

## Working for Better Sports Facilities



*Flooding is a problem on Dent playing field*

**Are facilities for sport and recreation** good enough in Dentdale? In the parish plan survey, 77 people made positive comments about them, saying they were good for the size and situation of the community. However, others wanted improvements, and some said they were prepared to travel if their needs weren't met here.

### Views

As a result, members of the parish council's playing field and parish plan committees have been investigating further. In the early summer they asked the sports clubs and recreational groups for their views on:

- improving the existing field and pavilion
- negotiating access to sports facilities in Sedbergh and elsewhere
- starting a project to raise money for, plan and build an indoor multi-sports area

They also looked at the level of

demand for new facilities, the feasibility of an all-weather pitch and at whether sports halls or swimming pools could be shared with neighbouring communities.

### Adequate

There was no support for formally organising the use of facilities outside the dale and the only additional facilities requested were indoor nets for the cricket club. Existing facilities were felt to be adequate, provided the playing field's drainage could be improved and the pavilion upgraded with a water supply and toilets.

### Improving

Based on these responses, and in the light of the current economic climate, the two committees have decided to concentrate efforts on improving the current facilities rather than building any new ones, and as a result the parish council has set aside some funds in next year's budget towards this.

## Parish Plan Committee

**The parish plan committee is a part of Dent Parish Council**, and consists of two parish councillors and four members of the community. It meets monthly and is attended by representatives of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Cumbria County Council, South Lakeland District Council and Action for Communities in Cumbria.

### Committee Members

Name	Phone	Email
<b>Jock Cairns (Chair)</b>	25655	jockcairns@btinternet.com
<b>Matt Clayton</b>	25022	matthew@lowhaycotebarn.com
<b>Heather Fraser (Secretary)</b>	25727	dentpp@btinternet.com
<b>Peter Knaption</b>	25463	peter.knaption@btinternet.com
<b>Mike Lawton</b>	25122	mdlawton@btinternet.com
<b>John Sibley</b>	25024	john.sibleyqs@btinternet.com

## Dentdale Second Home and Holiday Cottage Network

**One in four people in Dentdale** have concerns about second homes and holiday cottages, according to the parish plan survey, and in many other places this use of houses is seen only as a problem. The parish plan committee has taken a different view, however, and is trying to involve the owners of these properties in the life of the dale.

### Network

Led by Heather Fraser, a small action group of both full-time and part-time residents has been formed and a network of second home and holiday cottage owners has been set up. Its aim is to help the owners of these properties to become more closely involved in community activities when they are here, and enable them to be more connected with Dentdale when they are away.

### Peace and quiet

"Although some 'weekenders' come for the peace and quiet," said Heather, "and may not wish to get involved in the community, some enjoy taking a more active role in Dentdale – and many full-time residents welcome their support at social and fund-raising events in particular."

If you are interested in getting involved with the network please contact the Dentdale Second Home and Holiday Cottage Network at

**dentpp@btinternet.com**

to find out more.



*Dent village has a high proportion of holiday cottages and second homes.*

# DENT Parish Council



# Newsletter

## Issue No.2 Winter 2009

## New Allotments in Dentdale



*Allotments Acting Chairman John Sugden (left) exchanging the tenancy agreement with David Hartley at Sunnybank*

**The first parish plan project is about to become reality** when 23 people pick up their spades and start digging their new allotments.

Last July, a group of would-be vegetable growers formed themselves into the Dent Allotment Association with John Sugden as Acting Chairman. A site at Sunnybank next to Church Bridge in Dent has been leased from David Hartley for 10 years and divided into 30 plots. To cater for different needs, the plots vary in size from 18 to 43 square metres, and one is allocated for disabled use.

### Starting to dig

Ken Smith, the Association Secretary, is keen for digging to start this autumn. "Our programme of work is going to start on the 1st November," he said. "We will be setting out all 30 plots so people can start digging ready for next year's planting season.

We intend to have a working weekend for plot holders who wish to remove the turf from their plot."

The Association has applied for a number of grants and so far has raised £2,000. It has also received a number of donations.

### Discounts

"We have set up a support member scheme," explained Ken, "People who don't rent an allotment can pay just £5 each a year and have the opportunity to purchase seeds and fruit bushes at discounted prices – in some cases around 50% cheaper than the shops."

If you would like to rent one of the few allotments that are left, or become a support member contact Ken on 25688, and if you have internet access you can find out more at: **www.dentdale.com/allotments.**

## Dentdale Parish Plan One Year On

One year after the parish council published the five-year Dentdale plan, this newsletter looks at the progress made. Over 70 people are now involved in the plan, and grants of nearly £30,000 have been promised for its projects. Some of them, such as the baby sitting circle which has been formed, have had nothing more than encouragement. Others, such as the second home owners group, have needed more structure, so people have worked with the plan committee to tackle them. Altogether, 31 of the plan's 62 actions have now been started.

## Affordable Housing

**Many people expressed concern** in the parish plan survey about the lack of affordable homes for locals. So although it isn't the parish council's job to provide this, it is trying to persuade those that are responsible to take action.

One outcome was the recent housing needs survey. This had a return rate of 31%, which is above average. Nineteen returns indicated the need for a new home, and the affordable housing that this represents will shortly be worked out. If the final results show a real need, this will support the case we are making to Two Castles Housing Association for affordable housing in Dentdale.

## Children Help to Plan Play Area



Back Row:  
Joe Vinsen, Sean Tebbett,  
Benjamin Robinson, Greg Tebbett  
Front Row:  
Helen Winn, Catherine Steele,  
Kate Tebbett, Jenny Robinson, Kate Cairns

**Dentdale children have been involved** right from the start in helping to refurbish the play area at Dragon Croft. The parish plan identified the need by talking to the children in Dent Primary School, and last May a committee consisting of Kate Cairns, Jenny Robinson, Catherine Steele, Kate Tebbett and Helen Winn was formed to bring it about.

### Exciting

The new facilities will cost about £35,000, and so far the committee has raised over £21,000 in grants and donations, with more promised. The School Council has also been helping by issuing a questionnaire to gather the views of local residents. This produced a very good response and the results have been very useful. "The next task for the children," said Catherine Steele, "is to help with

designing the area and choosing some equipment. This is the exciting bit!"

### Climbing Frame

Recently the committee received a letter from one of the children. "I am writing about the new play area in Dent, hopefully it will go to plan," wrote Liam. "I hope the Green will improve or it will be boring. The swings are the only things I like. I would like a climbing frame, also a zip wire and a see saw."

### New area

The committee are working hard to turn the wishes of Liam and the other Dentdale children into reality. If everything goes to plan, a rubberised surface will be laid in the spring and the children will have their new play area soon after that.

## Litter Pickers Keep the Dale Tidy

**Throughout the summer**, members of the litter-picking team have been collecting litter from Dentdale's lanes and footpaths as they have gone about their daily routines. The team was formed as a result of the parish plan, and following the display at the Dentdale Show, eight more residents have offered to help.

"As the growth on roadside verges dies back this winter, we will be organising two more group litter-picks

along the 'main road' between Peggleside and Ewegales," said John Sibley, the organiser. "But you don't have to be part of the litter-picking team to help keep Dentdale tidy - if you see litter, please pick it up and dispose of it."

Thankfully, the dale does not have a major litter problem when compared with many other places, and thanks to the litter pickers' efforts, it's likely to stay that way.

## Young People Voice Their Opinion

**Members of Dent Youth Club** have recently come up with new ideas for things to do. The parish plan highlighted the need for more facilities and activities, so Matt Clayton went to talk to them about what they wanted. Their ideas ranged from ice skating trips to a new youth club building with computers, and included girls' football, a bike ramp, movie nights, beauty classes, a skateboard park, a fashion show and a junior disco.

The parish plan committee will be looking at ways to make some of these ideas happen in 2010 through funding, volunteer help and donations, so if you can help in any way please contact Matt or any committee member (details on page 4). It's unlikely, though, that we'll be able to meet one Youth Club member's request - for a school without any work!

## About this Newsletter

**Most people** are happy with the work of the parish council, according to the parish plan survey. However, some want more information about what the council does, and so this newsletter was designed to provide it. Thanks to a grant of £750 from the South Lakeland Strategic Partnership we have funding to produce two newsletters a year for the next couple of years. Costs are kept to a minimum thanks to the support and generosity of Kate Roberts at Picture Palace who helps us with the layout and printing, and to the volunteer distributors led by Peter Knapton.

If you have any suggestions for the next newsletter or would like to volunteer to deliver newsletters in your area, please contact Jock Cairns (details on page 4).

## National Park Ranger Helps With Plan

**Paul Wilkinson**, the Area Ranger for this part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, has been closely involved with the Dentdale parish plan. He is a member of the Plan Committee, where he provides a valuable link to the work of his many colleagues in the Park organisation. But Paul likes to be more directly involved as well, so he is also developing a long-term working relationship with the pupils and staff of Dent Primary School.

### Energy

This includes taking the pupils on guided walks and the first of these was held in July. "It was a great success despite the weather," said Paul. "The energy and enthusiasm of the school pupils was so refreshing." Paul is looking forward to doing further practical work with them to improve their understanding of the work of the Ranger Service and the National Park.

### Wildlife

Paul is one of the eighteen Area and Access Rangers in the Park, who work in pairs to protect and maintain wildlife and the environment and to maintain and manage public rights of way and open access. In Dentdale, Paul works with Graham



Paul Wilkinson, YDNPA Area Ranger

Pye, the Access Ranger, and a group of about 40 members of the Dales Volunteers service.

### Walking Route

Rangers and volunteers undertake most of their projects in response to reports and suggestions from both local residents and visitors, and in Dentdale a number of projects are underway or shortly to begin. As well as ongoing repair work to the Occupation Road bridleway,

improvements are being made to the Dales Way including rebuilt river walls along the banks of Deepdale Beck and a new interpretation panel at Church Bridge. In response to suggestions from local people, a new walking route from Church Bridge is under development. Negotiations with five landowners are taking place so that nineteen structures can be improved, with stiles being replaced by easier-to-use hand gates.

## Working with Others

**The parish plan survey** showed that residents wanted the parish council to work more closely with other local authorities, so this year it has:

- called a meeting of ten local parishes to discuss a proposed partnership
- discussed with senior National Park officers how the Park can support Dentdale
- organised a public meeting in Dent addressed by David Butterworth, YDNPA Chief Executive, on "Working with Communities in the National Park"
- organised a planning seminar for Dent, Sedbergh and Garsdale parish councillors run by YDNPA's Head of Planning

The parish council recently appointed as its Parish Clerk Colin Robertshaw, who is also Clerk to Sedbergh PC. One benefit of this should be closer co-operation between the two parishes in the future.

## Improving Public Transport

**Over three-quarters** of those surveyed for the parish plan made comments about public transport, so clearly it's a real concern for a lot of people. The parish plan committee has been investigating ways of improving the dale's road transport, and discovered that some existing services may be underused because they aren't very widely known.

### Rural Wheels

For instance, did you know that between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, you can travel from your door step in Dent village to Sedbergh and back for only £3 return? This deal is available under the County Council's Rural Wheels Scheme, and if you have a Rural Wheels travel card you can travel throughout the whole of Cumbria at 30p per mile.

### Volunteer driver

There is also a voluntary car scheme in the dale, where a volunteer car driver will collect you from your

home and take you to your chosen destination. This is mainly used for doctor's and dentist's appointments, shopping or making connections with buses or trains.

If you'd like more details of either scheme, contact Matt Clayton (details on page 4)

## Plant Invasion

**Himalayan Balsam** and Japanese Knotweed are a national problem and they are starting to invade Dentdale. Both are now to be found along the river and its tributaries and left unchecked, they could seriously impact on our beautiful dale.

If we are to control them, the first thing to do is to map accurately where they are to work out the scale of the problem. If you would be prepared to help with this, please contact John Sibley (see page 4 for details).