

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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As you all know, the Dixies project was undertaken to protect this small, high visibility area from the sea and turn it into an attractive, welcome point along the main route to Sandside, Storth and beyond. For the modest budget that was set aside it will not be possible to fund state-of-the art sea defences but we are confident that an acceptable result can still be achieved and the project is proceeding with a keen eye on obtaining value for money. Hopefully there will be something to show for this, and be proud of, during 2016.

The Burntbarrow Woods public rights of way (ROW) issue has almost reached its conclusion with the Inspector's compromise suggestions being accepted by both sides – the ROW appellants and the landowner. The Inspector is now in the process of writing his final decision. The similar issue of the Hale Marble Quarry paths is, of course, due to kick off with a public inquiry at Storth Village Hall on 13th October next. You would be most welcome to attend to see democracy in action.

Electricity Northwest's programme of pole replacement is continuing and it is important to assess the need for lamps that are displaced as a result. It may prove difficult always to achieve agreement on need but, at some £2,000 per lamp, it is clear that the cost of replacing all threatened lamps would be unsustainable.

The dispute over Fishwick's plans for siting a crematorium at Beetham Hall has rumbled on for many months but is nearing a conclusion. Following an informal hearing at Kendal Town Hall on 11 August, the Inspector's final decision is now imminent.

The Parish Council recently received a request from the Farleton Knott Commoners' Association to support its proposals to erect fencing on the common for the better control of livestock. Having sought the views of interested groups, this support is given – on condition that public access, including wheelchair access, to this beautiful area of common land is not inhibited.

Readers will remember the attempted introduction in 2011 of a Lyth Valley Internal Drainage Board, which failed because of the cost implications for thousands of South Lakeland Council Taxpayers. Like a bad penny, this issue has returned with a new proposal to limit direct contribution to Lyth Valley residents with SLDC making up any funding shortfall. It would be naïve to assume that such an arrangement would not ultimately have financial consequences for residents outside the Lyth Valley area, by depleting SLDC funds that would otherwise be available for more worthy causes. The Parish Council has taken robust steps to resist these new plans on the above grounds.

Mill Lane in Beetham continues to cause concerns for the Parish Council with the safety of walkers being put at risk by user vehicles, particularly large vehicles accessing the Corn Mill. An obvious, relatively low-cost solution would be the creation of a separate pedestrian way running alongside the road, ideally in the adjacent field. Such a suggestion has been made before and is to be put again to the landowner.

Finally, the Parish Council is hopeful of soon finding a new co-opted member to take its numbers back to full strength. Look for further news on this subject in the next Newsletter.