

# New way forward for Keswick



This year, Keswick Town Council welcomed Dr Louise Dunn as their Mayor, who has brought a breath of fresh air to the role. You will often see her at events not in her formal chair, but with her t-shirt saying “Hi, it’s me, I’m the Mayor, it’s me” (please no copyright strikes from Taylor Swift!), speaking at events and raising awareness of issues that residents face in a busy tourist town where so many commercial events happen.

One of the new initiatives which the Council is wholeheartedly supporting is discussions over setting up a Community Partnership in Keswick. There are a number of community partnerships in the North East, in towns such as Prudhoe and Hexham, and we feel that it is something that can work well in Keswick. What we have found, and is the same in many places, is that community groups can work in silos, with the work often overlapping with each other. The aim of a Community Partnership is to bring together voluntary and statutory organisations of all sectors to further common good. This allows for better community, awareness and development, and a Community Partnership can cover some of the gaps of what the town needs.

A report was brought to the Town Council in June by Churches Together in Keswick and Keswick Rotary Club, and soon after was an open meeting with invitations to all known local groups in Keswick. 38 representatives attended an initial meeting to speak about what can be done, and the first steps agreed was to build a directory of all the groups in Keswick, to ensure that everyone actually knows what goes on in a vibrant town like Keswick.

This fits in very well with the priorities that the Town Council have been working on, as working with the community to represent the residents came out as the highest concern at a recent planning session held by Councillors to set the priorities for the next five years, along side the need to lobby for a new swimming pool in Keswick. This will help us focus our energies more where they need to be focused, and to try and make a real impact on behalf of residents.

Vivien Little  
Clerk, Keswick Town Council