

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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The public inquiry into a possible change of status for certain paths through Burntbarrow Woods duly opened on 3rd September, only to be adjourned by the Inspector after preliminary statements had been heard. The adjournment is to allow more time for supporters of Right of Way status to prepare their case. The inquiry is due to resume in March 2015. The similar case of paths near Hale Marble Quarry seems also likely to result in a public inquiry in 2015, now that objections from the landowner have been lodged.

The project for improvements to a small plot of land opposite the former Flippin' Fluke restaurant (henceforth to be referred to by its earlier name of 'Dixies') and to the A6 layby beside the A6 bridge at Beetham are moving forward. Landscaping at the Dixies site will improve its appearance and carefully positioned hand-picked limestone rocks, donated by Sandside Quarry, will prevent its use for car-parking. The objective for the A6 layby is slightly different – to preserve and protect existing landscaping by restricting car-parking to the paved areas, again by the use of strategically placed limestone rocks. Both sets of rocks will be put in place during September. Elsewhere, and after many years of effort, the Hale interpretation panel is now finally in place on Hale Green.

After a time lapse of several months the issue of streetlamps has now returned. SLDC has agreed that two of its lamps in Stanley Street, Beetham, sited on poles due to be removed by Electricity North West (ENW), will be replaced with new, freestanding lamps. A third Stanley Street lamp, owned by the Parish Council, presents difficult siting problems but it is hoped that a solution can be found to enable the present area of lighting coverage to be maintained. A new, replacement streetlamp at Four Lane Ends, Storth, has been approved for installation by SLDC.

Recent road resurfacing by Cumbria County Council Highways, on the B5282 and the B6384, has been generally well-received, and subsequent white-lining through Whasset has noticeably helped reduce traffic speeds. The Parish Council, although not directly involved, is trying to help resolve a complex situation regarding traffic on Mill Lane, Beetham, where an increase in the number of vehicles using the lane is of concern to local residents and other pedestrians.

The Parish Council has recently been presented with the most significant and controversial planning issue of recent years, with the application by Fishwicks Funeral Services to construct a public crematorium on its present site at Beetham Hall. As you will surely be aware, public meetings have been held to consider this proposal. It is clear that local feeling is strong and predominantly against such development. As with all planning applications in the parish, the Parish Council has been invited to comment but otherwise has no part to play in the decision-making process. SLDC will make the decision. A number of issues are involved here and there are many different points of view. Nonetheless, it is clear that, whatever one's opinion of the detail (design, screening, access etc) the application as it stands fails all relevant planning guidelines, both nationally and locally. For this reason, the Parish Council has recommended refusal of the application.