



# Parish and Town Council

## Newsletter

January 2023 (Winter)

[www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk)



## A word from our Parish and Town Councils' Champion CC Paul Rigby....

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a happy festive break and managed to enjoy some time with loved ones over the Christmas period. Winter is well and truly upon us at the moment, though I always think that once we get towards the end of January we can look forward to the coming Spring. Winter can be a challenging time for many services and I would like to thank officers, volunteers and everyone who is contributing to the effort to help keep our residents safe and healthy.



We live in challenging times and increases in the cost of living are putting a strain on many household budgets. Lancashire County Council is supporting our residents in a number of ways, and the Parish Conference in November included an update on support available such as Lancashire Warm Spaces, Community Food Grants, and the Affordable Warmth Scheme. I know that many parish and town councils are supporting their residents by providing warm and welcome spaces and other initiatives.

I am pleased to say that we had very positive feedback following the Parish and Town Council Conference and attendees found the programme relevant and informative. As well as the cost of living support, the programme included updates on Lancashire 2050, a long-term strategic plan for the future of Lancashire, and the new Lancashire Culture and Sport Fund. We know that Highways issues are always of interest to parish and town councils and the programme included an update on highways maintenance and street lighting, public realm work and drainage, as well as an update on active travel. If you have suggestions for future conference topics, please let the Partnerships Team know.

I am always keen to support partnership working with parish and town councils and to build on the commitments in the Parish and Town Council Charter: Better Working Together. There are some great examples of joint working. A few are highlighted in this newsletter, including work to reduce flooding that I was pleased to be able to support in Freckleton. The Council's Community Projects Team work with communities across Lancashire on projects that encourage people to be healthier and improve their local environment. They are particularly keen to work with parish and town councils. Some examples of their work are highlighted in this newsletter.

With all good wishes for 2023,

*Paul*

**County Councillor Paul Rigby**

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## Parish Champion Grant

Parish and town councils are encouraged to bid for a grant from the Parish Champion to support projects and initiatives in their locality. Each year the Parish Champion has a budget of £10,000 for such activities and we have previously supported a range of community assets including a defibrillator, a life belt, picnic tables, playground equipment and memorial stones.

If you would like to apply for a grant, please download the application form:

[Parish Champion Grant Application Form.docx](#)

or email [parishcouncils@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:parishcouncils@lancashire.gov.uk) for further information.

## Lancashire Warm Spaces Grant Scheme

This small grant programme has been set up for local organisations and groups within the voluntary, community, and faith sector, as well as for parish and town councils, to support the creation and improvement of warm and welcoming spaces for residents amidst the rising cost of living, focussing on those most in need.

Applicants can apply for funding of between £50-£500. The grant scheme opened on 18 November 2022 and is an open bidding round with no initial closing date. However, we do encourage applicants to apply as soon as possible before funding is fully allocated.

Applications will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and decisions made within a 10-day period, all awarded funds will need to be spent by the end of March 2023.

Check the full guidance [here](#) and download the application form [here](#)

If you have any questions regarding this grant scheme, or require any support, please contact [warmspaces@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:warmspaces@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Better Working Between Lancashire County Council and Parish and Town Councils: Parish & Town Council Charter 2022-2024

We wanted to share some examples of how we're working together so that we can learn from each other and to share good practice. Thank you to all the parish and town councils who sent in some great examples. If you would like any further information on any of these projects, please contact the Partnerships Team, or the relevant parish or town council.

- When major road works were required on the busy A6 in Carnforth, in connection with a major housing development, Carnforth Town Council approached Lancashire County Council at an early stage to offer support and their local knowledge. Carnforth Town Council liaised with local residents and businesses throughout the period of the works, and regular meetings took place with LCC Highways team. Alternative care parking was arranged for affected residents using a local church car park, and the Town Council kept people informed and acted as the 'eyes and ears' for LCC as work progressed. A spokesperson from Carnforth Town Council commented "It was an enjoyable experience that ultimately saved delays and disruption and proved what can be achieved when we work together."



- Wiswell Parish Council have been working with LCC's Public Rights of Way (PROW) team since 2015 to improve and maintain signage. Working with LCC, Parish councillors continue to monitor the signs and other aspects of rights of way and where replacement signs are identified as being necessary, the PROW team deliver the materials to a convenient location and the replacement signposts are then erected by the Parish Lengthsman. As a result, signs are generally in better condition than previously, and repairs are handled more quickly.
- Following flooding to properties in the area, Freckleton Parish Council worked with LCC and Fylde Borough Council to clear blocked drains and reduce the flooding risk. A good example of closer working between the 3 levels of local government.
- Woodplumpton Parish Council have worked in partnership with LCC to deliver a £250,000 traffic calming scheme through Woodplumpton using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies. Under the scheme speed bumps, speed restrictions and other road safety enhancements have been introduced to improve road safety in the village.



- Barley in East Lancashire attracts many visitors due to its proximity to Pendle Hill, which is very popular with walkers. Barley is a small rural village and the



Parish Council worked with LCC to introduce parking restrictions on the highway which has significantly improved safety and reduced congestion at busy times. A spokesperson for Barley Council said, "On 2 January 2023 the good weather and bank holiday drew thousands to Barley but we had limited problems and no accidents.

We also work closely with our colleagues at the Borough Council and our Parish Council is very much aware of the huge benefits from a joined up approach to improving the well being of the local community and the fabric of the village."

## Lancashire Culture and Sports Fund



This new funding initiative gives communities the chance to create and support local culture and sport projects. Crowdfund Lancashire enables everyone to contribute towards their community - chipping in as little as £2 to help bring ideas to life. In addition to the contributions that local people make, the county council will support eligible projects with a pledge from the new £500,000 Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund (LCSF). The LCSF will be used to 'top up' funding for projects with pledges covering up to 50% of the project's total target. Find out more [here](#)

## Community Projects Team

### About Us

Lancashire County Council's Community Projects team use their skills and experience to work with the people of Lancashire to support projects to strengthen communities and improve wellbeing. We support projects with realistic goals that encourage people to be healthier and improve their local environment.

Find out more [here](#)

Telephone: 01772 530650

Email: [projectsteam@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:projectsteam@lancashire.gov.uk)

You can also keep up with the latest activity on our Facebook page [Lancashire Community Projects | Facebook](#)

### What we do

To illustrate the wide range of projects the team covers, here are a couple of examples of the projects we have been involved with over the past year.



## Preston Wellfest Network



Coordinated by the Community Projects Team, with support from Preston City Council, the network provides a platform for organisations focusing on health and wellbeing, to share information, promote activities, and collectively plan events. For 2021, the network decided to run events in support of World Suicide Prevention Day in September, World Mental Health Day in October and awareness

raising on addiction to coincide with Alcohol Awareness week in November. Find out more about the network on their [Facebook](#) page.

## Kirkham High Street Heritage Action Zone



The Community Projects Team have been supporting the feasibility study, using their local connections and knowledge of engaging communities. Several heritage events and activities have been organised aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and plans are in place to recruit a Social Prescriber specifically for this project. See more details [here](#)

## The Birchwood Centre – Inclusion Café



The Café is run by staff and volunteers. They turn up every week to create a warm and welcoming place for people to get together as well as creating plates of healthy nutritious food, from perfectly edible food that was heading for landfill. The Community Projects Team have supported the café in numerous ways since its initial inception.

Most recently to build a relationship with Hesketh Bank and Tarleton Helpers to share the model, and best practice, across the Northern Parishes of West Lancs.

## Choose Health free NHS Health Checks

The NHS Health Check is a free health check-up for adults aged 40 to 74 that you can have once every 5 years. Even if you're feeling great, having an NHS Health Check helps you to find ways to lower your risk of getting heart disease, kidney disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, or dementia.

Understanding your level of risk lets you make small changes to reduce your risk of these diseases. The NHS Health Check takes around 25 minutes and at the end, you will be given a risk score and any appropriate lifestyle advice.

Choose Health has been delivering the NHS Health Check across the county. Dates are continually being added and you can find out more [here](#).

## Play and Skills at Tea-Time Activities (PASTA) Programme



Play and Skills at Tea-time Activities (PASTA) is a programme for children and their families aged 5 to 8 years old. The programme provides a fun and interactive environment for families to participate in an active play session. As well as prepare, cook, and eat a nutritious and budget friendly family meal together.

PASTA is being delivered in local Primary Schools, Community Centres or Play Centres in targeted wards across Lancashire's 12 Districts. Click [here](#) to find out where PASTA

sessions are running in Lancashire

### Families who have attended had this to say...

*'The snack ideas for the children have been brilliant, they are cheap and healthy. They want these now and aren't grabbing bags of crisps'*

*'I'd never even cooked a meal from scratch before, the closest I got was putting nuggets in the oven. I can cook a meal now and everyone eats it. We feel better too!'*



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**Wishing everyone a lovely Winter from the Partnerships Development Team!**

[parishcouncils@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:parishcouncils@lancashire.gov.uk)