

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council



Annual Report 2014/15

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2014/15 Annual Town Report

Welcome to the 2014/15 Annual Report. This report has been produced and made available prior to the Silloth Annual Town Meeting, to be held on 26 May 2015 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Silloth Community Hall, Petteril Street, Silloth.

The Town Meeting is a meeting of the electors of the town of Silloth and provides an opportunity for residents to discuss the information provided and to question the Council on its activities during the year. Any resident of the town is welcome to attend this meeting.

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Annual Town Report compiled by
Town Clerk: Wendy Jameson
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Mayor's Report – Cllr. Tony Markley

Once again it has been a privilege to serve as Silloth on Solway Mayor for the second year.

Denise and I have attended various Civic functions throughout the County and local events within the Town. Last year I was honoured to be invited to the Trafalgar Evening by the crew of HMS Biter. This was supporting the affiliation that Silloth has with the Royal Navy and it was an extremely rewarding and informative evening.

We once again held a civic service at Christ Church which was well attended by County Mayors and Chairmen, plus numerous local organisations and schools etc from around the County.

Silloth Rotary Club members at Christmas time visited the residential homes and I accompanied Santa Claus on his visit which was very well received by the residents.

This year saw the Town enter for the first time the Cumbria in Bloom Competition. We were accredited in certain categories but the crème de la crème was winning the 'Best Coastal Town' in Cumbria, a fantastic achievement for the community and team who assisted to maintain the newly formed community garden and Silloth Green.

The Town did marvellously last year with all the various events, including Silloth Carnival, the Green Day, Vintage Rally, Music and Beer Festival and Christmas lights. All of these were well attended by the community and all the visitors who make these events such a success. This was highlighted last week by the Airfield display which was put on at the school, depicting how the airfield was formed during the war and the part it played nationally to the defence of the realm. This was an extremely professional event hosted by STAG, taking up committed work by Anna Malina and her team.

Our sports clubs continue to move forward especially the Rugby club, who this year have so far won the cup and will be playing the league match in the next couple of weeks. I have managed to arrange an asset transfer from the County Council to have parts of Silloth brought back to the Town Council's jurisdiction which will enable the community to benefit from these parcels of ground.

My continued thanks go towards members of Silloth Town Council and staff, especially the staff that carry out their statutory duties for the smooth running of the Town.

It has been another good year and I have enjoyed serving the community to the best of my ability.



September 2014
Cumbria in Bloom 2014 Awards ceremony



March 2015
Commonwealth Day 2015

About Silloth-on-Solway Town Council

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council serves the Town of Silloth with a population of approximately 3,000 residents. We deliver many services in the town, including the provision of open spaces, playing fields and recreation areas. Our aim is to provide residents with information about the Town Council and the services which we deliver in the town.

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council is one of around 9,500 Town and Parish Councils within England. Town and Parish Councils are the first tier of local government and work closely with the other tiers of local government, to try and achieve the best for their local communities. A Town Council is an elected body made up of local people representing the interests of their community.

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council has twelve Town Councillors, who are elected every 4 years, with the next elections to be held in 2015. All Town Councillors are unpaid volunteers who give their time freely because they are committed to their local community.

Members of the Town Council during 2014/15 are listed below:-

Cllr. A.J. Markley - Mayor
Cllr. S.F. Graham - Deputy Mayor
Cllr. C. Baty (to May 2014)
Cllr. I. Baty
Cllr. J. Baxter
Cllr. J. Cook (from July 2014)
Cllr. A. Emmerson
Cllr. C. Graham
Cllr. W. Jefferson O.B.E.
Cllr. J. Lettice B.E.M. (from July 2014 to Jan 2015)
Cllr. M. Orchard
Cllr. D. Wallace (to March 2015)
Cllr. A. Weightman (to May 2014)
Cllr. G. Wilkinson

The Council meets on the first Monday of each month in the Council's meeting room in the Community Hall, at 7.00pm, except when there is a Bank Holiday. There is also no meeting in August. All meetings of the Town Council are open to members of the public and the Council welcome views and comments during the Public Participation part of the meeting. The Chairman will adjourn the meeting to allow members of the public an opportunity to ask questions or raise matters of interest. The meeting will be adjourned for a maximum of 15 minutes. Items for discussion have to be submitted to the Town Clerk in writing, prior to the meeting.

Minutes for all Town Council meetings are published on our website and are available for inspection on request.

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council Meeting Dates 2015:-

Mon 12 May 2015	7.00pm	Full Council	Council meeting room
Mon 2 June 2015	7.00pm	Full Council	Council meeting room
Mon 7 July 2015	7.00pm	Full Council	Council meeting room
Mon 1 September 2015	7.00pm	Full Council	Council meeting room
Mon 6 October 2015	7.00pm	Full Council	Council meeting room
Mon 3 November 2015	7.00pm	Full Council	Council meeting room
Mon 1 December 2015	7.00pm	Full Council	Council meeting room

Representation

The Council appoints members as representatives on various outside bodies. This ensures good working relationships with local groups and organisations. During the year the Council has been represented on the following bodies:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| • Silloth Primary School | Cllr. A.J. Markley |
| • AONB Joint Advisory Committee | Cllr. W. Jefferson |
| • Silloth Tourism Action Group | Cllr. A. Emmerson |
| • Holm Cultram Sea Dyke Charity | Cllr. A.J. Markley |
| • Neighbourhood Forum | Cllrs. G. Wilkinson & C. Graham |
| • Longcake Education Trust | Cllr. G. Wilkinson |
| • Friends of the Green | Cllr. S. Graham |
| • Solway Community Technology College | Cllr. A.J. Markley |
| • Sports Hall | Cllr. S. Graham |
| • Sports Association | Cllr. I. Baty |

Our local Allerdale and County Council representatives were as follows:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Cumbria County Council | Cllr. A.J. Markley |
| • Allerdale Borough Council | Cllrs. W. Jefferson & M. Snaith |

Staff

The Town Council employs seven members of staff:-

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| • Wendy Jameson | – Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer |
| • Ken Wannop | – Parks Manager |
| • Anna Malina | – Community Engagement Officer |
| • Aaron Ward | – Parks Supervisor |
| • David Hart | – Parks Supervisor |
| • Mark Collin | – Park Warden |
| • Susan Walsh | – Cleaner |

Town Clerk's Report – Wendy Jameson

Yet another year has flown by and it's time for the Annual Report again.

Part of my job involves dealing with complaints but it's really nice to get some positive feedback from time to time, as it makes it all worthwhile and reinforces what I already know. Silloth is a great place to visit but it's also a great place to live and work! Silloth has never looked better and that's down to a lot of hard work by a lot of people and I think the whole town needs a pat on the back for what we've achieved over the last year.

I'm looking forward to working with our newly elected Council, to continue the legacy left by the previous one and to continue improving our town for the benefit of the community and visitors alike.



Allerdale Borough Council – Bill Jefferson



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This has been a difficult year for local government in general, after four accumulated years of austerity and public expenditure cuts. All three levels of local government, County, District and Town have had to take their share of the pain, much of it resulting in decisions taken at County and District to withdraw or reduce services at town level, leaving Town Councils to salvage what they can. We have done well in securing funding from agencies such as the Heritage Lottery Fund and others, increasing our local precept to sustain services, focussing on revenue earning from our own resources and striking the best deals possible at County and Allerdale level. This state of affairs may continue for a while longer and we shall have to look closely at alternative sources of revenue and being extra careful not only to hold on to what we have but also examining closely future expenditure on projects which must have a sustainable future. There will be other pots of money coming on stream for us to bid at. We shall be pressing to maintain current input levels from Allerdale. The sports clubs are virtually self-sufficient now and we shall try to facilitate their access to external funding schemes as and when the opportunity arises. Organisations such as STAG can continue to expect some support from Allerdale and us but they will need to be proactive in revenue raising from wherever they can. All in all, Silloth has survived the years of austerity better than most but the next couple of years will be challenging.

Cumbria County Council – Cllr. A.J. Markley



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I am the elected Conservative member for the Solway Coast division of Cumbria County Council. Presently the administration for the Council is led by Labour, with the Liberal Democrats in coalition with them to form this administration.

I fulfil the role as "Shadow" Portfolio holder for Highways, Economy, Renewable Energy, Environment and Nuclear issues which is an interesting combination.

Cumbria County Council continues to make efficiencies and savings within the Council structure, whilst trying not to affect the front line service given to the public. I am not sure how long this will continue, until these public services are affected. Astoundingly, the present administration at Cumbria County Council can allocate approx 11 million pounds to build a new Carlisle H/Q in Botchergate and Labour led Allerdale Borough Council allocate much the same, approx 11 million pounds to build a new sports centre at Workington. I continue to monitor these issues and lobby for more investment in the rural areas.

I have managed to secure from the County Council the piece of ground in front of the School called The Hollow, the Rugby and Football Sports grounds and other smaller pieces of land for the residents of Silloth via an asset backed investment deal with Cumbria County Council and Silloth Town Council. I am sure the Town will benefit from this deal in the future.

At the time of writing this report Cumbria County Council Children's services is being investigated by OFSTED again and we await this result.

In my role as County Councillor, I am Chairman of the West Cumbria Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG). This administers and delivers additional funding to be applied for the fishing and tourism industry on the West coast.

I am also Chairman of the North West Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (IFCA) which administers and monitors environmental and enforcement issues from the shore and estuaries around our coastline to six miles out to sea, covering the area from Bowness-on-Solway to the Mersey, one of the largest IFCAs nationally.

I am also monitoring and working alongside the organisation proposing a Tidal Lagoon on the West coast which would be a new renewable energy source using Tidal Power, incorporating the Solway firth from approximately Workington to Silloth. This is still in its early stages.

The Cumbria County Council continues its statutory duties and I will continue monitoring its progress on your behalf.

Solway Coast AONB – Bill Jefferson



For more information, contact the Solway Coast AONB team on 016973 33055 or visit the Solway Coast AONB website at www.solwaycoastaonb.org.uk. Email: info@solwaycoastaonb.org.uk

Solway Coast AONB 50th Anniversary

The Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in December 1964 in recognition of the quality of its landscape and its significant historic and scientific interest. It stretches from Rockcliffe in the North to Maryport in the South, covering about 115 square kilometres of the Solway Plain. The primary purpose of this designation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area.

It contains many locally, nationally and internationally important features some centring on landscape and others on important wildlife and heritage. Many features are protected by designations and collectively they indicate the high value of the area and underpin the need to protect and enhance it for future generations.

The Solway Coast in its present form, has been part of the landscape for 10,000 years since the retreat of the last great ice sheet. Since then, man has settled in the area and has created a mosaic of habitats some of which are relatively unspoilt and others have been modified. The Romans, Vikings, Reivers and eventually ourselves have shaped the Solway Coast into what it is today. There is a wide range of habitats, all of which are fragile, and need our help to conserve and enhance. They include the sand dune coast, the salt marsh coast, the unique lowland raised mires and the agricultural land.

The character of the Solway Coast is linked to its coastal setting and remains relatively unchanged and undisturbed which gives it a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity.

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary of designation in 2014, events and activities were held throughout the year.

Strategic Planning and Policy

At the invitation of the relevant local planning authority, the AONB submit specialist comments on the impact of proposed developments in the AONB.

Over the last 12 months, a wide range of planning applications have been reviewed with comments and recommendations returned on many schemes including:

- Applications for wind turbines
- Solar panel parks
- Small and large housing developments

- Reroofing and general house extensions and conversions
- Residential developments
- Demolish and rebuild houses
- Trade effluent sewer pipeline scheme

Overall, 16 Planning Applications were considered for Carlisle City Council, 1 Amended Consultation, 1 Further Information relating to the impact upon the Star of Caledonia, 3 Appeal Notifications to the Secretary of State, 2 Planning Applications for Cumbria County Council and 48 for Allerdale Borough Council.

Consultation

During 2013-2014, the AONB carried out more surveys on behalf of Electricity North West, for potential locations for undergrounding High and Low Voltage lines for Visual Amenity. This year 7 poles were removed and 750m of cable were undergrounded between Mealo House and Heather Bank near Allonby, to the value of £65,000. This work forms part of a £5.4 m five-year project to replace lines being most visually intrusive within the AONBs and National Parks in the North West.

Formal comments were submitted, or workshops attended, on a variety of strategic planning and policy documents and consultations including:

- Irish Sea Conservation Zones
- Allonby Bay Marine Conservation Zone
- National Grid – North West Coast Connections (Stakeholder Reference Group Meetings and Consultation on its initial proposals for connecting new energy generation projects in Cumbria and for a published Strategic Options Report on the preferred routes of the National Grid line from Moorclose Nuclear Power Station in 2020)
- Cumbria County Council – Consultation on the content of the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Plan
- Consultation on Allerdale Local Plan – Core Strategy June 2012
- The Assistant AONB Manager of the AONB Unit, is a member of the Grants panel for Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust, allocating funding towards projects throughout Cumbria
- Consultation on the Proposals for Coastal Access between Allonby and Gretna (Natural England). The England Coast Path between Maryport and Allonby opened on 11th April 2014
- Consultation and partnership work with, Cumbria County Council, Allerdale Borough Council, Lake District National Park and Lancashire County Council on the ‘Cumulative Impact of Vertical Infrastructure’ study.
- Cumbria County Council Local Flood Risk Management Plan
- Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards
- Consultation with Natural England on management conditions for the Higher Level Stewardship for Allerdale owned Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other land parcels. This was achieved in February 2013.

A range of input was submitted to the National Association for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty to assist in national responses to a range of legislative and government policy documents.

Also there was agreement that the JAC should assist the respective Local Authorities in developing a careful approach towards any future development proposals within and immediately adjacent to the AONB.

The Solway Coast AONB Management Plan 2015-2020

Sections 89 and 90 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (the CRoW Act) created a statutory responsibility for local authorities and Conservation Boards to produce AONB Management Plans and thereafter to review adopted and published plans at intervals of not more than five years.

The Solway Coast AONB Staff Unit led the production of the first Statutory Management Plan on behalf of its local authority partners and the Solway Coast AONB Management Plan 2004-2009 was published in April 2004.

Guidance was issued by Natural England (May 2007 and July 2007) on the production of the next generation of plans (“the Guidance”), covering the five year period 2009-2014.

In accordance with S90 (1) of the CROW Act, notice of intention to review the existing plan was issued to Natural England by the AONB Manager in January 2013.

The Plan has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment to enable the published new version to comply with the SEA Directive (2001/42EC) which came into force on 20 July 2004. The SEA process was carried out alongside the review process.

The new Management Plan 2015 - 2020 is the result of a comprehensive review and consultation process. The review scrutinised and considered both the delivery of the 2010 - 2015 Management Plan and the relevant European, National, Regional and Local legislation, plans and policies that have emerged over the past five years. In effect we have taken-stock and updated the plan to meet the aspirations of our partnership now and into the future.

The content of the plan:

- Highlights the special qualities and the enduring significance of the AONB, and the importance of its different features;
- Presents an integrated vision for the future of the AONB as a whole, in the light of European, national, regional and local priorities;
- Sets out the agreed specific objectives which will help secure that vision;
- Identifies what needs to be done, by whom, and when in order to achieve these outcomes;
- Identifies the means by which objectives and actions will be reviewed.

Our National parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty are the finest landscape assets in the British Isles. This status provides a legislative framework for their protection and enhancement into the future. In Cumbria we have a National Park and three AONB's of which one is the Solway Coast. Not surprisingly the constituent local authorities wish to provide for their AONB's to secure their future protection.

The Plan includes:

- Programme delivery that was not completed during the lifespan of the 2010-2015 Plan
- Response to changing environmental, economic and partnership conditions
- Creation of a foundation for sustainable development and restoration over the next five years

Vision for 2035

'The Solway Coast AONB, through active conservation and enhancement, sits as an icon to well planned and implemented sustainable development. The wild and remote parts of the coastline are protected and enhanced to include open marshes, wetlands and dune areas. Traditional boundaries form a complex mosaic throughout the farming hinterland, reinforcing historic field patterns and supporting a sustainable farming economy. The area's wildlife is abundant and habitats have been developed to reflect changes in climate and the wild nature of the area. Marine protected areas across the Solway Firth support a balanced estuarine ecosystem. The natural beauty and abundant wildlife found throughout the area have established the Solway as the best eco destination in the north of Cumbria.'

'People living in and visiting the Solway understand, enjoy and help protect the area through a network of information and trails. People move around through a matrix of quiet lanes and routes by foot and on bikes. Traditional farmsteads and villages are complemented by new eco buildings. Together they support a range of sustainable businesses that draw on and complement the special resources available in the area. Local services and high quality IT infrastructure support a vibrant community. Small scale renewables that complement the areas special qualities are found throughout the area and the peatlands and mudflats provide a natural active carbon sink.'

Local Partnerships

The Solway Coast AONB works alongside a wide variety of organisations, community groups, local landowners and volunteers advising on policy and undertaking activity that furthers the interest of the AONB and without whom the delivery of the Management Plan could not take place.

Partnerships include: the Solway Coast AONB Joint Advisory Committee, a partnership of public, private and other organisations, which acts as a forum to advise and guide activity on a range of issues in the AONB and is important in monitoring, implementing, reviewing and producing the AONB Management Plans; the Solway Firth Partnership; Marine Conservation Society; Local Access Forums; Hadrian's Wall Trust; Cumbria Tourism; Western Lake District Tourism Partnership; Friends of the Lake District; Cumbria Cycle Coordination Group; Sustrans; Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust; Action with Communities in Cumbria; Cumbria Voluntary Service; Scottish Natural Heritage; Cumbria County Council Cumulative Impact of Vertical Structures in Cumbria Study; Local Enterprise Partnership; Heritage Skills Initiative; Coastal Learning Network; University of Cumbria; University of York; Countryside Volunteer Network; Coastnet; Pisces; North West Coastal Forum; Silloth Tourism and Action Group; Amphibian and Reptile Conservation; Dumfries and Galloway District Council; Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust; United Utilities; National Grid; Electricity North West; Age Concern; the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme (HLF funded), comprising the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Environment Agency, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Natural England, the Western Lake District, The Diocese of Carlisle, and Tullie House Museum.

Over the past 12 months the AONB has maintained and developed links with the following local partnerships and initiatives:

- Irish Sea Conservation Zones Project
- Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme
- Lakes College
- West House Trust
- Cumbria Probation Trust
- West Cumbria Archaeological Society
- Solway Firth Partnership and Members
- Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership
- Hadrian's Cycle Way
- Coastal Access Forum and
- Coastal Access between Allonby and Whitehaven; as part of Natural England's Proposal for the England Coastal Path.
- Hadrian's Wall Trust, Interpretation Framework
- Ecosal Atlantis, The UK Salt Network: Ecotourism in the Atlantic Salt-marshes.
- UCLAN, West Lakes Research Centre for World Wetlands Day Conference
- North West Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)

Regionally

The Solway Coast AONB has attended one meeting held by the Northern Group of AONBs, in Nidderdale AONB.

The AONB has been represented at meetings including the Historic Seascape Character for the Irish Sea (NE), Coastal Planning for the Marine and Access Bill (Defra), Scottish Government Rural Affairs and Environment Committee, Undergrounding for Visual Amenity, North West Coast Connections, the National Grid's consultation on initial proposals for connecting new energy generation projects in Cumbria.

National Partnerships

The AONB team has regularly participated in a number of events organised through the National Association for AONBs (NAAONB) to share skills and training opportunities with our colleagues from other AONBs. These include National AONB meetings for Lead Officers and Chairmen, Management Skills Development and National Communications.

Held at Newton Rigg College, Cumbria, on 8th-10th July, the NAAONB Landscape for Life Conference was organized by the Solway Coast, Arnside and Silverdale, Forest of Bowland and North Pennines AONB Partnerships and the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authorities .

The theme was 'Sharing, Learning, Inspiring'

It brought delegates from all over the UK to discuss how collaborative working between people and organisations who care about the UK's Protected Landscapes can ensure that our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks are well managed and safeguarded for future generations.

Three days of presentations, briefings, market place stalls, discussion, networking and site visits investigated and highlighted the examples of outstanding work from AONB Partnerships, Conservation Boards and National Park Authorities (NPAs) linked to work on communications, raising non-exchequer funding, biodiversity, sustainable tourism, and advocacy and policy. National issues were addressed and the way Protected Landscape teams are working in partnership with corporate organisations, local authorities, Government bodies, landowners and others to develop innovative solutions to manage our most precious landscapes were shared.

The presentations from our speakers included DEFRA Minister, Lord de Mauley, leading environmentalist, Chris Baines, NAAONB CEO, Howard Davies, Chilterns Conservation Board Chief Officer, Steve Rodrick and Yorkshire Dales NPA Chief Officer, David Butterworth.

The site visits which encompass the iconic landscapes of the Arnside and Silverdale, Forest of Bowland, North Pennines and the Solway Coast AONBs and the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks, were varied and covered the issues outlined in the Conference.

The Solway Coast AONB field trip included visiting Drumburgh Moss, RSPB Campfield Marsh Reserve, Holme Cultram Abbey, Hadrian's Cycle Path and signage at Allonby. It was a superb day and appreciated by all who attended the trip.

The Solway Coast AONB Partnership has supported and endorsed the NAAONB on a wide range of initiatives undertaken on behalf of all the 46 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Some of the important NAAONB activity has included:

- Securing continued central government support and funding
- Fostering a good understanding and support for the AONB Family
- Working to develop national identity for the AONB family
- Working on collaboration and communications as an AONB Family
- Lobbying and influencing Ministers and other senior figures in Government and Opposition parties
- Commenting on national strategies.

One important piece of work was to coordinate the reconfirmation of AONBs as internationally recognized and protected landscapes under the International Union for Nature Conservation (IUCN) Category V classification. Every AONB partnership, including the Solway Coast, provided further evidence to demonstrate that they continue to meet high standards demanded by the IUCN.

A major focus for the NAAONB has been to develop a national identity for the AONB family alongside the individual local approach to awareness raising. This will add strength to the common national objectives, also being developed.

The NAAONB's electronic Basecamp Forum continues to be widely used and is proving invaluable for exploring current issues with other AONB teams to circulate good practice.

Undergrounding for Visual Amenity

A £65,000 project to underground power lines along the Solway Coast in Cumbria was completed in December 2014

The region's power operator, Electricity North West removed seven electricity poles and 750m of overhead power lines between Heatherbank and Mealo House near Allonby which have been in place for more than 60 years.

The company, which has already removed 1.2km of overhead power lines in the area over the last year, worked alongside the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Natural England to successfully replace the power lines with around 800m of underground cable to improve views.

Mike Dugdale, programme delivery manager for Electricity North West, said: "This latest project on the Solway Coast showcases our commitment to working closely and investing in the fantastic communities in which we operate.

"We understand that power lines can stand out and we work with AONBs and National Park Authorities to consider schemes that will successfully improve the visual appearance of an area."

By removing the overhead lines and placing them underground the power company is also providing the local area with a more reliable and efficient supply of electricity as the new cables will not be susceptible to bad weather and strong winds.

The work completed, forms part of a £5.4m five-year project to replace lines identified as being most visually intrusive within the National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the North West. The AONB is pleased that even more power lines will continue to be removed from the Solway which will greatly enhance its beautiful coastline and the results of the partnership working will be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Solway Coast Community Volunteer Group

Tasks and events lead by Graeme Proud, the Volunteer Coordinator, have included:

- 5 guided walks, including 1 on RSPB Reserves, ranging from coastal walks, history walks, natterjack toad walks, bird and wildflower walks
- 20 workday events at Crosscanonby Carr Reserve, continuing the management and improvements on site, including boardwalk repair and rewiring the bridge, laying a new hedge, cutting and baling the meadow grass, weed control, coppicing, flood damage repairs, clearing the beck and removal of fallen trees.
- 1CVS volunteer recruitment session and slide shows to various groups
- 14 beach litter picks in partnership with other volunteers including Silloth School, Capita, Allerdale Borough Council and business groups, 5 surveys, including birds and Natterjack toads (some volunteers have undertaken independent toad surveys for the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust)
- 4 working days at the historic Saltpans site, removing overgrown vegetation and opening up the site for visitor interpretation.
- 5 events to clear and maintain the Milefortlet 21 pathway
- Special 50th Anniversary Volunteer Social evening at Wheyrigg Hall Hotel with Grampus Heritage giving the presentation
- 52 tasks on Mawbray and Wolsty Banks SSSI, removing scrub, gorse and invasive weeds, management of the dune infrastructure including boardwalk removal and repair, pond creation, trimming vegetation around the WW2 concrete arrows in the dune grass with the help of Cumbria Probation, and removal of old fencing and palings.
- Natterjack toad pond liner maintained on Mawbray Banks and work on Grune Point working in partnership with the Amphibian and Reptile Trust
- Hedge laying Training with the Solway Wetlands Landscape Partnership Scheme, setting up and preparing the site at Wedholme Flow
- Attendance at 1 Northern Group Meeting of AONBs, and meetings with Countryside Volunteers Network
- 10 days working on partnership sites with Natural England, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and RSPB Reserves
- Various activities were also carried out with Silloth School, Lakes College, NCS students, including weed removal and litter picks

Causewayhead Women's Institute continue to improve and upgrade the garden in front of the Discovery Centre with mulch provided by Allerdale Borough Council.

There have been many other opportunities for the wider community to be involved in and there are at present over 160 volunteers on the database. The AONB Partnership expresses its gratitude to the volunteers for giving their own time to help us protect the AONB landscape and wildlife for all to enjoy. Over 2133 volunteer hours have been most generously provided over the last year.

Graeme has worked full time with the Community Volunteers during the year and thanks them all for their most valuable work and time.

ALLONBY FUN DAY

Allonby beach failed to meet minimum bathing water standards in 2013 and Allonby South beach failed to meet minimum bathing water standards in 2012. In November 2014 the results were published by the Environment Agency.

In 2015, new tougher European standards will come into force as the result of a new Bathing Water Directive, which mean beaches which fail to meet certain standards will be forced to display signs banning swimming.

In 2014 United Utilities started a major scheme at Allonby Wastewater Treatment Works to help prevent storm water spills. However, sewers are only part of the solution to bathing water failures and in Allonby factors such as dog mess and agricultural run-off have been identified as serious problems. Unfortunately these are outside United Utilities control.

Recent research into why Allonby's beaches don't always meet increasingly tough bathing water standards revealed that waste washed from agricultural land was another major source of contamination.

The Allonby Fun Day was organised as a collaboration between United Utilities, the LOVEmyBEACH campaign, West Cumbria Rivers Trust and Solway Coast AONB to engage the whole community in playing its part to improve the standard of Allonby's lovely beaches.

Nancy Corbin of the LovemyBeach partnership said everyone had a part to play in Allonby's bathing future. "Even something as simple as clearing up after your dog, could mean the difference between one of Allonby's beaches passing or failing a beach standard test. When Allonby failed to meet the standard in 2013 dog mess was found to have been the culprit, but wrongly connected waste pipes in people's homes and litter and pollution washed from roads and streets can make a difference too."

West Cumbria Rivers Trust, is running a two year project, backed with cash from United Utilities, to show farmers and landowners ways to reduce pollution into the River Ellen, which flows into Allonby Bay.

The day's activities included a quiz, competition, seashore forage and a talk and demonstration for farmers and landowners on best practice nutrient and waste management, which was held at Allonby Wastewater Treatment Works itself. The day proved to be a great success with adults and children enjoying all the activities and especially the free bacon rolls!

Solway Firth Partnership and Solway Coast AONB Joint Conference 2014

The second joint conference was held on Friday 14th November at the Hallmark Hotel in Carlisle. It was extremely well attended with over 150 delegates present.

Clair McFarlan from the Solway Firth Partnership (SFP) began the day with the Annual Report of SFP's work and projects carried out last year. After the SFP Annual General Meeting, Alastair McNeill, Chairman of the SFP, then introduced Eric Robson, Chairman of Cumbria Tourism and well known author and broadcaster to give the Keynote address. The topic was 'Tales from the Viking Lake', which looked at traditions and the links between Cumbria and the Borderlands. He also discussed the possibility of a new Border path linking Dumfries and Galloway to North Cumbria.

Dr Brian Irving MBE, Manager of the Solway Coast AONB, then gave a presentation 'Solway Coast AONB: Looking Back, Facing Forwards'.

Following this came 3 'pick and mix' presentations titled, 'Coastal Connections'. These included 'Funding Local Projects with LEADER' with Nicola Hill; LEADER Dumfries and Galloway and Sam Bramwell; LEADER Solway, Border and Eden; 'Fishing in the Solway: How do we manage our Fishing Resource?'; Pam Taylor: Solway Firth Partnership: 'England's Coastal Path; Gretna to Allonby'; Danny Moores; Natural England.

After lunch and exhibitions another pick and mix session was held; 'Solway Coast AONB- the next 50 years'; Dr Brian Irving MBE: 'The Star of Caledonia: Connecting Scotland's Border'; Dr Jan Hogarth; Wide Open, Environmental Arts Organisation: 'Smuggling on the Solway'; Richard Platt, Award winning Author and Guest Speaker.

To end the day Alastair McNeill, gave the closing comments. It was a very interesting and informative day, and well appreciated.

Guided Walks, Events & Shows

The Solway Coast AONB has continued to maintain a high public profile by attending a number of events, where

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council

people from all ages and backgrounds were able to source information. These included:

Attending the opening of Natural England's Coast Path held at Maryport and the Wave Centre; attending two Cumbria Volunteer Service meetings to recruit volunteers; holding two hedge laying training days for the general public organised by the AONB staff, Wetlands Staff and Volunteers; 4 Ranger given talks to various groups; 4 Big Beach Clean days at Allonby with various businesses and colleges attending.

The Solway Wetlands Project staff also held many events including: a Marsh Fritillary day, Sphagnum, Reptile and Dragonfly identification courses at Campfield Marsh, landscape photography courses, a Halloween 'Bogsploration', a series of 'Solway Nature Explorers' for children in the summer holidays and a Schools week at Finglandrigg. Excavations were also carried out during the summer months at Holme Cultram Abbey, open to any volunteers and led by Grampus Heritage. The project staff also attended the Cumberland Show at Carlisle.

Some fascinating Volunteer Coordinator led walks including bird watching walks on Grune Point, history walks around Bowness on Solway, Port Carlisle and Allonby, wildlife watching on Campfield Marsh, were held throughout the year for the public to enjoy and learn more about the special qualities of the AONB.

Media Coverage and Publicity

The AONB continues to work closely with national, regional, local press and publications to help promote the AONB on behalf of a wider partnership.

This has resulted in 1 television interview with Electricity North West about the undergrounding of overhead lines near Mealoe, television coverage of the Joint AONB/SFP Conference, 4 radio interviews, 2 articles in the Solway Firth Partnership magazine 'Tidelines', 49 local press articles, bi-monthly Volunteers Newsletter and the Spring/Summer 'AONB Coaster' magazine. The AONB and Discovery Centre leaflet has also been distributed widely.

'The Solway Coaster' and Volunteer Newsletter

The Solway Coaster magazine continues to be published and gives an overview of the work undertaken by the AONB unit, partners, volunteers and the community. It highlights the varied achievements of all involved in projects within the AONB and includes an events diary. A special edition was produced celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Solway Coast AONB.

The Volunteer Newsletter is produced every two months by Rose Wolfe and Graeme Proud, and promotes news and volunteer events to all Solway Coast Community Volunteers and the wider public via Tourist Information Centres between Workington and Carlisle. All events are also posted on the Solway Coast AONB website.

Longcake Education Foundation – Cllr. G. Wilkinson

As in past years, the Foundation has met three times within the last year, with meetings held at Wheyrigg Hall. At each meeting donations are made to each of the four schools covered by the remit of the foundation i.e. Silloth Primary, Holm Cultram, Holme St Cuthbert's and Solway Community Technology College. In the past year this has seen £1,100 presented to each school.

Furthermore, donations of £70 each have been made to the three Sunday schools i.e. Christ Church Silloth, Holme St Cuthbert's and Holm Cultram.

Abbeystown pre-school were given a grant of £150 towards new sensory equipment.

Student grants during the year amounted to £400. One being towards helping to finance the purchase of specialist text books for study at University and one being £250 towards the cost of an overseas expedition to Africa for a disabled student to help broaden their horizons and improve confidence and self esteem.

Finally it was with regret the Foundation had to accept the resignation of David Tenby, as he left for pastures new in the North East.

Silloth Primary School & Solway Community Technology College – Cllr. A.J. Markley



Silloth Primary School
Liddell Street, Silloth, CA7 4DR
Tel: 016973 31243
Email:
admin@silloth.cumbria.sch.uk



Solway Community Technology College
Liddell Street, Silloth, CA7 4DD
Tel: 016973 31234
Email:
office@solway.cumbria.sch.uk

I continue as a school governor at Solway Community Technology College and Silloth Primary School.

Both schools continue to perform well with the guidance and expertise of the experienced teaching staff and local governing bodies.

Silloth Primary School continues to educate and prepare the young students to a high standard, making the next step as easy as possible into secondary education.

Solway School head teacher Lois Baird is retiring in September, after serving the college extremely well in her role as head teacher. She has been a great asset to the school and the local community. My thanks go to her for everything she has achieved in her time at Silloth.

I am pleased to announce that Judith Shafer, after serving as deputy head at Solway School, will take over as the new head teacher, a really good choice and I am sure the college will continue to move forward, especially now as the college can offer students the choice of staying at Silloth to continue their 6th form further education.

Solway Community Sports Hall – Cllr. S. Graham

Solway Community Sports Hall, Liddell Street, Silloth, CA7 4DD
Tel: 016973 31234

No report, as no notification was received of any meetings.

Sea Dyke Charity - Cllr. A.J. Markley

I am a member of this organisation which allocates varied amounts of funding when available to local village halls, schools and care homes from any surplus funds it accumulates from its property portfolio investments, after maintenance expenditure is invested. The major asset for this organisation is Swinsty Farm at Abbeytown which is up to re-let this summer.

Silloth Tourism Action Group – Cllr. A. Emmerson



Again STAG took the bull by the horns in 2014. John Cook still at the helm in the Chair role, Owen Martin Deputy Chair and Chris Graham Secretary, with Fausto Previtali keeping a diligent eye on the purse strings as Treasurer, with all the other members rallying round to give their support, with Bill James spurring everyone on. It was also great to see members of staff from Hagan's Holiday Park very keen and interested to help. STAG would also like to thank

the holiday parks for donations received from fund raisers which help towards the cost of events. Not forgetting Anna Malina, our Community Engagement Officer who attends all our meetings and always gives valuable support

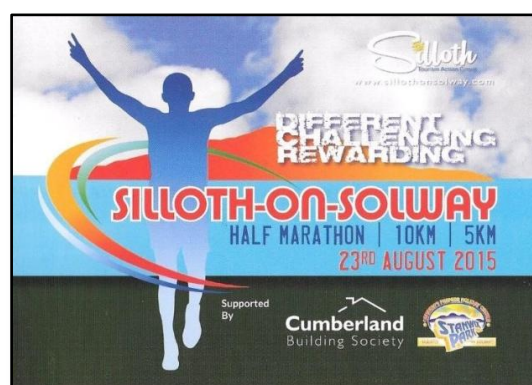
and much appreciated advice on the various projects STAG endeavours to take up, especially with the hard work she has put into the airfield project which pardon the pun would not have got off the ground without her resourcefulness and investigative skills, also helping people to acquire the training and skills needed to carry out the projects and hopefully help the betterment of the local economy of Silloth which is the main aims of STAG and not to mention the Bee Rose garden project oops.

STAG's aim is to encourage as many people as possible to turn off that long strip of tarmac they call motorway and bring them to the shores of the Solway and Silloth, by providing an array of events throughout the year which take place on our biggest asset The Green which I am sure is the envy of every visitor that steps on to it. The Green is always in pristine condition thanks to Ken and his team.

In 2015 we received a much needed share of the £10k grant given to the town to promote and assist events in the town which we have used wisely to produce our towns brochure that helps to bring the thousands to our shores. It was also used to help with some costs towards other events that we have planned for the up and coming year. With more money being taken away from our community through government cutbacks, not being able to access money off our local council due to cutbacks, it is imperative that we support these events. Without support we can't raise the funds to put and keep Silloth ahead of the game because if we don't do it no-one else is going to help us. Some of the up and coming events planned are the Theatre on the Green which was a great success in 2014 happening again in July; Silloth Beach half marathon which was a great success and happening again in August 2015 but a little more expensive having to pay for road closures – more red tape and Health and Safety standing in the way. We are lighting up the skies again after our bonfire in 2014 which is happening again in October 2015.

Many more events are planned – keep an eye on the calendar and support, support, support.

STAG would also like to thank Silloth Town Council for their continuing assistance and support.



Friends of the Green – Cllr. S. Graham



Friends of the Green was initially set up during the renovation to The Green and are instrumental in the organisation of Silloth Green Day which takes place in May each year.

No report, as no notification was received of any meetings during the year.

North West Allerdale Neighbourhood Forum – Cllr. G. Wilkinson

The Forum covers an area bounded by Allonby, Aspatria, Silloth, Anthorn and Bowness on Solway.

However from my records, the Forum has not met in the past twelve months. This may be due to cut backs in the County Council, as they run the forums.

Sports Association - Cllr. I. Baty

The purpose of the Sports Association was for the Sports Clubs to work together, with the Town Council, to enable them to access funding to improve the sports facilities in the town.

No report, as no notification was received of any meetings during the year.

Neighbourhood Policing Team

CUMBRIA
CONSTABULARY



Address:
Telephone:
Email:
Web:

Cockermouth Police Station, Unit 1B, Europe Way, Cockermouth, CA13 0RJ
101
AllerdaleRuralNPT@cumbria.police.uk
www.cumbria.police.uk

Team Members:-



Gary Hunter

Inspector 0489
Allerdale Rural
NPT Inspector



Gillian Atkinson

PS 1113
Allerdale Rural
NPT Sergeant



Pete Nichol

PCSO 5299
Silloth

A Message from your Neighbourhood Policing Team

Cumbria Police are urging householders to keep doors and windows locked to prevent “sneak-in” thefts.

Recently there have been a few sneak-in burglaries at homes in Allerdale and some have been in this area. Offenders have entered houses by insecure doors and windows and have also stolen property including handbags, cash, mobile phones, laptops and keys. There have also been distraction burglaries whereby offenders have made an excuse when knocking on doors, for example, asking to use the toilet.

Most have happened during the evening or overnight, at houses where doors have been left unlocked or windows open. In some cases occupants have been at home but unaware of the burglary until later.

It would appear that some offenders are wandering the streets looking for insecure doors and windows. Nationally, over 40% of domestic burglaries are committed by opportunist thieves taking advantage of open or unlocked doors and windows.

Crime levels have fallen recently and dwelling burglary remains a relatively rare crime, but there are still some thieves out there looking for easy opportunities.

The good news is that by taking a few basic precautions, homeowners can reduce the chances of becoming a victim.

Crime Prevention Tips

- **Whenever possible** keep your doors locked and windows closed, especially if you are upstairs, or in another part of the house, or in the garden. Also we encourage people to fit, and most importantly use, good locks on ground floor and accessible windows.
- **Remember to lock up** even if you are only going out for a couple of minutes – that is all the time a thief needs.
- **Before** going to bed, close all ground floor and accessible windows and remember to lock all your doors.
- **It is worth remembering** that most household insurance policies do not cover the theft of property from within a home that has been left insecure.
- **Postcode all types of property** to deter thieves and improve the chances of tracing the stolen items. “Postcoding” can be done with ultra-violet marker pens, engraving, stamping or even paint. Property can also be made identifiable by other unique systems, such as “Smartwater”. Further details are available at www.smartwater.com or from your local Neighbourhood Police Officer or Crime Prevention Officer.

•If you have an intruder alarm – use it. Set it at night to protect vulnerable zones.

Report anything suspicious

Please let us know as soon as possible if you see anyone behaving suspiciously; many criminals are apprehended due to information from members of public. Telephone: 101, or if a crime is in progress: 999. If you have information regarding crime you can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. You will not be asked for your name or any details.

Inspector 489 Gary Hunter

Cumbria Community Messaging

Please pass this message onto friends, family and residents of your areas to re highlight the issue.

If you would like to join Cumbria Community Messaging then please contact us or visit:
www.cumbriacommunitymessaging.co.uk

It is managed by the Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch Association and offers you and other members of communities across Cumbria the means to receive crime information from Cumbria Police. You can select which information you wish to receive by managing your own settings, and it is completely FREE. Anyone can join, you do not have to be a member of Neighbourhood Watch (NHW), or become a member of NHW to join. Farm Watch, Church Watch and Camping and Caravan Watch are a small example of the schemes that you can register for. You can join as an individual or as a group. If you want to receive information but do not wish to be responsible for a larger group, you are still welcome to make use of this messaging system.

As well as Cumbria Constabulary the partners providing information are Cumbria County Council, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service and Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch Association. If you do not have internet access, contact your local PCSO and they will aid in registering your details on the system.

YOU CAN ALSO FOLLOW CUMBRIA POLICE ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK. THESE WILL GIVE TRAFFIC REPORTS AND INFORMATION IN RELATION TO CUMBRIA POLICE AND ANY UNEXPECTED INCIDENTS.

www.twitter.com/cumbriapolice

To follow Allerdale Rural Police specifically use the link below.

www.twitter.com/Al_rural_police

<https://www.facebook.com/cumbriapolice>

Below is also a link to Silloth's online News Letter which gives current information about what has been going on. It also shows which Community Officer covers your area and the next meeting dates.

<http://www.cumbria.police.uk/neighbourhood-overview/silloth>

Contact can be made to: AllerdaleRuralNPT@cumbria.police.uk or call 101

For emergency always call 999

Your local Police Community Support Officer is PCSO 5299 Peter Nichol

Email: peter.nichol@cumbria.police.uk

Thank you, Peter Nichol.

Committees

Planning Committee

The Town Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications for Silloth. This means that the Town Council has the opportunity to support or object to plans within the town, although the final decision on whether permission is granted is made by the planning authority.

The **Planning Committee** consider any planning applications received. There were 24 planning applications dealt with by the planning committee during the last year.

Planning applications can be viewed online at Allerdale Borough Council's website:-

www.allerdale.gov.uk/planningapplicationsearch

And the County Council's website:-

<http://onlineplanning.cumbria.gov.uk/ePlanningOPS/searchPageLoad.do>

2014/15 Members:- Cllrs. A.J. Markley, I. Baty, M. Orchard, D. Wallace & C. Baty

Play Equipment Committee

The **Play Equipment Committee** considers any improvements or maintenance required to the Town Council's play areas. Our play areas are maintained and regularly inspected by our grounds maintenance team. An independent annual inspection is also carried out.

2014/15 Members:- Cllrs. G. Wilkinson, A. Emmerson, S. Graham & C. Baty

Allotment Committee

The **Allotments Committee** is responsible for setting the annual rent and sorting out any problems that may arise in relation to the allotments and their tenants.

2014/15 Members:- Cllrs. A.J. Markley, G. Wilkinson, I. Baty, A. Emmerson & D. Wallace.

Parks Committee

The **Parks Committee** is responsible for considering matters relating to parks & open spaces and the maintenance of those areas.

2014/15 Members:- Cllrs. A.J. Markley, G. Wilkinson, W. Jefferson, I. Baty, S. Graham & J. Baxter.

Business Plan Committee

The Business Plan Committee is responsible gathering information and feedback from local residents, with the aim of putting together a Town Council Business Plan which will identify what the Council hopes to achieve over the next few years.

2014/15 Members:- Cllrs. A.J. Markley, G. Wilkinson, J. Cook, A. Emmerson & J. Lettice.

Communication and Consultation

The Council is committed to being accessible by all and to sharing information about what we do. We do this in the following ways:

Websites

With more and more online users taking advantage of the benefits of the internet, Silloth-on-Solway Town Council's website seeks to provide the community of Silloth with important and interesting information.

As well as publishing information about the Town Council, the Silloth-on-Solway Town Council website supplies online visitors with helpful information on the community including details about forthcoming events, town history, local and Council services and information for visitors to the town. We also publish our Council Policy documents, Annual Reports, Statement of Accounts and Minutes of meetings etc, in line with requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

For more information about Silloth Green, its history, forthcoming events etc take a look at the dedicated website at www.sillothgreen.co.uk and also the Facebook and Twitter pages.



www.silloth-on-solway-tc.gov.uk



www.sillothgreen.co.uk

Social Media

Facebook is used as a quick method of getting information, news and updates into the public domain <https://www.facebook.com/TownClerk>.

Notice boards

Details of all Town Council Meetings are displayed on the Town Council's notice boards on Criffel Street, at Skinburness Road (on the bus shelter) and at the Community Hall.

Solway Buzz

Information is provided to the Solway Buzz which is our local free paper and is circulated around households within Silloth and the surrounding area.

Local Newspapers

The Council engages closely with local newspapers and they are welcome to attend and report on meetings of the Council. Anna Malina, our Community Engagement Officer, issues regular press releases to local media on matters of interest relating to the Green and other ongoing projects she is involved with.

Direct contact

Direct contact with Councillors is always welcome. See page 30 for contact details of Town Councillors.

Services provided by the Town Council

Public Open Spaces – The Town Council manage large areas of public open spaces. Silloth Green incorporates Harbour Green, a large area known simply as ‘the Green,’ and Skinburness Green which is one of the largest and longest village Greens in England. The Town Council also own and maintain land at New Street and an area of land at West Silloth which was formerly used as a children’s play area.

Sports and Recreation - The Town Council are responsible for the maintenance of the Eden Street sports fields, the football changing rooms, the former Squash court which is occupied by the Solway Fitness Centre and the tennis courts on Skinburness Road.

Playgrounds - Within our Open Spaces, the Town Council is responsible for the up-keep of the playground at Eden Street, the Woodland play area on the Green, the Water Splash park and the BMX track. They are looked after by the Council’s grounds maintenance team and are regularly inspected to ensure they are clean and safe. An independent annual safety inspection is also carried out.

Street Furniture - The Town Council owns and maintains benches, seats, bins and notice boards on the Green and other areas.

Silloth Community Hall – The administrative centre of the Town Council, the Community Hall provides offices for the Town Clerk and the Community Engagement Officer and also houses the Council meeting room. There are rooms and kitchen facilities available for use by individuals, local groups and organisations for meetings etc. This year the kitchen and toilets were refurbished and the interior was re-decorated. The heating system has also been upgraded to a more economical system. If you would like to book a room or enquire as to the availability, please get in touch with the Town Clerk on Tel: 016973 31128 Mob: 0777 5686857 Email: townclerk@silloth-on-solway.co.uk.

Allotments - Silloth Town Council’s allotments are situated at the top of Eden Street, adjacent to Skiddaw Street and are available to rent by residents of Silloth. Allotments are extremely popular and there is often a lengthy waiting list.

Civic Services - The Mayor of Silloth is happy to support any Silloth-based resident, organisation or group as far as diary commitments allow. If you would like the Mayor to attend an event, please contact the Town Clerk or the Mayor direct.

Planning Applications - The Town Council monitors all planning applications applicable to areas within the Town, making representations to the Planning Authorities as necessary.

Representing local views - The Town Council has actively promoted the views and interests of Silloth to national, regional and county level government on a host of consultative matters.

Council Offices and Support Services - The Town Clerk provides a full range of management, financial and administrative support to the Council, the Mayor and its staff. The Town Clerk is usually the first point of contact for members of the public, who have questions to bring up with the Council.

Anna Malina, the Community Engagement Officer was employed as part of the HLF funding bid for Silloth Green. She works with local organisations such as Silloth Tourism Action Group, Friends of the Green and the schools etc, to promote Silloth Green and is also involved with other projects.

Silloth Green

The Green forms a grassy link between the Silloth townscape and the sea front promenade, complementing the grand regency style buildings on Criffel Street, which runs along the opposite side of the broad cobbled road.

Successful funding bids to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) under the 'Parks for People Programme,' resulted in a two year refurbishment project to restore the Green and its heritage buildings. The major restoration work was completed in 2012, with additional work having been done since.



Achievements in 2014/15:

- ✓ The Community Garden on Silloth Green was opened on 25th May 2014 by Ann Winter, who is a member of Friends of the Green. Tony Markley, Town mayor, and Owen Martin, Chair of Friends of the Green, gave speeches thanking all those involved in the development of the garden.
- ✓ The signage and interpretation panels on the Green were installed in May 2014, to coincide with the official opening of the Community Garden. The signage is in a classic black and gold design to reflect and compliment the heritage of the Green.
- ✓ Green Flag status achieved for 2014/15 for the 2nd year running.
- ✓ Winner in the 2014 Cumbria in Bloom awards.
- ✓ Training courses were run for volunteers which have included Emergency First Aid, Wordpress etc.
- ✓ Grounds maintenance staff have also attended various courses over the year which have included – Use of Chainsaws, Play Equipment inspections etc.
- ✓ Revision of the Management & Maintenance Plan.

Targets for 2015/16:

- ⊕ Refurbishment of the Rose Garden. The Rose Garden was refurbished in 2012 as part of the overall improvements to the Green but the roses did not survive, due to the soil conditions and poor drainage. Extensive work has been done by the Parks staff and by drainage contractors to resolve the drainage problems and improvements have been made to the soil. A local bee expert Vivian Russell has been working with the Friends of the Green, the Community Engagement Officer, the Parks Committee and the grounds staff to develop plans for a bee friendly garden, whilst retaining it as a Rose Garden.
- ⊕ Provision of traditional Victorian style lighting along the edge of the Green along Criffel Street. The existing lighting along Criffel Street is standard street lighting and an opportunity exists to recognize the special qualities of The Green by night. A distinctive lighting scheme is therefore proposed along this stretch of Criffel Street in-keeping with the Victorian era street scene. This was part of the original proposals to HLF but was taken out when the match funding was significantly reduced. The design of the replacement lighting columns will almost be exactly the same as the originals and will make a significant improvement to the appearance of the park, as well as restoring a historic feature.
- ⊕ Pruning work to avenue leading to the Amusement arcade. Public consultation revealed concerns about the loss of shrub planting along this avenue which had taken some 100 years to develop. Instead of complete clearance and replanting, as proposed at Stage 1, it is now proposed to selectively thin the avenue planting, removing dead wood and pruning remaining shrubs to encourage re-growth. It is proposed that some trial pruning takes place and continued pruning to be carried out over a period of years which will be undertaken by the Town Council's Parks team.
- ⊕ Interpretation within the Pagoda. Various ideas were included in the Silloth Green Interpretative Strategy which are to be investigated further, to make better use of the Pagoda which is an important feature of The Green.
- ⊕ Green Flag status for 2015/16.
- ⊕ Work with STAG and Friends of the Green to continue to promote the use of the Green and encourage visitors to the town.
- ⊕ Continued provision of training for staff and volunteers.

Festivals & Events 2015

3-6 April 2015 <i>All day</i>	Craft Marquee at Silloth Green
2-4 May 2015 <i>All day</i>	Craft Marquee at Silloth Green
16 May 2015 <i>All day</i>	Craft Trail At Silloth Green
25 May 2015 <i>All day</i>	Silloth Green Day at Silloth Green
13 & 14 June 2015 <i>All day</i>	Silloth Vintage Rally at Silloth Green
26-28 June 2015 <i>12.00 noon onwards</i>	Ragnarock Rally at Silloth Rugby Club
26 July 2015 <i>6.00pm</i>	Theatre on the Green at Silloth Green
9 August 2015 <i>11.00am – 4.00pm</i>	Fairy Day Goes to the Seaside at Silloth Green
23 August 2015 <i>All day</i>	Silloth Beach Half Marathon at Silloth Beach and Silloth Green
31 August 2015 <i>All day</i>	Silloth Carnival at Silloth Green
10 - 13 September 2015 <i>All day</i>	Silloth Music & Beer Festival at Silloth Green
24 October 2015 <i>7.00pm</i>	Silloth Halloween Fireworks & Bonfire on the Airfield, Silloth



The Town Council is committed to supporting festivals and events in the town, for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. The Town Council was allocated £10,000 by Allerdale Borough Council during 2014/15 which the Town Council decided to use to support events and festivals in the town. Funds were distributed to Silloth Tourism Action Group, Silloth Vintage Rally, Carnival Committee and Silloth Music & Beer Festival.

The events on the Green are organised by dedicated groups of volunteers, who put in a lot of effort beforehand and on the day of the event, to enable them to take place. The organisers are always keen to welcome new volunteers and if you would like to get involved, then get in touch with the individual committees or contact Anna Malina, who can pass your details on to them.

If you would like to apply to hold an event on the Green, it will be necessary to fill in an application form. The application form and other relevant documentation needs to be returned to the Town Clerk at least 28 days prior to the event but it is advisable to get in touch long before the proposed event to get the Council's initial approval and to make sure the date is available.

For more information about organising an event, check out the Town Council's website where you can download all the relevant forms etc or contact the Town Clerk, who will provide you with a hard copy.



Silloth was a winner in the 2014 Cumbria in Bloom Awards

The Cumbria in Bloom Awards took place at the Sands Centre in Carlisle on Saturday 13 September 2014. A strong contingent from Silloth attended hoping that Silloth would be successful in its entries for several categories.

The competition for all entries was fierce but the team attending were rewarded by the news that Silloth had been placed first in the Coastal Town Award. Furthermore, Silloth's Community Garden was awarded runner up in the Special Category of Continental Landscapes and the town was runner up in the Town Centre Awards. A Certificate was presented to the town for each.

These awards demonstrate what can be achieved when different groups from the community work together to achieve a common goal. Acknowledgements go to Silloth Town Council and its Green staff and Anna Malina, Community Engagement Officer for all their hard work in the run up to the judging.

Special mention goes to Friends of the Green and its volunteers. Chairman, Owen Martin and Anne Winter have dedicate much time to ensuring the Community Garden continues to look its best. Anne spends at least two mornings a week weeding and tidying the garden, a huge civic contribution to the town. Some businesses in Silloth also made a contribution by putting up hanging baskets and displaying troughs and tubs. All of this helped the town look its best on the day of judging.

In their remarks, the Cumbria in Bloom judges for the Coastal Town Category noted "The WI ladies showed a beautiful herbaceous border at the entrance to the TIC/Library. The scale of the Green and open space, c. 45 acres, the quality of upkeep and the various leisure activity sites make a most impressive impact for Silloth – its Unique Selling Point."

This is the first time Silloth has entered the Cumbria in Bloom competition. These awards are an incredible achievement and a much deserved feather in the cap for the town. They can only help in promoting Silloth as a place to visit and we should maximise the fact that we are Cumbria in Bloom competition winners.

The judges have provided useful feedback, highlighting what is being done well and also outlining areas for further improvement in future. Building on the success of this year, while taking account of Cumbria in Bloom's valuable advice, we look forward to next year's competition in the hope that through team work and further involvement from businesses and local people, we can do even better.

Silloth Presentation to Cumbria in Bloom AGM 17th Nov 2014

Cllr Bill Jefferson was invited to talk about Silloth at the Cumbria in Bloom AGM on 17th November 2014. Bill was joined by Anna Malina, Community Engagement Officer, who gave a power point presentation to illustrate Silloth's history and heritage, tourism services in the town, sports facilities, the civic role of volunteers, and organised events for visitors and people who live in the town.

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2015

2013/14		2014/15
£	INCOME	£
966	Allotment Rents	1,009
8	Bank Interest	185
0	Community Hall rent	87
46,082	Grants Received	150,539
2,450	Green Activities	2,450
28,663	Grounds Maintenance Income	1,000
6,652	Ice Cream Concessions	6,757
6,181	Other Income	2,005
110,500	Precept & Concurrent Grants	119,893
3,618	Refunds Received	4,735
1,980	Sports Club Rents	1,980
£207,100	TOTAL INCOME	£290,640
	EXPENDITURE	
6,932	Administration	6,762
2,809	Allotments	1,381
1,699	Changing Room Expenses	1,654
0	Christmas Lights	335
2,765	Community Hall Alterations & Repairs	13,289
5,976	Community Hall Running Expenses	6,029
224	S137 Expenditure	195
2,925	Eden Street Electric	2,904
2,366	Green Activities - Expenses	2,037
6,191	Grounds Maintenance	5,031
6,903	Insurance	7,025
505	Maintenance of Sports Areas	232
53	Miscellaneous	557
11,390	Splash Pad Expenses	9,174
3,593	Play Areas - Maintenance & Equipment	1,559
10,944	Public Conveniences	10,802
1,017	Purchase of Seats	326
452	Purchase of Signs	188
2,750	Purchase of Vehicles & Equipment	4,558
998	Repairs to bus shelter	0
0	Revenue Grant Overclaim	1,000
106,746	Salaries & Wages	110,112
26,807	Silloth Green Project	74,268
3,846	Squash Court - rates etc	960
2,200	Tourism	8,400
2,754	Training costs	4,773
3,542	Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,500
1,000	Youth Provision	0
£217,387	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£277,051
-£10,287	NET EXPENDITURE	£13,589

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Balance Sheet at 31 March 2015

2013/14		2014/15
£	ASSETS	£
	Cash & Bank Accounts	
13,303	Current Account	10,864
68,249	Deposit Account	20,031
2	Treasurer Account	3
2,574	Wages Account	3,852
248	Cash Account	95
84,556	Total Cash & Bank Accounts	34,845
	Other Assets	
5,311	Debtors	3,502
89,867	TOTAL ASSETS	38,347
	LIABILITIES	
79,494	Creditors	14,385
£10,373	NET ASSETS	£23,962
	REPRESENTED BY:	
20,660	General Fund Balance at 1.4.2014	10,373
-10,287	Less Net Expenditure	13,589
£10,373	TOTAL RESERVES	£23,962

The above statements fairly represent the financial position of the Town Council as at 31 March 2015 and reflects its income and expenditure during that year.

These Accounts have been approved by the Town Council at their meeting on 11 May 2015.

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council - Budget Figures		2014/15	2015/16
INCOME		£	£
Allotment Rents		1,000	1,100
Bank Interest		10	10
Community Hall Rental Income		1,000	500
Grants Received		26,283	22,477
Green Facilities		500	500
Fairground Rent		2,450	2,450
Ice Cream Concessions		5,000	6,500
Grounds Maintenance Income		8,363	1,000
Other Misc Income		50	50
Sports Club Rents		1,980	1,980
Total Income		£46,636	£36,567
EXPENSES			
Administration		4,500	6,000
Allotment Expenses		1,000	1,000
Changing Room Expenses	- Electricity	500	800
	- Rates	900	700
	- Repairs	500	500
	- Water	500	400
Community Hall Repairs		1,000	0
Community Hall Running Expenses		4,000	5,000
Eden Street Electric		1,000	2,500
Election costs		0	1,500
Green Activities – Expenses		1,500	2,500
Grounds Maintenance		8,000	6,500
Insurance Costs		7,000	7,000
Legal Fees		1,000	1,000
Maintenance of Sports Areas		750	1,000
Play Areas - Maintenance & Equipment		3,000	3,000
Public Conveniences	- Electricity	1,500	3,000
	- Hand drier	0	300
	- Rates	3,000	3,000
	- Water	4,500	4,500
Purchase of Vehicles & Equipment		0	10,000
Salaries & Wages		111,159	114,061
Splash Pad - Water & Electricity		6,500	8,500
Squash Court – Rates		950	950
Tourism - Tourist Information Centre		4,498	4,936
Transport & Vehicle Costs		4,000	4,000
Total Expenditure		£171,257	£192,647
Net Expenditure/Income		£124,621	£156,080

Precept	119,893	152,770
CTRS	4,728	3,310
Concurrent Grant	0	0
	£124,621	£156,080

Finance

The Town Council is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that one officer is responsible for the administration of those affairs. This requirement is detailed in the Local Government Act 1972 (s.151). The Town Clerk is the “Responsible Financial Officer” for the Town Council.

The Town Council is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is both adequate and effective. This process of management includes a sound system of internal control that includes arrangements for the management of risk. The Town Council conducts an annual review of the effectiveness of internal control.

The Town Council maintains accounts and supporting records in accordance with the appropriate legislation and national guidelines. A budget is set for the financial year and regular reports are submitted to Town Council meetings in order that councillors can scrutinise the Town Council’s financial position.

At the end of each financial year (31 March), a Statement of Accounts is produced for consideration by members of the Council. Each year the Accounts are audited by the internal Auditor, Mr P. Wilson and the Annual Return is then submitted to the external auditors BDO LLP at Southampton. The Accounts and Annual Return is available for public scrutiny.

How is the Town Council Financed?

The net cost of the Town Council’s activities in 2015 - 2016 is financed by levying a precept, which is added to the Council tax levy set by Allerdale Borough Council. In 2015 – 2016, the Town Council are raising a sum of £152,770, resulting in a charge on the council tax on a Band A property of £126.31 for the year, equating to £2.43 per week. The previous year’s precept for 2014 - 2015 was £119,893.

Silloth Town Council considered its budget in detail and had hoped not to increase the Precept. Despite its best efforts, the amount charged to each household increased this year due to a number of factors. The concurrent grant system has been phased out and from 1 April 2013, national council tax benefit was replaced by council tax support which took the form of reductions within the council tax system and affected the council tax base. For 2015-2016, the Town Council received £3,310 in Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant from Central Government.

The Town Council no longer receive any financial support from Allerdale Borough Council towards the maintenance and upkeep of the Green which has resulted in a reduction of £20,000 in income for 2014 -2015. Our grounds maintenance team are also no longer responsible for cutting the grass within the housing estates. Allerdale are currently responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of the public conveniences on the Green but this is unlikely to continue after 2016, with responsibility falling on the Town Council.

£10,000 has been included in the budget for 2015/16 which is to be used towards the cost of a tractor and hedger which will enable the Council to carry out ongoing pruning to the avenue on the Green and other shrub areas. The majority of the cost of the equipment has been financed through the HLF funding for the Green. The Council also have the opportunity of some additional contracting work via Cumbria Highways which will bring in some much needed revenue and benefit the town in the long term.

Contact Details

Cllr. A.J. Markley	Verona, Blitterlees, Silloth Tel: 016973 31998 Email: anthony.markley@cumbria.gov.uk	Council Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Council • Business Plan
Cllr. W. Jefferson	3 Marine Terrace, Silloth Tel: 016973 32526 Email: william.jefferson@allerdale.gov.uk	Council Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Council • Parks
Cllr. I. Baty	5 Skiddaw Street, Silloth Tel: 016973 31712	Council Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Council • Allotments • Planning • Parks
Cllr. J. Cook	15 Caldew Street, Silloth Tel: 07747 462604 Email: jcook.signs@btconnect.com	Council Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Council • Allotments • Planning • Business Plan
Cllr. A. Emmerson	Maxwell House, Blitterlees, Silloth Tel: 016973 32293 Email: emmerson721@btinternet.com	Council Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Council • Play Equipment • Allotments • Planning • Business Plan
Cllr. C. Graham	2 East Cote Farm, Skinburness, Silloth Tel: 016973 31698 Email: chrisgraham2410@btinternet.com	Council Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Council • Planning • Parks
Cllr. D. Graham	2 East Cote Farm, Skinburness, Silloth Tel: 016973 31698 Email: dongraham1@btinternet.com	Council Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Council • Allotments • Business Plan
Cllr. S.F. Graham	10 Central Terrace, Silloth Tel: 016973 31237 Email: graham_s14@sky.com	Council Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Council • Play Equipment • Parks
Cllr. O. Martin	32 Fell View, Silloth Tel: 07513 500741 Email: osc140@hotmail.co.uk	Council Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Council • Parks
Cllr. M. Orchard	Orchard House, Causewayhead, Silloth Tel: 016973 31770 Email: mark@westsillothmotors.co.uk	Council Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Council • Planning
Cllr. D. Pattinson	38 The Crofts, Silloth Tel: 07899 102911 Email: denisepattinson@mail.uk	Council Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Council • Play Equipment
Cllr. G. Wilkinson	5 Mary Street, Silloth Tel: 016973 31146	Council Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Council • Play Equipment • Allotments • Parks • Business Plan

Wendy Jameson

Town Clerk

Anna Malina

Community Engagement Officer

5 Burnswark Terrace,
Silloth, CA7 4EF

Community Hall, Petteril
St, Silloth, CA7 4EA

Email: townclerk@silloth-on-solway.co.uk

Tel: 016973 31128 Mob: 0777 5686857

Email: anna.malina@silloth-on-solway.co.uk

Tel: 016973 31816 Mob: 0790 0922818

FOR TOWN COUNCIL INFORMATION

www.silloth-on-solway-tc.gov.uk

AND NOTICE BOARDS LOCATED AT:-

- Silloth Green, Criffel Street, Silloth
- Silloth Community Hall, Petteril Street, Silloth
- Skinburness Road (bus shelter), Silloth

For contact details of your Councillors and Clerk, please refer to the previous page of this report.

For information and help on the following services, please call the appropriate authority (details at the right of this page) :-

Bulk Waste Collection Service	ABC
Bus Shelters	STC
Car Parks (Silloth)	STC
Cemetery (Causewayhead)	ABC
Council Tax	ABC
Dog Wardens	ABC
Education	CCC
Environmental Health	ABC
Fly Tipping	ABC
Grit Bins	CCC
Highways	CCC
Housing	ABC
Libraries	CCC
Licensing	ABC
Seats	STC
Pest Control	ABC
Planning Permission	ABC
Play Areas (Silloth)	STC
Sports Fields/Tennis Courts	STC

Potholes	CCC
Public Toilets	STC
Recycling (inc. bag scheme)	ABC
Refuse Collection	ABC
Reg. of Births, Deaths, Marriages	CCC
Register of Electors	ABC
Rights of Way (footpaths/bridleways)	CCC
Silloth Green	STC
Social Services	CCC
Street Cleaning	ABC
Street Lighting Repairs	ABC
Trading Standards	ABC

STC

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
5 Burnswark Terrace
Solway Street
Silloth
Cumbria
CA7 4EF
Tel: 016973 31128
Mob: 0777 5686857
Email: townclerk@silloth-on-solway.co.uk
Web: www.silloth-on-solway-tc.gov.uk

ABC

Allerdale Borough Council
Allerdale House
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 3YJ
Tel: 01900 702702
Email: enquiries@allerdale.gov.uk
Web: www.allerdale.gov.uk

CCC

Cumbria County Council
The Courts
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA3 8NA
Tel: 01228 606060
Email: info@cumbriacc.gov.uk
Web: www.cumbria.gov.uk

INFORMATION AND HELP

Cumbria County Council

Tel: 01228 606060

Allerdale Borough Council

Tel: 01900 702702

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council

Tel: 016973 31128 Mob: 0777 5686857

Citizens Advice Bureau

Providing consumer advice, free of charge on a range of issues or complaints.

Website: www.adviceguide.org.uk

Consumer Helpline: 08454 040506

Textphone: Dial 18001 followed by helpline number 08454 040506

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Always dial 999 in case of an emergency

Police

For emergency assistance from police ambulance and fire services dial 999

Only dial 999 if:

- Offenders are nearby
- Life is at risk
- Injury is caused or threatened
- Crime or disorder is in progress
- Emergency situations

For everything else call 101 which should be used to report non-emergency crime and anti-social behaviour issues, as well as general enquiries.

Cumbria Police

Tel: (non emergency) 101

Email: AllerdaleRuralNPT@cumbria.police.uk

Web: www.cumbria.police.uk

Cumbria Police – Silloth Newsletter:

www.cumbria.police.uk/neighbourhood-overview/silloth?style=pdf

Crimestoppers

Tel: 0800 555 111

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service

Tel: (non emergency) 0300 303 8623

Web: www.cumbriafire.gov.uk

Cumbria County Council Transport and Roads: Integrated Transport Team

Tel: 01228 226014

Email: integrated.transport@cumbria.gov.uk

Highways Hotline

Tel: 0845 609 6609 (answer phone service evenings, weekends and public holidays)

Email: contact@cumbriahighways.co.uk

Gas & Electric Emergencies

Gas emergency contact: 0800 111 999

www.nationalgrid.com/uk/gas/

Electricity emergency contact: 0845 708 090

United Utilities

Tel: 0845 7462200

Water Leakline

Tel: 0800 330033

Floodline

24 hour emergency service - 0845 988 1188

For flood warnings and other useful information and advice on what to do before, during and after a flood, Visit <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/default.aspx>

Doctors:-

Silloth Group Medical Practice

Lawn Terrace, Silloth, Cumbria, CA7 4AH

Tel: 016973 31309

Fax: 016973 32834

Out of hours: 03000 247 247

Web: www.sillothgroupmedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Silloth Clinic

Lawn Terrace, Silloth, Cumbria, CA7 4AH

Tel: 016973 31325

Hospitals:-

Cumberland Infirmary

Newtown Road, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA2 7HY

Tel: 01228 523444

West Cumberland Hospital

Homewood, Hensingham, Cumbria, CA28 8JG

Tel: 01946 693181

Visit NHS Choices website to get full details of GP's, dentists, opticians, pharmacists in the area.

Web: www.nhs.uk/Pages/HomePage.aspx

Annual Town Meeting

I hereby give notice of the Silloth Annual Town Meeting which will be held in the Community Hall, Petteril Street, Silloth on 26 May 2015, commencing at 7.00 pm.

W E Jameson

Wendy Jameson
Town Clerk

Agenda

1. **Apologies**
 2. **Minutes**
To approve the minutes of the Annual Town meeting held on 29 May 2014, as a true record.
 3. **Annual Town Report**
To receive the Annual Town Report.
 4. **Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2015**
To receive the Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2015.
 5. **Matters of Interest**
To invite the public to raise any matters of interest.
-
- **Purpose of the Annual Town Meeting** - The main purpose is to enable the registered electors to discuss matters which affect the town and to pass resolutions thereon. This meeting is also an opportunity for the Council and community group leaders to update the community about their activities over the last year and outline plans for the future.
 - **Who can attend the meeting?** - Anyone may attend but only registered electors in the town of Silloth may speak and vote.
 - **Will I be able to ask questions and make resolutions?** - Yes, any registered elector may ask questions of the Council. These will usually be answered by the Chairman or by the Town Clerk or a designated Councillor. An elector may also make suggestions and comment on town issues and propose resolutions. Resolutions relating to allotments are legally binding but all others are persuasive only, but will be considered by the Town Council at future meetings.
 - **Who will chair the meeting?** – The Chairman of the Town Council must chair the meeting, if present. In his absence the vice chairman must preside if present. If neither is able to attend, then the meeting will elect a chairman from those electors present.
 - **Will Town Councillors be there?** – Although there is no compulsion, Councillors normally attend. They will speak if required, but the purpose of the meeting is to enable the ordinary electors to have their say. Councillors will listen with interest and as electors themselves, also have the opportunity to raise questions and make comments if they wish.
 - **How long will the meeting last?** - As long as need be within reason. It really depends on those present and the number of questions and the discussion that is raised. The meeting will probably last one hour.
 - **Will the Press be there?** – The local press are allowed to attend the meeting, as they are for all meetings of the Council.