

**BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**  
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At any time your parish council will usually have a number of projects in train. Some of these may be abandoned in the course of discussion and some will continue to fruition, but one thing they almost all have in common is that they up take a lot of time between start and finish. If other councils are involved, the amount of time soon increases.

Projects currently in the pipeline include refurbishing the ancient finger post at Slackhead. Many groups of enthusiastic people are involved with this project, which further adds to the time frame, but it is moving forward, albeit slowly, and at least it looks as if there will ultimately be a good result. One project that has been abandoned is the stone seat outside the Heron Theatre – on balance it was decided that, although restoration was an nice idea, a lot of manual work was involved and there was, in fact, little demand for a seat at that location. The seat will now remain as an attractive base for Beetham WI's attractive planter. Other projects rumble on (for example the Dixies site at Sandside) with a conclusion apparently no nearer despite the Parish Council's best efforts.

The litter-pick referred to in earlier newsletters was deferred after an unidentified litter-picker was spotted hard at work along the A6 between Beetham and Hale. No doubt that particular stretch of road will need further attention before long and it is planned to re-assess the situation in spring 2017. However, along that same stretch of road, the new crematorium is beginning to take shape and will soon become an established feature. It will be interesting to see just how well the finished building will merge into its surroundings.

The Beetham defibrillator project is presently on hold. BT had given permission for a defibrillator to be housed in the Stanley Street pay-phone box, as the box was not being used very much for its original and intended purpose. Then BT announced that **all** underused phone boxes – including the Stanley Street box – were being considered for removal, subject to consultation with local authorities. This is where we are at this moment. But there is hope for a favourable outcome. It is understood that it may become possible for a local authority to 'adopt' a threatened phone box. Watch this space.

You may have seen village maps/information panels on display in other villages. Indeed, Beetham parish already has two such boards, on Hale Green and at the Friar Cote Bridge end of Sandside Cutting. There is now a growing popularity for these boards and your parish council plans to site four more at appropriate points around the parish. These should appear for summer 2017.

Two police matters should be mentioned. Although Beetham parish is, thankfully, relatively crime-free, it is very close to the border between Cumbria and Lancashire. The A6, which passes through it, carries much of the traffic engaged in cross-border crime. Cumbria Police target this area in the hope of intercepting such traffic, but their appeal for active support from civilian volunteers has gone largely unanswered. Can you help? Additionally, Cumbria's Police & Crime Commissioner has agreed to meet representatives of the three local parish councils (Arnside, Beetham and Milnthorpe) to discuss general policing matters, including any concerns people may have. Beetham Parish Council will certainly be nominating representatives for this meeting.