

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017



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Many thanks to Ira Fishman for this picture of Sedgwick House
If you have a photograph you would like to showcase in our next newsletter, please send it to us

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

SEDGWICK

Community Emergency Plan

Sedgwick has developed a Community Emergency Plan to help minimise the impact of a major local emergency on residents.

In event of a major emergency, contact our

Community Response Group

Coordinator Gerry Stoker - 4 Wakefield Meadow Tel 60939

Richard Gill - Old School House Tel 60116

Boyan Holmes - The Oaks Tel 61644

Our Emergency Control Point is Sedgwick Village Hall

Website; www.parish-council.com/sedgwickparishcouncil

Email; sedgwick.parish@gmail.com



Find us on Facebook and Twitter too!

From the Chairman

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. It has been a busy few months and so we have plenty news about the work we are doing and the progress we are making towards achieving our Parish Priorities. Councillors and volunteers have been working very hard and I would like to thank Gerry for his work in developing our Community Emergency Plan, John Goodland and Ann Alwright for their work updating our website and Gerry and David for their continued work on the Millennium Field and Canal.

News

Millennium Field Our main parish priority for this year is to add to our range of play equipment in the Millennium Field by adding a slide for our youngest members of the community. We are proud to have completed this project and children are already enjoying our new Playdale Tottlebank slide tower! Meanwhile we have carried out maintenance repairs to the existing safety surface under the swings and the picnic tables.

Sedgwick Community Emergency Plan

Our other big initiative for 2017 is to devise a Community Emergency Plan to increase our resilience and response to unforeseen circumstances. In Cumbria, communities have learnt a great deal about increasing resilience, through the bitter experiences of the flooding in 2005, 2009 and 2015. The emergency response agencies do all they can in such circumstances, but Community Emergency Plans have proved effective in minimising the impact of emergencies by helping individuals, households and whole communities respond to and recover from emergencies. We have formed a Community Response Group who have devised a plan, under the guidance of our Coordinator Gerry Stoker. It provides a framework and systems that can be put into action in the event of an emergency and has been shared with the County Council Emergency Network. Our Emergency Control and Rest Point is the Village Hall and we thank their Committee for their cooperation. The WI have also supported this initiative and have appointed a coordinator to work with us. Details of how to contact the Community Response Group will be displayed on the front of newsletters, around the village and are on our website and facebook page.

During our CEP training and research, we have also seen compelling evidence of the value of Household Emergency Plans. The ability of a community to respond to and recover from emergencies is closely linked to how well individuals and households can respond. Straightforward actions such as every member of the household knowing how switch off mains services, developing household fire evacuation routes and simply keeping a list of vital contacts and which possessions you would prioritise to put in a “grab bag” if you had to evacuate your home, can significantly reduce the impact of an emergency. Do you have a torch (preferably wind up), battery powered radio and a telephone that works in a power cut? ACTION with Communities in Cumbria are at the forefront of work in this area and we strongly recommend residents to look at their leaflet which we are distributing with this newsletter. We have included relevant emergency contacts on the back of this newsletter.



SEDGWICK

Community Emergency Plan

No Cold Calling Zone

Thank you to all residents who took part in our NCCZ Evaluation. The scheme has been a great success and is widely appreciated. We have had reports of phone and other scam attempts on residents. These include fake calls from banks and computer service companies. There is useful advice on www.ageuk.org.uk/money-matters/consumer-advice/scams-advice/ and we have acquired copies of a very useful booklet which explains how to avoid falling victim to attacks. **Please contact us if you would like a copy.**

Sedgwick
NO COLD CALLING ZONE

Canal Management The work to remove the damaging goat willow which had



seeded itself in the bed of the canal was completed in May and regeneration is well underway. By opening up the lower levels to sunlight, the vulnerable bare soil is fast being covered by protective grass and herbaceous species. The contrasting habitats we are creating are already attracting a wide range of birds and mammals; we have even had sightings of a visiting deer from Levens Park. We are also working with our local Beaver Cub Pack who are encouraging new flowers

to grow. Residents are invited to remove any remaining cut logs or kindling that can be safely accessed from the path. The bottom of the canal bed remains very wet and muddy; great for amphibians but not for humans, so residents are advised to stay on the towpath.

You may have read in the local press about the Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership's vision to create a combined cycle path/footpath "towpath trail" to link Kendal and Lancaster. The project has already received significant funding; the first phase between Kendal and Natland is well underway and apparently a lottery bid of £1.5 million has been made to extend the trail on the Stainton to Sedgwick section. The complexities of how such a trail would work are still unclear and the Parish Council, who have not been consulted about the proposal, will not make any decisions about the future of the Parish owned section of the canal without consultation with residents.

Dogs We have received feedback from several residents about dogs urinating and/or defecating on paths and gardens in the village – we are fortunate that the majority of owners never allow their dogs to do this but would remind those who do, that it is upsetting others. There is sound advice on page 2 of the Countryside Code www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code

Highways and Footpaths The outcome of our consultation about proposals to improve pedestrian safety under the aqueduct was a clear preference for Option 2 which will retain the existing footpath and add coloured textured paint and road markings. We expect the work to be scheduled for the Autumn. Other safety suggestions proposed at the AGM included requests for enhanced lighting, a 20mph zone and Sat Nav signs to prevent large vehicles entering the village only to have to turn at the aqueduct. Council have discussed these suggestions and contacted the relevant County and District Officers to request action on these suggestions.

We continue to report highway faults every month, using the very lengthy highways fault reporting system. Unfortunately, our requests for repairs to the Carex Farm Junction (potholes), Wakefield Meadow to Crosscrake Lane/Force Bridge Lane (potholes and verge collapse), Cooper Hill (collapsed drain) and Castle View and Hill Close (pavements) have not been actioned and some have been assessed as unnecessary. We feel that progress might be made if residents add weight to our requests by contacting Cumbria Highways directly on their HIGHWAYS HOTLINE 0300 303 2992 or by using the www.fillthathole.org.uk website. We will continue to campaign for these faults to be repaired.

Recently, we have been asked by some residents to consider replacing the middle “ramp” access to the canal towpath with steps. Over the past 10 years, in response to residents, the council have funded many improvements to this path; it has been extended, resurfaced, levelled and a hand rail installed. Before taking any further action, we are seeking advice from the Countryside Access Department at Cumbria County Council before exploring different solutions.

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Clerk; Sylvia Roberts

The Nook, Levens, LA8 8PN 60080

County Councillor; Brenda Gray,
Rose Cottage, Hincaster, Milnthorpe,
LA7 7ND 61135/07770 664379

email: Brenda.Gray@cumbria.gov.uk

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

email: sheila.eccles@yahoo.co.uk

Chair: Boyan Holmes;

The Oaks, 61644

Vice Chair: Richard Gill;

Old School House, 60116

John Goodland: The Smithy, 60921

John Oscroft; 15 Castle View, 60517

Gerry Stoker; 4, Wakefield Meadow, 60939

David Willacy; Top Of t Hill, 61858

Emergency Contacts for Household Emergency Planning

SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL	01539 733333
NATIONAL GAS EMERGENCY	0800 111 999
ELECTRICITY EMERGENCY SERVICE HELP LINE	0800 195 4141
UNITED UTILITIES	0800 195 4141
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY	0800 80 70 60
NHS DIRECT	0845 4647
CRIMESTOPPERS	0800 555 111
WESTMORLAND GENERAL HOSPITAL	015397 32 288
FURNESS GENERAL HOSPITAL	01229 822 760
CUMBRIA AMBULANCE SERVICE	01228 596 909
KENDAL POLICE STATION	0845 33 00 247
HIGHWAYS AGENCY (ROADS)	08457 504030
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (FLOOD WARNINGS)	0845 9881188
MAINS WATER LEAKS IN PUBLIC ROADS	0800 330 033

Future Council Meetings

2nd Wednesday of every Month: Village Hall; 7.30pm

13th September 11th October 8th November

Advance notice of the Annual Parish Meeting: March 14th 2018