

BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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The meeting between BPC members and Environment Agency (EA) proved useful and the subsequent EA report – for a more intensive survey and to include historic issues – was welcomed. What final recommendations, and more importantly what action, comes out of this remains to be seen. Regrettably, all these things take time. Meanwhile seasonal flooding will, alas, continue.

The recent gales have seen many tree casualties nationally and Beetham parish has had its share of these. Meetings have taken place on the two BPC sites (Sandside Cutting and the smaller area known as Plot 4 at Slackhead) with work now agreed for the remainder of the present financial year and for the financial year 2022/23, recognising the priority that must be given to fallen and potentially dangerous trees. This work is costly and must be done within BPC's budget allocations. BPC continues to confirm its commitment to sustaining and promoting biodiversity on the basis of professional advice and within budget constraints.

The planting of new trees is to be the theme of the celebration of the Queen's platinum jubilee celebration in 2022. Progress has been made in identifying suitable sites for this in Beetham parish and specifying preferences for tree species. Young trees for this specific purpose are currently available free-of-charge. The project to trial wild flower planting in the parish is also progressing.

You will recall that leachate from the now-defunct Slackhead (Hale) Marble Quarry had been brought to the attention of the higher local authorities and resulted in a toxin-free rating. However, BPC had felt the need to bring this situation to the attention of the Environment Agency, which has now also given visual improvement here a low priority. SLDC have been asked to consider a further inspection.

Despite the urgency attributed by BPC to extension of standing room at the B5282/Carr Bank bus stop, actual progress here has been disappointing. Contractors interested in the job proved difficult to find, although this has now been resolved. The next hurdle is to obtain the necessary permissions from Highways, which could not be done until the identity of the contractor and details of their work procedures were known. An added complication is the need for traffic controls on this busy stretch of road whilst work is in progress.

Commemorating the fallen in military conflict, and war memorials in particular, are traditionally an optional and unofficial responsibility for parish councils. BPC has agreed to take over responsibility for the parish memorials in Beetham and Storth to ensure a continuing high standard of upkeep. Regular professional cleaning will take place as from spring 2022.

There have been complaints about the excessive heavy traffic through Beetham village, possibly due to a growing number of foreign delivery drivers and increasing reliance on satellite navigation. After due consideration BPC concluded that, although increased signage might help, enforcement would be a problem and the parish council itself could do little to help.

JRS 17/12/21