

## **ANNUAL PARISH REVIEW 2023-2024**

In April 2023, the start of the parish council year, we had three vacancies for parish councillors on the parish council. We welcome Alan Marsden and David Phelan who were co-opted during the year to represent East Ward and West Ward respectively. However, a vacancy still remains for a councillor to represent West Ward. Please contact me or the Clerk if you are interested in being co-opted onto the council

The newly formed Westmorland & Furness Council took over the responsibilities of the former South Lakeland District Council on 1 April 2023. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of Councillors with responsibility for representing our parish at W&F Council from 3 to 2. We are grateful for the support and guidance provided by Cllrs Audland and Chaffey in this area. Your parish council has responded enthusiastically to the general invitation for parishes to submit a prioritised wish-list of major projects for consideration by the higher authorities.

The Parish Council has undertaken a periodic review of its own Standing Orders, which regulate how the parish council is run, and updated them where necessary to comply with variation of need and changes of legislation. In addition, an updated Code of Conduct issued by Westmorland & Furness Council has been included in the council documentation. These have been placed on the parish council website to ensure they are available to all parish residents

The parish Annual Assembly in March at Beetham's Heron Theatre heard an interesting talk by Lucy Barron, Manager of the newly-named Arnside & Silverdale National Landscape. She described the activities of the Arnside group and explained the background to the change in name to National Landscape. The parishioners who attended enjoyed the presentation and the refreshments that followed.

The Parish Council always has on its agenda a number of modest projects for improving parish facilities and safeguarding amenities. Grass verges are one of the amenities constantly under threat as an ever-increasing number of motorists seek somewhere to park. Hopefully these issues can be settled amicably with goodwill and understanding on both sides. Installation of the Queen's Jubilee seat on Storth Playing Field was completed in Spring 2023. The traffic mirror installed by the Parish Council at the B5282/Storth Road junction suffered severe damage, presumably during high winds. The convex mirror is considered important to road safety and has been replaced.

Beetham residents have expressed concern regarding traffic speeds on the A6 near Beetham following completion of the A6 bridge repairs and removal of the temporary 30mph restriction. This resulted in the speed limit being restored to 50mph, much to the concern of residents and local users who continue to press for a reduction. Cllr Audland has discussed the issue with W&F Council Highways personnel and an eventual change to a 40mph limit from the Beetham crematorium to the edge of Milnthorpe seems likely, but this could take time until the necessary legalities are in place.

The parish council is aware that the Beetham stocks are in need of attention, but ownership unknown. An inspection of the damage has been carried out and an assessment of the cost of repair work is awaited. Due to its historical significance for the village, repair/replacement of the stocks is under consideration as parish regeneration project, with public involvement, subject to cost and available funding.

Finally, the Ship Inn and the Sandside development project continue to cause concern within the parish.

It is sad to see the continued closure of The Ship Inn at Sandside. The owners insist that it is their intention to re-open this important facility but we have no indication of when this will occur, despite requesting updates on the situation.

The major mixed-use development planning proposal for Sandside has also gone quiet, presumably whilst amendments and modifications are agreed by both planners and developers. We will ensure you are all kept informed as further information becomes available.