



Beckermets Village Newsletter

August 2016

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BECKERMET NEWSLETTER – SPECIAL EDITION

News from the Parish Council: -

1. Measures to reduce Sellafield traffic in the Village

Cumbria County Council (CCC) are developing proposals to address the “*rat run*” of vehicles through Beckermets following complaints from residents in the village for more than 20yrs. CCC are determined to address the issue this financial year and have asked the Parish Council to help them obtain the views of residents about their proposals. To this end we have agreed with CCC to hold two “**Drop in Sessions**” at the **Reading Rooms** on **23rd and 25th August** from **1730 to 1930hrs** where residents will be able to see drawings outlining the proposals and comment on whether or not they support them. The proposals, which have to be provided within the limited budget available will cause some inconvenience to us all but hopefully they will be effective and resolve the problem.

Please note the date and come along to express your views

2. Beckermets with Thornhill Parish Council Action Plan Update

Earlier in the year we delivered 730 pamphlets to residents in Thornhill and Beckermets to obtain their views on what the residents expected from the Parish Council so that we could then develop an action plan to ensure the focus was correct. We have now analysed the data and the comments received and identified the general themes of the comments and the eleven Actions we intend to address over the coming months and years. The actions fall in to the following main categories:

- Improve Communications within the Parish. Make people more aware of the activities the Parish Council are dealing with using electronic systems as well as paper.
- Identify essential improvements in both Beckermets and Thornhill to improve the environment in which we live. This includes for example looking at reducing the ‘rat

run’ through Beckermets and improving the car parking facilities at the Thornhill football ground.

- Explore ways of providing better services in Beckermets.
- Develop a community support plan for the Parish that might also include improving younger children’s playing facilities.
- Continue our engagement with NuGEN and provide Parishioners with feedback.

The Parish Council has identified owners for each of the actions and will review progress at regular intervals over the coming months and visible improvements will hopefully become clear.

3. Report from Copeland Policing Team

The Parish Council receives monthly reports on incidents that have occurred in Beckermets and Thornhill. A message from your Neighbourhood Policing Team has been placed on our website but some key parts of the messages are noted below:

Rural Car Crime: Please do NOT leave valuables in unattended motor vehicles, make sure your vehicle is secure at all times and all items of value removed or locked away.

Protect Your Sheep: Grazing animals can be targeted by thieves at this time of the year. A vehicle would need to be involved. Report anything suspicious as soon as possible to the Cumbria Policing team.

Contact details:

For emergency call 999

For Contact with the Police call 101

To Contact the local Police Community Support Officer PCSO 5237 Rafferty use e mail address

jacquelinerafferty@cumbria.police.uk

4. Sellafield Police

We have been at meetings during the last 12 months where **Sellafield Police** want local people to be their “eyes and ears”. So, if you see anyone or anything that looks suspicious for Sellafield, please ring their **hotline** on **019467 73999**.

5. Parish Council submission to NuGEN/Moorside consultation

Over the past few months the Parish Council have been preparing their response to the **NuGEN/ Moorside consultation that will close on 30 July 2016**. During this time we have engaged with residents of the village through email, face to face discussions and by arranging a meeting in the Reading Rooms. The final response report was approved at a meeting of the Beckermets with Thornhill Parish Council on 20 July.

To ensure our views are represented in similar responses prepared by **Cumbria** and **Copeland Councils** we have also met representatives from both Councils and **Mike Starkie** (The **Elected Mayor** of Copeland) in the past few weeks. We have also met **Jamie Reed MP** here in Beckermets so that he is aware of our response. We have held discussions with **Stogursey Parish Council** and a representative from **West Somerset District Council** to establish how our situation compares with that in West Somerset where the **Hinkley C Nuclear Power Plant** is expected to be built in the next few years.

In the past few days we have seen the responses prepared by Cumbria County Council and by Copeland District Council and are pleased that they have picked up our issues and included them in their reports.

A full copy of our 13 page response report is available on our web site www.beckermetsparishcouncil.org.uk.

Alternatively, a paper copy can be requested from the **Parish Clerk, Mrs Sian Tucker (Tel 01946 820607)**. A summary of the key points from the report is given below.

Overarching Aspect

- Lack of explanation of why they have proposed what they have.
- Almost no detail on many topics. Freight traffic, emergency arrangements, Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) intentions, Marine Offloading Facility, railway arrangements, route of cycleway from Thornhill, etc.
- Originally said that everything would come by rail. Now turning away from this for both freight and people. What is the impact?
- Document almost entirely talks of when the reactors are in operation. Very little discussion of the construction period, including the order in which things will be done.

Site Layout

- Closeness of site to the village, particularly as their buildings have been moved closer since the last consultation. Construction fence is along the edge of Old Church Road, substation 250 metres away, and reactor 500 metres away.
- Height of reactor bases has been raised from 15 metres above sea level (AOD) to 20 metres AOD, making them more dominating.

Spoil and Landscaping

- Spoil tipping areas inappropriate. Encircles houses on A595, closes Nursery Road, and they have reduced the protection previously offered

by mounding along Old Church Road. Mounds could be higher, and other areas looked at.

- Some of the spoil could be usefully exported for other projects.
- Environmental effects played down. Noise, dust, light, traffic, etc.

Roads and Traffic

- We object to the closure of Nursery Road, and the suggested alternative. (Extra traffic along Mill Lane and the awkward junction in the village centre, loss of the southern route to/from the village, loss of emergency route, etc)
- There are better alternatives to the new A595 proposed.
- The proposals for road junctions will do very little to improve traffic flow on the A595.
- Huge diversion for Sustrans cycleway 72 and national coastal footpath.

Impact on Individuals

- Compensation offer to villagers is well short of that offered elsewhere. Heathrow and the HS2 rail link are relevant. Also, EDF have been buying properties at market price around their proposed site at Hinkley Point since 2011, even though they have not yet decided to do the project. They have bought about 20 to date. Cut-off date of 2008 is inappropriate.
- Large community benefits package has been available at Hinkley for some time we need to have similar in place as soon as possible.

What happens next?

Before explaining what happens next, I would like to thank all the residents and councillors who have contributed to the development of our response report

After the consultation closes, NuGEN will have to review what they have received. We expect that they will have to finalise their response by the year end if they want to write their next documents in time for submission to the UK Government in May 2017. We are hoping that NuGEN will respond positively to our report and that we will have a close dialogue with them over the coming weeks and months.

We will keep you informed of significant issues that arise via our web site, the Beckermets Newsletter or you can be included on our mailing list to receive updates electronically by sending an email to ps.manning@btinternet.com.

*John Edwards, Chairman
Beckermets with Thornhill Parish Council*

Please make sure that your key views are taken into account by submitting a personal response before 30 July to haveyoursay@nugenconsultation.com . *Editor*