



Love Hesketh Bank Newsletter

Welcome to your new look newsletter,
which replaces Shoreline Summary,
produced by Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council.

December 2016

New Look Council

Since our September issue I am delighted to report that Mike Ellis has joined the Parish Council, and you can find out more about him on page four. However, Gillian McKean has stood down and so sadly we are still not a full team. The Vacancy has now been advertised and the Council hope to be filling this in December.

This brings me onto our new look website – www.HeskethBankCouncil.uk – which showcases our lovely village in all its glory, through the ages and modern day. It even has a clip of Hesketh Bank Silver Band playing an Overture by Goff Richards, which they performed at the Saddleworth Festival, and videos including 'A Commentary on the last train from Southport to Preston.' Also on the website is information on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), and how we are spending that money, planning application information, CCTV information and archives of Council Meeting Minutes going back to 1959.

At our December meeting we welcomed back Richard Shirres from the Environment Agency and Tony Baker from the RSPB to give an update on the Hesketh Out Marsh Project. You can find out more about the project at www.rspb.org.uk. We also hope to welcome our new Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), Bethany Cross, to future Parish Council meetings. If you turn to page three you will see a full list of our 2017 meeting dates for your diary.



December is a time when people take stock of the year that has gone and plan for the year ahead and the Parish Council has been doing just that. On page two you will see the first of a serialisation updating you on what has - or hasn't - happened from our 2008 Parish Plan, which we have recently reviewed, plus our plans for the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for their continued support and commitment and say that I look forward to working with them again in 2017.

That just leaves me, on behalf of the Parish Council, to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Paul Sergeant
Chairman



facebook.com/loveheskethbank

[@loveheskethbank](https://twitter.com/loveheskethbank)



Looking back...

Based on over 400 questionnaires received from households in the village, the Parish Plan was the foundation from which the Council aimed to achieve positive change in the village through a number of Action Groups.

The first of these was the Community Facilities Action Group, which was set up to response to the people of Hesketh Bank wanting their village to have a greater feeling of community spirit with better community facilities.

The Group produced an events calendar showcasing all the clubs and societies available in Hesketh Bank. They organised a photography competition, which was open to all residents, using the best pictures from that for a calendar.

The group was then subsumed into the Village Community Centre, which is now home to Becconsall U3A www.becconsallu3a.org, a Multi-Use Games Area, Guides, Scouts, Activ8 Self Defence and a Table Tennis club, as well as Hesketh Bank Silver Band www.heskethbanksilverband.co.uk, and the community garden. The Community Centre has recently embarked on a programme of development, which it hopes will improve the facilities and therefore offer a wider range of activities for everyone. You can find out more at www.facebook.com/hwbvcc

Sadly, the group were not successful in re-instating The Becconsall Hotel to its former glory but the Parish Council still has the 'Linear Park' and additional leisure facilities on its action plan.

In addition to this, the Parish Council set up '**Love Hesketh Bank**' to encourage a community spirit, recognise those who contribute to the village and celebrate what is good about living here. As you can see, this name has since been adopted by our newsletter too.

... and forwards in the village

Planning Law is a quite complicated and emotive issue for many, with most of us having strong views both for and against developments within our own area. Following the 2010 General Election, one of the new Government's main priorities was "Localism". A key part of this is the aim to return Planning Powers to local people and so to try and achieve this, the Government created a new Neighbourhood Planning Tier that will be led by the Community, rather than the relevant District, County or Unitary Council.

Neighbourhood planning was formally introduced by the "Localism Act 2011", which, along with associated regulations, lays out all the processes for preparing and putting in place neighbourhood planning tools. With this in mind, the Parish Council has set up a Working Group, which first met at the end of November, to explore whether or not a 'Neighbourhood Plan' is an appropriate project to take forward.

Whilst "Local Plans" as prepared by the Borough Council lay out a vision of future development for the whole area, the needs of individual towns and villages within that area can vary. Neighbourhood Plans are optional documents that detail further development priorities for individual communities. They are community-led and are written by Town or Parish Councils. Taking part in the writing of a Neighbourhood Plan helps residents have a say in the future use of land and buildings in our neighbourhood.

A Neighbourhood Plan, taking up to three years to prepare, isn't simply a list of aspirations but becomes a 'Statutory Document' voted on by local residents in a formal referendum; the cost can be quite significant but involves the whole community through surveys and public meetings. Over the coming months, Parish Councillors will be seeking views and we hope to let you know if the project will proceed in March.



Flooding update

Over the last few years, flooding has become a bigger issue in Lancashire and across the country. As a result, it is reported that one in six properties in England is now at risk from flooding. Whilst Hesketh Bank is not in a flood risk area, flash flooding as a result of blocked drains or road gullies can occur. Here is a list of things you can do to reduce the impact of flooding and preparing in advance will help you keep calm during a stressful situation:

- Have the correct insurance policy in place.
- Write a plan of how you would respond to a flood – include emergency contact numbers, essential documentation and belongings you would need if you had to evacuate.
- Prepare an emergency flood kit – you can find a checklist at www.lancashire.gov.uk/flooding
- Keep your drains and gutters clear of leaves to help prevent blockages and localised flooding in heavy rainfall.
- Make sure you know how to quickly turn off your water, gas and electricity mains.
- Check government advice on how best to protect your home at www.gov.uk/prepare-for-a-flood

Flood water can rise quickly, so always focus on the safety of you and your family before your property and be prepared to act quickly. If there is an immediate risk to life or you are trapped by flood water call 999. Here is a list of things you should do in the event of severe flooding:

- If you are asked to evacuate your home, follow the advice of the emergency services.
- Move family and pets upstairs, or to a high place with a means of escape.
- Move important items and documents upstairs to somewhere high and safe.
- Turn off gas, electricity and water supplied if flood water is about to enter your home. DO NOT touch any electrical appliances or cables when standing in flood water.
- Check vulnerable neighbours or relatives are safe.
- Avoid walking or driving through flood water.

For advice on government support or flood resilience grants available to homeowners and business affected by flooding contact West Lancashire District Council.

Useful Contacts

For regular updates on the weather, flooding and traffic reports tune in to your local radio. You can also check the Met Office Severe Weather Warnings at www.facebook.com/metoffice and www.twitter.com/metoffice and follow #LancsAlert and #FloodAward

You can sign up for flood alerts to find out if your home or business is at risk of flooding at www.gov.co.uk/flood or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

You can also find out about a range of flood products available to reduce the risk of flooding at www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/bluepages

For Lancashire Police call 999 in emergencies and 101 for non-emergencies.

If flooding is from sewers or burst water mains call United Utilities on 0345 6723 723.

To report or get updates when your electricity has been cut off call 105.

If flooding is from the highway, surface water, groundwater or watercourses contact Lancashire County Council on 0300 123 6780.

See <http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/flooding> for more information.

Dates for your diary

Parish Council meetings are held in Booths Café on the second Monday of every month, excluding August, from 7:30pm. All residents are welcome to attend, not only to hear about the work of the Council but also to raise any concerns or questions that they may have. Meetings for 2017 are as follows:

9 January
13 February
13 March
10 April
8 May
12 June
10 July
11 September
9 October
13 November
11 December

If you have any questions or concerns you wish to raise outside of these meetings then please contact the Parish Clerk on Clerk@HeskethBankCouncil.uk or 01772 812681.

Introducing our new Councillor, Mike Ellis

Mike Ellis was born in Wem, Shropshire and moved, with his wife Sue, to Tarleton in 2011 to retire. Before then, he lived in the Isle of Man for many years and ran a large marketing and design agency supporting international banking organisations and government.

Mike still works voluntarily with a number of local organisations and both he and Sue are regular fund-raisers for many charities and needy organisations. Locally Mike and Sue are committee members of the Beconsall U3A and the Hesketh with Beconsall Village Hall. Mike and Sue have a son and daughter as well as two grand- children, so retirement is not a time for them to put up their feet!

Mike said: "I was delighted to be invited to join the Parish Council and I hope that my involvement will make a difference in the local community."



Best Kept Update

Congratulations to all our Best Kept Competition finalists and winners, many of whom are pictured here, receiving their certificates at the Village Show on a lovely sunny September afternoon.

Details of next years' competition will be in our Love Hesketh Bank Newsletter in June 2017.

Your Parish Councillors

Along with a new website, we all have new email addresses too:

Paul Sergeant, Chairman, 108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank

Iain Ashcroft, 1 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank

Diane Earles, 2 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank

Mike Ellis, 17 Astland Gardens, Tarleton

Norma Goodier, 43A Fermor Road, Tarleton

John Hunter, 1 Langdale Avenue, Hesketh Bank

Simon Kenyon, 3 Alder Close, Hesketh Bank

Steve Kirby, 50 Shore Road, Hesketh Bank

David Maughan, 52 Newarth Lane, Hesketh Bank

Ron Tyson, 'Lansdowne' Shore Road, Hesketh Bank

Cllr.Sergeant@HeskethBankCouncil.uk

Cllr.Ashcroft@HeskethBankCouncil.uk

Cllr.Earles@HeskethBankCouncil.uk

Cllr.Ellis@HeskethBankCouncil.uk

Cllr.Goodier@HeskethBankCouncil.uk

Cllr.Hunter@HeskethBankCouncil.uk

Cllr.Kenyon@HeskethBankCouncil.uk

Cllr.Kirby@HeskethBankCouncil.uk

Cllr.Maughan@HeskethBankCouncil.uk

Cllr.Tyson@HeskethBankCouncil.uk



Parish Clerk, Ian Cropper

Providence Place, 125 Roe Lane, Southport, Lancashire PR9 7PG

01772 812681 Clerk@HeskethBankCouncil.uk

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