BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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Councillors (East Ward)		Councillors (West Ward)		Clerk	
Mr K Blenkharn (Chair)	015395-63877	Mrs J A Harvey	015395-62970	Mr J R Scargill	01524-782811
Mr D B Clark	015395-63341	Dr B C Meakin	015395-65722		
Mrs P M Jupe	015395-62545	Mr C H Noble	01524-762427	**Website**	
Mr W S Yates	015395-64129	Mr R K Pickup	01524-761740	www.beethampc.co.uk	
		Mr I Stewart	015395-63391		

First – a warm welcome to our new Parish Councillor. Mr Steve Yates was formally appointed as a co-opted member at the parish council meeting on 7th January 2013 and fills the vacancy left by the resignation of Mr Ian Duckworth. Steve is a qualified town planner and brings with him a wealth of knowledge on planning, development and public sector management, gained in a number of high-profile positions in Scotland and Greater Manchester. He has also done work for Craven District Council and the Lake District National Park. This expertise will be of great value to the parish council – particularly in the present climate of SLDC's Local Development Framework (LDF).

As many of you will be aware, the proposed way ahead for LDF land allocations is for the whole AONB area, which enjoys special considerations where development is concerned, to be treated as one unit for this purpose, despite the fact that it straddles the Cumbria/Lancashire border. The obvious problem with this approach is that two local planning authorities are now involved, so it may sometimes take longer to reach agreement on development decisions. However, on balance, it seems to offer the best way forward and Beetham Parish Council is formally supporting it.

The saga of traffic calming in Beetham village took another turn with the removal of the recently installed white (ghost footway) lines at the request of residents. Unfortunately both installation and removal involved cost, which might have been better directed elsewhere. Another contentious issue is likely to be that of street lamps. Apart from those on the main highways, which are a County Council responsibility, there are some 78 lamps on minor roads and footways in the parish, 41 of which are owned by the parish council. Many of these are sited on utility company poles and so are vulnerable to any change of policy against the practice. Such a change can be expected and the cost of re-siting the lamps would be significant. Tim Farron has been asked to help resolve this problem.

The parish council is investigating proposals for a children's play-park in Beetham village – similar to the one in Storth. Planning of a geology trail through the parish west of the A6 is at an advanced stage. This will link together important features of the landscape and include the Sandside Cutting nature trail. The parish council has an annual budget for grants to deserving community projects and, for 2012/13, a grant has been awarded for specific improvements to the Storth children's play-area as well as customary assistance with funding for the AONB.

It is good news for residents of Beetham Parish that both Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council confirm there will be no increase in their Council Tax requirement in 2013/14. The other major element of Council Tax goes to Cumbria Police Authority, which has voted for an increase of 1.95% (£3.87 pa for a Band D property) in 2013/14. All three bodies will be obliged to make economies on spending to balance their budgets, though it is hoped that the effect on related services will not be too drastic. Beetham Parish Council's much smaller share of the total Council Tax bill will be held at its 2012/13 level, with no cuts to services.

This year's Annual Parish Assembly was held at Beetham's Heron Theatre on the 14th March, and included an inspiring presentation by Richard Leafe, Chief Executive of the Lake District National Park Authority, on his vision for this wonderful area in the 21st century. Although attendance was disappointing, Richard answered questions in impressive detail and with good humour. Catering was by Lee & Katie Ellams of Beetham's Old Post Office, with help from David and Pru Jupe.

JRS 015/03/13