

Monday 11th May 2026

Carham PC Annual summary of the last year (Since April 2025)

- The members of the council have been very active as usual this year and have each taken some load in the work of the Council. My thanks to all who have given unstintingly of their time and energy.
- This year our elected county councillor, Mark Mather, has been appointed as the strategic lead for Highways. He has brought a real energy and vision to this important post and we are beginning to reap some of the benefits here in Carham Parish. After much consultation and tortuous negotiations with Scottish Borders Council we at last have a bus that runs through the Parish joining Carham and Wark to Kelso, Wooler and Cornhill, and thence to other destinations. We are very grateful to him.
- Mark has also got underway the much needed resurfacing of the B6350 between Carham and Cornhill. This will be completed this year.
- We were all saddened by the death of our previous clerk Agnes Changleng who had worked tirelessly for the residents of the Parish for many years. She will be greatly missed as our clerk and as a friend to the community. It was a privilege to know her.
- This year has also seen Isabel Hunter take up her role as our new clerk. She brings with her great experience as a clerk to a number of other parish Councils, is an elected County Councillor for West Berwick and Ord and is heavily involved in Berwick Town council.
- All councillors were re-elected unopposed in the local elections in 2025.
- This year has seen the formation of Wark on Tweed Charity, which seeks to benefit the wider community as well as the residents of Wark. There are a number of areas of overlap that the parish Council will have with the new Charity and careful co-ordination will be needed in the future.
- The council continues to operate Wark Play park on behalf of residents and visitors and Councillor Macgregor has spent a good deal of time ensuring the facilities are safe and the area clean and tidy.
- The Government has decreed that Parish councillors can no longer use their own personal email addresses for parish Council work and must use “.gov.uk “ addresses. This will cost the council more than £300 a year and is the main reason why the Parish Council precept has had to be raised from £2,500 to £3,000. The council precept had been kept at the same level for five years.
- The council has scrutinised all planning applications for the Parish area and has made comments wherever necessary. A large number of these responses have been drafted out by Cllr Poland for ratification by the whole council. We are very grateful to her
- Although the Carham Defibrillator project is not the responsibility of the Parish Council, the Parish Council take an active interest in it and have made a donation to its funds. There are now 8 defibrillators in operation in the Parish with more in the pipeline.
- All the policies, standing orders and codes of conduct have been reviewed and authorised the Parish Council.
- As mentioned above Cllr Chubb continues to organise walks around Carham footpaths and is assiduous in bringing any problems to the notice of the county council. Our thanks to her for this.
- The ground work has now been completed on the land by the side of the telephone Box in Wark. Wark on Tweed Charity have made a significant financial contribution to this work and will oversee the maintenance of the area.
- Cllr Poland has continued to produce two newsletters per year on behalf of the council which are distributed to all residents. Cllr Poland also keeps the parish website up to date. For both of these we are extremely grateful.
- The council has continued to remind NCC about the dangers of heavy vehicles moving through Wark and Carham at speed. The speed sign at Wark had been defective for some months but has now been repaired.
- After 10 years on the Parish Council, Councillor Poland has resigned. We are very grateful to her for all that she has done in this time and she will be greatly missed. Her attention to detail and asking awkward but important questions were her speciality. She will still take charge of the community website and lead on Carham Defibrillators, for which we are grateful.

- And lastly I also publicly announce my retirement as Chairman and from the council after 10 years also. A new chair will be elected shortly. It has been a privilege to serve the residents in this way and I have enjoyed getting involved in the wider community. My deep thanks are to the rest of the council for their support and encouragement over the last 10 years. I wish them well for the future.

Patrick Feerick

Chairman, Carham Parish Council

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