



# ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

April 2019 to March 2021

## Chairman's Report 2019 - 21

This report covers two years due to the unprecedented times that we have been through. I don't think that any of us would have thought a year ago that our lives would still be so significantly affected by this pandemic.

This last year has brought out the best in our community, but we have also had to endure some unacceptable behaviour. I can't imagine a place more beautiful to be locked down in, or where most of the community pull together so strongly in a crisis. Very quickly the Parish Council was involved in coordinating the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic but it was the community that ran with this task and made it a success. This included delivering food to those who were vulnerable or shielding, phone call support, virtual church services, lifts to hospital or vaccine appointments even the Easter Bunny made an appearance to ensure our younger residents felt included and supported - the acts of kindness and people involved are too many to thank personally. However, we also had to endure the negatives where some people who did not respect our environment by littering, fly camping and illegal parking but once again our community pulled together to litter pick and clean up the place we live in and love.

We also, recognise that our businesses have been hit hard as we rely so much on our tourist industry and even with central government support this has been an incredibly tough year for many – let's hope that the months ahead are more prosperous, especially for those newer start-ups that we need to make our village vibrant.

There have been a number of changes within the council, Ken Batty and Jeff Carroll have stood down after many years of service to the Parish Council and we thank them for their commitment. Worthy of special note is that Cllr Anne Hall is standing down after 34 years on the Parish Council, we all send her thanks and recognition of her service and we are sure that she will still be playing a vital role in the community.

And finally thanks to our new Parish Clerk, Michael Dearnley, who took over from Janette Carroll (very big boots to fill, as she did a fantastic job as clerk for many years). I personally want to acknowledge how well he has done by supporting the Parish Council during the pandemic; things have been changing so quickly through remote working and Zoom meetings, social distancing and COVID secure measures, he has ensured that we have been kept up-to-date with developments and been able to deliver our on continued responsibilities.

Who knows what the next year will bring? But I'm sure that together, Coniston will face it head on and come out the other side, stronger and united.

Kind regards and good health to all.

Tracy Coward  
Chair - Coniston Parish Council

## Summary of Year 2019-21

In a two year period the life of the village has been dominated by the covid-19 pandemic and the village's response to it. This response was positive and supportive, with neighbours looking after the needs of neighbours. There was a long-period when this was particularly trying, but Coniston as a community came through with nothing to be ashamed of and much to be proud of. Throughout this time the Parish Council worked to represent the needs of the residents and, when they were allowed to return, to ensure that visitors returned to Coniston to be met with a welcome and a supportive safe environment. These are some of the issues discussed at Parish Council meetings. If you would like to see further detail you can find these on [www.coniston.info](http://www.coniston.info)

**Local events** have always played a prominent role in local life, during 2019 and up to March 2020 the Parish Council worked closely with the Rat Race, Coniston 14, Keswick to Barrow Walk, Chill Swim, Lakeland Trails the Lakeland 100 and the Epic Event Swim. Large-scale organised events were early casualties of the pandemic and few have been able to go ahead. It is hoped that in 2021 these will be held with some modifications and in anticipation of returning to a 'normal' pattern next year. The Parish Council has championed the amendment of the Coniston by-laws to enable events such as Records Week to continue into the future. These by-laws have now been changed and we are looking forward to seeing Speed Week back on the Water in 2022 after a gap of nearly three years.

**Planters.** The Parish Council purchased a number of large planters in May 2019. Having been planted and cared for by Graham Hill and Anne Butterworth these have a considerable visual impact on the village by adding vibrant colour.

**Street Lamps.** Just as any responsible householder would do, the Parish Council looked at the cost of electricity for street lighting. The majority of street lamps had already been converted to LED, the Parish Council converted the remaining lights partially using a Climate Reduction Aware from South Lakeland District Council, which generated a substantial refund of over £1,400 as well as ongoing savings. The result was the improvement of street lighting in a more environmentally sustainable manner.

**Litter.** The village has always taken part in litter picks and other community clean up campaigns. During the pandemic when litter reached unforeseen levels, locals stepped up and picked up litter along paths, along the shoreline, in fields and in and around car parks. This year the need for litter picking will no doubt remain high and the Parish Council has worked to equip volunteers with litter pickers and bags for easy collection by South Lakeland District Council. The Parish Council has also funded the installation of a new litter bin on the path from the village at the Pier Cottage turning.

**Get Coniston Buzzing.** Following a successful bid for funding from the Lakes Foundation, the Parish Council was able to support the creation of Get Coniston Buzzing, a group focussed on supporting the diversification of the natural environment. The group's initial project was to create a wildflower area on the Campbell Memorial Green. This area was created by planting bulbs, wildflower seed and wildflower turf and will be coming into bloom during the Summer of 2021.

**Housing Associations.** The Parish Council has worked to encourage Castle and Coast Housing Association to proceed with the Church Room Field development, and with Home Housing in an attempt to establish a more robust and responsive system for repair and maintenance. Regular updates are received from the Coniston and Torver Land Trust.

**Playground.** The playground on Lake Road is an important area for local families as well as for the children of visitors to the area. The Parish Council takes care of the area by paying for grounds maintenance, monthly and more in-depth annual safety inspections, and to follow up on any remedial work that might arise from wear-and-tear. Unfortunately, the playground had to close during the pandemic and when it re-opened it was subject to a more stringent risk assessment which included the provision of hand sanitisers at both gates and monthly equipment checks.

**Toilets.** The toilets by Church Beck Bridge are used by both local residents and visitors to the area. In normal years they generate sufficient donations to pay for most of the cost of operating them, however, the pandemic caused a significant drop in donations which, when coupled with the increased operational costs of keeping public toilets open in a pandemic, created a funding shortfall. Luckily South Lakeland District Council were able to offset this with a small business support grant. The toilets are in need of refurbishment, the Parish Council was able to secured grants totalling £20,000 from the Rawdon Smith Trust and the Coniston 14 to fund this. Castle Design Services has been commissioned to create more environmentally friendly, easy to clean and attractive toilets. This contract will be put out to tender with the intention that the work is undertaken in the Autumn 2021.

**Benches** There are 28 benches around the village, many of which have been donated by families or groups over many years. The Parish Council has a programme of repair, refurbishment and, where necessary, replacement. The bench on Lake Road, dedicated to the memory Sally Rowe, was damaged beyond repair in March 2020, and is being replaced by a bench made by Sam Clarke and

**Highways.** The impact of highways issues on the residents and visitors to the parish are significant. The Parish Council has worked with officers of the County Council in relation to the following:

- Road closures and the need for more timely and more accurate notification of closures
- Speeding in the roads leading to the village needs to be better managed, especially in the area around Haws Bank and Bowmanstead and between Yewdale Bridge and High Waterhead.
- Road markings need to be uncovered from years of encroachment by the verge, and then reinstated. There is a list of additional road signage and markings required for the better management of traffic throughout the parish. The need for effective road markings was highlighted during the pandemic and is an ongoing issue.
- 'Green Lanes', especially the road through Tilberthwaite to Little Langdale, are a contentious issue where a number of legitimate road users are seeking to find a way to secure responsible access. The Parish Council is involved in the Tilberthwaite Partnership being led by the Lake District National Park in an attempt to work through these issues.
- During the pandemic, when the National Trust was unable to undertake the routine maintenance of paths and hedges, the Parish Council stepped up to ensure that paths remained passable.
- The County Council's Flood Mitigation Officer has worked closely with councillors to identify causes and solutions to flooding problems throughout the parish, including areas near Dow Crag House, Gateside House, Little Moss, Hawkshead Hill, and Days Bank.
- Similarly the County Council's Bridge Team have been working in the village with the repair of the bridge on Lake Road, and the large scale repair of Yewdale Bridge.

**Lengthsman.** During the past two years Coniston has benefited from the services rendered by Mr Workman. His work has included unblocking gullies, cleaning and repainting signs, renovating benches, repainting railings. Much of his work goes unnoticed whilst he's doing it, but makes a massive contribution to the quality of life in and around the village.

**Covid-19.** The pandemic required the Parish Council to stop face-to-face public meetings from 23<sup>rd</sup> March onward. Due to the early adoption of the use of Zoom, the online meeting tool, the Parish Council were able to meet weekly until public meetings on Zoom resumed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Throughout this period the Parish Council met to identify problems, liaise with other agencies to help craft solutions and supporting local efforts to work together to meet people's needs.

Risk Assessments for the Bridge Toilets and the Lake Road Playground were enhanced to incorporate the need to prevent transmission of the virus. As part of this four hand sanitisers were installed and maintained.

The Parish Council represented local concern regarding a wide range of anti-social behaviour, including excessive littering, fly camping, irresponsible and dangerous parking, speeding, and the misuse of the Ruskin Avenue Car Park from early Spring into the Autumn

The Parish Council has recognised people's selflessness and willingness to work for their community and in the past two years has awarded Christmas Community Star Awards to Graham Hill, Judith Myers, Lesley McCartney and Ollie Stolborg. A number of individuals and groups were also thanked for their work during the pandemic, and the Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to all local resident for the way they have worked together as a community during a most trying time.

### Summary of Accounts April 2019 to March 2021

<b>Receipts</b>	<b>2020/21+</b>	<b>2019/20</b>
SLDC Precept	£21,000.00	£20,500.00
Bridge Toilets Collecting Boxes	£1,185.38	£2,410.57
VAT Refund	£4,111.35	£754.95
Bank interest	£12.28	£42.03
Coniston Christmas Lights		£2,809.05
Grants secured from external bodies for specific projects	£28,176.43	£200.00
Other	£757.19	£3,345.81
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£55,242.63</b>	<b>£30,062.41</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Clerk's Salary, NI, Tax	£4,930.61	£4,742.29
Bridge Toilets (Cleaning, materials, maintenance, water, electricity)	£6,616.66	£5,338.60
Streetlight (maintenance, improvement and operational costs)	£4,106.33	£2,182.15
Maintenance (Playground, ground maintenance, bus shelters)	£1,202.00	£4,755.85
Fees and Subscriptions (CALC, Information Commissioner, Playground)	£561.97	£318.52
Training	£60.00	£160.00
ICT	£972.70	£0.00
Insurance	£1,011.64	£933.63
Local Grants	£2,789.84	£1,810.95
Get Coniston Buzzing	£587.50	£0.00
Lengthsman	£1,079.74	£1,005.18
Christmas Lights	£900.00	£1,909.05
Administration	£2,619.46	£1,304.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£27,438.45</b>	<b>£24,460.22</b>

Bank balance at start of year	£13,438.08	£10,077.56
Income for Year	£55,242.63	£30,062.41
Expenditure for Year	£27,438.45	£24,460.22
VAT Claim outstanding	£0.00	£2,241.67
Closing balance for Year	£41,242.26	£13,438.08
Allocated funding (toilet block refurbishment, streetlighting, Get Coniston Buzzing)	£28,176.43	£0.00
<b>Parish Council balance</b>	<b>£13,065.83</b>	<b>£13,438.08</b>

### Precept for 2018 - 19

The precept for 2019-2020 remained static at £20,500.00, however, this increased in 2020/2021 to £21,000.



### Planning Applications 2019 - 2021

The Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) Planning Department seeks the Parish Council's views on planning applications which have to be submitted within certain time limits. The Parish Council's views can be to either support, no objection, or objection. Reasons can be stated for these views. When the LDNPA make a planning decision they will take many factors into account including the Coniston Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Council's views, and LDNPA policies. The LDNPA either delegate the decision for the planning application to a Team Leader in the Planning Department or the Development Control Committee will decide.

The Parish Council has expressed a view on the following planning applications:

<b>Planning Application Number and Address</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Coniston Parish Council's View</b>	<b>LDNPA Decision</b>
7/2019/5209 2 Holly How Close, Yewdale Road, Coniston, LA21 8BZ	Revisions to plot 2 (previously approved as part of development approved under reference 7/2016/5685)	Supported	Approved
7/2019/5205 5 Holly How Close, Yewdale Road, Coniston, LA21 8BZ	Revisions to plot 5 (previously approved as part of development approved under reference 7/2016/5685)	Supported	Approved
7/2019/5224 3 Holly How Close, Yewdale Road, Coniston, LA21 8BZ	Revisions to Plot 3 (previously approved as part of development approved under reference 7/2016/5685)	Supported	Approved
7/2019/5322 Thwaite Farm Cottage, Coniston	Demolish existing two storey gable extension and replace with two storey gable extension and demolish rear single storey extension and replace with larger single storey extension	No objection	Approved
7/2019/5193 Haws Bank Cottage, Haws Bank, Bowmanstead, Coniston	Renovation of cottage and alterations to provide porch to front elevation and glazed stair enclosure to the rear.	No objections	Approved
7/2019/5270 Village Hall and Museum, 13-15 Yewdale Road, Coniston	Resurface access route, new landscaping, new disabled car parking space, installation of metal archway and new solid space with re-siting of the community bread oven	Support	Approved
7/2019/5354 Red Dell Beck, Coppermines Valley, Coniston	Construction of a wooden footbridge across Red Dell Beck	Support	Approved
7/2019/5289 1 Holly How Close, Yewdale Road, Coniston	Revisions to plot 1 (previously approved as part of development approved under reference 7/2016/5685)	No objection	Approved



<p>7/2019/5463 Land to West of A593, opposite Coniston Medical Practice, Coniston</p>	<p>Residential development of 16 affordable houses</p>	<p>Objection Majority decision (4 to 2) Reasons for objection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• larger scheme than specified in the Neighbourhood Plan;</li> <li>• out of character in that area of the village;</li> <li>• the site is on a steep bank;</li> <li>• there is a flood risk;</li> <li>• poor highway access</li> <li>• a potential threat to the doctors' surgery due to a loss of parking.</li> </ul>	<p>Withdrawn</p>
<p>7/2019/5528 Coniston Park Coppice Caravan Site, Park Gate, Coniston</p>	<p>Installation of camping pods without complying with conditions attached to planning permission (reference 7/2016/5889) Minor amendment to allow larger type of camping pod with pitched roof.</p>	<p>No objection</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p>7/2018/5784 30, Bank Terrace, Coniston</p>	<p>Single &amp; two storey rear extensions</p>	<p>No objection</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p>7/2018/5767 Gatesgarth, Coniston</p>	<p>Demolition of existing building and replace with contemporary four bedroom home not in accordance with condition no. 4 previously attached to planning permission ref. 7/2017/5566 (roofing materials)</p>	<p>No objection</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p>7/2018/5811 Fell Side, Little Arrow, Coniston</p>	<p>Variation of condition 2 (plans) on planning application 7/2017/5772 - Single storey rear extension and reroofing of annex to front of property</p>	<p>No objection</p>	<p>Approved</p>
<p>7/2019/5674 2 and 6 The Forge, Coniston, LA21 8H</p>	<p>Shepherds huts</p>	<p>No objection</p>	<p>Withdrawn</p>
<p>7/2019/5695 Hanson Ground, Coniston, LA21 8AE</p>	<p>Replacement veranda</p>	<p>Objection: The proposed veranda is significantly larger than the existing structure and encroaches upon the neighbouring property.</p>	<p>Approved</p>

7/2019/5745 Monk Coniston Hall, Coniston, LA21 8AQ	Remedial work to south elevation window lintels and associated making-good works.	Support	Approved
7/2019/5719 1 Sunbeam Cottages, Coniston, LA21 8AS	Double storey side extension to provide ground floor store and first floor en-suite.	No objection	Withdrawn
7/2019/5448 Black Bull Hotel, 1 Yewdale Road, Coniston, LA21 8DU	Conversion of four letting bedrooms comprising a separate accommodation block into one self-catering cottage with alteration to roof of hotel extension.	No objection	Approved
7/2019/5531 Waterhead Hotel, Coniston, LA21 8AJ	Replacement of hotel signage	No objection	Approved
7/2019/5611 Coniston Park Coppice Caravan and Motorhome Club Site, Park Gate, Coniston, LA21 8LA	Installation of two camping pods as temporary structures.	No comment. Due to use of unclear term 'temporary'	Approved
7/2019/5621 Bonsor Upper Mill, Coniston Coppermines Valley, Coniston, LA21 8HX	Improvement works to the surface water drainage system and the foul drainage at the Bonsor Upper Mill site.	No objection	Approved
7/2019/5643 Coniston Old Hall Farm, Coniston Hall Camp Site, Haws Bank, Coniston, LA21 8AS	Installation of secondary glazing and stove flues, chimney and roof timber repairs, sundry works to improve fire precautions	No objection	Approved
7/2020/5036 1 Sunbeam Cottages, Haws Bank, Coniston, LA21 8AS.	Double storey side extension to provide ground floor storage and a first floor extension.	No objection	Approved
7/2020/5030 2 Park Gates Cottages, Park Gate, Coniston, LA21 8AT.	Additional chimney	No objection	Approved
7/2020/5125 Bowmanstead Studio, Bowmanstead, Coniston, LA21 8HB	Approval of details reserved by condition no 4 on listed building consent ref 7/2018/5034 - door and window information	No objection	Refused
7/2020/5114 Brackendene, Lake Road, Coniston, LA21 8EW	Demolish single storey rear conservatory, garage and stores and build single storey rear lounge, garage, utility and stores	No objection	Approved

7/2020/5264 The Wyn, Coniston, LA21 8HJ	Internal and external alterations including new windows, new porch and conversion of garage to provide ancillary accommodation	Objection	Approved
7/2020/5286 4 Holly How Close, Coniston, LA21 8BZ	Erection of dwelling-house (amendment to plot 4 of planning permission reference 7/2016/5685)	Support	Approved
7/2020/5314 Bowmanstead Studio, Bowmanstead, Coniston, LA21 8HB	Replacement of existing windows and doors in the south elevations with double glazed windows and doors	No objection	Refused
7/2020/5444 10, Beck Yeat, Coniston, LA21 8HT	Demolish rear conservatory and build single storey front and rear extensions	No objection	Approved
7/2020/5392 Coppermines Cottage, Coniston, LA21 8HP	Replacing septic tank with a water treatment plant and an outlet pipe to discharge into nearby Red Dell Beck	Support	Approved
7/2020/5190 Fairfield Cottage, Tilberthwaite Avenue, Coniston, LA21 8ED	Domestic extension	Support	Approved
7/2020/5334 The Blue Bird Cafe, Coniston, LA21 8AN	Replace canvas parasols with fixed glass canopy over existing terrace seating area	No objection	Approved
7/2020/5505 Hills Garage, Coniston, LA21 8EN	Replace single container with two containers, timber boarded screen fence and screen planting.	No objection	Approved
7/2020/5495 Land off Yewdale Road, Coniston, LA21 8DT	Amendment to windows condition 13 on planning permission 7/2019/5177	No objection	Approved
7/2020/5821 Park Coppice, Park Gate, Coniston, LA21 8LA.	The installation of two motor van waste points and a dog/bike wash.	Support	Approved
7/2020/5868 Holly How Youth Hostel, Coniston, LA21 8DD	Removal of an existing static caravan and replacement with lavatory and shower buildings utilising existing hard-standing and services	Support	Approved
7/2021/5056 Black Beck Cottage, Coniston, LA21 8AB	Kitchen and bedroom extensions to rear	No objection	Approved
7/2020/5790 Brooklands, Little Langdale, Ambleside, LA22 9NT	Single Storey Garden Outbuilding	No objection	Approved
7/2021/5092 6 Holly How Close, Coniston, LA21 8BZ	Erection of Dwelling	None	Approved

<u>7/2021/5077</u> Bowmanstead Studio, Bowmanstead, Coniston, LA21 8HB	Replace existing south facing windows and doors	No objection	Approved
<u>7/2021/5152</u> Storage area at Dixon Ground Farm, Coniston	Use of yard for general storage and retention of storage structures	No objection	Undecided

**Coniston Parish Councillors  
April 2019 – March 2021**

Tracy Coward	Chair Councillor since June 2015 (appointment uncontested)
Jeff Carroll	Vice Chair to November 2020 Councillor May 2016 to November 2020 (appointment uncontested)
Heather Troughton	Vice Chair from December 2020 Councillor since February 2015 (appointment uncontested)
Anne Hall	Councillor since June 1987 (appointment uncontested)
Ken Batty	Councillor May 2012 to November 2020 (appointment uncontested)
Adrian Thompson	Councillor since October 2017 (co-opted)
Joshua Airey	Councillor since August 2020 (co-opted)
James Buller	Councillor since December 2020 (co-opted)
Chas Sargeant	Councillor since December 2020 (co-opted)

**Contact Details**

All Parish Councillors can be contacted via the Clerk:

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Tel: 015394 41442

E-mail: [parish@coniston.info](mailto:parish@coniston.info)

Website [www.coniston.info](http://www.coniston.info)

If you would like to receive the agendas, minutes etc of meetings or have any ideas or suggestions for the Parish Council please contact the Clerk.

Please remember that all Parish Council meetings are public meetings and you are welcome to come along. The dates of future meetings will be posted on both our website and on one of the Parish Council's noticeboards.

## **Useful Information**

**Coniston Parish Council** website (including Parish Diary with events) - [www.coniston.info](http://www.coniston.info)

**Cumbria County Council** – [www.cumbria.gov.uk](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk)

Reporting Highways Issues (including potholes, road markings, street lights and blocked drains - <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/highways-pavements/reporting-problem-on-highway/WDM/default.asp>

Highways Hotline Tel: 0300 303 2992 (answer phone service evenings, weekends and public holidays)

**South Lakeland District Council** – [www.southlakeland.gov.uk](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk)

Reporting Dog fouling - <https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/your-environment/dogs/dog-fouling/>

### **Cumbria Choice Based Letting**

To register for re-housing with Cumbria Choice (includes Council and Housing Association Properties Locally)  
on the <https://www.cumbriachoice.org.uk/Data/ASPPages/1/30.aspx>

### **Breaches of Planning**

Most breaches of planning should be reported to Lake District National Park Authority ([planning@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:planning@lakedistrict.gov.uk) or Tel: 01539 724 555).

Some local occupancy clauses are dealt with by South Lakeland District Council Legal Department ([customer.services@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:customer.services@southlakeland.gov.uk) or Tel: 01539 733 333)

### **Non-emergency Police number – 101**

For reporting all non-emergency issues, including illegal off-road driving and cars parked causing obstruction. Or report on email using [101Emails@cumbria.police.uk](mailto:101Emails@cumbria.police.uk)