



Beckermets Village Newsletter

March 2017

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Chairman's Report

Welcome to the first issue of the Beckermets newsletter in 2017. The meeting of the Beckermets Village Association (BVA) held on the 19th January was my first as chair, having held the role of vice-chair for the past couple of years, and following John Edwards stepping down, I have taken on the mantle of chairing the meetings. For those who may not know me I have lived in the village for forty years, worked as a teacher for 38 years, including 24 years as head teacher at Thornhill Primary, before retiring in 2011.

During the meeting John Edwards and Peter Manning both gave brief updates on both Parish Council and matters concerning the situation with the Moorside project, the timing of which is now uncertain, with the latest news that Toshiba, one of the main financial backers, may be pulling out of overseas projects.

The production of this newsletter, which is free to each and every household in Beckermets has to be paid for by fundraising as no public money is available to the BVA. To fund the cost of these issues a quiz was held two years ago which proved successful and helped raise enough funds to cover its production costs. During the summer we will be producing another quiz sheet, priced at £1 with several prizes on offer. Please look out for this and support the activity.

A gentle reminder for all regular readers and for any first timers, every single resident of Beckermets is automatically a member of the BVA and therefore entitled and encouraged to come along to our meetings which are held in the Reading Room. The next meeting will be on: - **Thursday 6th April at 19.30hrs or for those who prefer 7.30pm.**

I look forward to seeing all our regular attenders plus a few new faces. With a larger attendance we will get a broader view from members of the village about what matters to us all in Beckermets.

Dates of all meetings in 2017: - **Thursdays at 19.30hrs (7.30pm) 6th April - 6th July - 5th October**

John Mackay (BVA Chairman)

Parish Council Update

NuGen

The Parish Council attended three of NUGEN's meetings in late January, where they provided some information on the response to the Stage 2 DCO consultation held last year. They said that about 90% of the 1226 replies to their consultation had come from

Cumbria, and 426 different issues had been raised. Issues associated with the Moorside site and substation; Nursery Road; and Property Protection were all consistently featured and included in the top ten of issues raised. This reflects the fact that villagers have been able to make their point. There were no surprise issues. The response had resulted in a large amount of work for them to develop how to address the issues raised. As a result, meetings that should have taken place in the last few months had been cancelled and they said they were still developing their responses and assessing the impact on the programme.

We (together with RAM and other local parish councils) met them again on 22nd Feb, when they again explained the huge volume of work they were undertaking to produce their responses to the consultation, so were unlikely to have any real information before the middle of the year.

Toshiba have reported recently that they are likely to report a significant financial loss as a result of purchasing the US company CB and I Stone and Webster. There is speculation in the press that various issues could result in Toshiba selling their interest in the overseas nuclear business, but at this stage Toshiba has not decided how they intend to move forward. The CEO of Toshiba was expected to make their position clearer in mid February but the company deferred announcing its annual results and the situation remains uncertain. The impact on the Moorside project may become clearer in the next few weeks, although if Toshiba decide to sell their interest overseas the future of Moorside may remain uncertain for some time. In the meantime, Toshiba are intending to continue the project to the point where it is ready to go to construction.

National Grid Consultation

The National Grid consultation on the North-West Coast Connections was completed in January and the Parish Council submitted their comment in mid December 2016. At a meeting organised by NuGEN held in February a representative of National Grid said that as the consultation had only just closed there had been insufficient time to assess the issues raised. They did report that they had a large response, particularly associated with areas in the south of the county, and around Carlisle. They are hoping to submit their 'final' ideas to Government in December 2017.

Beckermets Roads update

The Parish Council was disappointed that at a meeting of the Copeland Local Committee of Cumbria

County Council (CCC) held on 25th November 2016 a decision was made to ignore the views of residents made in the informal consultation in August 2016, and to proceed with the introduction of restricted access on Morass Road and Nursery Road.

Since that time, ten businesses in the village, plus the school and nursery, have made clear to CCC the impact and issues surrounding the proposals- and have asked for the decision to be reviewed.

The Parish Council submitted a statement to the Copeland Local Committee held on 3rd February stating the facts surrounding the informal consultation held in August 2016. The Parish Council proposed working with the CCC experts to develop a solution that is acceptable to CCC, and to the residents and businesses of Beckermat; recognising that there is no ideal solution and that an agreed workable solution is preferable.

The ten Beckermat businesses then asked this Local Committee a question, related to the risks associated with implementing the restricted access arrangements. The businesses also asked the Local Committee to support the Parish Council's proposal to develop an agreed workable solution with the CCC experts.

The committee chairman then read out a statement stating that they would continue with their intention to restrict the access at Morass Road and Nursery Road. Initially, it would be for a 6-month trial whilst they monitor the impact.

The Parish Council have recently been informed by the CCC that their technical officers are currently in the process of finalizing detailed designs and that they will share these with the Parish Council prior to implementation. They have also said that during the trial they will be monitoring the impact, particularly around the school and that at the end of the 6 month trial they will provide feedback to the Parish Council. The Chairman of the Copeland Local Committee has stated in writing that the committee takes road safety very seriously particularly around schools.

Sellafield

Parish Council representatives met with Sellafield Ltd and other Parishes in early February for an up date on key activities on the site. At this meeting Sellafield Ltd apologised for ringing people late at night regarding the emergency exercise on Nov 29. Because of the type of event, the controller was not able to access the normal control room; and the standby room did not initiate the phoning until much later. Sellafield are keen that more people sign up to the system, whereby they are telephoned as part of any emergency on the site, and noted that during 2017 they will be holding 4 emergency exercises. The dates will be published in the Whitehaven News and the Parish Council will put appropriate information on our web site close to each event.

Update on Street Lighting

Residents will all be aware that Copeland Council and Electricity North West have been in the process of upgrading the lighting in the village for many months.

Phase 1 of the project actually started in November 2015! The Parish Council has recently been in contact with ENW to complain about the length of time the work has taken and to try and get an end date for both phases of the project. As a result the lights outside the Reading Rooms and near Beck Cottage have at last been connected and we have been advised that the new light outside the White Mare will be connected in the next 4 weeks.

Unfortunately work on Phase 2 of the project (south of the Royal Oak) cannot be carried out until some legal issues have been addressed by ENW that are associated with laying a new cable. We have been told that unfortunately the light opposite Rose Cottage and the light close to Croft Terrace are tied up with the work that has been delayed pending resolution of the legal issue.

Peter Manning and John Edwards (Parish Councillors)

Beckermat Community First Responders

The Beckermat Community First Responders (CFR's) while providing an emergency response to residents through the NWAS following 999 calls, are required to be self funding for the purchase of equipment including Defibrillators which we have raised over the years through various grant giving organisations.

**However the hiring of call out pagers, renting the reading rooms for monthly training etc is classed as operating costs and which are at present costs over £800 per year, do not usually meet the criteria to access grants. Therefore to help us to continue to be financially viable we are appealing for donations from the village. All donations can be sent or left with myself at 17 Lowrey Close
Many thanks in advance
Alan Kiel (CFR Team Leader)**

Residents Affected by Moorside (RAM) Update

Since our last update we have been waiting for NuGen to analyse the consultation feedback given in reply to the Stage 2 Proposal. To this end we attended a progress update meeting arranged by NuGen on the 22nd February 2016. The main points are noted below.

- The DCO submission is to be put back indefinitely. Quote "more than weeks but less than years".
- The search for funding for Construction is an ongoing process. Nothing has changed as a result of Toshiba's announcement.
- The Project is having a holistic review, all aspects under scrutiny, including the position of the sub-station, road layout and earthworks.
- This design review expected to be complete before the Autumn, with a proposal review to follow.
- The data for the impact on roads is ongoing, and that data will be made available through feedback meetings.
- NuGen assured the meeting that there would be more Stakeholder feedback/progress update meetings throughout this year.

Geoff Nugent(Chairman)

Community Led Plan

We are looking to develop and implement a Community Led Plan in order that improvements within the village reflect the wishes of as many residents as possible. The development stage of the Plan will involve consultation with residents through a combination of means such as presentations, drop in sessions and questionnaire. Once we have collated and analysed residents' views, the resulting plan will ensure that we pursue developments and improvements for the village that are driven by the residents themselves.

We are looking for two more residents to join the Steering Group and to attend the first meeting on **Thursday the 30th March at 7pm in The White Mare**. If you would like more information or would like to join the Steering Group please contact **Jacki Smith** on: smith0663@btinternet.com or **841079**.

NSPCC

The Race Night and Christmas Party held at Calderbridge at the end of November turned out to be a very successful and enjoyable evening. With the help of our generous supporters we raised £1,565.90p. As usual, this will be used by the NSPCC to help children and families in the West Cumbria. Many thanks to you all.

Our next fundraising event is the annual Plant Sale and Cake Stall in Calderbridge Village Hall on Sunday 14th May 2017 at 2pm.

The recent Coffee Mornings held in Beckermets Reading Rooms have been rather disappointing. As Gosforth no longer has an NSPCC fundraising committee we have decided to have a Coffee Morning in Gosforth Hall on Friday 16th June 2017.

Val McKee (Chairman)

Cardboard Recycling

There is an ongoing concern at the Village School Recycling collection point. Large cardboard boxes are often left frequently empty. If these were collapsed to a smaller volume the, admittedly small, bin would be more efficiently used. On very windy days smaller cardboard items are blown around from bags left beside the Bin. Better packing of the Bin, as suggested, might reduce this, and be much appreciated by the School staff and pupils. Thanks in anticipation.

Frank McKee.

TO ALL DOG OWNERS AND DOG LOVERS

Our village is being spoiled by irresponsible dog owners/walkers who are going out after dark and not cleaning up after their dogs. The majority of residents are careful and responsible but a few are leaving dog faeces on pavements, on roads and on any green spaces especially the grass section across the beck where dogs are permitted off leads.

Please be a responsible dog owner.

Beckermets Sports Committee

Thank you to everybody who came along and supported our Christmas events. We would like to thank the White Mare for their kind donation of £212.10 following their Boxing Day festivities.

Upcoming events are as follows:

Film Night – Friday 17 March 2017 at 7pm, the Reading Room Come along and see 'Pete's Dragon' - £1 admission includes popcorn and a drink. Cheese and wine for adults (for a small donation).

Easter Egg Hunt – at the playground - date and time to be confirmed.

Rounders and Cross Country – Thursday 15 June 2017

All ages are welcome to meet on the school playground at 5.45pm to pick teams.

Rounders will begin at 6pm followed by a Cross Country Race at 7.30pm. Hot dogs, sweets, crisps and drinks will be available.

Please come along and support these village events!

Julia Harrison (Beckermets Sports Committee)

Volunteer Drivers Needed

The Voluntary Car Scheme provides transport to members of the community of any age (under 16's must be accompanied by an adult) who cannot make their journey by public or private transport.

Volunteer Drivers use their own car to provide journeys which are co-ordinated locally. Expenses are reimbursed. Volunteering can be: fun and helpful, getting to know people in your community, experience to help get a job, a hobby for when you retire.

If you are interested in driving for the scheme and would like an informal chat, please contact: 07788 39619.

Katy Wood (Voluntary Transport Officer)

Women's Institute

Beckermets WI have pleasure to announce our first Open Evening - showcasing and celebrating what we do, have done and our plans for the future.

'Today's Women working for Tomorrow's World'

We would be honoured to welcome you at 7.15 - 9.00pm on Wednesday 5th April 2017 in the Reading Rooms, Beckermets.

Angela Walls (President)

Programme

March 8th – Stuart Burgess – Police

'Keeping Safe, Security, Cold Callers etc.'

April 12th – Ken Webster JP – 'My Life and Career as a Magistrate'

April 19th - Hosting Soup Lunch

May 10th – Keith Beattie – 'The History of Masonry and The Here and Now'

June 14th – Helen Shipton-Smith – 'Cooking with Herbs'

Doreen Head (Treasurer)

Beckermets Reading Room

DIARY

March	6	10:00	Art class 10.00
	8	19:00	W.I. 7pm
	13	10:00	Art Class 10.00
	14	19:30	AGM of the Reading rooms 7.30
	15	12:30	Soup Lunch (St.John's) 12.30
	15	19:00	Parish Council 7 pm
	17	18:00	Film Show organised by the Sports Committee 6pm
	20	10:00	Art Class 10.00

	27	10:00	Art Class 10am
April	3	10:00	Art Class 10am
	5	19:30	OPEN EVENING for BECKERMET W.I. 7.30pm
	6	19:30	Village Association 7.30pm
	12	19:00	W.I. 7pm
	19	12:30	Soup Lunch (W.I.)
May	4	07:00- 22:00	COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 7am – 10pm
	10	19:00	W.I. 7pm
	13		PRIVATE PARTY.
	17	12:30	SOUP LUNCH (ST.JOHN'S)
	17	19:00	PARISH COUNCIL 7pm

The Reading Rooms Committee is always looking for new committee members. Please try to come to the AGM on 14th March and give us your ideas and support.

Kathleen Cook Bookings Secretary 841363

Beckermet School

Thank you to everyone who donated to North Air Ambulance collection we managed to raise £76.40.

Thank you to everyone who donated a shoe box for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child.

Please could we respectfully ask that if the recycling bins are full that you use an alternative facility. Thank you

Lenore Thomson(Administrator)

Beckermet Brownies

This term the Brownies had a great time helping to run a Fundraising Event with a raffle, tombola, face painting, tea and cakes etc to raise money for the Children's Heart Unit Fund and Sick Children's Trust, in memory of Hope Winter, the baby cousin of one of our Brownies. The Brownies have helped to raise over £300 towards the two charities.

The Brownies and the Winter-Moore family would like to sincerely thank all of the people who attended from in and around the village, Beckermet Rainbows and our neighbouring Brownies from Thornhill who made the special trip to attend.

Gwen Rea



Toshiba committed to Moorside Project

NuGen acknowledges the announcement that Toshiba's review into the future of its nuclear power business outside Japan is complete and that it remains committed to developing NuGen's Moorside Project. Moorside is at the core of the UK's plans for providing safe, sustainable low-carbon electricity for generations to come and will be a transformational opportunity for West Cumbria.

NuGen CEO, Tom Samson, said: "The project has made significant progress since Toshiba took over as

major shareholder in 2014. The site has already been proven as suitable for three Westinghouse AP1000® reactors, two phases of consultation have found the public overwhelmingly supportive of the need for new nuclear and have helped shape the plans for Moorside. "The UK Government is supportive of NuGen, as a maturing and highly skilled nuclear organisation, and has remained firmly committed to new nuclear – stating that nuclear has a crucial role to play in securing our future energy needs, especially as we look to move to a low carbon society."

NuGen will continue to progress plans to develop Europe's largest new nuclear power station, capable of generating up to 3.8GW of low-carbon electricity – equivalent to seven per cent of the UK's electricity requirements. **Kathryn Booth (NuGen)**

Beckermet Norse Hoard update

The Viking hoard discovered in Beckermet by metal detectorists Justin Bell and Daniel Boakes in 2014 is now on permanent display at The Beacon, in Whitehaven. The 10th Century Norse silver hoard consisted of 4 rings and 16 trading ingots and were described as a find of 'national importance' by the British Museum.



The finds have undergone non destructive testing to analyse the composite make up of the silver and to determine their origin. Some of the ingots were found to be consistent with the Viking finds found in the Silverdale and the Vale of York hoards. The silver was imported from many other countries and one ring is thought to have originated from as far away as Russia.

In total, almost one kilogram of silver was discovered. The quantity of silver would make you assume that the treasure would have belonged to a very wealthy individual or family in Beckermet. One ingot alone would have sufficient buying power to acquire a small herd of cattle. For reasons which we may never discover, the owner never returned to claim it and the treasures were left buried for over 1000 years. Sadly, one can only assume that this ended in tragedy.

The hoard can be viewed alongside a video of the moment it was discovered at the Beacon.

Justin Bell

The next newsletter will go out in June and the deadline for articles is the 24 May. Please send to becknews@btinternet.com or phone 841421.