BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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Councillors (East Ward)		Councillors (West Ward)		Clerk	
Mrs P M Jupe (Chair)	015395-62545	Dr B C Meakin	015395-65722	Mr J R Scargill	01524-782811
Mr K Benkharn	015395-63877	Mr C H Noble	01524-762427		
Mr D B Clark	015395-63341	Mr R K Pickup	01524-761740		
Mr D B Jupe	015395-62545	Mr I Stewart	015395-63391	**Website**	
Mr W S Yates	015395-64129			www.beethampc.co.uk	

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You will all now be aware that the initial application by Fishwick's Funeral Services to construct a public crematorium at Beetham Hall was refused by SLDC, as recommended by the Parish Council. This was followed soon after by an amended application for the same development, for which the Parish Council again recommended refusal as its principal objections had still not been seriously addressed. SLDC also refused this amended application. Meanwhile, we understand that a separate application from another developer, to build a crematorium at an alternative site near Junction 36 of the M6, can be expected. We await this application with interest although we may not be asked to comment as the site lies just outside Beetham parish.

The Parish Council's project to improve the small plot of land at Dixies, on the B5282 at Sandside, is moving slowly forward. The initial delivery of stones has been positioned with the object of preventing vehicle access and a further delivery has been ordered to form a small sea barrier against high tides. Once that is in position, basic landscaping will be undertaken. The stones at the A6 layby at Beetham are now in place and serving to protect the grass verge from the damage caused by car-parking. However, car-parking spaces in Beetham village are limited and the roads narrow. This makes it unsuited to today's volume of traffic, so more work needs to be done to find a solution.

There is news about the two Parish Council-owned plots of land in the parish. Members of the public will soon see the commencement of selective work on the many trees in Sandside Cutting. This is a necessary part of land management, done in conjunction with the AONB, and please be assured that the remaining trees will, in due course, be all the healthier and more attractive for it. The sizeable plot of land just off Leighton Beck Road, at Beetham, was acquired a couple of years ago in order to protect and preserve it against development. However, a small number of garages are sited on this land under verbal agreements with the Parish Council. Additionally the land is often used for the parking of extra cars by both the tenants and visitors. As from April 2015, it is the intention to introduce simple written agreements for the garage tenants in order to give the Parish Council more control over its use and so fulfil the objectives of protection and preservation.

Councils are about to begin the annual process of setting their budgets for the following financial year – in this case 2015/16. SLDC has again decided to pass on to parishes the full Council Tax Grant from central government and not to increase its own Council Tax rate, which is very welcome news for local taxpayers. Nonetheless the county is being obliged to make stringent expenditure cuts, which will be felt in its future services – including police presence on the streets (and at council meetings). Against this background there is a trend for more services to be run locally and your Parish Council would like to hear of any local projects you suggest it could usefully tackle.

The Parish Council continues to give both financial and manpower support for the valuable work done by the Arnside & Silverdale AONB as well as co-operating with it on planning and policy matters. Similarly its own policy is to offer small grants to other local groups or organisations. Grant applications for 2014/15 should be lodged with the Clerk before 31/01/15 and will be considered at its March 2015 meeting.

The Parish Council would like to wish all parish residents a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

JRS 13/12/14