

CARNFORTH EXPRESS

Carnforth Town Council – Working for you

January & February 2024



Tributes to Councillor Paul Gardner:

How Carnforth councillor Paul Gardner developed a national reputation as an expert in paralegal work was highlighted at his civic funeral recently.

Mayor of Lancaster Councillor Roger Dennison, with Paul's family, led mourners at Lancaster Crematorium on January 9th.

Paul's work with the Royal College of Nursing was respected by all colleagues and his strong sense of fairness informed his work with its affiliated union Unite, celebrant John Topping said at the funeral. He became closely involved with union litigation in employment law, advising and representing members and clients in both legal courts and industrial tribunals throughout the country.

Paul, who became a Lancaster City and Carnforth Town Councillor 20 years ago, died in the Royal Lancaster Infirmary on December 16, aged 70.

A psychiatric nurse at Lancaster Moor Hospital and Labour Party and Co-operative Party activist, he was born in Warwickshire in 1953 and left school at 15 to join the Merchant Navy.

His passionate commitment to fairness led to a lifetime's engagement with and for his local and regional communities as an energetic, persuasive and highly active Labour Party member. He was Town Mayor of Carnforth in 2009 -10. He was a director of Carnforth Station Trust and a board member of Citizens' Advice North Lancashire.

Mr Topping said Paul was a lover of humankind, sport, music and performing arts. He was a keen member of Carnforth and District Bowling Club, season ticket holder with Morecambe Football Club and an accomplished pianist and acoustic guitarist.

Fellow Lancaster City and Carnforth Town Councillor Chris Hanna said '*Paul was committed to seeking a fair, free and open society. He had a wealth of experience and was totally committed to Carnforth and the local community.*' Son Ben paid tribute to his father as a well-respected politician, unionist, legal adviser and friend. Paul leaves two sons, a daughter and four grandchildren. His wife Janette, also a committed activist, had died previously. Donations in his memory were given to Diabetes UK.

Fond Farewell: Father Stephen Jones, priest at Carnforth Christ Church has retired. He was ordained 39 years ago after attending Salisbury and Wells Theological College and for the last 28 years Carnforth has been privileged to have had him lead us in worship. Before College Father Stephen read music at Hull University and later did a Masters Degree in Theology at Lancaster University. He also taught Theology and Philosophy on a casual basis at the University of Cumbria for several years.



Many people locally have spoken of their affection for Father Stephen and how much his loyalty and dedication have helped them through difficult times in their lives .

We will miss his ministry , support, confidentiality, wit , and friendship. Thankfully, his ongoing relationship with Carnforth Cricket Club means he will be around from time to time. We all send our very best wishes go to Father Stephen and Karen.



Final ingredients come together on a Community Food Club

We have been overwhelmed by the feedback to our recent consultation on whether residents would like to see a community food club in Carnforth – with 100% of respondents saying ‘Yes’, accompanied by some really positive comments and offers of help.

Carnforth Town Council is working alongside colleagues from Lancaster City and Lancashire County Council’s Children and Family Wellbeing Service,, [Eggcup Lancaster](#) and Carnforth Integrated Care Community (ICC) to bring a food club to the ‘Carnforth Hub’ on Kellet Road, next to Carnforth High School.

Community food clubs provide a cluster of activities relating to food that might include community cooking, meals, buying groups, growing food and a community café.

Commenting on this exciting initiative, the Town Mayor, Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite said *‘The Carnforth Community Food Club will help our local community, particularly those having to deal with food poverty and food insecurity, to have access to food, whilst also increasing their community connections, and enabling them to have fun and build new skills. Carnforth Town Council is delighted to be part of the team bringing this to our town’.*

Once the Carnforth food club is formally up and running, anyone becoming a member can attend each week, paying a membership fee (generally between £3 - £5) in return for food sourced from a variety of places ranging from donations to intercepted food from supermarkets that would normally go to waste. All the food will comply with food safety regulations and nothing will be offered past its ‘use by’ date, although some food may be close to its ‘use by’ date or after its ‘best before’ date.

Any food received from a food club is meant to be a top up the weekly shop and will have an estimated sale value of between £25 and £30.

If you would like to know more about the Carnforth Community Food Club, join us for a free Open meeting at the Carnforth Hub, Kellet Road on Friday 23 February at 2pm or contact Bob Bailey, Town Clerk, 46 – 48 Market Street, Carnforth LA5 9LB; email: clerk@carnforthtowncouncil.org or call: 07828254149

Bob Bailey, Town Clerk



Tax-ing matters

It's that time of year again.

The time of year when people make – and in many cases quickly forget – New Year's resolutions.

It's also the time of year when all local authorities have to set their budgets for the next financial year.

Carnforth Town Council is no exception and at its public meeting on 17 January

it set its budget for the financial year 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

The process began in October 2023 when a comprehensive list of the Town Council's fixed costs, spending priorities and projects was compiled and adjustments were made for likely price increases and inflation in 2024. The discussions that followed took full account not only of essential expenditure (staff salaries, building energy costs and insurance) but also discretionary spending (e.g., on events) and income (from building hiring charges).

Our deliberations also required that consideration be given to the future refurbishment and maintenance of our two public halls, Carnforth Civic Hall and Crag Bank Village Hall, both of which need the replacement of their heating systems.

The Town Council's budget (£102,000 this year) is tiny by comparison with those of Lancaster City Council (c.£20 million) and Lancashire County Council (c.£1 billion), and while we don't provide anywhere near the range of services these much bigger authorities provide, we don't have the scale of financial reserves they possess and can call on should an emergency arise.

In short, the Town Council's budget provides enough to maintain our day-to-day operations but is woefully insufficient to meet any major contingency that might arise such as the total failure of one or both of the heating systems in our public halls.

In the consultation exercise we ran in December, the majority of residents who responded told us that they valued our two public halls. For that reason, we have taken the difficult decision to increase our proportion of your Council Tax payment for 2024-2025 to provide the resources to enable us to replace at least one of the heating systems while maintaining most of our other services.

What will that mean for you? If you live in a Band A, Band B or Band C rated house (which is the majority of residents of Carnforth) then the Town Council's proportion of your Council Tax payment will be between £1.34 and £1.78 a week. If you live in a Band D rated property, the proportion of your Council Tax coming to Carnforth Town Council will be £2 a week.

We fully recognise the financial pressures bearing down on everybody at the moment, but we hope people will appreciate we are striving to protect and improve our two key building assets whilst delivering other services and functions that make our town a good place to live and work in and visit – and all for less than the cost of a cup of coffee each week!

Lancaster City and Lancashire County Councils will be setting their own budgets in the coming weeks. Unlike district and county councils, parish/town councils receive no funding from central government, relying solely on what residents pay. So, while in **percentage** terms their rises may appear smaller than ours, please remember the sizeable difference in the **amounts** of money they will be seeking from you.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact clerk@carnforthtowncouncil.org

Councillor Jim Grisenthwaite, Town Mayor

Arnside & Silverdale AONB becomes a National Landscape

On Wednesday 22 November 2023 all designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales became National Landscapes, reflecting their national significance and the vital contribution they make to nature and society.

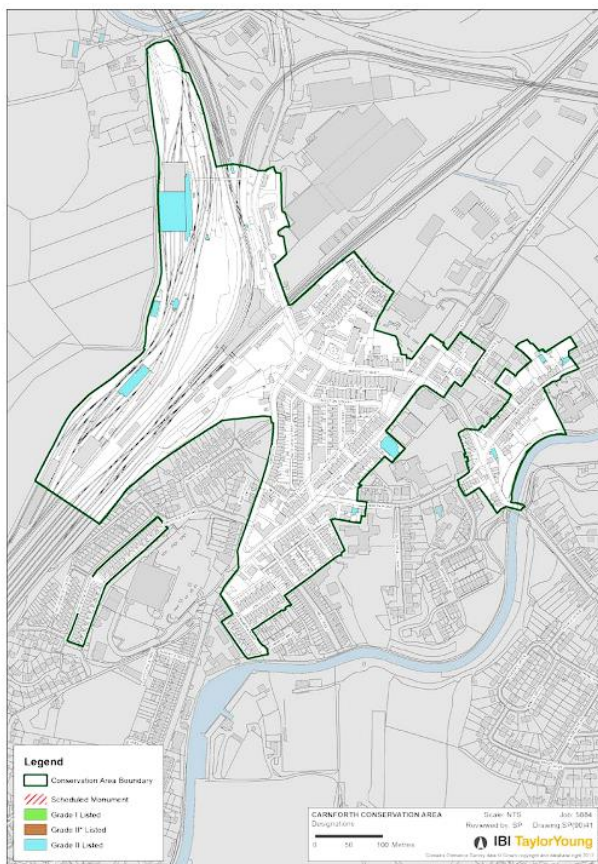
This is a notable milestone for the UK and a positive step in realising our collective national vision for National Landscapes as places with thriving diverse communities working with and for nature, to mitigate climate change and to nurture people's health and wellbeing.

The launch of the new brand emphasises the national importance of Arnside & Silverdale and the positive work that goes on there. The local AONB staff were directly involved in the development of the new national brand, and they've had great feedback about the new logo for Arnside & Silverdale – the familiar bittern symbol retained, but this time in a fresh blue palette. This is one of a suite of new logos and a lively new approach to communications which will work together to give all National Landscapes greater profile and recognition.

The process of change is going to be deliberately gradual to minimise waste in replacing print media and signage as and when needed rather than all in one go. The online presence has already been updated a new Visitor Map will be available in the spring. Watch this space for more changes!

Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape is cared for by many individuals and organisations working together, including farmers, landowners, Councils, national agencies, charities, local residents and volunteers. Their staff are excited to continue working in partnership to ensure this landscape is beautiful, rich in nature and heritage, and for everyone for the future.

Living in a Conservation Area: Carnforth is a town that has a rich industrial history, and the importance of its architectural heritage is recognised through our



Conservation Areas, designated by Lancaster City Council. Conservation Areas create a responsibility for anyone who proposes changes to buildings in these areas and require, for certain developments, that planning permission is sought.

The map to the left shows the conservation areas in Carnforth. If you live in one of these areas you should be aware that any changes to, for example, frontages of properties, windows etc may be the subject of restrictions, and you may need to contact the City Council for approval.

If you are engaging builders to do work, it would be sensible to ensure that they are aware of the situation.

In March 2023, the Carnforth Town Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by referendum and received positive support from the residents of Carnforth.

The Neighbourhood Plan supports development that improves our town whilst protecting the heritage feel of our built environment.

Carnforth Town Council is a consultee in the planning process and seeks to ensure that all development in our town is sympathetic to the surrounding areas and that development in conservation areas does not detract from our heritage.

To find out more about the Carnforth Conservation Areas, information can be found online at <https://bit.ly/CarnfCA> **Councillor Chris Smith**

The Great Carnforth Swift Watch 2024

It may still be winter here, but our swifts, currently overwintering in Africa, will already be thinking of returning to Carnforth to raise another generation of chicks. The time they spend nesting here is the only time in their lives they ever land, which means their nests in Carnforth are absolutely vital to their survival and in order to help them we need to know where they are.



For this reason, this year I am looking for volunteers to help me with The Great Carnforth Swift Watch to find out where our swifts are nesting. If you would like to spend a few hours on some summer evenings, watching swifts as they whirl and swirl through the skies or if you would just like to find out more about these remarkable birds, please contact me via my council Email: steve.richmond@carnforthtowncouncil.org or go onto Facebook and join "Carnforth Swift Group" **Councillor Steve Richmond**



More 'swift' action! Carnforth Town Council acted quickly to alert Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service to debris falling from 1 & 2 Station Buildings on Warton Road recently. This was the second call in as many months and concerns have been raised for some time about the state of these buildings, by Councillors, residents and nearby businesses. On both occasions the Fire Brigade arrived quickly to attend to any immediate danger.

Lancaster City Council have advised that they are in contact with the owners and that a solution to carry out significant repairs to these two buildings is actively being investigated. They have committed to keeping Carnforth Town Council and residents fully informed on progress.

TREE- mendous!

Carnforth Town Council also acted quickly around 11pm in the eye of Storm Isha to raise the alarm when a tree was badly damaged and considered dangerous on the footpath near the Canal Park Play Area.

With the permission of Lancaster City Council, we temporarily closed the footpath to ensure everyone's safety. The following day, the tree was removed and the footpath re-opened.

Another example of positive and effective collaboration between our two councils to solve a problem.

Bob Bailey, Town Clerk



Devolution Deal heralds a new era for Lancashire



The Leader of Lancashire County Council signs the devolution deal at Lancaster Castle

A landmark devolution deal, agreed by the Government, will mean more investment, opportunities and better services for local people and give local communities more say on the things that really matter, say Lancashire County Council.

Residents and businesses have been asked to have their say on the plans, which would create a new Combined County Authority. The consultation closed on 26 January.

Included in the deal are proposals on improving public transport, boosting economic prosperity and skills, with views also sought on 'net zero', culture and tourism and the county's digital future.

The deal, if given final approval by central government, will drive investment, help attract new jobs and training opportunities, and allow Lancashire to have more say over how services are delivered locally.

The deal will not however change existing democratic structures across the county or mean a directly elected mayor is needed and it will not cost residents a penny more in council tax.

The county council has been keen to hear what residents think about the draft devolution proposal to make sure the deal meets the aspirations and priorities of the county.

To keep up to date about the Lancashire devolution proposal you can sign up for Lancashire County Council's newsletter and follow official social media channels related to the devolution deal.

Lancashire Warm Spaces: Carnforth Library will again be participating in Lancashire's Warm and Welcome scheme, which has been developed by the County Council in response to the rising cost of living.

You will be able to pop in to enjoy a cuppa, a space to sit, the free use of computers, WiFi, and charging points for digital equipment, events and activities and help from staff. This support will be available throughout the winter months.

Check out the updated Cost of Living Hub for details of all support available to residents and businesses. <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/cost-of-living/>

Around our community

Carnforth Free Methodist (CFM): After the holidays, groups are up and running again at CFM Community Centre. We'd like to highlight a couple that carers may be interested in:

Music & Memories: Singing and music for people with dementia - Thursdays fortnightly 1.30pm to 3.15pm; 8 & 22 February; 7 & 21 March; 4 & 18 April. Come with your regular carer or another friend or family member.

Carers Support Group: Third Sat monthly (except Aug & Dec) 10:30am to 12:00pm

20 Jan | 17 Feb | 16 Mar | 20 Apr | 18 May | 15 Jun | 20 Jul | 21 Sep | 19 Oct | 16 Nov

The number of unpaid carers across the UK was recently estimated at 5.7 million. Many of us have been caring for a family member either at home or by going to their home regularly. By meeting together, particularly at times when issues may seem relentless, support can be obtained by sharing the experiences of other individuals or from other organisations who support carers. It's also time out to relax, find company and laugh together.

Everyone is welcome and there are free refreshments at both meetings. You can find CFM Community Centre on Kellet Road, Carnforth LA5 9LR. Level parking is available at the back of the Centre. For more information, please contact 01524 736141 or connect@cfmc.org.uk



Carnforth High School: On Saturday 9 December Carnforth High School held its Christmas Fair to raise money for future community projects. There were a wide range of stalls, including sales of 2024 calendars that the students in Years 7 and 8 created as part of their recent Enrichment Day. Over £800 was raised on the day with more calendars still to be sold.

The event demonstrated that the pupils who supported it were utterly amazing, and a true asset to the school and it provided an opportunity for parents, grandparents and the local community to get together.

Christmas Foodbank Collection

Each year the High School holds a charity non-uniform day, when students are asked to contribute food items to help Morecambe Bay Foodbank.

This year students and their parents rose to the occasion, with 1,272 items donated – that's almost 2 items for every student in the school! The donations filled the foodbank's van and the collection team explained the value of the donations to the student

volunteer team, who gave up their time to count, pack and load all the donations. A massive thanks to the volunteers and our community who supported this important charity.





Student Fundraising: One of Carnforth High School's Year 11 students, Matthew, who had been growing his hair to raise money for 'Help for Heroes' had it all shaved off on 10 December. Matthew has donated his hair to 'The Little Princess Trust,' who provide real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment and other conditions.

Thanks to all the support he received, Matthew reached his £10,000 target to support good causes. What an amazing young man!

CARNFORTH FILM NIGHTS: Carnforth Town Council's film nights at Carnforth Civic Hall continue to be popular. Tickets for the film with supper included are just £10 and can be booked online now! See 'Coming Soon' below for the links

Our newly opened 'Civic Arms' at the Civic Hall sells a range of drinks and snacks and, as a fully licensed premises, we can provide drinks at any event held in the building. You can make a booking online at

<https://venuehire.scribeaccounts.com/Carnforth-Town-Council> or

email: admin@carnforthtowncouncil.org

Coming Soon!

Date/Time	Event	Venue
27 January 2024	Film Night: Allelujah. https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CORW	Carnforth Civic Hall
24 February 2024	Film Night: The Outfit. https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CORX	Carnforth Civic Hall
23 March 2024	Film Night: Three Thousand Years of Longing https://www.trybooking.co.uk/CORY	Carnforth Civic Hall

If you would like your event to be promoted here, please email Leah at: admin@carnforthtowncouncil.org or call Bob on 07828 254149

