



Dufton Parish Council

Newsletter

Issue 16
October 2015

Welcome all to this edition of the Parish Council Newsletter!

As the dark nights and cold, wet days are with us again, can I ask us all to be more aware and look out for our neighbours. If you can, please make an effort to check that you neighbour is fine as with these short days it is easy to forget that you haven't seen your neighbour for a few days. For some a simple hello over the fence can be the only outside contact they have.

If you have any queries or suggestions regarding what **you** would like to see happen in our parish then please feel free to speak to any of the councillors who will be more than happy to bring your suggestions to the next meeting or better still you could join us in person at our next council meeting. *Mike Parkin*

Environmental updates This year the Parish Council awarded the contract for grass cutting to a new contractor and it feels that the implementation of the contract has been effective. If you have any comments, positive as well as negative, please let one of the Parish Councillors or the Clerk know. Most of you will have noticed that we once again have been supplied with a skip for green waste. Please ensure that it is only garden waste that you put in (not in bags) so that we will not lose the facility. The skip will be in place for a maximum of two weeks. Eden District Council is unable to provide a specific programme for the skip's arrival as it considers it unfair for residents and also in case, due to circumstances outside the contractor's control, there is a change to the situation. We'll all just have to rely on our powers of observation and the grapevine to know when the skip has appeared.

Footway Lighting Sometime ago, when the District Council was reviewing street lighting in Eden, the Parish Council consulted the community on street lighting in Dufton. This coincided with the removal by EDC of the light outside Grandie Caravan Park as it was deemed unsafe. Concerns were expressed at the lack of light on that corner, especially during winter making walking in the area dangerous, even with a torch.

The Parish Council has investigated the cost of replacement and has received information from Eden District Council outlining the costs to replace the light column outside Grandie Caravan Park. This would be £2,500.00 for a new column installed by Amey plus £1230.00 for extra cabling and excavation. Although there are some reserves in the Parish Council account, paying for a replacement would still nearly double the precept for the next financial year. How much extra your Council Tax would increase would depend on which Council tax band your property is in. Consideration should also be given to the replacement of the other lights in the village as and when they cease to function.

Please indicate on the reply slip if you would like the street lamp replaced and return it by Saturday, **November 7th 2015** to Parish Clerk, Rundale, Dufton CA16 6DF. Thank you.

✂.....

- No I do not want the street lamp replaced Yes I want the street lamp replaced

Name: (Optional).....

Broadband update

The Connecting Cumbria project has been working to provide high speed broadband to rural communities in Cumbria for the last 2 years, using funding made available from the government. Dufton was originally identified as being in 'Phase 1' of this program, aiming to deliver > 24Mbps speeds to 75% of Dufton Parish by the end of 2015. However, this has not materialised due to difficulties encountered during survey by Connecting Cumbria and BT Openreach. BT Openreach and Cumbria County Council are still actively engaged in trying to find a way for Dufton to be connected, as much of the infrastructure is in place. Dufton has not been formally included in the 'Phase 2' rollout (planned for 2016 onwards), as areas that have viable 'alternative providers' are excluded. LonsdaleNet has been approved as a viable provider in this area.

The Parish Council have expressed our concerns to Rory Stewart, CCC and EDC over both the lack of delivery of services to Dufton in Phase 1 and regarding the exclusion from Phase 2. We will continue to work with BT Openreach and Connecting Cumbria to try and secure the infrastructure for high speed broadband in Dufton.

Water Fountains

In the 19th century, the London Lead Mining Company owned many of the mines operating in Dufton and the surrounding area. It was a philanthropic, Quaker owned company and one of its provisions for the workers in Dufton was the installation of a water system for the village. We are all familiar with the fountain on the village green (originally a horse trough), the water fountains in the village and the syke running alongside the village green. These structures are an important part of our history and it was suggested at the Parish Meeting in May that we should celebrate and publicise them so that visitors and residents alike can appreciate their importance.

It will not be possible to get the fountains working again, but it has been suggested that the four fountains should be cleaned up so that they are more prominent and the main fountain cleaned and repainted. The syke also needs to be maintained not only to allow drainage in times of heavy rain but to preserve it and prevent it being filled with plant debris and soil. We are also proposing to produce a leaflet explaining the history of the water system and a map showing the sites of the water fountains. This leaflet will be available for visitors in the shop and in the Tourist Information Centre in Appleby, hopefully for the beginning of the next tourist season.

Shelagh Endres has kindly offered to help with the project. If anyone else would like to become involved in any way, all ideas and offers of practical help will be gratefully received. Please contact either Shelagh or Sue Duncan.

We would also like to hear from any residents who have recollections, either personal or passed down through the family, of any part of the system when it was working.

Lime Trees on the Village Green

The EDC arboriculturalist was consulted earlier in the year about lifting the crown of the lime trees. He suggested lifting them to 5m, but after discussion it was decided to seek tenders for lifting the crowns to 4m. 5 tenders were received and a choice was made at the Parish Council meeting on September 21st. Our application for permission to carry out the work is with EDC at present. The work will be carried out after this has been received.

Please send comments or contributions for future newsletters to the Clerk or any Parish Councillor:

Chairman

Mike Parkin 07736 394509

Vice-chairman

Sue Duncan 53680

Councillors

Gillian Bryan 51414

John Hughes 52454

Wendy Swinbank 52865

David Main 53948

Morgan Donnelly

03330119247

Clerk

Sandie Watson 51813

Parish Council Meetings

Monday 16th November 2015
at 7.30pm,

Dufton Methodist Chapel

Monday 18th January 2016
at 7.30pm,

Dufton Methodist Chapel