

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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The BPC map board project, as mentioned in earlier Newsletters, remains very much work in progress but is now nearing conclusion. Two such boards are to be sited in East Ward and two in West Ward, with content amended to reflect this. The AONB is effectively managing the project and BPC members have been assigned to provide BPC input. Similarly, the project to refurbish a historically important fingerpost at Slackhead is progressing well and the opportunity is being taken to move it slightly, to a better position.

The defibrillator project for Beetham village is also progressing. As reported in previous BPC newsletters, the Stanley Street phone box remains a likely location, but Beetham School premises have also been offered as an alternative. The school is also hopeful of sourcing purchase of the equipment at a useful discount through Department of Education channels. At Sandside, a post to carry a Speed Indicator Device (SID) is finally in place and the loaned equipment should soon be seen in operation there.

Superfast broadband has finally reached the parish, with a cabinet carrying the main cables recently installed in Storth. From this point, extensions will soon be available to most households in the village. This development was announced at the Beetham Annual Assembly at the Heron Theatre in March, when the development organisation B4RN gave an interesting presentation and answered a wide range of questions from a sizeable and well-informed audience. Informal discussions continued over refreshments, following the presentation.

BPC's annual accounts for 2016/17 showed a small surplus, against a budgeted break-even, and were approved at the May meeting. The budget for 2017/18 was very much along the same lines, with the Precept (and its Council Tax effect) reflecting this. At the Annual Meeting in May, Cllr Brian Meakin was re-elected as BPC Chair and Cllr Pru Jupe as Vice-chair for 2017/18. Along with routine PC business, it was agreed that BPC would give better future publicity to the grants it could make available for deserving projects and organisations within the parish. BPC has an annual budget for such grants, which are awarded annually at its March meeting. Applications may be made via the Clerk at any time during the year to 31 March.

The Beetham Hall crematorium is now in full operation and, although external ground works are ongoing, all planning conditions attaching to this development are confirmed by SLDC as having been satisfied. A public meeting to discuss flooding issues in the parish was to have been held on 22 June, but is now rescheduled for Monday 10 July at The Heron Theatre.

Local matters include persistent and deliberate obstruction of the Beetham ghost footpath by nearby residents with the object of narrowing the roadway and slowing traffic. Not only is this practice illegal, but it is dangerous for pedestrians wishing to use the footpath to escape the traffic. At this time of year there is also the problem of overgrown and overhanging trees, particularly along the A6 footway linking the Heron Theatre with the war memorial. It is the responsibility of residents to trim their trees to avoid this nuisance to pedestrians.