

# LoPRA Annual General Meeting

**Thursday 22 September 2005**

1. Apologies: Gillian Jones – current Chairperson  
John Finnigan – current committee member  
Nita Dewar – LoPRA member  
Robert Cater – LoPRA member  
Peter Scott-Smith – LoPRA member  
Stewart Robertshaw - LoPRA member  
Rosemary Johnson - LoPRA member  
Robert Smith - LoPRA member  
Sheila Goodall – LoPRA member  
Jo Connelly – LoPRA member  
Fiona Thompson – Parish Councillor
  
2. Preliminary thanks to committee and members, specifically:
  - Gillian Jones and Andrew Walkden for their hard work and commitment as officers, whether arranging meetings with officials or maintaining membership and accounts
  - Sam Glossop for stepping in as minutes secretary whenever able after losing our previous secretary Beverley Wrigley to foreign climes
  - Gavin Dewar for his unrelenting commitment in acting as LoPRA's webmaster, photographer and technician
  - John Rodgers and his A65 sub-committee for their vital and ongoing work on A65 issues
  - All our general committee members for their hard work and support be it ensuring that we are keeping tabs on developers, attending meetings and conferences, delivering leaflets or making valuable contributions to the newsletter
  - Peter Scott-Smith for his contributory work on the Housing Needs Survey critique and initiating the LoPRA website
  - All our members for their fantastic support be it attending meetings, delivering leaflets, sending in objections, keeping an eye on developments in the village or donning rubber gloves for our 'Village clear up, clean and tidy day'.
  - To all those beyond our association - including Parish Councillors, District Councillors, David Curry, CPRE, NYCC and YDNP officials – who have attended our meetings, many of whom have offered invaluable support to date

3. Annual report:

Since the formation of LoPRA in August 2004 we have seen the LoPRA committee, its members and the A65 sub-committee undertake a vast amount of work networking with official bodies, be it through lobbying letters, meetings, conferences or telephone calls, which have directly or indirectly led to a number of outcomes. Furthermore the committee have produced newsletters for members and the addition of a detailed LoPRA website. In brief LoPRA have specifically undertaken or seen the following over the last 12 months:

1. LoPRA lobbied against the Housing Needs Survey undertaken by Foundation Housing, after hearing of the housing enablers proposed meeting with developer Northern Heritage and reading the HNS report which stated that Long Preston required fifty new houses, which would have to be built on Greenfield sites. In addition Peter Scott-Smith undertook a critique of the survey's methodology and the Parish Council also rejected the survey. In early 2005 the housing enabler left Foundation Housing and Foundation Housing withdrew from their position as housing enablers. A new housing survey has since been conducted across Craven, the results of which we expect to see in October.
2. Results of the Public Inquiry into the Draft Local Plan saw acceptance of the Inspector's report in April 2005 recommending that the current Village Boundary is maintained and that any future new developments are restricted to local occupancy/affordable housing conditions on exception sites (i.e. no open market housing).
3. Continuous badgering of Northern Heritage eventually saw them remove the unsightly compound and rubble behind Hartley Green, rebuild the drystone walls and reseed the area. It also saw the introduction of a 5mph speed limit at the entrance to the British Fuels Site and agreement to give reasonable future notice to residents after cutting off access near British Fuels without due notice.
4. December 2004 saw the completion of the Village Plan and copies are available on loan from the Post Office. LoPRA have agreed to work with the Parish Council where appropriate on the Plan, especially with regards to the A65.
5. By January we had set up an A65 sub-committee chaired by John Rodgers who will now give a brief report for the year.
6. Meetings have included visits from:
  - our MP David Curry (Development and A65 issues)
  - Chief Executive of YDNP David Butterworth and Head of Planning YDNP Peter Watson (development and enforcement issues in the YDNP)
  - Deputy Chair of Planning Committee YDNP Wilf Fenten (planning issues)
  - Chair of CPRE (Craven Branch) Hilary Fenten and Secretary of CPRE (CB) David Joy (development, village boundary and

- conservation issues), which has subsequently led to a LoPRA committee member joining the CPRE committee
- Chief Executive of CDC Gill Dixon and then Director of Planning and Environmental Services CDC Duncan Hartley (HNS and affordable housing)
  - Cllr. David Heather as representative of NYCC Transport Area Committee (A65 issues)
  - Cllr. Helen Firth CDC (as our local District Cllr has attended both public and committee meetings)
7. Lobbying of the proposals at Gallaber to ensure operations are viable, environmentally sound and to address concerns that this area could become a line of corridor development between Long Preston and Hellifield. Gallaber proposals now have approval under a delegated authority subject to the submission of a satisfactory environmental plan.
  8. Continuous lobbying re Townhead, where there have been a number of applications for retrospective planning permission on a listed building, trees have been cut down and walls built. This is a current issue and is being looked at by the YDNP Planning Committee at present.
  9. The 'Village Clear Up, Clean and Tidy Day' in July which saw the LoPRA committee and members collecting a dozen bin bags of rubbish from pavements and the roadside.
  10. Our attendance at CDC's 'Shaping Places and Spaces' conference in June, which has allowed us to be involved with the consultation process for the Local Development Framework. We have submitted a form asking to continue our involvement and will be looking to comment on the Draft Statement of Community Involvement prior to the October 17<sup>th</sup> deadline.
  11. Our continued contact with the YDNP has led us to be invited by David Butterworth to take part in the National Park Authority Assessment (NPAP) as a stakeholder, alongside other groups including the Yorkshire Dales Society, RSPB and Yorkshire Wildlife trust. The meeting will allow us to highlight strengths and weaknesses regarding the National Park Authority.
  12. The LoPRA website went live last December and its continuous development allows for public, committee and members areas with up-to-date information, dates of meetings, a record of minutes, letters, relevant news items, back issues of our newsletter and the chance for people to send in letters and comments on village issues.

In summary much has already been done. However, with the A65 Public Inquiry looming and the adoption of the new Local Development Framework Plan next year - which will once again open up the possibilities of boundary changes and different regulations on new developments - we need to remain a strong force to be reckoned with, which means maintaining a good membership to ensure we are able to fight on behalf of a healthy proportion of the village. (Restate aim and objectives of constitution)

4. Treasurers Financial Statement – Andrew Walkden
5. Election of officers and general committee members:

Nominations: Robert Cater

Gavin Dewar  
John Finnigan  
Keith Grimshaw  
Gillian Jones  
John Mathew  
John Rodgers  
Heather Thomas-Smith  
Andrew Walkden

We have not received any further nominations so as we have the correct number there is no need to vote at this time. However, I have spoken to some members who may be interested in joining the committee at a later date as co-opted members for which we have two positions. If you are interested then please could you either leave your names with us at the end or contact us by telephone at a later date.

(Thank and mention Gill's retirement from chair and Sam's retirement from committee)

The following nominees have offered to take up the officers' positions:

Chairperson: Heather Thomas-Smith  
Vice-chairperson: John Mathew  
Treasurer: Andrew Walkden

General Secretary: On rota basis by general committee. If at six months nobody has taken the position up in full Heather Thomas-Smith has offered to take on the role of general secretary whilst handing over the chairperson's role. Keith Grimshaw has offered to accept the chairperson's role until the next AGM if this is the case.

Parish Council member: Malcolm Beresford (this position stands with Malcolm until next PC election or if PC decide otherwise)

6. Election of Auditor – Propose Chris Wilcock
7. Consideration of items – none submitted
8. Amendments to constitution –see item 7.0 of 12/05/05 minutes –  
VOTE
9. Subscriptions – Andrew Walkden
10. AOB – please could we bring this forward to General Meeting
11. General Meeting - see separate agenda on page 5

**LoPRA General Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday 22 September 2005**

1. A65, The Public Inquiry and Statement of Case– John Rodgers
2. Traffic Count - Gavin Dewar
3. YDNP Assessment
4. Planning Issues – Town Head, Hoyle Hill...
5. AOB