

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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Councillors (East Ward)

Mrs P M Jupe 015395-62545
Mr K Benkharn 015395-63877
Mr D B Clark 015395-63341
Mr W S Yates 015395-64129

Councillors (West Ward)

Dr B C Meakin (Chair) 015395-65722
Mrs J M Knowles 015395-64457
Mr C H Noble 01524-762427
Mr R K Pickup 01524-761740
Mr I Stewart 015395-63391

Clerk

Mr J R Scargill 01524-782811

Website

www.beethampc.co.uk

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The owner of the Dixies site has now been identified and is in process of registering formal title to the land prior to considering what should become of it. As a reminder, the Parish Council were hoping to obtain permission to tidy up this area and make it more attractive to passers-by – both parish residents and visitors to the area who are often seeing it for the first time. Hopefully, by the time the next Newsletter is produced (in December) there will have been some progress.

Two interesting historic features within the parish have come to our attention. The first is the original metal finger post at Slackhead junction, at the top of the hill, which is in a very poor state and in sore need of some t.l.c. – rather than being replaced with a modern equivalent. The Parish Council is working with the Landscape Trust to undertake the necessary work. A similar post in Arnside has recently been successfully restored with Landscape Trust help. The other feature is an old stone seat just outside the Heron Theatre at Beetham. Due to road improvements over the years, the road level has gradually been built up so that the seat is no longer useable – although Beetham WI has taken advantage of this to adopt it as a base for an attractive planter. The intention is to restore this seat for its original purpose and, in conjunction with the WI, to find another suitable location for the planter.

On the theme of maintaining the general attractiveness of our parish, the Parish Council is aware of the importance of keeping it free from litter. One area that is always badly affected by this blight is the A6 as it runs through the parish at Beetham. It is some time since a litter-pick was organised to deal with this problem but the time has now come for another. SLDC will provide the necessary equipment but we are badly in need of volunteers to undertake the work, involving perhaps a couple of hours one Saturday morning. Please contact Cllr Pru Jupe or the Clerk if you would like to help.

You may already know that, following planning permission to build a crematorium, work has now begun at Fishwick's Beetham Hall site. Another development is permission from SLDC for the importation, storage and processing of reclaimed asphalt at Sandside Quarry. This will prolong the useful life of the quarry with a valuable recycling (so environmentally friendly) activity. The quarry management are known to be keen to minimise any impact on local residents and, moreover, have commendable long-term plans for the eventual responsible decommissioning of the site.

Highways matters perpetually demand our attention. Almost always are there issues of road-surface deterioration and the difficulty faced by CCC in trying to deal with these on a very tight budget. An 'Unsuitable for HGVs' sign is soon to appear at the entrance to Moor Lane with the object of deterring delivery wagons from using this route. Long-standing problems within Beetham village remain to be resolved although we have to accept that no proposed solution will ever be acceptable to all. A speed indicator device (SID) is to be sited on the B5282 at Sandside in an attempt to better control speeding traffic in that area.

Finally, the Parish Council has agreed to proceed with the installation of a defibrillator, probably in the phone box on Stanley Street, Beetham, to serve residents in that part of the parish.