

Kirkby Lonsdale & District Civic Society Newsletter - Summer 2015

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Timber cladding

In the last Newsletter we pointed out the shortcomings in the use of external timber cladding in our damp climate. The social housing on Jubilee Close, recently completed by South Lakes Housing, shows further use of the material. The small timber panels between the windows (see photograph) also appear to be a poor design feature and prompted a serious question from a passer by, as



to whether the houses had been vandalized and hence temporarily boarded up! Apart from this the design is not out of place, but against much opposition that green edge of the town has now been lost forever.

We have a website

The Civic Society is entering the digital age with its own website at www.kirkbylonsdalecivicsociety.org. It is embryonic at present, with an outline of what the society does, details of the Winter Talks and the forthcoming autumn course. It has the potential to be a useful point of reference, and a communication tool for members and non-members alike. Suggestions from members for what might usefully be included on the website would be most welcome, and there is a contact page on the site if you would like to get in touch.

Civic Society Competition 2015

The Society's remit, which covers Kirkby Lonsdale and its wider Rainbow Parish is to:

- promote high standards of planning and architecture
- preserve and conserve and where possible develop those things which make the area special
- encourage interest and pride in this area

In furtherance of these aims the Society is now inviting applications to carry out projects that support one or more of them. Examples might include, but need not be restricted to, restoration of a specific item of architectural interest; an interpretation board providing education/information about a significant part of our area; reinstatement of a historical icon that has been lost or destroyed; development of an existing heritage site.

Proposals may be from any individual or organisation based in the Rainbow Parish, must not be for personal gain, and the Committee is particularly interested in ideas that are innovative, and keen to encourage suggestions from people of all ages. Funding of up to £5000 is available for suitable projects. If you have an idea, further details and a simple application form is available by emailing mj.cherrytreehouse@gmail.com, or can be downloaded from our new website www.kirkbylonsdalecivicsociety.org.

Forthcoming Winter Talks

Yes it's that time again, and the committee have lined up a programme which they hope will contain something for everybody.

Monday September 14th

'Back to the Land' by Alison O'Neill, 'The Barefoot Shepherdess'.

An inspirational story of how success can be achieved by sheer determination. Alison's Howgill journey is a great way to start our new season of talks.

Monday October 12th

'The Pendle Witches' by Terry Bond.

The trials of the Pendle Witches in 1612 are among the most famous in English history. Four centuries later, they are a fascinating reminder of 17th Century beliefs.

Monday November 9th

'Wicked Jimmy, 1st Earl Lonsdale' by John Sharpe.

The character and exploits of James Lowther, politician and landowner are brought to life by historian, John Sharpe. If every family needs a black sheep, then Wicked Jimmy can make an unassailable claim to that role.

Monday December 14th

‘John of Gaunt and his Lady Friends’ by Dr Graham Kemp

John of Gaunt, 1st Duke of Lancaster, son of Edward 3rd and younger brother of the Black Prince, exercised great influence over the English throne. He had three spouses and numerous mistresses. Graham tells all.

Planning

SL/2015/0341 - Land adjacent Studds Hall, Barbon

In our view this does not fall in the category of low impact infilling. Inserting a dwelling in a green space which at present is a paddock bounded on three sides by drystone walls, will alter the character of that part of the village, so we objected to the plans.

SL/2015/0347 - Sign for Lunesdale Hall, Kirkby Lonsdale

Although this building is not listed, it is in the Conservation Area, was designed by a notable architect and has some distinguished features. We felt that the proposed signage is too large and suggested it is reduced in size, and ideally replaced by a self supporting sign nearer to the road. We objected strongly to the sign being illuminated.

SL/2015/0306- The Smithy, Fairbank, Kirkby Lonsdale

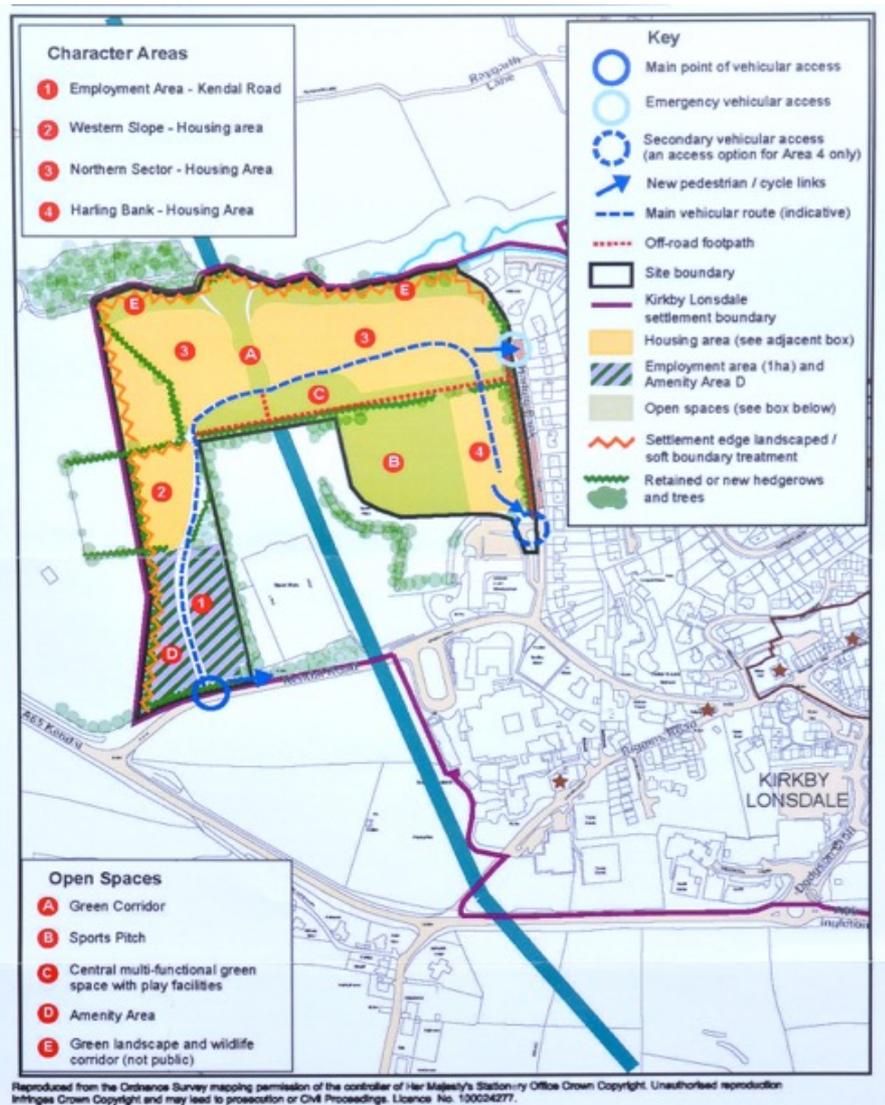
We initially objected on the grounds that there was insufficient information on what changes are being proposed. When further details were added by the applicant we had no objection.

Development Brief - North of Kendal Road, Kirkby Lonsdale

On April 29th SLDC formally adopted the Development Brief as a Supplementary Planning Document.

There are several significant differences between the adopted plan and the October 2014 draft:

1) During the consultation phase views were widely expressed that the housing and employment development would exacerbate traffic congestion and safety issues on Kendal Road in the vicinity of the two schools. While there will be a Transport Assessment and Travel Plan at the planning application stage, the County Highway Authority considers that this housing and employment development will **have limited impact on these existing issues** (editor’s italics). For this reason the ‘blocking’ of the through route past the schools has **not** been included in the adopted Development Brief. This in our view is a serious omission, which will lead to problems.



2) The greater emphasis now placed on so-called ‘green corridors’. The final version says that these :

- Should form an integral part of the transport and movement framework as well as the green infrastructure framework as appropriate. These would generally comprise a footpath and in some cases also a cycleway separated from the carriageway by a green linear space. They may also be located within a separate open space and in some cases utilise existing rights of way.
- In some cases it may be appropriate for the ‘main vehicular route’ serving the site to perform a green corridor function i.e. whereby a footpath/cycleway is separated from the edge of the carriageway at least on one side by a green area. It may be appropriate to change from footway to footpath, meaning the route has a partial green corridor function.

- Away from roads, green corridors providing linkages between housing areas and open spaces/key facilities, may be appropriate. Those of a strategic function (that follow pedestrian desire lines) i.e. provide linkages through the site to neighbouring areas, roads and facilities footpaths should be built to adoptable standards.
- The main road through the site should have a green corridor function, comprising a footpath/cycleway alongside the road separated by a green area.
- Finally a Green Landscape and Wildlife Corridor should be provided on the northern edge of the site (not public).

3) Some or all of the all-weather sports pitches to be created by QES may be floodlit.

4) Allotments may also form part of the overall open space mix, depending on demand.

Planning Application(s) are now awaited from developers.

Roadside Curiosities



So-called 'Glinter Stones' were placed at the corner of entrances into buildings to prevent damage from iron-rimmed coach wheels. They were usually stone but occasionally cast iron. This stone one is on Main Street.

The novel closing mechanisms on the gates to St Mary's churchyard are replicas of the originals that were made in 1823 by blacksmith William Jackson.



Number 3 Fairbank has six stone lintels visible from the pavement. Five of them are covered in these trace fossils, which are the tracks left by some type of worm moving across soft sandy sediments more than 300 million years ago.

They remained intact despite being fossilized by heat and pressure to give us this amazing record of long-dead creatures.

Kirkby Lonsdale Water - by Audrey Phillips

The history of Kirkby Lonsdale's water supply has been a CHALLENGE. Despite diligent searching no records seem to be available. The story is told that those involved with the Kirkby Lonsdale Local Board destroyed many records in a fit of pique!

In the days before the mains water supply, (relatively!) clean drinking water was obtained from the wells. There was Lady's Well down Lilywood and St Cuthbert's Well at Chapel House.

There were also 'springs' such as the one at the bottom of Radical Steps, St Anthony's besides the Devil's Bridge, the Binford and the one on the A65 opposite QES. Most of the older properties had their own wells, but the one at the Sun Inn was in the pavement outside the front door - but the water was that which ran through farmyards and down the gutters. Since farmers also dipped their sheep in this water supply it is no wonder that Kirkby Lonsdale had so many 'jerries' serving the 'small beer' being so much safer to drink than the other - said by one property owner to be quite suitable for the people who lived here!

All well water had to be carried by bucket and yoke, and there was a footpath from Fairbank through The Gables to Lad's Well near the river, a long walk and steep when carrying buckets. There was also trouble when a certain gentleman altered a footpath through his property thus preventing local schoolchildren gaining access

to the nearest well in their break during lessons.

In 1874 the Local Board surveyed the chaotic drains and water supply, and land was bought at the Fleet Farm for the purpose of supplying water to the area! This was a gravel pit and even in severe drought never ran dry.

When in the 1970s Kirkby Lonsdale's water was tested and found to be 'impure', we were attached to the supply from Thirlmere, and our 'impure' water was piped to Oxenholme. Actually the water that had been tested was that from Kearsy, about which the original complaint was made, and was really dreadful.

There was controversy in 1919 about the water supply to the new laundry on Mill Brow that was said to be depleting the rest of the town of water. The laundry owner was ordered to arrange her own supply and pay £6 p.a. until she did so.

Queen Elizabeth School and Biggins always presented problems, which were eventually solved by the installation of a pump and storage tank.

Autumn Event

'Hard Times, Good Times - Life in Victorian North West England' is the title for a series of talks by Dr Mike Winstanley, retired Senior Lecturer in History, Lancaster University. They will be held in Barbon village hall on Wednesday evenings between September 29th and November 24th, and the cost is £30 (£35 for non-members). The attached flier gives full details and an application form, which can also be found on the website.



Enforcement

Finally Abrahams shop in the Market Square has lost its lurid green coating. It has been re-painted in a colour more in keeping with the other premises in the row, and the whole looks more like a nineteenth century row of shopfronts.

The only other enforcement issue remaining in the town centre, is the window of the small jeweller's shop on Main Street, which is yet to be replaced with one matching the original multi-paned one.

Future Civic Society Projects

Committee members are currently assembling two new initiatives in Kirkby Lonsdale. The first is the restoration of the dilapidated cast iron lamp standard in the Market Square, next to the parking ticket dispenser. This involves shot-blasting to remove rust and re-painting, and the fitting of a new lantern of an appropriate design, fitted with an LED lamp. The second is planning for a small number of additional interpretation plaques to be installed on buildings in the Conservation Area.

These will either record some historical detail of the building, or some social history describing notable individuals who have lived there. They will be identical in size and colour to the existing plaques. We are always interested to hear member's ideas for future small projects that the committee might undertake, in addition to the Competition described on the first page of the Newsletter.



<p>Editor: Dr Ken Humphris The views expressed are those of the Editor and do not necessarily reflect those of the Civic Society Committee as a whole. The Editor would be delighted to receive comments or articles from members of the Society for inclusion in the newsletter. Registered Charity No. 502315</p>	<p>Committee Chairman Dr Ken Humphris Lowgill, High Casterton LA6 2SD Tel: 015242 71983 Mr Mike Marcznski Tel: 015242 73318 Mrs Audrey Phillips Tel: 015242 72514 Lynne Seignot Tel: 015242 76434</p>	<p>Secretary Mrs Sue Pelter Rigmaden Farm House Mansergh LA6 2ET Tel: 015242 76216 Miss Pat France Tel: 015242 71740 Membership Secretary Mrs Judith Manifold Tel: 015242 73457</p>	<p>Treasurer Mr David Dalgoutte Delph cottage Jingling Lane Kirkby Lonsdale LA6 2AW Peter Stockdale Tel: 015242 76443 Mr Mike Kingsbury Tel: 015242 76434 Mr Tom Felix Tel: 015242 72248</p>
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