

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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Councillors (East Ward)

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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Residents of Carr Bank will be glad that their wrecked bus shelter has now been replaced by a smart new one; as we hoped, the full cost of this has been met by the third party responsible for the damage. We are pleased with the effect that the new ‘smiley’ speed indicator device (SID) on Sandside promenade is having on traffic speeds and arrangements are now almost in place to recover the valuable statistical data recorded by the equipment. This will then be passed to Storth School for analysis under the supervision of Mrs Jessica Harvey, a former BPC member, who is keen to promote awareness amongst the children of how this information can be used to reduce traffic accidents – and, of course, to save lives.

Another project has also been successfully completed. Users of the B5282 at Sandside will have seen that the so-called orchid triangle at the end of Quarry Lane is now protected by boulders provided free-of-charge by the quarry and worked into position by AONB volunteers and others. The site is already attracting visitors, keen to view and photograph the rare orchids. The new information panels are now with us and remain to be framed and erected at the three nominated sites in the parish – Storth Village Hall, Four Lane Ends crossroads and Beetham village centre. We are sure that residents and visitors alike will find them both attractive and informative.

Interest in the commemoration of the end of World War 1 is starting to grow, as the one hundredth anniversary nears. The schools at Beetham and Storth, and Wings School at Whassett, are now all engaged in producing plans for what form this commemoration might take. For its own part, the parish council is happy to join in to help with any such plans. Councillors have also shown interest in the ‘silent soldiers’ scheme adopted by some parishes elsewhere in the country. This is use of life-size silhouettes of WW1 soldiers, placed at key points through the parish – both indoors and outdoors. We hope to have more news of this project in the next edition of our newsletter.

The defibrillator project for Beetham village drags on. As you will be aware, the main problem has been finding a suitable central location for such equipment. There is concern that, whereas the Storth area is well served with this life-saving equipment, no such facility yet exists in Beetham – except in Beetham school, which is too far removed from the village centre to meet the criteria for general use. However, we hope to report in our next edition that this problem has been resolved and we can proceed with providing this vital facility for Beetham residents and the many visitors who come to enjoy our parish.

There is no further news about the Beetham sports field but it is hoped that a meeting with the authorities responsible will soon take place to discuss measures to deal with future flooding risks, particularly at Parsonage Fold and Stanley Street. A meeting earlier in the year between Cumbria’s Police & Crime Commissioner and representatives from local parishes proved useful in getting to know the man in the hot seat; we heard about his priorities and problems and he listened to ours.

Finally, there has been interest in the BPC vacancy for an additional member to represent the East Ward of the parish, following the resignation of Cllr Pru Jupe. We hope to finalise an appointment over the coming weeks and will report fully in our next newsletter.