

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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Councillors (East Ward)

Mr K Blenkarn (Chair) 015395-63877
Mr D B Clark 015395-63341
Mr I M J Duckworth 015395-63729
Mrs P M Jupe 015395-62545

Councillors (West Ward)

Mrs J A Harvey 015395-62970
Dr B C Meakin 015395-65722
Mr C H Noble 01524-762427
Mr R K Pickup 01524-761740
Mr I Stewart 015395-62391

Clerk

Mr J R Scargill 01524-782811

Website

www.beethampc.co.uk

At its Annual Meeting in May, Cllr Ken Blenkarn was again re-elected as chair. He expressed his honour to continue to be trusted with this important position and looked forward to another busy and productive year for the parish council. All signs are that this will be the case.

After serious consideration a general policy has been agreed with regard to land owned by the parish council. It has always been its aim, as far as possible, to preserve and protect all parish land for the benefit of the public and it is felt that this aim is best achieved by retaining total control through ownership, where this exists. Plans for a short footpath to link Rock Cottage, Sandside with the embankment, and so provide improved access and routing for walkers, were taken up and developed enthusiastically by Cumbria County Council, but effectively vetoed by the landowner.

Also in this connection, an increasing number of planning applications for wind turbines are being received, presenting the dilemma of assessing the environmental benefits against the visual impact, and each application is judged on its individual merits. Similarly, land allocations as part of SLDC's Local Development Framework proposals, have to balance the need for housing and commercial development against its environmental and visual effects. These proposals, together with the results of public consultations, are now with a central government inspector for a final decision.

The Environment Agency's report on local Internal Drainage Board proposals for the Lyth and Winster valleys (and beyond) has now been published, taking into account the results of public consultations earlier in the year. In short, these proposals have been referred back for a rethink.

The parish council owns a number of outdoor seats for public use throughout the parish. These need to be regularly maintained to keep them in reasonable condition and a comprehensive programme has been agreed for implementation in 2012. We are fortunate to have a Parish Steward who can undertake this work and who takes a personal pride in how the parish (his parish) looks. It is hoped that an additional seat can be installed in 2012 as a result of a request by Mr Elbourne of Storth, to donate one to be sited near Storth School, in memory of his late wife Margaret who worked there for many years. Cumbria County Council's permission is now awaited.

The Queen's jubilee was celebrated enthusiastically throughout the parish, with events in Beetham, Hale and Storth over the bank holiday weekend. The Bela River Garden is gradually taking shape with valuable help from Billerud and a grant from the Neighbourhood Forum towards the cost of two information panels is hoped for. By the time this Newsletter reaches you, the Olympic Flame will have travelled down the A6 from Kendal to Carnforth, a memorable event for all.

Traffic calming in Beetham is now a step nearer with detailed plans received from Cumbria County Council. New street lamps have been installed in Whassett and the switch-on is eagerly awaited.

Finally, you are urged to make yourselves familiar with Cumbria Constabulary's provisional plans to curtail its local front counter services currently available to members of the public, as part of a drastic cost-cutting exercise. A number of alternative options are being considered and may be obtained from Ch.Insp. Mairi Stamper of the Change Team at Carleton Hall, Penrith – Tel 0845-3300247 ext 57554, email mairi.stamper@cumbria.pnn.police.uk .