

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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Let's start with some good news. As you know, land matters occupy much of the parish council's time. After many months of effort, from both members and tenants, new rent agreements have finally been completed for all the garage etc sites off Leighton Beck Road, Slackhead, and all rents paid up to date. The parish council would like to thank all who have been involved in this saga for bringing it to a satisfactory conclusion. Plans to improve the Dixies site at Sandside have been delayed pending the establishment of ownership. Information provided from a wide variety of sources has proved inconclusive, but the parish council has resolved to persist in its efforts, with the objective of eventually being able to smarten up this high-profile site for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

The inspector has finally published his decision on the Hale Marble Quarry case, following the public inquiry held at Storth Village Hall some months ago. He has upheld the land owner's objection to Cumbria County Council's granting of public right of way status for a number of paths in this area, thereby bringing to an end many years of public use. Fortunately we live in a beautiful area and there is still much to enjoy. You will recall that the earlier inquiry, on a similar issue at Burntbarrow Woods in Storth, resulted in right of way status being confirmed for the disputed paths in that case.

Not too long ago, the parish council was instrumental in organising the installation of information map boards at Friar Cote Bridge, Sandside, and at Hale Green. These were generally well received. At its June 2016 meeting, it was agreed that the parish council would support the idea of smaller panels, providing local information, to be sited in Storth, Carr Bank and Beetham. You will be kept informed as this project progresses. It was also agreed that Storth's newly reorganised post office and community shop, now offering a wider range of services, should be publicised more effectively for the benefit of both residents and visitors. This is to be done with available grant monies.

With an increasing elderly population it is important to maintain the services they need, wherever this can be done and even at a time of financial restraint. Libraries are currently under threat, so it is a relief to learn from Cumbria County Council that, as far as possible, savings will be made by way of reducing opening hours rather than total closures. The recent warning of the possible closure of Westmorland General Hospital's Kentmere (mental health) Ward is not good news. Fortunately, as a result of overwhelming feedback to Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust of widespread serious concerns, the decision has been delayed pending further assessment of how Care Quality Commission requirements might otherwise be met.

Defibrillators are often seen in public places these days. They are also held by many First Responder teams. Thankfully, most of us will never need one. However, the East Ward of Beetham parish has been identified as a local area where they are not readily available, despite having several residents who have undergone training in their use. The parish council would like to do something about this and is prepared to fund the purchase of equipment by a properly-formed group. If you are interested in forming such a group, please contact the Parish Clerk. Similarly, Beetham village has no community transport group and the Storth group is too stretched to increase its coverage. Any volunteers?