

**BEETHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**  
**ISSUE No 47**                      **APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2022**

**Councillors (East Ward)**

Mr D B Clark 015395-63341  
Mr D Crayston 015395-62695

Mr W S Yates (Joint Vice-chair) 015395-62384

**Councillors (West Ward)**

Dr B C Meakin (Chair) 015395-65722  
Mrs R M Dewar 07961 100044  
Mr P Greifenberg 015395-64182  
Mrs J M Knowles (Joint Vice-chair) 015395 64457  
Mr P Harnett 015395-65705

**Clerk** – J R Scargill 01524-782811

**Website** - [www.beethampc.co.uk](http://www.beethampc.co.uk)

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This newsletter must begin with a tribute to our late monarch, Queen Elizabeth II. Her sudden death came as a shock to us all after a long and illustrious reign. Our television screens have been understandably filled with pictures of memorable and historic events throughout her seventy-year time as our Head of State, including very recent scenes of her still fulfilling her duties at the age of ninety-six. Then, finally, the unforgettable and poignant scenes of her lying in state and funeral. May she rest in peace. God save our new king, King Charles III.

The tree-planting project in celebration of the late Queen's platinum jubilee will be fulfilled, as planned, after the saplings arrive in October/November. Also, the development of a wild-flower verge along Storth Road, near Four Lane Ends, is progressing. Planting of wildflower plugs will take place in late September with assistance from the AONB and Storth School representatives. Planters on the verge at the A6/Leighton Beck Road junction in Beetham can no longer be maintained by Beetham WI members, who installed them a few years ago. Beetham Nurseries have generously agreed to take over this task in the future. Appropriate plaques will be attached in acknowledgement.

The Parish Council's notice board in Storth Square is finally in place, with the Storth Village Hall board attached to one side. It is good that the central location for these boards could be maintained. Also a new notice board has now been installed at Whassett after the old and badly worn board was finally put out of its misery by vandals a few weeks ago. New outdoor seats on Storth Playing Field have been ordered to replace the existing damaged seats but, sadly, the project to install an additional Speed Indicator Device (SID) on the A6 has had to be abandoned, mainly due to difficulties in obtaining the necessary permissions from the police authority.

We were pleased at our September meeting to provide an opportunity for architects and town planners representing an as yet unknown client to make a presentation of development plans for Sandside. These ambitious plans were for four new blocks of apartments, with car-parking and light industry units and include a café/restaurant on the brownfield site presently occupied by Willacy to store building materials. Additionally two smaller adjacent sites have been earmarked for individual housing etc - some 126 new dwellings and a small number of business units in total. This development should improve the visual aspect of Sandside but public concerns were expressed for the resulting increase in traffic and consequent access difficulties which the planners will go away to consider. We will report further as more information becomes available. Concerns within the community are also regularly expressed about the continued closure of The Ship Inn although formal 'community asset' status has now been granted to this much valued, and much missed, feature of Sandside.

It is several months since the unfortunate death of Parish Councillor Brian Dean and a new commemorative bench, funded by his widow, has now been installed next to the Beetham war memorial. We have finally had a firm application to fill the resulting Parish Council vacancy from Mark Phillips, a relatively new resident of Beetham village, who will be formally appointed at our October meeting. We look forward to his contribution to parish affairs.