

# SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2017



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Sedgwick Sunset by Richard Gill

*If you have a photograph you would like to showcase in our next newsletter, please send it to us*

**Website;** [www.parish-council.com/sedgwickparishcouncil](http://www.parish-council.com/sedgwickparishcouncil)

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**Sedgwick**  
**NO COLD CALLING ZONE**

To report a Cold Caller; call  
Cumbria Police on 101 immediately  
and if possible, report them to  
Cumbria Trading Standards via the  
Citizens Advice Helpline on 03454  
04 05 06

## From the Chairman

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter, which contains important information about our NCCZ and upcoming Annual Parish Meeting. But first, one of our Councillors, George Willacy, has decided to step down from his duties. George has worked extremely hard for the Council over the past few years in his role as Millennium Field Safety Officer and Gritting Co-ordinator. We thank him very much for his time and wish him well. Our Annual Parish Meeting will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March (please see page 4) when we look forward to hearing from representatives from Village organisations and meeting residents. It will include consultation with residents about proposed changes to the pavements under the aqueduct – see enclosed information. If you would like to ask any questions, please contact us, or just come along on the evening.

## News

### No Cold Calling Zone

Our No Cold Calling Zone has now been in operation for 6 months. We were delighted to take part in the recent ITV Border News article encouraging more local Parishes to establish their own Zones; as the scheme becomes more widespread, Cumbria will become a less attractive target to these unwelcome people. While the TV crew were actually visiting the village, residents reported a nuisance fish seller and so they were able to witness the prompt response by Trading Standards Officers and our local PCSO. The Cold Caller left the area as soon as the NCCZ was mentioned which shows that the system is working. It would be even better if callers didn't come in the first place, so we urge residents to display the door stickers we provided. As part of our own scheme's introduction we are carrying out an evaluation to assess its impact. **Please return the enclosed questionnaire to any councillor or bring it to the Annual Parish Meeting.**



**Highways and Flooding Action** We were delighted to see the remedial action that we campaigned for, to alleviate the gully problem along Back Lane, has been carried out. We have participated in a county wide review which aims to prevent flooding in the future by reporting on the condition of all drains and gulleys in the Parish. We continue to wait for the promised road repairs along the river, on Castle View (pavements) and at Crosscrake Lane Junction. Please continue to report any problems to us. We continue to be part of the scheme to extend the gritting of local roads and hope that residents are benefitting from better conditions on the iciest mornings. Please take particular care on Force Bridge where blocked gulleys lead to ice patches and on Cooper Hill which is a frost pocket.

In 2014, in response to residents' concerns about pedestrian safety in the village, we requested improvements to the road markings and signage around the aqueduct. After a long wait, we have been asked by the County Highways Team to comment on two proposed options – Please read the information enclosed and have YOUR say.

**Emergency Planning** Our new initiative for 2017 is to devise a Community Emergency Plan to increase our resilience and response to unforeseen circumstances. If you have any expertise or ideas to contribute, we are actively seeking input from residents. We are holding our first meeting in early March following training in February; please contact the clerk for details.

**Sheep worrying** Following a recent incident, where sheep were seriously injured by a dog, our PCSO has asked us to remind everyone to take particular care when walking dogs near fields, especially as the lambing season progresses.

## Canal Management

Over the winter months, you may have noticed our contractor has been undertaking tree felling work along the Canal. Two years ago, we embarked on updating our Canal Management Plan which aims to maintain the parish owned section of the former Lancaster-Kendal Canal. The canal was purchased in 1980 to protect it as a natural conservation area to be used as an amenity for residents and visitors. We began by re-affirming this aim but also considered aspects concerning the right of way provided by the towpath and the industrial heritage of the former canal. We commissioned a comprehensive Woodland Management Survey to inform our planning. This report identified that the area immediately adjacent to the aqueduct had been well managed but the remaining 400m had become overgrown with self seeded goat willow trees that were fast becoming a serious problem. These trees had weak root systems due to the clay canal liner which is still in situ and weak trunks because they were overcrowded, meaning that they would become unstable in the near future. In addition to this, the dense canopy of leaves was blocking light to the lower herbaceous plants at ground level, resulting in a deterioration of the whole habitat, increased soil erosion and an undermining of the towpath. (shown in these pictures; compare the dark and grassed sections.)



So, together with our Woodland Management Consultant, we identified a schedule of work, appointed a contractor and work commenced in August. The cost of this work was part funded by a grant we obtained from SLDC.



Wet weather made conditions very difficult and it has been a complex task, with the problem of access presenting further difficulty. However all the weak trees have now been felled, restoring the area to a much more open and varied habitat and once again revealing features along the canal. Despite the benefits of a project like this having a time span of years rather than months, already, the lighter

conditions have seen an increase in birdlife and early spring bulbs seem to be thriving. We look forward to the summer when the grass, plants and shrubs become re-established, our insects return and the whole ecosystem is revived. We anticipate further benefits in years to come as the contrasting habitats evolve.

Looking to the future, we now have a medium and long term plan of action required to keep the canal habitat in good condition. In the shorter term, we are investigating signage to highlight historical features and nature along the canal. If there are any residents with ideas or expertise to contribute to our Canal Project, please let us know.

# SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

## CONTACT DETAILS

**Clerk;** Sylvia Roberts  
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**Chair:** Boyan Holmes;  
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**John Oscroft;**  
15 Castle View, 60517

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4, Wakefield Meadow, 60939

**David Willacy;**  
Hill Top, 61858

**County Councillor;** Brenda Gray,  
Rose Cottage Hincaster, Milnthorpe, LA7 7ND 61135

**District Councillor;** Sheila Eccles,  
25 Birchfield, Endmoor, LA8 OJA 67629

**SLDC** 01539 733333

### Future Council Meetings

2nd Wednesday of every Month: Village Hall; 7.30pm  
8th March, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> May 14<sup>th</sup> June 12<sup>th</sup> July

Each meeting includes a Public Forum as part of the agenda for any resident to ask questions, raise items of concern or simply comment on issues. Residents are always welcome at meetings.

## SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

*To be held in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972*

**Wednesday 15 March 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Sedgwick Village Hall**

### A G E N D A

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

**2. Apologies**

**3. Minutes of the 2016 Parish Meeting**

**4. Annual Reports**

Kendal Neighbourhood Policing Team

Parish and Local Groups Report

District Councillor Sheila Eccles

County Councillor Brenda Gray

**5. Report on the work of the Parish Council 2016-7**

- No Cold Calling Zone and evaluation
- Flood action and Highways
- Millennium Field
- Canal Management
- Cycling Champion
- Grants received/given - Financial Report

**6. Consultation regarding proposed improvements to pedestrian safety under the aqueduct**

**7. Discussion of future initiatives**

- Emergency Planning
- Playground equipment
- Armistice commemorations 2018

**7. An opportunity for residents to ask questions or raise other issues**

***Refreshments will be served***

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