

LEVENS PARISH NEWSLETTER

JUNE / JULY 2017

Chairman's Comments

At the May meeting of the Parish Council I was re-elected as Chairman for the next year. I thank my fellow Councillors for their ongoing support.

The unsubstantiated objection to the Council's ownership of Sizergh Fell Quarry has now been resolved so we hope to resume progress on the Community Project in the near future.

We have requested and now received from SLDC a copy of the final plans approved by them for the Story Homes Greengate development. We are looking at these to confirm the details approved.

Traffic management in the village is currently being reviewed by a small committee and I am pleased to see that the B4RN Project has reached the border of our Parish.

School holidays will be with us shortly so can I please ask that we all adhere to the 20mph limit when passing the Playing Fields.

Roger Atfield

Levens Community Project

The unfortunate boundary dispute at Sizergh Fell Quarry has inevitably delayed progress with the Project, as the sale of this, and the plots at Cotes, is required to generate funds for the next phase of work. Following resolution of the issue however, the plots are now being re-marketed and we look forward to the receipt of satisfactory offers.

In the meantime the Project Working Group has been looking forward and amongst other plans has commissioned an update of the Business Plan to accommodate a revised timescale. This will be submitted as part of a number of new applications for grant aid towards the next phase of the work. One of the initiatives associated with the main Project has been the development of new allotments at Levens Hall Kitchen Garden to replace those vacated to make land available for eventual development. Now in their first full season, 10 new plots are under cultivation by an enthusiastic band of allotment holders.

Greengate Development

Story Homes has commenced its development in Levens and as the Chairman has confirmed, we are monitoring progress against the approved plans. Various names have been associated with this development and as a result we have met with Officers of South Lakeland District Council in order to clarify the final name to be applied. SLDC have confirmed that it will be called "Meadow Wood" and that all other names are enlisted for sales promotion only.

Levens Village Traffic Management

As reported in the last Newsletter, a Traffic Management Group has been formed to try to address the growing concern about road traffic in the village. This was stimulated initially by worries about the safety of children attending the school, but whilst this remains the primary concern, it became clear that there were a number of associated matters. A well-attended public meeting to discuss these was held on 3 April when issues raised included speeding throughout the village, the lack of effective signage around the school, parking on pavements, the speed of some cyclists through the village and potential problems with increased traffic on Greengate in the aftermath of the new development. A number of ideas were suggested, including improvements to the road crossing at the school, the possibility of better access to Church Road for those living on The Green and encouraging police presence to undertake speed monitoring. The Working Group has been collating all the ideas and will prepare a blueprint for action.

Levens B4RN Project

Planning is racing ahead to make this project a resounding success for our Levens community. The Parish has been split into small manageable areas or "Blocks" of 25–35 houses, each with a Block Champion to help coordinate local requirements and more detailed planning of the fibre cable and conduit routing. There are a couple of gaps on northern and eastern Greengate if anybody would like to join the team for these areas. Sunday 4th June 2017 marked our very first dig over the hill from our parish border with Hincaster and down to the A6 opposite the back of Levens Hall. Next we go under the A6 before the River Kent and up into the heart of Levens. Keep an eye out for our B4RN Banner moving around the parish to help publicise our Website and Facebook Page at www.levensb4rn.com

Levens Village Community Website

A fabulous source for information, links and news on our community was designed to be tied into social media options not yet launched. The team have started to develop a Facebook Page to compliment both the website and Email news from Alan Steward. Join us at <https://www.facebook.com/levens.org.uk/>. The Website team are constantly trying to keep all entries up to date and relevant together with this new addition of Facebook – Please join in, keep us posted and our community fully informed and connected.

Parish Councillors Village Tour

Whilst there is no formal meeting of the Parish Council in June, Councillors traditionally gather for an evening walk around the village to visit areas where matters have been brought to their attention. This year's annual tour on 13 June visited the site of land off Brigsteer Road to consider how to enhance a plot of land kindly donated to the village by the W.I.

On the roadside nearby, as in other places the presence of dog faeces prompted Councillors to request that a plea go in this Newsletter to all dog walkers to remove pet waste. On this it was also agreed to ask the National Trust to provide signs on the edge of its access land to remind people that this is as important in open country as it is in the village. *Neosporium caninum* is a parasite that can be ingested by dogs and which, once inside the dog, lays its eggs; these are then passed out in faeces onto pasture where they are in turn eaten by cows. Whilst the disease does not harm the cows (or humans), once in the bloodstream of a pregnant cow the parasite infects the heart, lungs and other tissues of the developing foetus, often resulting in abortion.

From there Councillors went down to Cotes, looking at village benches and potholes in the road on the way. The condition of the three plots of land currently for sale at Cotes was considered, before looking at broader issues of verge maintenance and woodland management. In respect of verges it was acknowledged that lack of maintenance hinders sight-lines for traffic as well as the appearance of the village. It was agreed that whilst a number of verges are associated with land owned by the Parish Council (and which are cut periodically) the Council will seek a meeting with SLDC to discuss the general responsibility for verge maintenance. On trees, Councillors noted progress with its move towards preparing a woodland management plan (which requires all its woodland plots to be registered with the Rural Payments Agency) but again agreed to talk to SLDC regarding responsibility for roadside trees not on its land.

Current Details for Levens Parish Council 2017/18

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