

Blackshaw News

Blackshaw Parish Annual Newsletter
March/April 2017



Village of life-savers



John Spikings of Yorkshire Ambulance Service, handing over the defibrillators to Roger Butterworth Chair of the Parish Council, Edith Bowman and other residents

Early in March, two newly installed defibrillators in Blackshawhead went online with a training and 'launch' event, attended by 30 residents. The defibrillators were paid for by people living in and around the village in response to an appeal by resident Edith Bowman, together with the Parish Council. Yorkshire Ambulance Service match-funded the amount raised. Edith had approached the Parish Council for help in exploring options for defibrillators. As a result, John Spikings from Yorkshire Ambulance Service was invited to a council meeting and gave an inspiring talk about how defibrillators can make the difference between life and death.

Edith said "When my husband had a heart attack in March 2015, although the ambulance got here as quickly as it could, it made us realise that had it been a full-blown cardiac arrest, it might have been too late. Blackshawhead can be difficult to get

to, especially in winter. We didn't want anybody else to be in that situation. I emailed the village googlegroup saying that we were trying to buy a defibrillator. The community responded immediately and the pledges came pouring in - so much so that we've managed to buy two!"

The defibrillators are located at the New Delight pub, Jack Bridge, and at Blackshawhead Methodist Chapel, and both these venues have kindly agreed to fund electricity costs to the cabinet.

Further Call Push Rescue training sessions using kit donated to the Parish Council by the British Heart Foundation have been organised on 29th March, (7.30pm Blackshawhead Methodists), and 8th May (in the bottom of the parish - venue to be decided). If your group would like to use our kit (there are 10 'resusci-annies' and you simply follow a DVD), or would like help arranging a training, get in touch.

Could you be a parish councillor?

A casual vacancy has arisen on the parish council in Blackshaw and providing 10 electors do not request an election, we will be looking for someone to co-opt. It is a great way of putting something back into your local community. The council looks at local planning applications, has a say in wider development plans in the area, liaises with Calderdale Council about issues like roads and footpaths, and gets involved with community issues such as detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

To find out more, or to apply to be co-opted, contact the Clerk, Catherine, on blackshawclerk@gmail.com, or 01706 815155 before 15th April 2017.

Blackshaw Parish Council usually meet on the 4th Monday of every month at 7.30pm in Blackshawhead Methodist Chapel. The agenda and minutes are published on the noticeboards at Blackshawhead Methodists and by the bus stop at Charlestown Rec. They are also published on the website www.blackshawparishcouncil.org.uk. All meetings are open to the public and the press.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 22nd May, 7pm in the Council Chamber at Hebden Bridge Town Hall *****

This meeting is more informal than our usual council meetings and aims to enable everyone in the Parish to contribute ideas and / or raise concerns. So please come along and let us know what affects you and how the Parish Council can help.

Annual Parish Council Meeting - to follow the Annual Parish Meeting, in Hebden Bridge Town Hall.

This is the business side of the meeting and will include:

- Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and representatives
- Planning Applications
- Accounts and Annual Return

This meeting is also open to the press and public.

NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR - NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN PURSUANT TO section 87(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 that Paul Neill, formerly a member of Blackshaw Parish Council, has resigned and that a casual vacancy exists in the office of Parish Councillor.

In accordance with the Local Elections Rules 1986, an election to fill the vacancy shall be held if, within 14 days after this date, notice in writing of a request for an election has been given by 10 electors for Blackshaw to the Returning Officer, CMBC, Town Hall, Halifax, HX1 1UJ.

If no election is requested the Parish Council will proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option within 60 days of the date of this notice.

Dated this 30th day of March 2017

Our Hilltop Parishes Neighbourhood Plan and the Calderdale Local Plan

The Hebden Royd and Hilltop Parish Neighbourhood Plan covers a huge area including Blackshaw, Wadsworth, Heptonstall, and Erringdon Parishes along with Hebden Royd Town Council.

For us that means that there are a whole load of planning policies that we have in common with our neighbours and a smaller number that are peculiar to our parish. We must also remember that our parish runs all the way from the tops down, through Blackshaw Head to the River Calder alongside the A646 from Jumble Hole Clough towards Whitely Arches. So our main population centres are Blackshaw Head and Charlestown with an awful lot of countryside in between.

Calderdale have been struggling to bring their Local Plan to a state where it can be seen in public and this has had a delaying effect on the Neighbourhood Plan. We have little

What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood planning is a right for communities introduced through the Localism Act 2011. Communities can shape development in their areas through the production of Neighbourhood Development Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders. It basically means that at a very local level, we have a say in future developments in our area. The plan will have statutory weight once it has been completed and has successfully passed a referendum so it will affect local planning for years to come. It is our best chance to influence where building happens, what sites are developed, what happens to green belt and brown field sites, what we want from our environment, transport, infrastructure (like broadband), services, and so on.

choice because of the need for our Neighbourhood Plan to fit in with the Local Plan which is the main strategic planning document but it does give us a way to control the local detail.

The main issue for us arising from the Local Plan is how we view village envelopes (for us that is the area around Blackshaw Head and two areas that comprise Charlestown) and if they should be treated as part of the Green Belt

or as areas of normal development sited within a Green belt area (We are using Green Belt here as shorthand for Green Belt and the similar designation of "Areas around Todmorden"). The PC is investigating the significance of this with Calderdale Planning at the moment so keep an eye out for further information and opportunities to discuss the implications of this.

The other thing to note is that the Draft Local Plan has identified two major areas for housing development in our Parish, namely Callis Mill and The Woodman sites. Callis Mill is a straightforward brownfield site but to date various developments on the Woodman site have failed or been withdrawn because they have fallen foul of Green Belt or flood related restrictions. It rather looks as though these sites may at last be unlocked for development. The Neighbourhood Plan will demonstrate exciting ideas around innovative designs for building within flood risk areas that have already been brought to the attention of Calderdale planners.

The Local Plan will be out for formal consultation in the near future and is an important document that will have a profound influence on life in Calderdale for years to come.

Mick Davies, Vice-Chair

Parish Council launches Community Award

We are all aware of people who give freely of their time, skills, money, enthusiasm, kindness, caring nature, and sheer hard work to help our communities flourish and the Blackshaw Parish Community Award is one way that we can recognise this and say thanks. The award will be given annually in recognition of a special contribution to the life of the Parish. It may be for some particular act during the year or for consistent engagement in community life over a longer period. There are no rules for nomination. If you think they are worthy of recognition, then throw their hats into the ring. Anyone can nominate their friends, co-workers or people that they are aware of that have made a significant contribution to Parish life. Parish Councillors then meet to consider and determine the award winners for any year. The awards are given by the outgoing Chairman at the Annual Parish Meeting at Hebden Town Hall (see front page).



The closing date for nominations this year will be Friday 21st April. Forms are enclosed with this newsletter and can also be downloaded from the Parish website www.blackshaw.net and should be returned to the Clerk at the address over.

We hope these awards will raise the profile of some of the excellent work being done for the people of Blackshaw Parish. Please use them to thank those that have made a positive contribution to your life!

Community Grants

Every year the Parish Council allocates some of its budget to be spent under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, to benefit the parish or its community. In the last year, we have given grants to Blackshaw Arts & Crafts Group, Blackshaw Gaming Club, Richard Naylor Charities & Heptonstall Exhibitions (a local charity giving grants to local pupils who are going onto University - for details of how to apply contact derrickkershaw@hotmail.com), and the Community Rights of Way Service. Do you belong to a club or group who could benefit from a small grant, perhaps to pay for room rental or some equipment? If so, please do consider applying, via the Clerk at the address below.

Chairman's Report

Our year has been largely occupied with work on flood resilience and the formulation of a "Neighbourhood Plan" among our usual work in the parish. Both of these issues are detailed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Other items to report:-

1. Broadband: following difficulty in talking to Openreach it emerged that their approach is to provide fibre to a cabinet and rely on existing wires for up to a mile of final connection resulting in 95% of customers getting a speed of 2 mbs. It appears our parish is covered by 2 cabinets one outside the Co-op and one at Jack Bridge – if you are further than a mile from a cabinet it seems there is little that can be done. However the parish council continue to recognise this as an important issue for many in our parish, and will support initiatives, and continue to press for improvements.

2. Road Safety : this has been one of the major issues we have worked on this year. Speeding traffic is a concern on Badger Lane and the PC have requested that CMBC repaint the white lines to narrow the highway. This was agreed and should happen shortly. Volume of traffic and inappropriate vehicles are also an issue on Mytholm Steeps. We supported the introduction of a 20mph speed zone, and some parking restrictions to allow cars to

pass more safely. Subsequent discussions with Highways have included a 20 mph zone for Blackshawhead, and improved signage on the A646 and in Blackshawhead to discourage traffic from using this route.

3. Planning. We continue to keep track of all planning applications in the parish, supporting some development such as on the site of the Woodman and Callis Mill in the bottoms, and at the top of Davey Lane in Blackshawhead. We also keep pressure on CMBC regarding planning violations in the parish.

4. Community. The Parish Council invited Yorkshire Ambulance Service to speak at our September Meeting, with the final outcome being defibrillators now installed at the Chapel and New Delight – WELL DONE!

5. Finally: I can report that the Chairmans Charity will be making a donation to the Yorkshire Air Ambulance Service this year, including the collection from the Blackshawhead Carol Service.

Chairman to Blackshaw Parish Council

Roger Butterworth.



Floods Update

Our parishioners suffer badly from flooding, particularly along our stretch of the A646 from Jumble Hole through to Whitely Arches. The Environment Agency has some pretty significant works underway at the moment at Stony Lane and Woodland View to ease the awful recurring problems there. The EA are also investigating what can be done to ease problems at and around Callis Bridge but in the meantime our flood group and the volunteer EA Flood Wardens are very active in the area keeping track of the weather and the flood stores so that they and the locals can help themselves when things turn nasty.

Your Parish operates at the top table as far as floods are concerned. We are the most involved of the local Town and Parish Councils and we lead the Calderdale Community Resilience Flood Board that supports and monitors the implementation of the Community Resilience strand of the Calderdale Flood Action Plan. As your representative I formally report to the Calderdale Flood Programme Board every three months and am heavily involved in all flood discussions.

The Calderdale Flood Action Plan is being reviewed at the moment and a new draft will be out for consultation in the next couple of months but the key resilience messages are:

Please think about flooding, how it might affect you, and take appropriate steps to prepare yourselves - don't rely on others – if things get really bad you might be on your own for a while

Please look out for your neighbours, and not just at times of emergency. We have seen the impact of flooding on people's mental health long after the event and it is so important that we look out for each other. Those small acts of kindness and support really can make all the difference.

So, thanks to all who help to keep the rest of us safe, in whatever capacity, without you, your efforts and your enthusiasm, we would be in a far worse place.

Mick Davies, Vice-Chair

Spring Clean at The Pen village

green

Resident, John Sutcliffe surveys the newly spruced up Pen



A team of eighteen North Charlestown residents donned gloves and wielded litter grabbers on the sunny Saturday morning of 4th March to give the Pen Village Green, Oakville Road and Stoney Lane a spruce up, as part of Hebden Royd's Big Spring Clean.

While the Pen is generally looked after throughout the year, we find it's always worth a bit of community effort once a year before the grass starts to grow to get it really spick and span. And we find it's also a good excuse to have a bit of a catch-up with neighbours and reward ourselves with some home baking (carrot cake this year).

Paul Knights

Community Day in June

The widower of Jo Cox (the MP killed by a fanatic last year) has called on communities to come together for Britain's biggest street party to mark the anniversary of her death. Brendan Cox has teamed up with charities to help launch The Great Get Together on June 17 and 18, and in response to this, villagers in Blackshawhead are planning an event. Details are not available as this newsletter went to print, but look out on the website for info.

Help with energy bills

The parish council recently discussed how to help parishioners who struggle with energy bill, including looking at changing energy supplier to save money. Calderdale Council have a Home Energy Action Team to help with this and the number is 01422 392471 - do get in touch

Allotments Update



Two of our tenants at the Charlestown allotment site have recently moved to pastures new (literally) and so we have two new plot holders this season. Last year was a struggle as a few people had been flooded out of their homes, but this year the group is raring to go, with a recent workday, and a social and further workday planned for later in the year. More info on the allotments from the Clerk

Blackshawhead Fete 2017

This year's Blackshaw fete will be on Saturday 2nd September. Some of the regular organisers are taking a step back this year and we are especially keen to attract some new volunteers. We need help with planning, setting up and taking down equipment as well as on the day. If you would like to get involved please contact Grayde Bowen at graydebowl@gmail.com or look out for details of our next meeting on <http://blackshaw.net/home/blackshaw-parish-fete-committee/> or if you don't have access to the internet you can call 01706 815155.

The silver lining to the very grey and wet clouds of last year's downpours was that it showcased the indomitable spirit of the uplands folk, and the show went on! Hopefully this year we're due to be treated a little better by the weather!

Keep in touch!

Don't wait a whole year for the next parish newsletter, why not keep up to date all year round. The website www.blackshaw.net not only has all the agendas and minutes of the parish council on it, but details of other local groups and activities.

There is also a very active Blackshawhead googlegroup which has everything from lost sheep, to loans of equipment, to news on local road closures, all posted by your neighbours. Oakville Road has a similar group for those of you in Charlestown.

And don't forget the useful www.eyeoncalderdale.com, which has up the minute news on issues such as floods and traffic jams in the area.

Emergency! Can you help?

The Parish Council is updating our Emergency Plan, which is basically a set of actions to take in the event of a major incident in the parish, such as access being cut off to Blackshawhead, floods in Charlestown, water cut-off, etc etc. The community in our parish is excellent at coming together to help each other out at times of emergency, but a more formal emergency plan is also useful, particularly for people new to the area, who might not be known by neighbours. It also feeds into the emergency plans put in place by Calderdale Council.

We've identified a few aspects that are useful in times of emergency that we need help with, so if you can contribute any of the below, please get in touch with the Clerk:

- 1) Do you live in Charlestown / on the bottoms, and have a house that doesn't flood? And could you put up neighbours for a day or night who may be flooded? Proper emergency accommodation will be arranged elsewhere, but in the immediate flooding scenario, where people may have to leave their property, it may well not be possible to get to the flood hubs in Hebden or Todmorden. Or maybe if you don't have much space you could house a pet temporarily?
- 2) Do you have a 4x4 vehicle that could help at times of snow, ice, flooding?
- 3) Or possibly a tractor that can tow, or other useful pieces of equipment?
- 4) Do you have access to spring water and could put some water bottles in public places if there is a water cut-off?

A copy of the final emergency plan will be on the Parish website www.blackshaw.net when it is finalised. The Blackshaw Emergency Plan coordinator is the parish clerk, who can be contacted at the address below, but you may also contact any of our parish councillors.