

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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It is with great sadness that we record the passing of Beetham Parish Councillor Ian Stewart. His sudden death on 21st October, at the comparatively young age of 65, came as a great shock to everyone. Ian was, of course, also a District and County Councillor and, more recently, Deputy Leader of Cumbria County Council. Ian will be remembered for his tireless work on behalf of his local and the wider community. He always had time for everyone and would gladly take up their issues, however minor, with the appropriate officials – never resting until the issues were resolved. His memory of events, dates, and people was exceptional, his knowledge of procedures and who to contact about what was legendary, his energy boundless. Ian was definitely someone to have on your team, formidable to the opposition and relentless in exposing their shortcomings where their action, or lack of it, fell below his own high standards. Although dedicated to his work in local government, Ian was a devoted family man and still found time to enjoy cricket and football. The gap left by his passing is enormous.

You will recall the resignation of Beetham Parish Councillor Pru Jupe during 2018, a vacancy now filled by David Crayston of Whassett, who has not wasted any time in becoming involved and playing an active part in parish council affairs. We wish him a long and rewarding association with our parish council.

With the arrival of winter, flooding has come back to the top of the agenda. In particular, residents of Parsonage Fold, Beetham live under constant threat of a recurrence of the dreadful consequences of Storm Desmond in 2015, with other areas in Beetham and the wider parish apprehensive of their ability to withstand a recurrence of such and even less extreme conditions. Unsurprisingly, the joint presentation of a study of the subject by Cumbria County Council and the Environment Agency in October at the Heron Theatre was well attended by parishioners. This study, whilst impressively thorough, could offer little hope of an early solution to the problem, mainly due to cost constraints. The conclusion was that one way forward might be for the local community to form its own Flood Resilience Forum to take whatever self-help measures might prove feasible. Beetham Parish Council would actively support the establishment, funding and running of such a group. Is there a Beetham resident able and willing to take the lead here?

Elsewhere, the new information panels are now in place at three locations around the parish. The Remembrance Day service this year had particular significance as the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1, with services at the two war memorials being particularly well attended. The Silent Soldier silhouettes provided by the parish council at these two locations were also generally well-received. It is frustrating that the project to provide a defibrillator for Beetham village has lost impetus due to delay by BT in approving BPC's formal adoption of the Stanley Street phone box as a suitable location. A survey of the trees in Sandside Cutting was done earlier in the year and many identified for attention – some urgently. However, it has proved surprisingly difficult to find specialist workmen willing to undertake the job and, only now, has it been possible to award the contract. This work will be started at an early date.

JRS 13/12/18