



BURSCOUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report 11th May 2016

I am pleased to present Burscough Parish Council's Annual Report for 2015/16. This report is prepared and approved by the Parish Council and it provides an overview of the work that has been undertaken on your behalf by Parish Councillors and Clerk during the year.

A Parish Council is the first tier of local government, and it is run by and for the local community. Our thanks are extended to the many members of the public who have helped and worked with us, attended meetings and taken part in working groups. There are too many to mention by name, but we should note the work of the Sustainability Group in helping to improve our environment, and to the many Burscough residents who have contributed to our emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

We should mention too, the work of our fourteen councillors who give their time voluntarily. Two new members joined the Parish Council in 2015/16 and these were Abigail Reade and John Leyland. We have an excellent and enthusiastic team in place. Sadly, we say good bye to Cllr Dawn Crolla who stood down from the Parish Council during the year after many years of sterling work for Burscough, and who deserves our thanks.

We also thank our County Councillor, Cynthia Dereli for her continued work on our behalf.

Burscough Parish Council received income of £107,940.68 in this financial year, of which £69,230 was raised via council tax that residents pay, and the balance was secured via grants, VAT and other income. The Parish Council's expenditure was £131,315.84 (full list included in breakdown below). There was no increase in precept.

Our accounts are externally audited each year and that process takes place during the Spring and Summer Months. Accounts are available for viewing and members of the public are very welcome to do so. Our Finance Working Group meets monthly to make sure our finances stay on track. A summary of the Council's finances is provided below. Our budget, and summary accounts can be found on our website www.burscoughpc.co.uk



Inadequate infrastructure remains our biggest concern with roads and drainage under capacity



Ringtail Memorial now has a new home at Ringtail Retail Park

The Parish Council works hard to keep residents informed. A quarterly newsletter is circulated to homes in the Parish. Copies of past newsletters can be found on our website. Our Website and notice boards carry information about the work of the Parish Council and its meetings.



Hard hit public transport leaves Burscough with no bus services in the evenings and on Sundays and threatened loss of rail services to Piccadilly: Parish Council continue to lobby, and work to find solutions to lack of provision.



A great deal of the Parish Council's Work is about checking and lobbying and making sure that the views of Burscough people are listened to by Borough Council and by Lancashire County Council.

- The development of Yew Tree Farm still continues to be of great concern. The principle of developing the site, and initial planning approvals have been obtained and our emphasis shifts to lobbying for sufficient and appropriate infrastructure to be in place, and to make it the best it can possibly be for local people.
- Flooding in December left many families and businesses in Burscough devastated. The Parish Council held a public meeting in March to provide an opportunity for members of the public to come together to discuss the issues.
- Particularly, in these difficult times we lobby to protect the amenities and services we have. Many of the facilities we take for granted are under threat: the interchange, the library. Work continues to try to ensure that Burscough receives its fair share of resources available
- The reduction of day time Bus Services and the total loss of evening and weekend services was worse than we could have believed possible, leaving burscough residents stranded. Work continues to find solutions that will provide decent public transport for everyone.
- The Neighbourhood Plan is underway for Burscough, still the first to be developed in West Lancs. Its completion and adoption will help Burscough to fight for better consideration in planning matters.

In these times of austerity Burscough Parish Council's grant funding programme is more important than ever. During 2015 Burscough Parish Council has provided grant funding to many local organisations including Friends of Richmond Park for Richmond Park Family Fun Day, The Grove Activity Scheme, RBL, and for the Canal Bi-centenary Celebrations to be held in June 2016, Burscough Parish Council is the major funder providing grants to participants Ormskirk and District Family History Society, A & R Ainscough Barge Restoration Project, Images of Burscough, Allotments Association, Friends of Burscough Station, OPSTA, Merseyside Transport Trust and Burscough Heritage Group.

These are challenging times: Burscough will grow substantially in the years to come. Already, the work of the Parish Council is increasing as representations are made to ensure that local voices are heard. The growth will provide increased opportunities too, particularly with regard to the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). Time has been spent during the year, developing our capacity to capitalise on opportunities for funding.

Reductions in Lancashire County Council and West Lancashire Borough Council Funding and the consequential loss of services and amenity are unprecedented. The need for our Community to be vigilant in ensuring that Burscough is treated fairly has never been greater. We continue to work hard to make our community the best it can be for the people of Burscough.

Signed

Cllr Alan Bullen
Chairman, Burscough Parish Council
23rd May 2016

Burscough Parish Council
Summary of Income and Expenditure
Year Ending 31st March 2016

| | | |
|--|-------------------|------------|
| Opening Balance | | 103,991.73 |
| <i>Income</i> | | |
| Precept | 69,230.00 | |
| Grant to replace council tax support | 8,770.00 | |
| Concurrent Grant | 9,536.46 | |
| PROW | 583.00 | |
| NP grant | 8,000.00 | |
| Bank interest | 615.81 | |
| return of grant | 350.00 | |
| insurance claim | 3,050.00 | |
| VAT | 6,122.41 | |
| CIL | 1,683.00 | |
| <i>total</i> | <i>107,940.68</i> | |
| <i>Expenditure</i> | | |
| Employment costs | 33,162.44 | |
| Rent & Rates | 5,238.13 | |
| Admin/insurance/Professional fees | 7,112.44 | |
| Website, Publicity/Newsletter | 3,079.23 | |
| Councillor's and Chairman's expenses | 322.59 | |
| Green Space/bus shelters etc Maintenance | 19,928.98 | |
| Equipment new / maintenance | 1,035.00 | |
| Christmas lights and shop window comp | 8,730.00 | |
| Sustainability | 361.61 | |
| S137 Donations & Grants | 7,789.84 | |
| Street furniture provision and replacement | 8,782.87 | |
| Relocation & additional o/head office | 563.99 | |
| Replacement SPID | 4,752.00 | |
| Grants for LL200 celebrations June 2016 | 8,382.00 | |
| Grant towards Richmond Park Fun Day 2016 | 1,170.00 | |
| Neighbourhood Planning (grant funded) | 9,569.25 | |
| Drainage Consultant's report | 2,550.00 | |
| VAT | 8,785.57 | |
| <i>total</i> | <i>131,315.94</i> | |
| Closing Balance | | 80616,47 |