

Parish Profile: Staveley with Ings



The Villages of Staveley and Ings are nestled at the foot of the Kentmere Valley and bisected by the rivers Kent and Gowan. They are the first Villages you encounter as you enter the Lake District from the South East. Our Parish area has approximately 850 homes and 1700 residents.

Staveley was traditionally an industrial Village famous for its Bobbin mills. Although no bobbins are turned any more the industrious nature of the area continues with Staveley and Ings being a hub for business. The old mills and even one of the former pubs have been converted to business units for retail, manufacturing, catering and, increasing digital focused companies. The Mill yard in Staveley alone employs over 400 people among its various businesses. For this reason Staveley and Ings residents often are proud to state that theirs is a 'working' village and less dependent on tourism than other Lake District Villages

We are lucky to have a post office, shop, butchers, fuel stations, active Village halls, cafes, a recreation ground, playgrounds and even an active train station. With its good transport links Staveley has become quite desirable for working families to live in. The success of the Village has caused some knock on effects of high house prices, lack of parking and unfortunately localised sewerage overflows.



The Parish Council is a common Council made up of 3 wards. Over Staveley, Hugill and Nether Staveley combined in 2004 to form the current joint Council. We still have separate elections for each ward. We have up to 12 Councillors depending on vacancies.

The Council has recently completed its Community plan. This time we did it differently. A proper bottom up approach. We spent a lot of time and a little bit of money finding what people valued about our area. We held several in person events with free food provided to gather people's opinions. We consulted with every household in the Parish either by survey or in person. We formed several focus groups to shape these views into a plan. All together our Community plan working group had about 40 people putting everything together. The Community plan group is a strong and active group and meets regularly and works on the actions on the plan. Interestingly the Parish Council is only a partner in the plan rather than the sole lead as it was with previous Parish plans. This stepping back has allowed other Community groups to flourish and take the lead on different aspects of the plan. All in all we feel we have brought the Community together more both by making the plan in the way we did and also involving everyone from the Community in the ongoing actioning of the plan.

So far everything has worked well. We have had success in several of the plan's actions. We have developed a formerly derelict area in the centre of Staveley to a beautiful sitting and community space area, also a public disabled accessible viewpoint area over the weir. All on a tight budget (our precept is just over £15,000). We have also bought extra land and successfully developed mini allotments on this. We used much of our reserves to buy this land but they have been wildly popular and the rents now are paying off the purchase cost and are set to be an ongoing asset to the Parish. Overall Staveley with Ings has a great Community with a busy and active Parish Council. Although tough decisions are sometimes asked of them, the Councillors all get on well and are great contributors to the wider Community.

