BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
ISSUE No 18 OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2013

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Mr D B Clark	015395-63341	Dr B C Meakin	015395-65722		
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First of all it is necessary to clarify what was reported in the September Newsletter on the subject of Burntbarrow Woods. Dallam Estates has since protested that this brief reference was incomplete and misleading and has asked that the record be set straight by publishing the facts. The facts are:

- In December 2007, CCC received formal application to add to its Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way a network of unofficial tracks through Burntbarrow Woods.
- This was followed by an extensive consultation, which involved the parish council, district council, user groups and affected landowners.
- On the basis of all the available evidence, CCC's Development Control and Regulation. Committee decided, on 5 June 2013, that this evidence passed the test of being 'reasonably alleged to subsist' and that an order should be made under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- On 28 June 2013, CCC issued a Definitive Map Modification Order giving these tracks Public Right of Way status.
- The CCC order was to be confirmed by CCC (and become effective as from 1 June 2013) **unless objections were received by 15 August 2013.**
- On 23 July 2013, Dallam Estates, as landowner, lodged formal objection to the Order. The matter has now been passed to the Secretary of State for a final decision. This could take several months and may involve a public hearing.
- Until the Order is confirmed, the status of the woods remains unchanged.

As soon as the Secretary of State's decision is forthcoming on whether the CCC Order is to be confirmed or revoked, it will be reported here.

The subject of street-lamps has featured prominently in previous Newsletters. Since September, BT has yielded to pressure and decided to cancel its earlier change of policy. It will now continue to allow local authority lamps to be mounted on its poles, as it did in the past. Whilst this is very welcome news, it actually affects very few Beetham Parish Council lamps. A large majority of the lamps are actually sited on poles owned by Electricity North West and this company is resisting every effort to persuade it to follow BT's lead or to offer meaningful financial compensation. ENW recently gave the requisite six-months notice of the first batch of poles in the parish that it intended to remove or replace for safety reasons. Three of these poles carried Beetham Parish Council lamps. Fortunately for us, ENW's contractor made the mistake of jumping the gun and replaced these poles immediately, long before the notice period had run its course - and also reinstated BPC's lamps! Although ENW have decided to leave the situation as it now is with these particular poles, they are unlikely to make the same mistake twice and we wait to find out which poles they will next decide to renew. In the meantime, robust efforts continue to try to persuade ENW to rethink its new policy.

As reported earlier, the parish council has now agreed a definitive list of (mainly grassed) areas in the parish for which it is prepared to take maintenance responsibility. This list comprises all areas already maintained by the Parish Steward plus a number of new ones. All these areas have now been plotted on a parish map. The list and the map will be published shortly. Where a resident would like work to be done on an area not on the list, and if the parish council agrees, then the Parish Steward may be asked to undertake this work at a nominal charge to the resident concerned.

JRS 17/12/13