

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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Let's start with some good news. The long-awaited extension of the B5282 bus-stop plinth is now complete. This turned out to be a very protracted and, for what it is, expensive project. However, passengers waiting for the bus to Milnthorpe now have a more secure standing area and, if it saves just one life, it will have been worth the wait and the expense. Also welcome is the replacement, thanks to Highways, for the pole that supported the Speed Indicator Device (SID) on Sandside Promenade before the whole installation was destroyed in a traffic incident. A replacement SID has now been ordered and, by the time you read this, should be in place. Given appropriate outside funding, we still hope to be able to provide a second SID that would be portable and able to be deployed at various sites around the parish.

The tree-planting project in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is now well underway. As you may be aware, three possible sites have been identified and the trees ordered for delivery in November 2022. Help with planting would be appreciated when the time comes. The proposed wild-flower area in Storth Road is also underway with a trial patch having been prepared and sown with the help of AONB volunteers. Subject to this proving successful, it should be followed by an adjacent and extended area that should prove to be a great pleasure for residents and visitors alike.

The delay in providing a replacement for BPC's Storth notice board is regrettable. This board was in an ideal position, opposite the community shop, and was probably the BPC board most used by members of the public. The board itself has been completely refurbished and is awaiting installation – and this is the problem. Henceforth the board must be made to be free-standing but, as local residents will appreciate, the surrounding area has underlying bedrock. The job can still be done, but it will be more technically difficult (and more expensive) than otherwise. A quote for this work is imminent.

The parish Annual Assembly in March was held at Heron Hall in Storth, with Peter Hosking (Cumbria Highways) giving a useful and interesting presentation. It would have been good if more members of the public had been able to attend and to have had the benefit of face-to-face informal chat with parish councillors as well as to enjoy an excellent selection of refreshments provided.

The continued and extended closure of The Ship Inn at Sandside is a concern for many West Ward residents, as it must be for the many visitors who pass the door. The Parish Council continues to seek reassurances from the owners but a firm reopening date cannot be given.

Finally, some sad news. On 3rd March 2022, BPC's most recently appointed councillor died suddenly. Brian Dean had already become a much respected and hard-working parish council worker. A memorial bench in his memory is to be provided by his widow, to be sited somewhere in Beetham village at a location of her choosing. The thoughts of all BPC members are with his widow at this time.