

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2019



Welcome to our Spring Newsletter and an invitation to attend the
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting, held each year, gives us the opportunity to explain what the Parish Council has achieved over the last year and give you, the electors, the chance to have your say or ask questions about local issues.

We use the meeting to learn about what residents think are the most important parish priorities and through this, the outcome of the meeting helps shape our agenda for the future.

There will also be a presentation on the history of the Lancaster-Kendal Canal

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*



www.sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk

Find us on Facebook and Twitter too!

OUR ANNUAL PARISH REPORT

The year since our last Annual Report, has been a very busy time for the Council, keeping abreast of the many changes in regulations as well as continuing to manage the affairs and assets of the Parish. The **General Data Protection Regulation** came into force in May 2018, creating a great deal of work to ensure we comply with all its requirements. We are now registered with the ICO and all policies and procedures are in place, compliant and available online. **Planning and Audit** requirements have also changed, requiring further updates to procedures. Our **new website**, which is fully compliant with transparency regulations, has attracted up to 100 visitors a day and we have had very positive feedback about its design and usefulness.

We have had great success with various **highways projects**. After years of campaigning, the **pedestrian safety improvements** under the aqueduct were completed and all **height restriction signage** has been updated. **Resurfacing** of both Hill Close pavements and Crosscrake Road has been completed and significant repairs to the potholes and verge collapses along the riverside and Wellheads Lane and Cooper Hill have also been carried out. We look forward to further work in the Spring and continue to report faults to ensure their repair is high on the Highways Department's agenda. As part of a local group of Parishes we have supplemented Cumbria Highways Gritting Runs (which do not include the whole village), by calling in local teams to **grit in and around the aqueduct, Back Lane and to Force Bridge via the riverside**.

We continue to manage the **Sedgwick No Cold Calling Zone** (which is proving a very effective deterrent) and the **Community Emergency Plan** and are delighted to support the Village Hall by covering the ongoing maintenance costs of the **Defibrillator** and by providing **free wi-fi**.

Even though we are one of the smallest parishes in Cumbria, we are pleased to continue to manage and develop the top-class amenities that we own. The **Canal Wildlife Area** habitats continue to thrive after the recent restoration work. The arrival of Ash Die-back is being managed and our Canal Management Plan has been revised to include contingency plans for future attacks. The **Millennium Field** has been maintained and continues to offer facilities for all ages. The past year has seen all our **seats and benches** either repaired or replaced and we have continued to fund **grass cutting** along Back Lane and on the Village Green as well as on the Canal and Millennium Field.

A highlight of the year, was the Parish involvement in the **Armistice Weekend** in November. It was a fantastic effort which brought the communities of Sedgwick and Crosscrake together to mark the centenary of the end of The Great War and commemorate local soldiers who fought and died in the war. A brass band concert, WW1 exhibition, two services of Remembrance and the lighting of a "**Battle's Over**" **Beacon**, were enjoyed by a huge crowd. It was also an opportunity to show support for **Crosscrake Church** who are embarking on a huge fundraising effort to provide new facilities at the Church and **Crosscrake School**, to whom we also gave a grant, to support its participation in the Kendal Torchlight Parade to attract more pupils. We were delighted to see the completion of the **Cricket Club practice nets** which the Council has part funded.

So, it has been a very busy but hugely productive year.

None of this would have been possible without the contribution of our Councillors who give their time and expertise extremely generously, working very hard for the Parish.

Special thanks go to Gerry Stoker and David Willacy for their incredible work on the Canal and Millennium Field and to our dedicated and hard-working Parish Clerk.

Boyan Holmes Chairman Sedgwick Parish Council

NOTICE OF THE SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

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

Wednesday 20th March 2018 at 7.30 pm at Sedgwick Village Hall

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Apologies

3. Minutes of the 2018 Parish Meeting

4. Annual Reports

*Kendal Neighbourhood Policing Team
Parish and Local Groups
District Councillors
County Councillor Brenda Gray*

5. Council's Annual Review

- Data Protection and Transparency
- Highways
- Sedgwick No Cold Calling Zone
- Emergency Planning
- Defibrillator and wi-fi
- Canal Wildlife Area
- Millennium Field
- Armistice Weekend/SCC/School
- Financial Report

6. Discussion and Consultation on future initiatives

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

8. Mr Peter Jones of the Lancaster Canal Trust

will give a presentation about the Lancaster-Kendal Canal

Including details about the anniversary celebrations and renovation project at Stainton

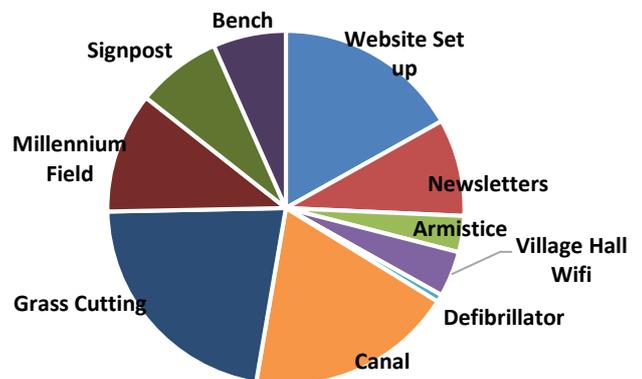
Refreshments will be served

Financial Report 2018-19

With only 187 properties required to contribute to the Parish income via the Parish Precept component of the Council Tax, we have a very small income for a Parish responsible for such extensive amenities. To cover the additional costs relating to the introduction of GDPR and the new audit regime, we had no option but to increase the precept by 3%. All other increases and costs were absorbed by striving for better value - for example a cheaper broadband contract and very prudent management of funds. We were successful in winning a grant of £500

from The Gateway Group to cover part of the annual maintenance costs of the Canal Wildlife Area and received an anonymous grant of £100. We finished the year with a slight surplus. Our contingency fund, which will safeguard the future of the Canal Area and Millennium Field remains intact but is at the minimum level required for prudent long-term custodianship of these village assets.

Next year, we face further significant increases in running costs as changes to the VAT returns system and increased national pay scales, are introduced. External funding for our Road Gritting Service has come to an end, so we need to allocate 3-5% of our budget to keep this service going. There are also fewer properties liable for Council Tax which reduces our income. Again, we have strived for best value and kept external contracts for services to a minimum, but in order to maintain the current level of service we need to raise the precept again by 3% to offset half of these increases. Draft accounts for the past year will be available at the Parish Meeting and past accounts and financial returns are available online on our website.



2018-9 Parish Priorities

CANAL NEWS

We have received a grant of £500 from The Gateway Group to spend on the Canal Wildlife Area. - we have used the money to support annual maintenance costs and to ensure this well-used amenity remains in great condition.

HIGHWAYS NEWS

We have had continued success with campaigning for road repairs in the parish and further resurfacing is scheduled for after April 2019. We log all highway faults, but cannot stress highly enough that we need residents to add weight to our complaints.

If you notice any problems, please report them using the following methods:

The Cumbria County Council Highways "Report a fault" interactive map

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/roads-transport/highways-pavements/reporting-problem-on-highway/WDM/default.asp>

Use the **HIGHWAYS HOTLINE 0300 303 2992** (postcode of fault location required ☺ refer to council minutes)

SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

Your County Councillor;

Brenda Gray,
Rose Cottage, Hincaster, Milnthorpe,
LA7 7ND 61135/07770 664379
email: Brenda.Gray@cumbria.gov.uk

Your District Councillors:

Cllr. Tom Harvey
Limestones Cottage, Clawthorpe
LA6 1NU 07769705307
email: tom@tom-harvey.co.uk
Cllr. Roger Bingham
The Smithy, Ackenthwaite
Milnthorpe
LA7 7DH 015395 63694
email: roger.bingham@cumbria.gov.uk
Cllr Brian Cooper
Willow Tree Barn, Brigsteer
LA8 8AR 015395 84991
email: b.cooper47@yahoo.co.uk

Your Parish Clerk:

Sylvia Roberts
The Nook, Levens,
LA8 8PN. Tel. 60080
email: sedgwick.parish@gmail.com

Your Parish Councillors:

Chair: Boyan Holmes;
The Oaks, 61644
Vice Chair: Richard Gill;
Old School House, 60116
John Oscroft; 15 Castle View, 60517
Robert Smith: Stable Cottage, 60314
Gerry Stoker; 4 Wakefield Meadow, 60939
David Willacy; Top Of t Hill, 61858

Future Council Meetings

**At Sedgwick Village Hall at 7.30pm - Residents are always welcome
2nd Wednesday every month**

Each meeting includes a Public Forum as part of the agenda for residents to ask questions, raise items of concern or simply comment on issues. Submission of questions in advance of the meeting are welcomed, so that they can be answered more fully. Matters raised that are not included on this agenda will be considered for subsequent agendas which are published at least 3 days before each meeting



CUMBRIA COMMUNITY MESSAGING (CCM)

is a web-based network of community safety information managed by the Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch Association which enables individuals and groups across Cumbria to sign up to receive important and up to date information from a range of agencies and organisations. Registration is quick, simple and completely free and you can tailor the information you receive to suit you e.g. from Farm/Caravan/Boat/Neighbourhood Watch, Environment Agency, Age UK, CCC etc. If you would like to join Cumbria Community Messaging then visit:
www.cumbriacommunitymessaging.co.uk

IMPORTANT EMERGENCY ADVICE

If you have to call the Emergency Services, remember to make sure they know which side of the aqueduct a vehicle is needed, because many modern appliances cannot pass under the aqueduct and the detour required is long.