

## Know your Parish Council

Chairman	John Bull	Garshill Farmhouse,	Ravenstonedale
Vice Chairman	Caroline Morris	Manor House,	Ravenstonedale
Councillors	Janet Brownrigg	Lane Farm,	Newbiggin on Lune
	Paul Capstick	High Lane,	Newbiggin on Lune
	Fanny Jackson	Weasdale Farm,	Newbiggin on Lune
	Ernest Leach	Street, Fell End,	Ravenstonedale
	Hilary Mirrey	The Bield,	Ravenstonedale

## Clerk to the Parish Council

Chris Elphick  
Nether House, Garsdale,  
Sedbergh Cumbria LA10 5NS  
Phone 015396 20605  
Email [chriseiphick@aol.com](mailto:chriseiphick@aol.com)

## Parish Council Meetings

Normally held on the second Thursday each month except for August and December.

Alternate venues are Ravenstonedale High Chapel Room and Newbiggin-on-Lune Public Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

2006 January 12th	Newbiggin-on-Lune
February 9th	Ravenstonedale
March 9th	Newbiggin-on-Lune
April 20th*	Ravenstonedale—Annual Parish Meeting
May 11th	Newbiggin-on-Lune—Annual General Meeting

\* The date of the April meeting has been changed to avoid Easter.

The Annual Parish Meeting is an open meeting at which any elector may speak on matters concerning the parish.

The Annual General Meeting is a normal Parish Council Meeting at which the first business must be to elect a Chairman for the ensuing year.

Members of the public and press are welcome to attend any meeting.

## Public Participation

A period is set aside for members of the public to address the council at its meetings on matters of local interest or concern. It helps if those wishing to speak would notify the Clerk prior to the meeting.

## Police

The new telephone number for **Non-Emergency calls** is **0845 33 00 247**

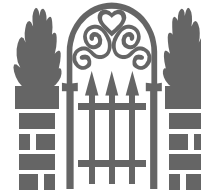
**Highways**—To report a highway problem on a County Highway you may use the **Highways Hotline 0845 609 6609** or online at **[www.cumbriahighways.co.uk](http://www.cumbriahighways.co.uk)**.

The online service also enables you to track the progress of your report.

**Neighbourhood Watch** - Co-ordinator—John Bull 015396 23622

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

WINTER 2005-2006



# Ravenstonedale Parish Council

## Ravenstonedale a Quality Parish Official!

At the January parish council meeting the Chairman, John Bull, was presented with the Quality Parish Council Certificate by the Deputy Chairman of the Cumbria Association of Local Councils, Winston Collinge.

This prestigious award confirms that Ravenstonedale Parish Council has achieved recognition that it works to nationally accepted standards set by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Ravenstonedale is the first parish to qualify in Eden District, and one of only four out of the two hundred and thirtysix in Cumbria. The challenge now is to maintain the standard.

## Parish Council Website

**[Ravenstonedale.org/council](http://Ravenstonedale.org/council)** is set to "Go Live" within the next few days.

The site will carry the latest information on the Parish Council and its activities as well as general information on the functions of parish councils and links to other relevant sites

Suggestions of what YOU would like to see on the site will be welcomed.

### Inside this Issue:

Possible Re-Designation of  
Ravenstonedale as National  
Park or AONB

Children's Playgrounds

Planning Online

The Natural Environment and  
Rural Communities (NERC) Bill

Parish Plan

# Q

QUALITY  
PARISH  
COUNCIL

## **Proposed inclusion of Howgills including Ravenstonedale in the Yorkshire Dales National Park**

Following the publication of "Our Forgotten Landscapes" by Friends of the Lake District (FoLD), the Clerk of the Lake District (FoLD), the Clerk has been in contact with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) and the Countryside Agency in order to ascertain the current situation and to enquire about the local consultation process.

The response from both agencies was that the FoLD publication was solely the opinion of FoLD rather than a definitive document. The Countryside Agency has now engaged consultants to develop ideas gained during the initial assessment of the area. This will include local consultation – probably starting in February 2006.

The Parish Council will ensure that all residents are kept informed of the consultation process.

## **Ravenstonedale and Newbiggin-on-Lune Play Areas**

The fundraising Variety Show in Newbiggin-on-Lune Public Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> December was a resounding success and raised just short of £600. for the Playground Fund. Congratulations and thanks to all those who contributed.

The Ravenstonedale site presents a great variety of challenges and opportunities.

The area comprises not only the former bowling green but includes the tennis court and the surrounding woodland. The whole unit is within the Ravenstonedale Conservation Area

and is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

This has both advantages and disadvantages. The disadvantages are that more external bodies, such as English Nature and the Environment Agency need to be consulted prior to work being carried out. An advantage is that grant funding may be more readily accessed for work within an SSSI.

At the southerly end of the site, beyond the bowling green, is an area with potential for a nature reserve with plenty of habitat for wildlife, including the local red squirrels.

Alex Chalmers of Volunteer Centre Eden has been working with Jan Tringham, Headteacher, and Caroline Morris to involve the children from Ravenstonedale Primary School and discuss ideas for a Wildlife Conservation Area. The children have copies of a site map to assist them with recording their ideas for the layout of different sections. Alex will be working on the project with the children during some science lessons later this term. Hopefully the resulting site will continue to provide more opportunities for the school to work with the community.

Before a playground can be installed on this site there is quite a lot of preparatory work to be done but the final result should be a great gain for the parish.

The overall plan must include Risk Assessment of all aspects of area. Being alongside Scandal Beck has its own potential dangers to be assessed. Access for those with disabilities must also be taken into account.

To date, consultations and advice on the nature aspects have been sought from Tree Surgeons, Cumbria Woodlands, Eden District Council Tree Conservation Officer, English Nature, The Environment Agency and Eden Volunteer Centre.

## **Planning Information - Now Just a Mouse Click Away**

Eden District Council has opened its new Planning Website. It is now possible to make and view planning applications online.

You now have the facility to make an application and review its progress, to comment upon an application and view the decision, all without leaving home!

All the information you need is accessible at [www.eden.gov.uk](http://www.eden.gov.uk) under the Planning and Development Section. For applicants, you are now able to submit an application electronically, including the payment of the fee.

For residents who are interested in a particular planning application, you can now find a list of all applications submitted to the Council, and from this can select those that are of interest to you. For each application the planning application forms and submitted drawings, and in most cases all the supporting information, are available to view, and you can then submit your comments by email, and monitor the progress of the application.

Eden District Local Plan is also available at [www.eden.gov.uk](http://www.eden.gov.uk) and has been designed so that it is comprehensive and easy to use.

## **The Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Bill**

A letter has been sent to Baroness Young supporting elements of the NERC Bill, currently being debated in the House of Lords, relating to use of mechanically propelled vehicles on green roads. The Bill proposes restrictions to reduce environmental damage to these ancient highways.

## **Parish Plan**

So what is a Parish Plan? A Parish Plan is a statement of how a community sees itself now, and how it will develop over the next few years. It:

- reflects the views of all sections of the community
- identifies which features and local characteristics people value
- identifies local problems and opportunities
- spells out how residents want the community to develop in the future
- prepares a plan of action to achieve this vision.

Organisations and funding bodies that work with rural communities often ask to see written evidence of need, community consultation and plans for implementing the project before they will consider offering funding. The Parish Plan could be used to provide this information and to accompany the funding bid.

Ravenstonedale last produced a Parish Plan in 1981. It will be interesting to reflect on the outcomes of that plan and to see how we can now further improve on local services and facilities.