

## **Appendix 1**

### **AGM 2017 - Chairman's Report**

Throughout the 2016-17 year the Parish Council have continued to engage on several issues that have been ongoing for some time.

We have finally achieved a result with regard to footway light no.1. The Parish Council have been in communication with Eden District Council for 2 years in an attempt to have the light fitting replaced. A new lamp post has now been installed and the immediate area around the lamp is illuminated again, so helping to improve safety at the busy A66/Main Street junction.

We have also seen the installation of the average speed cameras on the A66. This again has been a long standing issue for the Parish Council but we are pleased that the system is now operational and helping to reduce traffic speed along this section of the A66.

At this time last year I reported that the Eden Local Plan 2014 was being assessed by the Planning Inspector. After this initial inspection, the document was brought back to Eden District Council for further adjustment and has been resubmitted to the Planning Inspector. Over the course of the year EDC have amended the housing allocation requirement for Kirkby Thore and we have had several meetings with the local planning team to find a mutually acceptable level of housing allocation for our village.

The provision of services is an important element of any sustainable housing allocation plan but we have had to accept that for the time being the 563 bus service has been lost. The Parish Council is continuing to work with other community groups along the bus route to find a solution to this problem. In recent months, a new service has been introduced which provides the opportunity to access services in Penrith on Tuesday only. Whilst this is not a satisfactory replacement for the previous 563 service it at least offers some benefit to residents who have been significantly affected by the withdrawal of the Grand Prix service. It is pleasing to note the positive contributions of the community in several issues – the introduction of a defibrillator which is now installed and working; the planting of several thousand crocus bulbs on areas outside the school and adjacent to the Memorial Hall, and the ‘unseen’ community work that individual residents undertake to help improve the village.

I would also like to express my congratulations to the staff, parents and pupils at the school and pre-school in retaining their Ofsted classifications of Good. The Parish Council are very proud of the achievements of the schools and we recognise that the tremendous work of the staff is a major reason for their success.

Another note of thanks goes to Harry Lucas who has consigned his grass cutting shears to the museum after maintaining the grassed areas in the village for many years. Harry will be a hard act to follow and I wish him all the best for the future.

The Parish Council continue to work with the Village Hall Committee to help manage the community assets of the Village Hall and Recreation Field. Both areas continue to require time, effort and money to maintain and improve the facilities for the community.

As a Parish Council we are still in need of additional councillor support. We have 3 vacancies for councillors at the moment and would welcome any resident who is interested in helping the community to contact me or any other councillor.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all Parish Councillors and our Clerk, Lindsay Nicholson, for their hard work and commitment this year. I would also like to offer my thanks for the support provided by Henry Sawrey-Cookson, Eden District Councillor and Gary Strong, Cumbria County Councillor.

**Frank Birkett – Kirkby Thore Parish Council**