BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
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Things tend to become quieter in the summer months and, of course, the Parish Council does not meet in August – when many residents and members are away on holiday.

The BPC map board project is progressing well, albeit slowly in view of the amount of detail to be considered and space limitations of the board itself. Thanks must go to Arnside & Silverdale AONB for providing invaluable advice and facilities. The boards are expected to be installed well before the 2018 summer season. The Slackhead signpost is also nearing completion and will in due course become an attractive historical asset at the Slackhead junction.

The defibrillator project for Beetham village remains ongoing. The Stanley Street phone box is no longer the preferred location due to the prospect of continuing maintenance costs and Beetham School premises have been rejected by the local First Responders as being too far from the village centre. Hope now rests on Beetham PCC agreeing to the equipment being sited in the church porch. We will report on this as soon as a decision is forthcoming, when we can turn our attention to sourcing the equipment.

The Speed Indicator Device (SID) will be on offer of loan to Beetham parish from October 2017, but there have been technical/upkeep problems with this shared equipment, leading to a decline of interest by the other parties involved. Another factor is the increasing preference for the more sophisticated 'smiley' type devices in a number of neighbouring parishes, which appear to be more effective in controlling traffic speeds. These devices are not available on loan and are comparatively expensive to buy – but may be justified if they ultimately save lives.

There have been some developments of the Beetham village 'ghost' footpath. As a result of road resurfacing, the path lines were temporarily obscured. When they were eventually repainted, additional lines were added on the other side of the road in an effort to visibly decrease the width of the road for traffic and increase the space available to pedestrians. Moreover, the former 'SLOW' and '20 mph' road markings were not reinstated. These changes have not been to everyone's satisfaction and the situation is once more under review.

The publication of the SLDC/AONB Development Plan Document (DPD) raised concerns amongst members of the public until it was explained that its purpose was to give all interested parties the opportunity to see in advance suggested use proposals by landowners and developers. This was the start of a lengthy process which would include a public consultation. Another, more recent, matter of concern has been a proposal by the NW Coastal Access Delivery Team for a gap in the coastal path between Arnside and Grange, so bypassing our parish altogether. Recent groundwork between Sandside Cutting and the Ship Inn had the object of improving drainage in that area – we shall see!

Finally – a reminder of the availability of grants from Beetham PC to support selected local projects. Applications for 2017/18 to be submitted by February 2018.

JRS 17/09/17