

CARNFORTH EXPRESS

Carnforth Town Council – Working for you

January & February 2023



Carnforth adopts its Neighbourhood Plan: Carnforth Town Council is delighted to announce that the Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) has been formally 'made' following a referendum on Thursday 26th January. 87% of residents who voted said 'Yes' to the question 'Do you want Lancaster City Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Carnforth to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

The adopted CNP is the culmination of a great deal of work over almost five years and the Town Council is very proud of the final product. It has been developed to enable our community to take greater control over the type and scale of development and land use in the town and to promote measures and aspirations to protect our heritage, to tackle climate change, traffic management and air quality and to provide us with greater influence on our local economy and tourism.

The Plan sets out our vision, objectives and aspirations for the Town to 2031 and implementation will be regularly monitored and reviewed. We would like to thank the local community, Lancaster City Council and everyone who has helped to reach this important milestone.

Now that our Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted, it will be the basis of all future Town Council considerations for the development and expansion in and around our town and is part of the statutory development plan for the Lancaster District.

Produced with input from local residents and businesses, our Plan sets out our vision of how we wish to protect the best of Carnforth and Crag Bank, while seeking to encourage growth and investment in our community and associated infrastructure.

The environment remains at the heart of what the Town Council does and we will maintain our aspiration to become carbon neutral over time, reducing from our current level of output of nearly 56 tonnes of carbon per annum! We will explore ways to encourage more walking and cycling to, from, and around town and we will work with others to improve footpaths and cycle paths so as to make walking and cycling easier, more accessible and more pleasant.

The adopted Plan will shape the future of the town for generations to come. All new planning developments will have to take into account the policies and objectives set out in the Neighbourhood Plan relating to sustainability and local environment, heritage, tourism and economic matters.

The Town Council will implement an action plan and monitor delivery of the Plan's aspirations over the next 10 years and carry out periodic reviews to ensure that the Plan continues to meet legal requirements and changing priorities.

Neighbourhood planning is a key component of the Government's Localism Act. It devolves greater powers to councils and neighbourhoods, giving local people rights to shape the development of the communities in which they live by taking a more active role in the development of planning policy at a local level. **Bob Bailey, Town Clerk**



Co Wheels car club comes to Carnforth!

Lancaster City Council is making it easier this New Year for people to make the switch to using more sustainable modes of transport and help to reduce air pollution.

The council has taken delivery of three new electric vehicles as part of its partnership with Co Wheels car club, with one car based at Preston Street in Carnforth. The scheme provides an opportunity to hire an electric vehicle for as little as £5 an hour - perfect for those who may only need a vehicle for short periods of time.

Air pollution is the biggest environmental threat to our health, no matter who you are or where you live. With no exhaust, pure electric cars produce no carbon dioxide emissions, which helps to reduce air pollution considerably.

The cars have been purchased using external funding provided to the City Council for public health initiatives. They are now available for the public to book 24/7 – other locations are: Dallas Road Car Park in Lancaster and Salt Ayre Leisure Centre.

Councillor Kevin Frea, cabinet member for the climate emergency, said: *“One of the ways we can all make a difference to CO2 emissions and help to reduce air pollution is by cutting down our use of private vehicles and instead use a sustainable mode of transport.*

“For those times when a car may be needed, our partnership with Co Wheels is an excellent option as it provides the opportunity to hire an electric vehicle for short periods of time.

“I'm delighted that these new vehicles have been delivered and are now available for use by the general public.”

Car clubs have been shown to reduce car dependence, removing on average, 18.5 privately owned cars from the road. Around 22% of members said they would have bought a car if they had not joined a car club and members now tend to drive less and use public transport, walk and cycle more – further reducing traffic on the road.

County Councillor Phillippa Williamson, leader of Lancashire County Council, said:
"Lancashire has made a good start to the transition to electric vehicles by installing 150 on-street electric vehicle charging bays throughout the county, and are currently pursuing opportunities to be able to invest in more infrastructure to support them in the future.

"We're pleased to support the Co Wheels scheme by designating one of the electric charging bays in Carnforth for the exclusive use of the shared-use vehicle."

Councillor Chris Smith, Carnforth Town Mayor, said: *"Carnforth Town Council is delighted that Carnforth has been chosen as a preferred location for one of the three new Co Wheels electric vehicles. The Co-wheels initiative is a cheap and convenient way of reducing the impact of unavoidable car journeys. We are confident that once the scheme becomes established the vehicle will become very popular.*

"The Town Council has set out, in its Neighbourhood Plan, an aspiration to achieve a future carbon zero status and this scheme will enable residents to play their part in reducing carbon emissions."

Once you've signed up as a Co Wheels member, you pay a monthly membership fee to be part of the car club, and then just pay for your journeys when you use the vehicles.

For more information and to sign up visit www.co-wheels.org.uk/lancaster **As an added incentive, you can get membership for just £1, plus £40 driving credit and no monthly fees, when you join using the promo code LANCASTER40. Bob Bailey, Town Clerk**

Going Greener..

In line with our aspiration to improve our 'green' credentials, Carnforth Town Council has recently adopted a Sustainable Procurement Policy.

This means that we will be examining our own activities to see how they might be delivered in a more environmentally friendly way, as well as encouraging our service providers to adopt sustainable ways of working.

In future, when we procure the services of a third party, one element of selection will be based on whether they conduct their business in a sustainable way, for example, we will be seeking suppliers who use reusable, recycled or recyclable materials. **Councillor Chris Smith**

Carnforth Emergency Plan

Many of you will be aware that Carnforth Town Council activated its emergency plan twice in 2022 - once in response to widespread mobile signal loss following a transmission mast issue, and once in response to the loss of water supply and reduced pressure arising from burst water mains.

The Emergency Plan can be triggered at any time in response to a request from Lancaster City or Lancashire County Councils or by any of the emergency services.

The criteria for triggering the plan are flexible and based on circumstances prevailing but it would normally only be in response to a widespread incident affecting large parts of Carnforth and/or Crag Bank.

Responses resulting from triggering the plan will range from enhanced communication within the area (as was the case in the two cases mentioned) to opening the Civic Hall as an emergency refuge and mobilising local support groups. The Civic Hall is equipped with emergency power generation as well as emergency equipment and communication devices, which would be used in the event of widespread flooding, for example. We believe that we are well placed to respond to emergencies but look out for an awareness raising session later this year. **Councillor Chris Smith**

Money matters (but sadly doesn't grow on trees!)

Next month all householders will be receiving their Council Tax bills for 2023 / 2024 from their local authorities. Locally our bills will be sent out by Lancaster City Council and will set out not only how much we will be asked to pay but also how and where our money will be allocated. The biggest slice will go to Lancashire County Council to pay for adult social care, roads, schools and libraries amongst other things. Next in line is Lancaster City Council who provide waste collection, environmental health and housing amongst their services. After the two largest local authorities come the Police and the Fire Services. Finally, our bills will show how much Carnforth Town Council, a minnow by comparison to the others, will be asking for.

Carnforth Town Council agreed its Budget for 2023 / 2024 at its meeting on Wednesday 19th January. The Council unanimously agreed to set its Precept – the proportion of Council Tax paid to the Town Council – at £101,275 for the 2023/24 financial year, which is an increase of £10,861 (12%) on last year's Precept.



This means that the average Band D household will contribute £56.74 annually (£1.09 per week) to the precept, a rise of £4.82 on last year (9.28%). Band D properties are used as a measure of the national average, and some households will see a smaller or bigger increase, based on their Band rating for Council Tax.

The Town Council provides several functions and services from its Precept and supports community groups and ventures in Carnforth and surrounding areas.

So, what do we do for YOU? We manage and safeguard essential community assets such as Carnforth Civic Hall and Crag Bank Village Hall for a range of activities - from meetings to Pilates and everything in-between - together with the War Memorial Gardens.

We maintain public rights of way, footpaths, open spaces, flower beds and numerous planters and street furniture around the town, including the 'train' on the A6 at Crag Bank roundabout and the 'two owls' at the top of Hawes Hill.

We have run successful community events, notably the Street Festival, the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and the Great Big Green Week, in the last couple of years as well as the regular Remembrance Day Parade and Service and other civic events.

We promote and advocate on behalf of our town in a variety of ways; we consider and comment on planning applications and planning policy, we represent our local community on a range of issues – such as the Barclays Bank closure, we work collaboratively with Lancaster City and Lancashire County Councils on public realm and highways matters and we are developing a closer working relationship with Carnforth Integrated Care Community on health and wellbeing matters.

The Council contributes funding and support to the work of a variety of community groups such as Carnforth Chamber of Trade, Carnforth Rotary, Carnforth & District Twinning Association, Carnforth Carnival Committee and the Carnforth Wombles.

We have built on our ability to be more efficient and effective in serving our local community through modern technology and kept our residents and local community up to date with news and useful and supportive information – and there has been a lot of it - through our website and social media platforms and the pages of the popular *Carnforth Express*.

Looking ahead, the recent announcement of Government funding for the Eden project in Morecambe also has exciting implications for Carnforth. The project has the potential to bring considerable prosperity to the whole of the North West.

We will continue to seek opportunities to secure spin off benefit for Carnforth. This will involve further strengthening our already excellent working relationships with Lancaster City and Lancashire County Councils.

Very few people would dispute that the last few years have been the most difficult in recent living memory. Despite this Carnforth continues to go from strength to strength and the Town Council will continue to work diligently on your behalf. Our planning for the next financial year has considered the impact of the 'cost of living' on our finances; our plans to maintain or enhance current services, activities and community assets and to build on our capacity to improve our resilience and deliver our ambitious plans and aspirations for the Town as set in the *Carnforth Neighbourhood Plan* – and all for around a £1.09p a week!

Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite

Carnforth Film Nights – 2023: You can book tickets NOW for any, or all, of our great programme of films at Carnforth Civic Hall on North Road.

Tickets are £10 including food. Drinks to buy are also available.

Tickets can be purchased online by clicking the links below or by emailing Leah at admin@carnforhtowncouncil.org or by calling 07828254149.



Ticket numbers are limited to 40 - BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

SATURDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2023: TOP GUN: MAVERICK

<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CADZ>

SATURDAY 25th MARCH 2023: ELVIS <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CAEC>

SATURDAY 22nd APRIL 2023: THE SECRETS OF DUMBLEDORE

<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CAEE>

SATURDAY 20th MAY 2023: KNIVES OUT 2 GLASS ONION

<https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CAEF>

SATURDAY 24th JUNE 2023: BRIAN & CHARLES <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CAEG>

Council venues for hire: Carnforth Civic Hall on Lower North Road and Crag Bank Village Hall, on Jesson Way, are suitable for baby groups, ceremonies, corporate events, exhibitions, music practice, music events, meetings, parties, sports and fitness, societies and clubs, theatre productions and training and workshops.



The Carnforth Civic Hall Meeting Room is suitable for corporate events, exhibitions, music practice, meetings, societies and clubs, training and workshops.

All our venues have super broadband available free of charge.

Book online here: <https://venuehire.scribeaccounts.com/Carnforth-Town-Council> or by emailing Leah at admin@carnforhtowncouncil.org or calling 07828254149.

Hire of Carnforth Civic Hall and Crag Bank Village Hall is from as little as £12 per hour, and the Meeting room at the Civic Hall from £10 per hour.

Availability is limited so book now for 2023!

Live theatre! Carnforth Town Council is proud to bring you live theatre, in the shape of 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' on Saturday 4th March at Carnforth Civic Hall from 6:30pm

This is a quirky, fast-paced and humorous take on the classic tale by award winning actors Matt Panesh and David Findlay that will be of particular interest to anyone studying this text for GCSE.

Tickets are £7.50. Family tickets are £22.50 (2 adults & 2 Children). Refreshments will be available. Book tickets here: <https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CDDG> or scan the QR code.



Meet two of your new Town Councillors:

The Town Council has recently appointed three new Councillors by co-option: Councillors Ian Laurence, Chris Hanna and the returning and well-known Bob Roe. They will each serve until the local elections in May of this year.

Here's what **Councillor Ian Laurence** had to say following his appointment: *I have lived in and around Carnforth for most of my life. I have always had an affinity with the town, as I went to school here and even attended the RAF Air Cadets back in the 1980's. I have served with the British Army, trained in Theatre Technical Management, worked for Special Projects at Millennium Pyrotechnics and I was a Cadet Forces Adult*

Volunteer with Army Cadet Force for 16 years. I am also a serving Governor at Carnforth Community Primary school, and I have recently re-joined my old Air Cadet Squadron as a Civilian Volunteer. I currently live in Carnforth close to my partner, her children, and my son.

I want to work with the people, community, and businesses of Carnforth, to bring the historical and cultural life of Carnforth to the forefront. We have a wealth of history on our doorstep, of which we are immensely proud.

We should be highlighting this to bring tourists and businesses to our town. This could be done through events or expos, showing off who we are and what we can do within our community. I also would like to see further developments within environmentally friendly and renewable energy projects in the local area.

Councillor Chris Hanna told us that he is really pleased to have joined the Town Council. Chris brings with him a wealth of experience in housing, finance, community development, and community safety, plus a broad depth of knowledge of many other areas.

He has a track record of working with community and resident groups, helping, and assisting them in making a positive difference for their communities.

Chris sees Carnforth Town Council as an active and progressive council with the work it has done in developing the Neighbourhood Plan, something the Town Council is proud of achieving. Chris is looking to support residents' aspirations to

see an improvement in the environment of the town and including finding ways of addressing the strains on local services, and facilities, for example: the lack of affordable homes; the increasing difficulties in accessing health services; and the increasing congestion leading to poor air quality and traffic noise around the town. For Chris, being a councillor is a great privilege and he promises that he will work hard for the benefit of our town.



Carnforth & District Twinning Association held its usual Lancashire Night celebration on Saturday 26th November 2022 at Millhead Village Hall.

It was quite well attended and everyone there thoroughly enjoyed the delicious hotpot supper with pudding – supplied by Lottie’s Kitchen; two quizzes – produced by Bernard Simon; and a free glass of wine to toast the King, Duke of Lancaster. Carnforth’s town crier delivered the Lancashire Day Proclamation in full garb at 9pm and we all raised our glass to King Charles. Our tombola on Switch-on was as popular as ever – we are grateful to the Chamber of Trade for their continued support in allowing us to have a stall.



2023 is an important year for the Association, being the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Twinning Agreement between the two towns of Carnforth and Sailly sur la Lys. In 2003 the agreements were signed by our town mayors and deputy mayors in the presence of an MEP, MP and the British Consul. This year it is the turn of our French friends to play host and our members will be going to Sailly in August for the Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate. Our visits are always a wonderful chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones, and this

year will be extra special with the added celebrations for 20 years of sharing our similarities and differences.

Other plans for 2023 include a possible beer tasting evening – involving both French and Lancastrian beers, a Bastille Night party, our annual meal at Quite Simply French, plus Lancashire Night and the Tombola. If you are interested in joining the Twinning Association or would like more information, please contact Lesley Simon on lesleysimonedit@hotmail.com, or find us on Facebook.

Let’s Get Walking! Walking in Lancashire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/lancs> has loads of walks to download and print for free.

It also has books on walks, details of walking groups across the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group, are walking from home, or on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

John Harris, who maintains the website, can be contacted directly by emailing: john@walkinginengland.co.uk

So home or away, let’s get walking!

**India and Becky's
Marathon (and a Half)
Charity Swim Challenge 2023**

India and Becky are taking on an epic challenge of a Marathon and a Half.

India aged just 9, who is part of Carnforth Community Pools Swim Squad has taken on the challenge of a Half Marathon (13.1 Miles) swim, with Becky (India's Swimming Teacher) is challenged to do a Marathon (26.2 Miles) in the same time or less.

This will take place over February Half Term 2023, which coincides with the pools 5th Anniversary of being a Charity since the takeover in 2018.

They are hoping to raise a total of **£5000** in their joint effort to help towards the cost of the new extension.

Carnforth Community Pool has just received Planning Permission to extend the building that the pool is currently housed in, which will cost in excess of £100k!

This will enable a more user friendly attraction, cafe and viewing platform along with additional storage and facilities.

Lets show them the support they deserve.

13th - 17th February
www.Carnforthpool.org
Charity No: 1176769

Donate online with **JustGiving** Scan Me

Carnforth Community Swimming Pool