

- 1. From 2007 the PC commenced a programme of actively letting the small quarries/woodlands which belong to the PC and requiring tenants to manage them in a sustainable way which ensured biodiversity. The outcomes are very encouraging. Three examples are Bees Orchard, Barkbooth and the Jubilee Wood.**
- 2. The Parish Room, owned by the PC, was a leaky, draughty, cold Victorian building. The PC decided to invest in drastically improving its insulation and, with the help of the Snooker Club (housed therein) lowered the ceilings, insulated all walls and double glazed all windows. It is now warm and cosy.**
- 3. The PC stopped using weed killers many years ago, and has also reduced grass cutting to allow flowers to grow and biodiversity to increase.**
- 4. The PC ensured that when Castles and Coasts were applying to build Oak Fold the design was more sustainable than required by the planners. Hence we have a 13 house affordable scheme where there are NO fossil fuels at all, no fires, and all owners/tenants are encouraged to only buy renewable electricity. Heating is by ground source heat pumps which the PC asked for, and surprisingly got.**
- 5. The PC finally delivered on the long hoped for walkway in late 2021. This was designed to encourage Walk to School and help make it safer and pleasanter for all residents to walk through the main village areas. It has been a great success.**
- 6. Cllrs have attended many training sessions and sought to increase our knowledge of supporting a sustainable community. When opportunities arise we endeavour to share them with the appropriate community leaders by forwarding on.**
- 7. Tree and lane side hedge cutting contracts are now agreed by the PC to ensure cutting is done out of nesting season and only where necessary.**
- 8. As a part of the work on a Plan for the future the PC would have liked to support much higher standards of eco building for future homes. Ideally to build homes which achieve passive house standards. Sadly the LDNPA advise that as a Parish we cannot impose standards that are above those of the LDNPA Planning Policies. This therefore will not be possible. The PC note that LDNPA are currently consulting on their 271 page draft design codes which do set out improved (although not the best) standards of eco building.**
- 9. The appointment of a Parish lengthsman, which was undertaken about 6 years ago, means that we have a practical person available to bring matters of flooding to our attention and can take steps to remedy problems within the Parish.**

**10. The planting of the Jubilee wood was a PC initiative on Parish land which was formerly a grazed field with little biodiversity. It is now becoming a lovely wood with many species returning.**

**11. The PC commissioned the Rivers Trust to undertake a review of the Gilpin by the clapper bridge area some years ago as there are concerns about water quality due to the many septic systems (some very old) that ultimately discharge into the river. We were pleased to find eelers were still present but in very much smaller numbers than previously. Brown trout are largely absent. There are reports of rare otter sightings. There is much more we can do about water quality and discharge.**

**12. The PC is concerned about the increase in random buildings with no planning permission appearing in fields, and air n b n bs in buildings which do not have permission for human occupation. This brings with it issues of human waste disposal, cleaning chemical use and traffic and light pollution. The PC does, and will, report these illegal buildings to LDNPA. The PC however note that LDNPA have insufficient staff to cope with the all the enforcement needed across the National Park.**

**We hope this is helpful.**

**Anything we can do as a PC to support the project please let us know and we are keen to work collaboratively.**

**Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Council May 2023**