

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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The Beetham Flood Resilience Group is now up and running. Useful contacts have been made with similar neighbouring groups, including Kendal, and Beetham PC has promised funding assistance when this came to be needed. Unfortunately, but as we already knew, the Environment Agency hold out no hope of being able to undertake any major works for the foreseeable future. Better news regarding the proposed defibrillator at Beetham – this is now installed and linked to the national ambulance system. Whilst we hope it will never be needed, we must all appreciate that, if it saves one life, it will have been worth all the effort and cost involved.

There have been no developments regarding the road traffic problem associated with Beetham crematorium. Traffic congestion has continued and is likely to get worse as increasing use is made of this facility. More parking is needed at the facility, and was provided for in the original planning application, but rejected by SLDC Planning on adverse visual grounds. However, it is hoped that the planners will now agree to this restriction being waived in the interest of road safety. Another traffic problem concerns Stanley Street in Beetham. As Beetham residents are already aware, there has long been a shortage of parking space for their personal vehicles and those who live in Stanley Street have to contend with extra parking demand when there are evening performances at the Heron Theatre. The Parish Council has considered a number of options to solve this problem but, like so many of the problems it is asked to deal with, there is no easy answer. Stanley Street is a public highway and the suggestion of making it a ‘residents only’ parking zone would require it to be policed – which cannot be done in the evening.

If any further proof were needed of the hazard presented by the Storth Road/B5282 junction it came in dramatic form just days ago. During the morning of Friday 11th September, Cllr Brian Meakin and the Parish Clerk met at the site to consider the size and possible location of the convex road mirror that the Parish Council had agreed to purchase and install. This involved walking along the verge to check alternative posts supporting the metal barrier. Within an hour of completion of this survey, part of this barrier was severely damaged and some posts knocked over when a commercial vehicle approaching from Arnside ran into it in an effort to avoid a car exiting Storth Road – just where the BPC representatives had been standing! The mirror is now on order and will be fixed in position as soon as it arrives.

We are happy to report that one of the vacancies on the Parish Council has now been filled. Brian Dean of Beetham has agreed to fill the East Ward vacancy and, as previously reported, Brian’s wife Linda has already offered to lead the Beetham Flood Resilience Group. They live in Parsonage Fold, Beetham, one of the critical areas for flooding, so we are hopeful of improvements there.

Finally, BPC has agreed to support in principle, but not financially, a Public Right of Way application by nearby residents for Highcote Back Lane, Slackhead, provided the application is fully researched and presented in a professional manner.

JRS 23/09/19