



Beckermets Village Newsletter

June 2017

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Chairman's Report

Welcome to the June edition of the Beckermets newsletter. There are a number of issues concerning the members of the village at this moment in time, the first being that of the enforced road closures proposed on the village against the vast majority of the residents of Beckermets. At the time of writing this article representation is being put to the council to try to postpone the implementation of the plan and to open talks with those representing the village to try to seek a better option.

The position regarding the project at Moorside is still uncertain. Various statements have been made regarding Moorside but it seems that the project may be in doubt due to financial concerns of the major investor(s) so it is just on hold and the project is still anticipated to go ahead. Time will tell and so for the village and our residents it is just a case of wait and see what develops over the weeks and months ahead. One thing is for certain, the timescale for any project will certainly be delayed.

At the next meeting of the BVA members will be given some quiz sheets to sell in and around the village to help raise funds to pay for the cost of the production of this newsletter. As chair of the group I would ask that you support this simple fund raising effort. The cost is only £1 which will give the whole family the opportunity to come together to try and answer the quiz questions and remember there are prizes for the winners and even a prize for one entrant who will be drawn at random from all entries for just taking part.

As previously stated every single resident of Beckermets is automatically a member of the BVA & therefore entitled and encouraged to come along to these meetings which are held in the Reading Room. It is important that as many residents as possible take up this opportunity to find out what is going on in their community. The next meeting will be on: -

Thursday 6th July at 19.30hrs or for those who prefer 7.30pm.

I look forward to seeing all our regular attendees plus hopefully a few new faces. It is important that as many members of the village attend these meetings as with a larger audience we will get a broader and more balanced view of what matters to us all in Beckermets.

Dates of remaining meetings in 2017: - **Thursdays at 19.30hrs (7.30pm) (6th July) & (5th October)**
John MacKay(BVA Chairman) 841429

Beckermets with Thornhill Parish Council Update

NUGEN

The Parish Council has attended a number of meetings arranged by NuGEN that are aimed at continuing engagement with their stakeholders on the Moorside project. NuGEN have not yet published a report on the issues raised during the Stage 2 consultation completed in July 2016 although it is understood they have been working on the options available to address them. The Toshiba and Westinghouse issues have been well reported in the national media and it is clear that they have had an impact on the Moorside programme. NuGEN have told the Parish Council that their owners, Toshiba, remain committed to the project and that they have appointed an expert team to consider the way forward. Until the team have concluded their work and the results are made public the Parish Council is not able to comment further on the project. The Parish Council will continue to engage with NuGEN as appropriate and keep residents informed.

National Grid Consultation

The National Grid consultation on the North West Connections project that is essential to support the Moorside Nuclear Power plant development was completed in January 2017. National Grid has recently announced that they are pausing their work to gain consent from the UK Government whilst NuGEN decide how to move forward with Moorside. They have said that they will take time to understand NuGEN's programme to make sure the two projects are aligned.

Beckermets Roads Update

On 22nd March 2017 Cumbria County Council issued a notice of an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order indicating that their proposal is to put "No Entry" signs at the north end of Morass Road and on the south end of Nursery Road, to be implemented for a period of 6 months pending the CCC making a decision whether or not to implement the changes permanently. The notice was published on the Parish Council web site. The Parish

Council responded to the notice in writing making it clear that they did not support the proposals that they were in clear conflict with the outcome of the consultation held in Beckermat in August 2016. The businesses in the village plus the school have made it clear that they also do not support the proposals.

The Copeland Local committee of the CCC is scheduled to meet on *23 May 2017 for the first time since the local Government Elections held on 4th May, 2017. The Parish Council have submitted a formal Statement to this committee requesting that implementation of the CCC proposal should be delayed pending a review into the proposals and the outcome of the review being considered at a future meeting of the local committee.

*[meeting has been deferred to a later date]

Other Matters

The community governance review by CBC has been completed and the Parish Council has been informed that it will have a maximum of 12 rather than 14 councillors from 2019.

The Parish Council carried out all of its work in 2016/17 within the precept budget of £13,871.94 (note that this included an extra one off payment of £871.94 made by Copeland). The amount collected through our Community Tax bills for the Parish for 2017/18 has once again been held at £13,000.00 but CBC will not make any additional financial contribution this financial year.

CBC has had a Conservation Area appraisal carried out in Beckermat by an independent expert. The original appraisal was carried out in 1979. The Parish Council has been informed that it has been concluded that the village should remain a conservation area and a report detailing the findings will be available in June. CBC will arrange an Open Day/ Drop-in session in the Reading Rooms at a date still to be confirmed but probably during June.

In April the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council were reappointed at the Annual Parish Council meeting and the work carried out by the Parish Council was reviewed at the Annual Parish meeting. The minutes of the latter meeting that are expected to be approved at the May 2017 meeting of the Parish Council, including a summary of the work carried out.

The approved minutes will be published on the Parish Council web site.

John Edwards (Chairman PC) 841637

Beckermat Recycling Centre

The Village School has for the last seven years hosted the recycling bins which are a useful and convenient facility. Recently there has been some abuse of the bins resulting in overflows of rubbish, especially glass and cardboard. Besides being unsightly and a poor example for the pupils it can also be a hazard to young children. The Parish Council has brought this to the attention of Copeland Waste Management who state that more frequent emptying is not feasible. The school may withdraw the facility if abuse continues. To avoid this please:

- Do not overfill the bins
- To prevent windblown litter the lids of the bins must close.
- Do not leave overflow in plastic bags beside the bins
- If bins are full please use alternative facilities at Egremont, Calderbridge, and Seascale.

Potential White Mare Newspaper & Grocery Services

The White Mare distributed questionnaires around Beckermat residences to assess if there would be an interest from the village in them stocking daily newspapers and minor groceries. While there were a number of positive responses, it is not yet clear whether there would be sufficient uptake to make this a viable proposal, particularly if the County Council implements its planned access restrictions to the village. Clarity on the road closures is expected in the summer and in the mean

time, Dianne and Iain at the White Mare would like to encourage anyone who may be interested in this potential service to contact them in person, by e-mail to dianneirving@btinternet.com or phone 841246.

Reading Room

Justin Bell will be conducting an entertaining presentation about the fantastic discoveries in and around Beckermat, including the *Viking Hoard*, whilst metal detecting. **This will take place in the Reading Rooms, Beckermat on 2nd June at 7pm.** Entrance is £3.00 per person and refreshments (alcoholic and non-

Beckermat Reading Room Committee
are holding a talk
on
**Beckermat Treasures with
Justin Bell**



Beckermat Reading Room
Friday 2nd June 7pm
£3 includes tea, coffee & nibbles
Bar available

alcoholic) will be available.

All proceeds will go to the Beckermets Village Association.

The

The NSPCC Committee over the past 27 years is to be congratulated on the hard work over many months that each Plant Sale required and to raise so much money is quite an achievement. (*Editor*)

The Beckermets Viking Hoard



DIARY

JUNE

2ND SLIDE SHOW on THE BECKERMETS VIKING FINDS BY the GARRET LADS (JUSTIN BELL and PARTNER)

AT 7pm Pay on the door,

If you missed the presentation last year come along and see the remarkable discovery in Beckermets. Raffle Refreshments

5 ART CLASS 1000

8 GENERAL ELECTION 0700=2200

12 ART CLASS 1000

14 W.I. 1900

19 ART CLASS 1000

26 ART CLASS 1000

28 FIRST RESPONDERS 1900

JULY

5 W.I Coffee Evening 7.15 pm

6 Village Association meeting 7.30

12 W.I. 7pm

19 Parish Council 7pm

26 First Responders 7pm

AUGUST

23 FIRST RESPONDERS 7PM

DO'NT FORGET you can hire the Reading Rooms for only £9 per hour for meetings, events etc.
Kathleen Cook booking secretary 841363

NSPCC

We had another very successful Plant Sale on Sunday 14th May, raising over £2,000

This was our final Plant Sale, but over the past 27 years we have raised £40,967 with this event.

The local NSPCC committee would like to thank their loyal customers for the generous support given over the years.

The next funding raising event will be a Coffee Morning in Gosforth Village Hall on Friday 16th June at 10.15am
Val McKee (Chairman)

Community Plan Launch

At a meeting on the 18th May, a small steering group of seven people met with Fran Richardson from 'ACTion with Communities in Cumbria'. Fran helps get ***Community Led Plans (CLP)*** off the ground and ACT is part of a national organisation. Using the tried and tested format from ACT, we intend to liaise with all groups and residents in the village. The aim is to find out what we would like the village to be in the future, also focusing on current concerns.

The ***CLP*** should be a document linked to potential funding streams - but not of the Parish Council.

It is essential that the plan is truly community led and as representative of the community as possible. The plan will be built on the widest possible range of residents' views and not generated solely by any of the organisations that exist at present in the village.

A ***Community Led Plan*** is a method by which all residents can have their voice heard and actively contribute to their immediate environment.

This is done with the use of questionnaires and other methods of collection of views. Then the steering group do the donkey work and create the plan from the collected views.

A number of major issues threaten the quality of life in Beckermets. With help of all in the village, firstly through asking each resident their views, we will compile a Community Plan document. This will take a number of months, but will hopefully result in 'Beckermets' being clear on what kind of place we want to live in. Not letting issues such as Moorside and the Sellafield traffic define the village. Following our start up meetings in the next few months, we hope to complete the initial questionnaire sometime during September.

Geoff Nugent & Jacki Smith

RAM Update

As a group we have continued to be invited to the NuGen update meetings, but have little to report. As you will be aware, NuGen are now looking elsewhere for funding and are going through what they call 'a full strategic review', therefore delaying their submission for DCO. The bad news for some is that this means not knowing their futures in the short term.

We will continue to do all we can to report any planning progress on Moorside as soon as more is made known.

Geoff Nugent (Chairman)

Beckermet Nursery

The two main issues facing us at the end of this school year are:

Firstly, the cost to the Nursery of offering up 30 hours free child care, a Government initiated scheme which is being rolled out in September 2017 and which the nursery **WILL** be offering.

Secondly, the committee's concerns over Sellafield traffic using Mill Lane as a 'rat run' to and from work. To alleviate some of the concerns over the road situation we are launching a campaign to raise funds to create a path and gate in the fence between the Nursery and School. This will mean the children will not need to walk along the side of the road, but use the gate to and from school.

On another note over 25 children and 17 adults took part in a sponsored walk from nursery to the play park to help raise funds for Save the Children Charity. Up to the present time around £250 has been raised. Anyone who still wants to donate to such a fabulous cause please bring your donations into nursery asap.

Tempest photography. Alison will be in nursery on the morning of 13th June between 9.00 – 11.00 am. Please feel free to drop in and have your child's photo taken. All are welcome. Just give a quick call to let us know you are coming to avoid the queue.

Fundraising – many thanks to all of you who have continued to support nursery over the last several years, without you we would not be here. We have decided, just for this year, not to go ahead with our annual Fun day but instead will be holding a race night in the White Mare (thanks to Iain and Dianne). Watch out on the notice board, flyers through the village and in the pub for times and dates. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Tricia, Staff and Committee

Women's Institute

May 10th Keith Beattie – 'The History of Masonry & the Here & Now'.

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

July 12th Rachel Chadwick – 'Up-cycling Household Items & Clothes'.

Sept 13th Mike Mapleton – 'Post Codes'

Oct 11th Steve Tyson – West Lakes Squirrel Initiative.

Nov 8th Beckermet WI's 91st Birthday. Rev Richard Lee – 'As High Sheriff'

Your New County Councillor

I am pleased to be writing this as your new County Councillor. Time has gone so quickly since the last Councillor Norman Clarkson asked me if I would like to be considered to replace him. He will be a very hard act to follow.

I was born and brought up in Barrow and moved to West Cumbria when I joined the Cumbria Police. I worked for many years in the Control rooms as well as the Crime/Help desk.

I have two grown up sons one of whom works abroad and the other works at Sellafield

I am hoping to hold surgeries every month in the area and want to set them up in each town and village so I am looking for suggestions as to where and how to publicise them. I am hoping to get small posters up to say when and where I will be.

I have already been contacted by several people from Beckermet with regard to the one way system and hopefully by the time you read this things will have improved.

Naturally, Moorside is going to have a massive effect and one thing I don't want to see is the people of Beckermet and the rest of the ward being disadvantaged over other areas in the benefits that can be gained.

Please feel free to contact me on 07795169637 or christopherpaul.turner@cumbria.gov.uk on any matter. If it's not something I personally can help with I will find someone who can.

Paul Turner

NuGen

"NuGen is undertaking a strategic review of its options following shareholder and vendor challenges. NuGen is confident that the review will lead them to an outcome that provides a more robust, stable and sustainable platform to meet its commitment to deliver the next generation of nuclear baseload for the UK. NuGen remains a key player within the UK nuclear industry, has a vital role to play within the UK Industrial Strategy, and the Moorside Project remains a key infrastructure project focused on creating employment and economic prosperity in Cumbria and across the north."

Kathryn Jackson

Operations & Engagement Manager

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The item below was in the March newsletter but the telephone number given was not correct & had a digit missing.

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 396194**

Katy Wood

Voluntary Transport Officer

Environment & Community Service, CCC.