



# SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

## PARISH NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023



### Welcome to our Spring Newsletter and your invitation to attend our Annual Parish Meeting

Our Annual Parish Meeting gives the Parish Council the opportunity to explain what it has achieved over the last year and gives you, the electors, the chance to have your say or ask questions about local issues. We also invite local organisations to present reports. We use the meeting to learn about what you think are the most important parish priorities and through this, the outcome of the meeting helps shape our agenda for the future.

This year, we are delighted to open the evening with a presentation by XXXX from the Clean Up the River Kent coalition. This has become a key issue for communities along the river as both human health and the environment suffer because of the quality of the river water which has been assessed as poor (the worst category) due to high levels of faecal bacterial pathogens.

### NOTICE OF THE SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL'S **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

*To be held in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972*  
**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm**

## A G E N D A

**A presentation by the "Clean Up the River Kent" project.**

1. Welcome and Introduction
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of the 2022 Parish Meeting
4. Councillors' Reports
5. Reports from Village Organisations
6. Questions and Future Priorities
7. The role of Parish Clerk

Light refreshments will be served

Please submit questions in advance to the Parish Clerk before Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March to help us be able to provide a response on the evening.

## OUR ANNUAL PARISH REVIEW 2022-3

The past year has been marked by a return to the new post -Covid “normal”. The Council have continued to work hard to represent residents and manage the amenities we are responsible for. **Our Council Meeting Attendance rates** are still high and we are delighted that Cllrs Doug Rathbone and Roger Bingham have continued to attend to represent Cumbria County Council and SLDC as they move towards the unification and the establishment of the new Westmorland and Furness Area. (W&F)

In the summer, we welcomed **Val Macconnell** to the Council and she is already working hard on behalf of the council and residents. Our wonderful **Parish Clerk** has delayed her retirement and agreed to serve the council until the summer.

The **Millennium Field** has been appreciated by all ages throughout the year and Gerry has worked incredibly hard to make sure the equipment and grounds stay in tip-top condition. Our long-term project to replace the tree slide, which is nearing the end of its lifespan is taking shape. We have sourced a replacement which will offer even better play opportunities and our mission to seek out grant funding has begun with an very supportive donation from Cllr Rathbone.

The **Canal Wildlife Area** continues to be provide a peaceful place to walk and enjoy nature. The wetland habitat has fared well during the periods of wet and dry weather. Our woodland management consultant continues to inspect the woodland regularly and James Park our Woodland Contractor has been invaluable responding to storm damage as well as carrying out necessary maintenance tasks. Ash Die Back continues to cause challenges but our policy of removal only when necessary has enabled in some recovery as trees show more resistance to the disease. The WI kindly donated 100 saplings which have been planted to replace the trees that had to be felled in previous years and they have become part of the Platinum Jubilee Queens Canopy. A commemoration plaque has been installed and will be dedicated as part of the Coronation celebrations.

The Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership is still planning to install a large iron sculpture on the aqueduct and an information board by the towpath. We still await action to repair the path over the aqueduct and improve safety on the steps. Their consultation with landowners, carried out in March 2021 has been released but stakeholders that took part have not been given access.

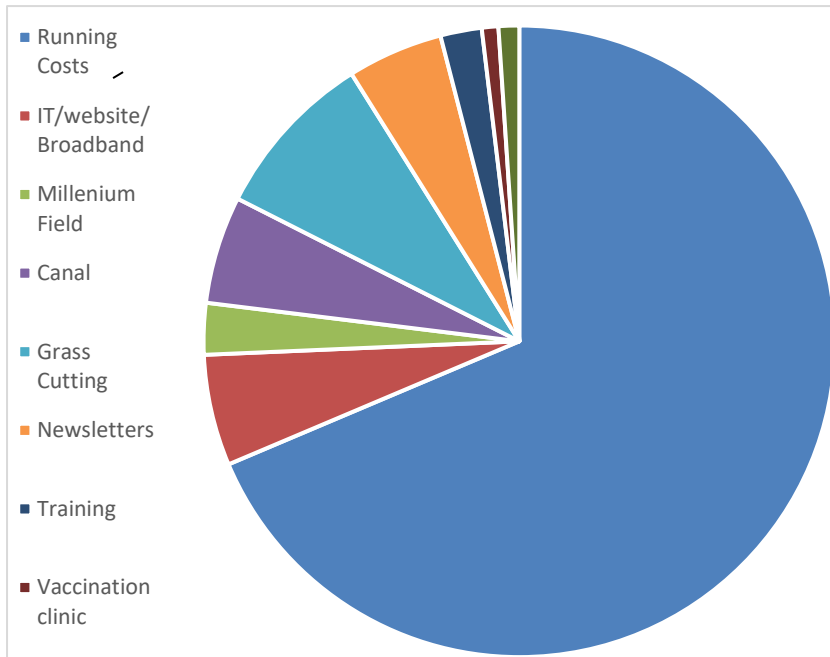
**Highways** issues take up a significant amount of our time. Repairs have been carried out and before the recent cold spells, were in good relatively good condition. However, several new deep potholes have appeared and following an audit of all Parish roads in January all faults are logged. Residents are asked to report faults using the online system because the more people that complain, the more likely they are to be assessed. Cllr Bingham funded the new Back Lane signs.

Our campaign for a 20mph speed limit in the village continues. The results of the speed data collected in November 2021 and January 2022 were not sufficient to warrant action but we have queried this judgement. The planned 20mph zones in Kendal will help the general call for more speed restrictions and it is a priority of the new W&F Council, so we live in hope.

**Planning** has become a significant area of concern. There are several very large-scale developments proposed for the south of Kendal and north of Natland and the Council have discussed the issues arising and made their objections known. We believe the disproportionate expansion of villages (eg the almost doubling of Natland) will undermine the character of the rural area and pose significant problems; the inevitable increase in traffic along the narrow minor roads in and around the Parish, caused by these developments, is an unacceptable escalation of the safety problems we already experience and the resulting increase in population will further stretch the local infrastructure, especially the sewage system. We have requested conditions be placed on any development that is permitted including making developers take responsibility for traffic safety measures in local villages, such as funding, monitoring and maintaining 20mph limits.

We were delighted to fund the **Vaccination Clinic** at the Village Hall in October. We continue to work to comply with all **Data Protection Regulations, and financial** requirements and maintain our popular **website**. We have attended a range of online **training and consultation events and have represented** residents at many external meetings. Finally, we have continued to oversee the **Sedgwick No Cold Calling Zone** to deter unwanted visitors and have updated the **Community Emergency Plan** which would help the community respond to a local crisis.





There are only 189 properties in Sedgwick that contribute to our Parish income via the Parish Precept component of Council Tax and this number has fallen again this year; this makes maintaining our impressive range of amenities like the Millennium Field and Canal Wildlife Area a real challenge. We increased the precept by just 4% this year which only partly covered inflationary increases. The chart shows how we prioritised expenditure. We expect to finish the financial year with a small working contingency and our reserve fund which safeguards the long-term future of the Millennium Field and Canal Wildlife Area

remains intact. We expect finances will remain extremely tight during 2023-4 because of inflation and smaller number of contributory properties and we have reluctantly increased the precept by 6% to help cover the costs. Draft accounts for the year will be available on the website prior to the Parish Meeting.

**None of the Council's achievements would be possible without the contribution made by our brilliant team of Councillors, who give their time and expertise so generously and work so hard for the Parish and I would like to thank them on your behalf.**

Special thanks go to our dedicated and hard-working Parish Clerk.

**Boyan Holmes** Chairman of Sedgwick Parish Council

## News

- From 4 May 2023, **voters** in England will need to show **photo ID** to vote at polling stations in local elections. This will include our local elections in May. From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections. If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate. [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id?gclid=aw.ds](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id?gclid=aw.ds)
- Unification update: Councillors have approved a historic plan laying down the priorities, values and principles that will underpin the new local authority of Westmorland and Furness Council, which will take over services in the Barrow, Eden and South Lakeland areas when it 'goes live' from 1 April 2023. They pledge to create a "caring council, delivering excellent services and with the communities it serves at the heart of all it does."



## King Charles III – Coronation Weekend

**St Thomas' Church, Crosscrake** will be holding an Open Air **Service of Celebration** on The Millennium Field in Sedgwick on **Sunday 7th May at 10am**. This will be followed by a **Jacob's Join Lunch**. **All Welcome**. This will be relocated into the Village Hall if it rains.

Many residents are also busy organising **street parties** during the weekend – why not celebrate with your neighbours?

# SEDGWICK PARISH COUNCIL

**Clerk; Sylvia Roberts**  
The Nook, Levens LA8 8PN  
07923641910

## Councillors:

**Chair; Boyan Holmes;**

The Oaks, 61644

**Andrea Holmes;**

5, Wakefield Meadow, 61364

**Gerry Stoker;**

4, Wakefield Meadow, 60939

**Bernie Tanham;** The Wharf, 60179

**Will Burrow;** Railway Cottage, 07814575880

**Val Macconnell;** 4 Orchard View. Tel 07779912017



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

## District Councillors

Cllr. Tom Harvey; 07769705307

[tom@tom-harvey.co.uk](mailto:tom@tom-harvey.co.uk)

Cllr Brian Cooper; 015395 84991

[b.cooper47@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:b.cooper47@yahoo.co.uk)

Cllr. Roger Bingham; 015395 63694

[roger.bingham@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:roger.bingham@cumbria.gov.uk)

## Cumbria County Council

**HIGHWAYS HOTLINE 0300 3032992**

## COUNCIL MEETINGS 2023

**Sedgwick Village Hall 7.30pm**

**10th May, 12th July, 13th September and 8th November**

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.

## Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023



Our website

[www.sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.sedgwickparishcouncil.org.uk)

Our Email [sedgwick.parish@gmail.com](mailto:sedgwick.parish@gmail.com)



Find us on Facebook  
@ SedgwickParishCouncil



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

**COLD CALLERS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SEDGWICK!**

If they call on you, contact  
Cumbria Police on 101  
immediately and if possible,  
report them to Cumbria  
Trading Standards via the  
Citizens Advice Helpline on  
03454 04 05 06

### IMPORTANT EMERGENCY ADVICE

If you need 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 very long

## SEDGWICK

### Community Emergency Plan

**Sedgwick Parish Council has a  
Community Emergency Plan to  
help minimise the impact of a  
major local emergency on  
residents. In event of a major  
emergency, contact our  
Coordinator Gerry Stoker  
Telephone 60939**

## SEDGWICK VILLAGE HALL

**Bookings:** Joyce Benson **Tel:** 015395 60715 **Email:** [joycebenson2@gmail.com](mailto:joycebenson2@gmail.com)