

**BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**  
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Land matters continue to feature prominently on Parish Council agendas. Picking up on the Burntbarrow Woods issue, which was dealt with in detail in our December 2013 Newsletter, this will soon come to a head with the public inquiry at Storth Village Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> September (from 10.00am). This is a highly important event and should attract a large audience of local, interested parties. The inquiry will finally determine whether the paths in question are, or are not, granted full Right of Way (ROW) status. A similar issue has now arisen with regard to Hale Marble Quarry, where a local petition and subsequent application a few years ago has now won CCC approval for some of its paths to be ROW designated – subject to objection before 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014. If objections are lodged, a public inquiry could follow at a later date.

As readers may recall, an important plot of Parish Council land at Slackhead, Beetham, provides an attractive ‘green’ and adjacent car parking facilities for a number of nearby residents. Unfortunately the car parking has become subject to misuse and the extent of permitted use needs to be clarified. As a result, the Council has decided to formalise the verbal agreements it has with users and simple written agreements are to be introduced. Elsewhere in the parish, the Council proposes to tidy up a lay-by beside the A6, at Beetham bridge, which is currently being spoilt by the random parking of motor vehicles. Additionally the Parish Council plans to undertake a number of improvements on another small plot of land which lies along the B5282 at Sandside and for which there is no registered owner. This land is at the main gateway to the area and at the moment gives an unattractive first impression.

As part of discussions under the Local Development Framework umbrella, the Council is working with a number of other bodies to consider land allocations within the AONB. It is also keeping a very close eye on broadband developments within the parish, to which end there will be short presentation by BF Internet at the Council’s July meeting (on 7<sup>th</sup> July at Beetham School).

Attendance at the Annual Assembly at Storth Village Hall last March was disappointing, not least for those members of the Council who had made a great effort to provide delicious refreshments. This was despite the change in format of the Assembly to make it more representative of all the different groups and organisations we are so fortunate to have amongst us. This general lack of interest was, regrettably, also evident in the recent organised litter pick: in the East Ward only five volunteers turned up and in the West Ward no volunteers at all came forward. Nonetheless, the Council continues to do what it can to keep our parish tidy, for the benefit of all – residents and visitors alike.

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May, Cllr Ken Blenkharn stood down from the Chair due to steadily declining health and was thanked for his many years of devoted service. Cllr Pru Jupe was elected as the new Chair, with Cllr Blenkharn as Vice-chair. She welcomed her husband, David, as the new co-opted member replacing Jessica Harvey who stood down in December 2013. This meeting also made the usual appointments of members to committees and sub-committees and as representatives of the Parish Council on other bodies.

As always, members of the public are most welcome to attend any meeting of the Parish Council.