

Satterthwaite Parish Council

August 2008

Dear Householder

I am writing on behalf of Satterthwaite Parish Council. At the July Council meeting the members voted in favour of making an approach to our second home owners in the Parish.

Why?

Well, there is no single overriding reason, but rather a number of small ones - some of which are easy to understand and address, others less so. So we ask you to take a moment to light a fire, make yourself a coffee and read this letter.

The Parish Council feels part of its role is to represent the parishioners in local issues, to help manage their views, progress their complaints, with "them": ie, the local council, the National Park, the Forestry Commission, or whoever happens to be the target this week. Councillors represent the local community on local issues, attend any number of ancillary meetings, seminars, presentations, to keep ourselves informed, abreast, and in the swim. This is not at all an easy task, even for a small community like ours, and remember the council is in essence a group of unpaid volunteers.

In a broad sense the Council are asked to represent the mood, the style, the feel of this community and of course we are asked to take decisions in planning etc which reflect that community. Not easy in this day and age and made more difficult when, statistically, some 40% of homes in Satterthwaite are not permanently inhabited. This means that our permanent community is getting smaller, and by definition less rich, socially speaking. It also means the PC has even less contact with its community and decisions/issues increasingly affect those that are not always here.

How do we change that? We would like to feel that our second home owners might want to be a bigger part of that community somehow. We would like a communication channel. We would like to know who you are and what you think.

There are lots of small practical issues that arise over any period of time that the Satterthwaite community would like to debate, address or just plain commiserate with our "extended residents": such as parking, rubbish collection, litter, dog control, fireworks, emergency contacts. Then there are broader issues like your interest in the community and what you can or may want to do to help maintain some of the village "infrastructure"

such as the church, playground, first responders, WI and so on. The things that keep the village running when you're not here and make it such a pleasant place to be when you are. Such help may be financial and/or physical.

Also, but just as importantly, is what skills and/or time might you have that could help the parish activity groups or individuals. We may have owners who would be happy to give talks to bodies such as the WI or who could help local projects through their own experience and expertise.

Where do we see this going?

Maybe the starting point is a register of second home owners and their contacts. This way we can then start a dialogue over what support can be given by the village(ers) and help to resolve problems as they crop up – the good neighbour factor. In the future perhaps a skills register that would allow local people and groups to benefit from your expertise could be set up and then maybe a councillor could be appointed to relate specifically to second home owners and a forum established so that your views could be sought on local issues.

Please help us to take these thoughts forward by filling in the enclosed slip and returning to the Parish Clerk by the end of August.

Many thanks for your co-operation

Paul Townsend

On behalf of
Satterthwaite Parish Council

Would you like to be more involved in Parish. life?

Would you be happy to have your details entered on a register held by the parish clerk?
(All provisions of the Data Protection Act will be respected)

Would you participate/financially support more if you had better knowledge of local events and organisations.

Do you already receive and see regularly the Parish Newsletter and details of Church services and local events? (Either delivered or online at www.satterthwaitepc.org.uk)

Would you like a better dialogue with the PC.

Could you see yourself offering your skills/knowledge to the Parish in certain situations?

Please add your own comments here.

Name and Address

Return To: Satterthwaite Parish Clerk, Esthwaite Cottage Hawkshead LA22 0QF