

**BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**  
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There have been some developments with regard to land matters. The owner of the copse to the west of Langdale Crest has finally been tracked down although, disappointingly, he is unwilling for it to be managed by Landscape Trust/AONB as nature reserve – as had been hoped. The absentee owner of adjacent land to the north has also been contacted but, as yet, no arrangement for its management by the same bodies has been reached. This leaves the land owned by the Steele family as the only patch in that immediate area for which such arrangements have been possible. It will be interesting to see the full effect of the consequent benefits over the next few years.

South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) final land allocation proposals under its Local Development Framework have now been published and a public consultation period on these proposals is now underway with a closing date of 17<sup>th</sup> April 2012. The parish council intends making a formal response before the deadline, the detail for which will be agreed at its April parish council meeting. Few areas in the parish appear on SLDC's final list of preferred sites.

The public consultation period on Environment Agency plans for the future restriction of its current activities in the Lyth and Winster valleys is also at an end and a report is expected soon on the results. The report will have an important bearing on plans by local groups to set up an Internal Drainage Board to take over responsibility for this, and a very much wider, area. A decision is anxiously awaited as such a development could have a serious impact on local Council Tax levels.

At least the news from both Cumbria County Council and SLDC as regards Council Tax is welcome – no increase for 2012/13! Some decisions that have enabled this are the County Council taking back in-house responsibility for its highways (which Amey have managed in recent years) and SLDC passing over to South Lakes Housing Association ownership and responsibility for its total council housing stock.

2012 is important as the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Activities throughout the country are being planned and Beetham parish is busy on a number of fronts. Plans for a joint parish council project with some neighbouring parishes for a celebratory beacon, possibly on Farleton Knott, are ongoing, although some difficulties have been encountered, and one of the other parishes involved has decided to pull out. However, an inspired scheme to create a special garden in Beetham, beside the busy A6, is gaining momentum. To be known as the Bela River Walk, it will be on the edge of the Billerud paper factory site and transform it from a small, overgrown corner of surplus land into an attractive riverside garden, open to the public. Active participants in the project are Billerud, AONB/Landscape Trust and Beetham Parish Council, with an open invitation to any other groups who feel they can make a contribution.

It is hoped that the Hale Information Board, now in its final stage of design, will be ready in time for a ceremonial unveiling as part of the jubilee celebrations, with a second similar board planned for the western end of Sandside Cutting. Reaching this stage has taken much longer than expected but the results are gratifying and the boards should prove an attractive asset for the parish.