

Dog POO-STER Competition

Despite their placement of dog bins and blue disposal bags around the village, Long Preston Parish Council (LPPC) have advised that they are still being heavily lobbied by disgruntled residents about a few errant dog owners who are still allowing their dogs to leave their mark on our byways and highways or, worse, half doing the job and leaving their blue bags in walls, etc! They sought LoPRA's support and ideas on how the issue might be further addressed.

Recognising communication, along with shaming miscreant owners, was the best way to improve the situation, LoPRA sponsored a competition for all the pupils at

our School to come up with poster ideas which get the message across. This was warmly supported by the Headmaster, Eric Gledhill, and proved very timely as the older pupils, coincidentally, were undertaking a poster design segment in their classes! The competition was kicked off with the help of the area Dog Warden, Mary Vickers, who was able to advise the wider aspects of dog ownership to the pupils.

Pupils delivered 28 remarkable poster ideas, which gave the judges (delegates from LoPRA, LPPC, the local Art Class and Village Hall Committee) a difficult task picking out a Winner and 3 Runners Up.

In the event the Winner, Robert Capstick aged 6, received a £25 prize and a certificate along with the experience of having his poster put forward for reproduction in a number of ways for use around the village and in the press.

Certificates and £5 were also presented to Runners Up Molly Moon, Greg Thompson and Paddy Capstick.

The prize winners are seen here with Keith and Heather.

An extra commendation certificate was awarded by the judges to the Capstick family – The Golden Pooper Scooper Award (!) – for their further involvement, which, although beyond the brief, included an excellent poem on the subject ! (see opposite)



We trust the demonstrated acute awareness shown by the village children on the issue, should so embarrass the few wayward owners that their faces will become the same colour as the bins which they have hitherto studiously avoided using and that they will now endeavour to **'clear it up'!!**

Chatterbox - a poem

DOG POO!

When out in this beautiful place
Don't end up with egg on your face!

If your dog does a poo
What you really must do,
Is clean it up, or be in disgrace

Dog Poo makes an awful mess
Of that fact you must confess.
Clear up after you dog
Has been to the bog!
This is what you need to address.

Whatever you do
If your dog does a poo
Is bag it and bin it -
Don't leave it on the ground
In a neat little mound,
Or I'll get it on my shoe,
And you won't have a clue
That someone is watching you.

Now I'm going to have my say
I don't want it where I walk and play
It's very unpleasant
On the lane to school each day.

If you're the one to be found
Who's leaving poo around
It's you who'll get reported
Not your hound!

You'll be named and shamed
In the local 'rag'
It's far less embarrassing
To take a bag.

Remember this rhyme
Scoop up every time.
Follow this rule
And don't be a fool
POO CARRIES DISEASE,
SCOOP IT UP PLEASE.
You'd better tow the line
Or pay a £1000 fine!

By Robert and Paddy Capstick
(with help from mummy!)

Update on the A65



As you will recall there was a Public Inquiry about whether Long Preston (and Hellifield and Gargrave) should retain the lines of the bypasses that were proposed in 1992. The government wants us to lose the bypass lines so that it can transfer 'ownership' of the A65 to North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC). NYCC do not have the funds for a bypass and the A65 is not a strategic route for them as it cuts a corner through the county.

It was important that the lines of the bypass were retained and LoPRA and Long Preston Parish Council mounted a joint case to object to losing the lines. Craven DC, NYCC and some residents also went to the Public Inquiry to object in person.

We now await the results of that Inquiry. It is and has to be somewhat time-consuming as the independent Inspector leading the Inquiry and his Inspectorate must ensure that everything they have done is fair and accurate. It then goes to the civil servants at the Department for Transport and the Secretary of State for a final decision. How long this will take is not known but we have a new Secretary of State (Stephen Ladyman) following the recent Cabinet reshuffle which will probably

delay the outcome as he will have more pressing things to get to grips with first. It was hoped for a result around June or July but is quite possible that this will be delayed until the Autumn.

Importantly, it is not the end of the battle if we should win or lose this stage. If we win, we will still need to persuade the government to build the bypass but we would be in a stronger position than if we lose. If, however, we do lose, we will have the chance to fight on as we can object next to the government transferring the A65 to NYCC. This may well lead to another Public Inquiry.

As you will see we are in this for the long-term. Is it worth it? While villagers want a bypass and while there are enough volunteers who are prepared to give their time to fight for it, we believe it is worth it. However please remember the battle is not just LoPRA's or the Parish Council's – it is also the battle for the majority of you who want the bypass.

Most of us have now received a flyer from the Highways Agency about the work they want to do to improve the A65 road surface. This was to have been early summer, ie around now, but the time-scale has slipped to Autumn. The disruption will be bad – be warned. However although we may not notice much less noise, we have been told that vibration should be reduced although, on the downside, the bigger lorries that we are now getting may well rule out any obvious reduction in vibration!

A Strategic Vision. *Continued from page 1.*

The Core Strategy is the strategic vision of the area and is a central pillar of the Local Development Framework, comprising:

1. A vision
2. Strategic objectives
3. A spatial land use strategy
4. Core policies
5. A monitoring and implementation framework

The Core Strategy will determine overall patterns of future development within the area identifying broad locations where future growth or conservation will take place up to the year 2021. All other Development Plan Documents should be in broad conformity with the Core Strategy Document.

As a result of the initial consultation in June 2005, the Craven District Council identified a number of options on how the LDF could address the issues raised. These options are set out in the following Issues and Options Consultation Papers:

1. Vision, Strategic Objectives and Settlement Strategy
2. Housing Strategy and Distribution
3. Economic Strategy and Distribution
4. Environment and Design
5. Transport

As part of the Council's mandatory pre-submission consultation, the Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation papers have been issued for a statutory 6-week consultation period, which runs from **Monday 19th June - Monday 31st July 2006.**

The consultation papers can be viewed on the Craven District Council Website. Go to the following link to access them and the response papers directly:

www.cravenc.gov.uk/Craven/Residents/PlanningServices/PlanningPolicy/LDF/CoreStrategy/CoreStrategy.htm

If you wish to influence the strategy for economic development and planning in Craven you can make your comments on these documents. Comments on the Core Strategy Issues and Options papers should be sent to the Head of Planning and Building Control, using the response forms that are available on the website or at Council Offices, Granville Street, Skipton, BD23 1PS. Alternatively you can email comments, preferably using the above response forms to **ldf@cravenc.gov.uk** and preferably by the deadline.

WHAT ARE LoPRA DOING???

Each committee member of LoPRA has been tasked with assessing and evaluating one of the five documents. We will meet to moderate our response to represent LoPRA's view and prepare the response documents for submission. We will report on our assessment of the documents and our response in a later issue.

FINALLY

Plain English doesn't seem to come naturally to planners, and these documents are no exception. Either that, or the key elements of the core strategy are not yet in focus and somewhat blurred!! Assessing the document is exceedingly difficult and tedious. We thought that a core strategy document for public consultation should be easily understood and with a clear vision. It seems there is a long way to go!

LoPRA on show

The LoPRA stall at the Long Preston May Day Celebrations gave us the opportunity to present some of the work that has been undertaken over the last year, by the committee and members, for the benefit of the village. We were pleased to meet many LoPRA members and enjoyed some lengthy discussions on a variety of topics. We were also delighted to welcome some new members who joined at the stall.

As you know the committee and many members spent a total of over 100 hours monitoring the traffic through the village. A selection of the data was presented on the stall showing how the flows of different classes of vehicle varied through the day and how this increased from around 11,000 vehicles a day on Mondays to Thursdays, then rose from midday Friday to over 12,500 per day at weekends. The data was used as part of the joint representation with the Parish Council made to the Public Inquiry in February into the proposed revocation of the Bypass Orders for Long Preston and Hellifield. This joint presentation exemplified how LoPRA can complement the role of the Parish Council and assist it with added resources.

Also on display were a summary of the report of the recent Housing Needs Survey commissioned by Craven District Council, an outline of the findings of the Inspector's Report into the YDNP Local Plan showing the confirmed building boundary and, on a lighter note, some information about the TRAMPS film shows which we plan to put on in the Village Hall. LoPRA was also pleased to give Heather Thomas-Smith space to display the route of her solo trek across Scotland and help her gain sponsors to raise money for gym equipment for the school.

The LoPRA raffle was well supported; the first prize being a Family Ticket to a LoPRA/TRAMPS film, with a variety of other prizes including bottles of wine, jigsaws and children's toys; thank you to those who donated the prizes. Ticket sales totalled £53 pounds, which is being donated equally to the May Day Committee, the Playing Fields Association Fund and the Village Hall Fund. The first number drawn was for John Cressey, who opted for a bottle of wine, leaving the Family Ticket to be won by the Ritchie family. Other winners were Taylor, McBride, Birrell, Coates, Bennett, Harker, Sellers and Rishton.



Village



'Clear Up, Clean and Tidy' day

A village clear up day is being held on **Saturday 9th September** and we need volunteers – **EVERYONE WELCOME!**

Free refreshments will be provided for all those who muck in.
If you wish to help please meet at the **Village hall at 10am** to be allocated an area and relevant equipment.

The Long Preston school and Parish Council will each be involved with providing litter-collecting equipment and LoPRA volunteers will be providing refreshments on the day.

However, as well as your time, donations of [bin bags and gloves] and [cakes or biscuits] are all welcome.

As this is a voluntary event please let common sense prevail and please note that all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and that no responsibility will be taken for any personal injury or other physical damage.

For any enquiries contact heather@lopra.org.uk

Campaign to Protect Rural England - Update

CPRE HQ has been very busy recently and their regular electronic reports to our CPRE committee member are very useful and often cover issues that relate directly to our own rural community.

Recently they:

1. Launched a report showing how to keep local food networks alive
2. Published research revealing the real impact of new roads on landscape, the environment and communities, which demonstrated roads don't always deliver their promised benefits
3. Helped to launch a new, multi-organisation campaign calling on the Government to rethink its aviation policy
4. Rose to the defence of the planning system with a factual account of housing in this country
5. Responded to the panel report for the draft East of England Plan
6. Raised concerns about Kate Barker's review of the planning system

On a more local basis CPRE Craven Branch recently set up a planning sub-group which will look at local issues in the district, especially regarding the LDF, in greater detail. For more news see the CPRE website: www.cpre.org.uk.

Planning Applications and Issues Arising

If a planning application arises in Long Preston that affects you, or that you wish to take further, please contact the Parish Council in the first instance. They not only have special planning meetings in addition to their monthly PC meetings to deal with applications for our Parish but they are also there to help you as a Parishioner. Obviously LoPRA are also willing to help if necessary, particularly on issues where planning regulations are flaunted or applications for large developments are submitted, but it is vital that you do speak to the Parish Council first other-

wise issues may become muddled and important deadlines may even be missed. If you are not sure when the next Parish Council Planning meeting is contact the clerk, Alison Fawcett, on 825147.

As we will not be having another Public Meeting before the AGM due to school holidays (and lack of a result from the A65 Public Inquiry) please could you direct any enquiries or concerns you have to a committee member and they will do their best to assist you.

Tree Preservation Orders in the Village

Having had to look at the guidance notes on this subject, which are on the Yorkshire Dales National Park's website, the following aspects have been summarised for members.

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) is legally responsible for protecting trees in the National Park. In conservation areas in the Park – such as Long Preston north of the railway line – trees have automatically a degree of protection.

In the village this protection means that anyone intending to carry out any work whatsoever on a tree – defined as having a trunk more than 75mm (3 ins) in diameter at a point 1.5m (approximately 5 ft) above ground level – has to give the YDNPA six weeks prior notice. This then allows time for the YDNPA to decide whether it should place a full Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the tree. 'Work' covers such things as 'cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or destroy etc'. There is an exception to the six weeks notice for 'dead, dying or dangerous' trees (the DDD Rule), when only five days advance notice has to be given. Even then evidence has to be provided that the tree is D, D or D.

If after notification the YDNPA does make a full TPO then, before the intended works can be carried out, the YDNPA has to give permission. There is advice on how to apply for permission on the YDNPA website and it should be noted that the YDNPA may require the applicant to get a report prepared at their own expense by an arboricultural consultant.

Finally, in approving a planning application for any building or construction works, the YDNPA may apply conditions to protect trees in the near vicinity from constructional hazards, such as 'cutting of roots during excavation, soil compaction by vehicles, raising or lowering the level of the soil, fires etc'.

The YDNPA's full website may be seen at:
www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/index/living/trees_and_woodlands_advice/protected_trees.htm

Further general information can also be seen at:
www.english-heritage.org.

A65 Resurfacing

Amey Mouchel, the contractors for the Highways Agency, are currently carrying out a rolling programme of repair on the A65 Trunk road. This includes a survey of all drains along the route of the A65, with special reference to areas prone to flooding. Throughout

the village of Long Preston, they are physically and visually checking all the drains for signs of damage and excessive wear and tear. Any drains found to be collapsed or in a state of near collapse will obviously have to be replaced before the road resurfacing programme

Any questions regarding the A65 can be put to representatives of both Amey Mouchel and the Highways Agency at an open meeting, hosted by Long Preston Parish Council, to be held on Wednesday 26 July 2006 in the Village Hall at 7 pm.

Training given by YDNP to help look after Listed Buildings

The Yorkshire Dales National Park held a 2-day training course this spring to help people with historic and listed buildings. The idea was to give advice and explanation.

Most listed buildings (94%) are Grade 2 which means they are pre 1700 and in something like their original condition.

There are some strict rules about what you can do. Things of **no interest** inside the buildings do not need permission for you to change them (although it is always advisable to ensure you have covered any areas you wish to change with your planning authority). However, outside you do need consent e.g. to replace the windows. Remember the saga of the windows at The Boars Head!!

Penalties for failing to work within the law can be as high as £20,000 or 6 months in jail from the Magistrates, extending to unlimited fines and 2 years in jail at the Crown Court. Even more worrying is your liability for the work undertaken by the previous owner!! So, it is **always** a good idea to get a report about planning conformity if you are going to buy a listed building.

The 2-day course, held in Grassington over a weekend, gave some good advice about the effects of dampness coupled with mould growth and beetles. How many of us with old buildings check whether beetles are coming out of the roof timbers? Do we check the roof insulation and if we find dampness how do we keep it under control? Did you know that sheep's wool insulation allows water to evaporate and rock wool doesn't? Looking after the drains and gutters will help to keep the dampness under control.

Finally, do your insurers know about these potential problems? Do they know what you have done about them? If not then now is the time to tell them.

The course is likely to be repeated by the National Park and, as free of charge with lunch thrown in, they are well worth going to see what you can learn about the places you live in.

For further information check out the YDNP website:
www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

Long Preston's Open Gardens

Long Preston's Open Garden weekend in June was a great success (despite strong winds in the previous week) and we would very much like to thank both the organisers and those who opened their gardens for all to see. Most importantly such an event gives us the chance to see what a truly beautiful village Long Preston is as we take the time to wander through its back roads

and little alleys to find tiny secret gardens or expansive areas of quiet majesty that delight the senses in every manner, from gorgeous eye catching peonies to tasty local gooseberries! And to see this side of Long Preston is to realise what a special place it is we have and that it is one that should be nurtured and protected for now and those generations to come.

Green Lanes and Motor Vehicles

The term 'Green Lane' is of no legal significance, but serves to help classify all manner of bridleways, tracks, unclassified paths, and footpaths that have no sealed (e.g. tarmac) surface. Until recently highway law meant that if a horse and cart had had a legal right of passage along a particular green lane centuries ago then that right could now be applied to cover quad bikes, trail bikes, 4x4s, and the like, today.

In March 2006 the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act came into being and, from Summer 2006, this removes 'automatic' rights of way for motor vehicles over green lanes. The Act states that any green lane that is not already classified as a Bridleway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) may not be assumed to be open to motor traffic. Specifically, it will become illegal to ride any motor vehicle on a green lane classified as a bridle-

way or footpath on the definitive list of a local highways authority's legal record of public rights of way. Up-to-date Ordnance Survey maps are the most readily available source of this information, although local Highways Agencies (ours is North Yorkshire County Council - 01609 780780) may also be consulted directly.

The NERC Act has been useful in stemming the reckless use of green lanes by motor vehicles for 'recreational' purposes, but it is worth pointing out that even before NERC came into effect, it has been an offence to use a motor vehicle on moor land (without the land owner's specific permission). The penalty is a fine of up to £1000, immediate seizure of the offending vehicle and, in the most serious cases of damage to the surrounding landscape or wildlife, a further penalty fine of up to £20,000.

Light Pollution and the Night Sky

As another HGV thunders through the village, sucking in dales air and coughing out exhaust fumes, the menace of noise and particulates pollution is all too apparent. Talk of light as a pollutant, though, seems less emotive. What is the risk? Who loses out?

In 2003 the BBC reported that less than half of the UK population will ever see the Milky Way (the galaxy to which we belong) in the night sky. A resident of Long Preston can count themselves in the lucky minority, then, as all you have to do, currently, is look upwards on a dark cloudless night. Weather permitting (!) the Milky Way, Mars, Venus, Mercury, etc. are all visible with the naked eye, as are the many meteor showers throughout the year, passing satellites and the more frequently cited constellations. In towns and cities, where sodium street lights spill their glow upwards and countless tungsten security lights illuminate back gardens, the star gazer is

left with just a handful of stars and, on most nights, a moon to satisfy their curiosity. Certainly, light pollution may not cause Emphysema or structural damage to property, but the sense of wonder and awe in a young (or indeed old) mind as it considers its place among the stars is surely worth preserving.

According to the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England, there are measures we can all take to reduce light pollution. Firstly, we can lobby the Highways Agency to set a target date for the conversion of all streetlights to low light pollution 'full cut-off' lights. We can also angle our own outdoor lights down, fit hoods and shields to minimise light spill and use lights no more powerful than 150 Watts (in line with the Institute of Lighting Engineers recommendation). These measures will not only cut down on light pollution, but also improve the efficacy of the lights in the purpose they serve.

Taking on the TGO Challenge 2006

As most of you will be aware the end of May saw Heather Thomas-Smith's return after successfully completing the TGO (The Great Outdoors magazine) backpacking challenge across Scotland.

Although a 'personal challenge' Heather managed to raise **£1195** (plus over £300 in Gift Aid) through sponsorship towards buying much needed Gymnastic equip-

ment for Long Preston Primary School.

Heather would like to give a big thank you to those who sponsored her. More pictures may now be viewed via a link on LoPRA's website www.lopra.org.uk. (and at some point there might yet be a diary, although it is still in the notebook to date!!!)

Town Head Building Development – Update

The Yorkshire Dales National Park's Enforcement Notice requiring the developers to remove the mortared stone boundary wall between the barn conversion and Town Head Farm was upheld by The Planning Inspectorate following support for the YDNP stance from both LoPRA and west end residents. The of-

fending wall was duly knocked down within the timescale prescribed by The Planning Directorate and, at the time of writing, is being rebuilt seemingly in a dry stone configuration more akin to other site walls. Work has also restarted to the Grade II listed Town Head Farm itself for which the YDNP

have already decreed some specific refurbishment requirements (and internal correction of past errant works by the developer). LoPRA will maintain contact with YDNP to ensure that they have indeed policed their earlier ministrations.

LoPRA Membership and items for the AGM

May we remind members that their membership of LoPRA runs out at the end of September.

Your committee is considering offering Family/Household Membership, but this will need to be approved at the AGM.

The Agenda for the AGM will be published early in September, so please let the Secretary have the details of any matters you wish to put forward for consideration by the end of August.

Farewell

Sadly it is time to say farewell to one of our highly dedicated committee members, John Finnigan. John has worked with us tirelessly over the last year, whether it be keeping a strict eye on developments at the West End, attending YDNP Planning Meetings as a LoPRA representative or rallying the school pupils into joining in for the recent 'dog poo-ster' competition. We would all like to give him our warmest thanks and wish both John and his family a happy move from Long Preston, where they have lived for some 27 happy years!

Join the LoPRA Committee

We now have one 'elected' vacancy available, with John leaving for slightly eastern climes, as well as two potential vacancies available through co-option. Anyone who would be interested in taking an active part in working within the LoPRA committee – whether they have a keen interest in conservation and planning, wish to support the Parish Council in undertaking the Long Preston Village Plan or have a general desire to make the village a better place – should contact the General Secretary [see below]* in writing with their nomination/s no later than the **7th September 2006**. It is possible to co-opt on a new committee member before the AGM if the present committee deems this necessary so early nominations are advised. Please note that to become a committee member it is also a requirement that applicants are LoPRA members and that they are happy to work on behalf of LoPRA within the constitution guidelines.

*** Committee Nomination, General Secretary, LoPRA,
Croft Close House, School Lane, Long Preston**

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