

LEVENS PARISH NEWSLETTER

WINTER / SPRING EDITION – February / March 2016

Chairman's Message

It has been an interesting four months since our last Newsletter. As some of you will know the sale of land at Sizergh Fell Quarry and Cotes has unfortunately had to be withdrawn due to a very late objection to a boundary on land at the quarry. This is now under discussion by various parties.

On another front, the project to bring true high speed fibre broadband to our village with B4RN is progressing really well. Every home should have received a leaflet but if you cannot find it, our village shop has some. See later in this Newsletter for more details.

At the end of January, SLDC gave Story Homes planning permission for the development of the land behind Greengate. We do not yet know when work will start. As the Parish Council, we have requested a copy of the approved revised plans as they differ from those originally submitted.

Just as I was about to 'send this to print' (via Martin our Clerk) I was told that some tools and a trailer had been stolen from the new allotments. This is a shame so any news/help/information etc. would be gladly received by the Police. Finally can I please remind you that the Annual Parish Meeting will be at 7.30pm in the Institute on Tuesday 21st March. Hope to see you all there.

Roger Atfield, Chairman, Levens Parish Council

B4RN - High Speed Internet Connection for Levens

The public meeting reported in the previous Newsletter and held last November was well supported and as a result a Working Group has been formed to work with the B4RN initiative. Its aim is to bring high-speed internet connection to Levens - now just 2km from the edge of the B4RN fibre network which has reached Hincaster. The Working Group is Chaired by Simon Doddrell and at the February meeting of the Parish Council he reported that fundraising is going well as the number of subscribers increases. Work currently focuses on increasing interest throughout the area, identifying the best route into the village and location for the broadband cabinet. The Working Group has also concentrated on making information about the project as widely available as possible. This includes the recent distribution of a leaflet detailing and promoting the scheme together with information on the village website, with links to Facebook. For further information go to www.levens.org.uk/b4levens-broadband or <https://www.facebook.com/notes/levens-b4rn-project/levens-hyperfast-broadband-project/>

Traffic Management in Levens

In the past few months it has come to the attention of the Parish Council that there are various issues and concerns regarding traffic management in our area. Some of these include cars not abiding to the speed limits, inconsiderate parking, the influx of a large number of cyclists going through the village at speed, a lack of footpaths and pavements and in some areas white lines that need replacing. Of particular concern is the safety of children going to and from the school.

As a result, the Parish Council has encouraged the establishment of a Traffic Management Working Group. The role of this group will be to try and address some of the issues that have been identified. A number of villagers, including Councillor Stephen Hargraves, have offered to coordinate the establishment of the Group, which proposes to invite anyone who lives in the parish to join it at a public meeting date and venue soon to be publicised.

On behalf of the Group, Stephen said: "I am sure the more people we can bring together with the ideas they put forward, the more chance we will have in finding solutions to the problems we are now facing."

Update on the Community Project

The last Newsletter acknowledged that this Project is ambitious, but with both a dedication to achieve its aim of providing a new Hall for the benefit of all and supported by competent professional advice, it continues to navigate its way through complexity. Most recently, as result of a claim to part of the land proposed for development at Sizergh Fell Quarry, the Parish Council has taken legal and planning advice. As a contingency, an alternative layout for development of the site has been prepared should that be necessary though in the light of research on the legal position, the Parish Council has lodged an objection to the claim. As a result, the sale of Sizergh Fell Quarry is anticipated whilst the position with the sale of land at Cotes is that expressions of interest are currently on hold as the Council has agreed not to sell until it has secured a satisfactory offer for the Sizergh Fell site.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting (as required by the Local Government Act 1972) will be held in Levens Village Institute on Tuesday 21 March at 7.30p.m. In addition to Reports from the Parish Council and local organisations including Youth Club Awards, there will be a presentation on the current work of the Environment Agency in the area.

A Plea from Levens Village Community Website

Could you join the Webteam ...? In order to be able to continue the Levens Village Community website, we need some **new volunteers** for the Editorial Webteam. Basic IT skills, willingness and a few hours during 2 scheduled weeks, 4 times a year, is all that is required. The website is easy to edit, training is available, and you'd be part of a team that work together.

If you can help, we would be delighted to hear from you !

Please contact Allan, Claire, Clare, Elaine and Graham at website@levens.org.uk.

Current Details for Levens Parish Council 2016-17

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