Old Herbaceous*, as well as a wide-ranging programme of visiting work: festivals (jazz, literature and film), local amateur productions, professional events promoted by local voluntary organisations and a Festival of Youth.

Local organisations have continued to benefit from use of the theatre for performances and exhibitions: Keswick Theatre Club, the Operatic Society, the Film Club, the Cricket Club, the Rotary Club, the Society of Artists, the Photographic Society and Keswick School. The theatre also runs two successful youth theatre groups in Keswick and a young writers' group.

Theatre by the Lake continues to play an important part in the local economy. The theatre offered over 700 performances and played to audiences of around 125,000, 40% of whom



were visitors to Cumbria – and for a third of these the theatre was an “important” factor in their decision to stay in Keswick. The organisation employs around 60 permanent staff and up to another 40 temporary or seasonal staff each week, and the annual turnover is in excess of £3m.

Central government cuts have impacted on the theatre, with some reductions in funding from the Arts Council, the County Council and other public bodies. However, the theatre has been successful in attracting new investment through fundraising, supported by a special Arts Council scheme which matches new donations £1 for £1. Despite the difficult financial climate, Theatre by the Lake still presented an exceptionally wide range of performances and opportunities for people to participate in creative activity. Now in its fourteenth year, the theatre continues to contribute greatly to the cultural, social and economic strength of Keswick.

## **DERWENTWATER FORESHORE PROJECT**

### **Council Representative – Councillor Martin Jordan**

I have been associated with this project since it was first suggested by Keswick Town Council and Keswick Civic Society. Funds had to be raised to support the application to the Lottery. There were various committees formed, which included representation from County Council Allerdale Borough Council, Keswick Town Council, Hope Park Trust, The Civic Society, Derwentwater Launch company, The National Park Authority the National Trust.

The Foreshore area is a wonderful asset to the town, but it had been neglected over the years, and really needed a comprehensive plan to bring it up to the standard it deserves. It was decided to expand the scheme to take in everything from the subway to the end of Friars Crag, but concentrating on the “Activity Zone “ from the Launch Company ticket office to the old boathouse. So what we have now is a wonderful welcoming area with high quality seating and picnic tables, where visitors of all ages and abilities can sit and enjoy the fantastic scenery.

But now the big question is:

Who will be responsible for the overall Management and Maintenance of this wonderful asset?

There is a maintenance regime for each section of this site, but it is not working in my opinion. The Town Council has therefore agreed to investigate the possibility of taking over maintenance and management of this area from Allerdale Borough Council.

## FITZ PARK SPORTS PAVILLION

**Council Representative – Councillor Keith Taylor**  
(Report submitted by Philip Pridmore, Secretary)

<b>Chairman</b>	D Beebe		
<b>Secretary</b>	P Pridmore		
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	K Richardson		
<b>Treasurer</b>	P Pridmore		
<b>Club Representatives</b>	<b>Cricket</b>	K Richardson	E Appleby
	<b>Athletics</b>	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**

No report submitted.

#### **KESWICK TOURISM ASSOCIATION**

##### **Council Representative – Councillor Duncan Miller**

Following a short meeting with the Tourism Officer Linda Furniss, I am now able to update on KTA's on-going work.

Their web site, [keswick.org](http://keswick.org), remains the official site for Keswick and the North Lakes, and continues to attract almost 40,000 visits per month. The site is topical and informative giving out latest news, event details, festival updates, weather forecasts, general visitor information and comprehensive details of all types of accommodation. However, KTA has now budgeted a significant spend to revise the site in order to challenge and compete with on-line tour operators. This action should have the effect of encouraging prospective customers to book direct with an Association member as opposed to paying commission to an outside agency. KTA will also be holding an 'open evening' in the near future to encourage yet more retailers and café owners to join so that visitors to the web site are fully aware of what this vibrant resort has to offer as a destination.

The Association will soon launch a new web site, promoting adventure activities, which will be linked to [keswick.org](http://keswick.org). The micro-site will showcase the fact that Keswick and the North Lakes is a dynamic area for adventure/activity visitors to stay. This initiative aims to address findings from recent research that the Lake District needs to attract more young people to maintain their share of the tourism market. In this context Linda reports that social media, namely Facebook and twitter, are noticeably turning viewings into firm bookings.

KTA remains a strong, independent association and works, and is in dialogue, with many organisations including Cumbria Tourism to co-ordinate campaigns and advertising.

Finally the association aims to capitalise on the surge in cycling's popularity when the Tour of Britain visits the Lake District on the 16<sup>th</sup> September. Stage two, a 140 mile route, from Carlisle to Kendal will pass through Keswick which will give the area a great advertising/publicity opportunity.

## **KESWICK YOUTH CLUB**

### **Council Representative – Councillor David Etherden**

The key issue for the Youth Club Committee remains the redevelopment of the site. The current position is as follows

- Planning permission is in place for a development of 9 homes plus a small Youth Club building. However the Youth Club currently has to discuss the exact terms of the permission with the National Park Planners.
- The old Youth Club building has been demolished
- After protracted negotiations with the Environment Agency work on the flood defence wall at the site has been completed. However under the agreement the Youth Club will be required to pay £30,000 to the EA as a contribution to the flood defence works. This will become payable directly the site is developed.
- To fund the demolition of the building the Youth Club is selling adjoining land that it owns (Tentas Field) part to the residents of Greta Grove and the balance to Keswick Rugby Club
- The Youth Club is also open to the idea of sharing the use of a building and has had preliminary meetings with a number of other local groups.

In the interim the Youth Club continues to fund the use of Costa Coffee on one or two evening a week for the use by young people.

After many years as Chairman Stanley Hinde has stepped down but remains on the Committee. The new Chairman is Frances Clarke.

## **KESWICK AND DISTRICT FAIR TRADE CAMPAIGN**

### **Council Representative – Councillor Susan Leighton**

The Keswick and District Fairtrade Campaign Annual Report for 2012 included the following *“Retail sales of Fairtrade products continues to rise. All Tate and Lyle sugar is Fairtrade, Twinings (tea) now have Fairtrade products, and Maltesers are Fairtrade in the UK and Ireland”*. Sales in 2012 grew 19% over the previous year to £1.57m”. Since then the increase in the number of different products available within Keswick has continued and so has the range of events the Fairtrade Campaign has been involved in.

In August 2012 Keswick was successful in renewing its Fairtrade Town Status, and there are now signs marking this fact at all the road entrances into Keswick.

The Keswick Fairtrade Campaign group is an active part of the Cumbrian Fair Trade Network. During the past year there have been many events including the annual Strawberry Tea, a ‘Local Cheese and Fairtrade Wine’ evening which was well attended and a Trade Justice talk about Tax Havens.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2013 involved many people hosting their own Fairtrade event and included a lunch at the Theatre by the Lake and a report from the January visit to Choche by members of the Campaign and Rotary. There were displays of products in local Churches, Schools and Clubs events, as well as Cakes containing Fairtrade ingredients being distributed in the town.

Keswick Fairtrade Campaign, along with Keswick Rotary and Rotary International are aiming to raise one million Birr (£35,000) to enable the coffee farmers of Choche to replace their old coffee bushes with new high yielding stock, and to increase the availability of loans to the women to help diversify their income by setting up small businesses.

### **KESWICK IN BLOOM**

#### **Council Representative – Councillor Susan Leighton**

The Keswick in Bloom group works on planters, flower mangers, plant towers and the many flower beds dotted around the town.

A planting scheme is discussed and then different members of the team source, distribute, plant, prune, mulch, weed - the tasks are numerous, and although the labour is free, the bulbs and plants, compost and hanging baskets require funds. Some money for this comes from grants from Keswick Town Council and Allerdale Borough Council, but other funds are also required. Recently the group took over responsibility for the flower bed by the Lake Road Underpass, and a quantity of work is required on cutting back the overgrowth before new work can begin. There was no painting competition last year as everyone was busy preparing for the Jubilee and Olympic Torch Relay, but the competition is underway already for this year involving the local schools. A successful fundraising coffee morning took place in March. The Town Awards Ceremony took place in Hope Park in August for the local winners in each category. The KIB group did well in last year's Cumbria in Bloom Competition and the entry form has been completed for this year.

### **KESWICK FLOOD AND EMERGENCY RECOVERY GROUP**

#### **Council Representative – Councillor Martin Pugmire**

The Group continues to meet regularly about every 3 months chaired by myself or Graham Thompson (Keswick Volunteers) as substitute, and it has on-going secretarial/administrative help.

The Keswick Emergency Plan is complete, and as finished as such things can ever be, and aims to provide a plan of operation in the event of ANY emergency, not merely flooding. Thus it would work in the event of heavy snowfall, which would make quite different demands upon local resources and affect hilly, as opposed to low-lying, areas of town.

### **KESWICK FLOOD ACTION GROUP**

#### **Council Representative – Councillor Keith Taylor**

No report submitted.

## **THE HAWTHORNS ALLOTMENT SITE**

### **Council Representative – Councillor Duncan Miller**

I inspected the site on the 1<sup>st</sup> April and generally found it to be well managed. However the recent cold spell had undoubtedly delayed Spring preparatory work and planting. Following an on-site meeting and a recent e-mail communication from the plot- holder's liaison person, some issues/ suggestions have been put forward.

- 1) Review some of the larger plots with a view to reducing their size.
- 2) The request for some aggregate for the small car park and pathways is being progressed.
- 3) Additional fencing, which can be expensive, is requested for protection from the wind on an exposed site.
- 4) A small shelter would also be most appreciated in order to shelter from inclement weather.

I have suggested a small skip to clear the site of un-wanted waste/rubble. A further site visit is in the diary for early May which, by that time myself and the Town Clerk will have prioritised the above within budget.

## **COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

### **Lynda Walker, Town Clerk**

The Council welcomed back Lorraine Taylor during the year who was co-opted following the resignation of Councillor Ian Hall in August. A new Code of Conduct was adopted in July and in September eligibility for the new 'Power of General Competence' was achieved when the Clerk gained the necessary qualification.

Over £17,000 was distributed in grant funding from the year's budget to a range of local organisations.

The Council continued to act as the accountable body for the Keswick Flood & Emergency Recovery Group which still meets on a regular basis and organises training sessions for volunteers.

Christmas lights were again provided from Town Council funding, with additional funding to support lighting in shopping streets outside the Market Square coming from Allerdale Borough Council and residual Keswick BIDs funds. The switch on was again a great success incorporating the illumination of the Rotary club's Tree of Light and involving local school children in a musical parade.

The Council continues to maintain the War Memorial, Wivell Park, the Town Field and other open spaces in the town and manages the allotment site at the Hawthorns, Penrith Road. Floral displays were provided around the town in conjunction with Keswick In Bloom, who have taken on responsibility for maintaining the area of land adjacent to the Lake Road subway. The Town Council has facilitated this by entering into a licence agreement with the land owner, Cumbria Highways.

The Council meets every two months in its capacity as Sole Trustee of Keswick Parks Charitable Trusts to ensure the provision and maintenance of public parks and recreation grounds for use of Keswick's residents and visitors. The major part of the Town Council's expenditure supports Fitz Park, which is home to a number of sporting organisations and has a destination play area and Community Sports Area together with a small car park. In December, Allerdale Borough Council announced its withdrawal of concurrent grant funding over the next two years, which will result in a loss of over £40,000 towards the maintenance of Fitz Park. The Town Council, as sole trustee of the Park, is in negotiations with the Borough Council to seek other forms of assistance to replace this.

Discussions have continued throughout the year with Allerdale Borough Council regarding public toilet provision in Keswick and the future of the Town Hall. The Council continues to investigate opportunities presented by the Localism Act to deliver more services at the local level and has recently agreed to investigate taking over the maintenance of the Foreshore area from the Borough Council.

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 has been secured to continue the partnership's work for the next two years. Representatives have also attended partnership meetings with the Borough and County Councils and the Lake District National Park Authority.

Consultation has taken place on planning applications and highways issues including licenses for pavement cafes and A boards. Other major consultation exercises to which the Council responded included the review of the Traffic Regulation Order for Keswick and the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership's consultation on disposal of higher level nuclear waste.

The Council receives a report from a representative of the Keswick Neighbourhood Policing team at all meetings and raises issues of local concern.

Administration of the voluntary Busking Badge scheme has been undertaken by the office staff throughout the year, together with control of advertising banners.

Following the appointment of a Town Centre Manager by Allerdale BC, a Joint Action Group has been set up to address concerns about the appearance of the town and regular meetings are held in the Council Chamber with representation from the Town Council to progress action on issues raised.

The Council continues to lobby for more affordable housing for locals and provided finance to support Keswick Housing Trust's Community Share issue.

The Council has agreed to facilitate and fund an annual Community Event following the success of the Royal Wedding and Diamond Jubilee celebrations in the Market Square. A group has been formed to progress a 'Keswick Midsummer Festival' to take place on Sunday 30 June. Funding was provided towards the Derwentwater spectacular staged by Lakes Alive in August, and Keswick's welcome for the Olympic Torch relay was co-ordinated by the Town Council in June.

The Town Council has agreed to prepare a five year business plan and achieved funding from the Awards for All programme to carry out a comprehensive community consultation exercise, facilitated by Action for Market Towns, which began in April. The results of this consultation will inform the priorities for the new Business Plan which will be complete by October 2013 and will guide future activity.