

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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The SLDC/AONB Development Plan Document (DPD) is now moving to the next stage. Proposals to allocate the important and high-profile (ex-Travis Perkins) vacant site at Sandside for mixed housing/light industrial/commercial use have not been carried through as hoped. As you may have seen, and to the disappointment of Beetham Parish Council members, the site is once more in use as a storage facility for building materials when it could have been made so much more attractive.

Some issues, hopefully surmountable, have emerged with the field in Beetham alongside Leighton Beck Road and known locally as the Sports Field. New access to the top part of the field from the road will be needed which raises road safety concerns. Additionally, during the heavy winter rains, it was apparent that the field was receiving surface water from the road, which was then working its way down the field and ending up as flood water in Stanley Street. This is a worry to residents.

Replacement of the B5282 bus shelter has been delayed by insurance matters but is now imminent. Four new information panels will soon be appearing in the parish, thanks to collaboration between the Parish Council and the AONB. Users of the B5282 will also have seen an innovative road safety feature on Sandside Promenade – what is known as a ‘smiley’ solar-powered speed indicator device. Though costly, the Parish Council considered it a worthwhile investment in view of its proven effectiveness in other nearby parishes. It is hoped to add more such devices in the future at selected locations in the parish.

Concerns raised by local residents about the time extension and nature of work at Sandside Quarry were discussed at the January parish council meeting. It was pointed out that the quarry was anxious to work with the local community to deal effectively with any proven health issues and had already provided for long term regeneration of the site. Near to the quarry, on the B5282 and growing wild, is a small but precious patch of rare orchids – which we have named the ‘orchid triangle’. Because it is not marked in any way, it is in danger of being unintentionally yet irreparably damaged by walkers and, more seriously, by vehicles parking on the verge. It is proposed to ring this site with selected boulders from the quarry to make it more conspicuous.

Recent resurfacing of the A6 though Milnthorpe has mostly now been completed. The exception is Park Road out of Milnthorpe into Sandside, which has been delayed pending necessary repair work in the area by BT. Once the BT work is done, the resurfacing can be undertaken.

Most people will be aware that 2018 will mark the one hundredth anniversary of the end of World War One. The Parish Council is keen to ensure that this anniversary is properly commemorated in the parish, but exploratory letters to various local groups have failed to elicit much response. Please see what you can do to contribute and encourage others to do so. Similarly, publication of the fact that the Parish Council has money allocated and available for annual grants has failed to produce any applications at all for 2017/18! Do local organisations have all the money they need?

Finally, we are sad to report the resignation from the Parish Council of Pru Jupe, a dynamic and popular local figure who has given much time and energy to parish council work over the last twelve years or so. May we wish her all the best for the future, whatever that holds.