

Love Hesketh Bank Newsletter

**Welcome to your Newsletter.
Published by Hesketh with Becconsall Parish Council.**

March 2017

Let's make 2017 a great year

I hope 2017 is shaping up to be a good year for you. I am delighted to report that Richard Plant, who was once our Chairman and many of you will know, has re-joined the Parish Council, so we are now thankfully a full team. This is good news as we hope to progress our Neighbourhood Plan, the first step of which is a meeting with Tarleton Parish Council in the near future.

2017 is the third anniversary of our 'Love Hesketh Bank' campaign, which goes from strength to strength. Congratulations to this year's award winners, who you can see on the back page, and thank you all for your continued efforts in making the village a great place to live.



Paul Sergeant
Chairman

Parish Plan update

Following on from the last issue of Love Hesketh Bank, where we gave an update on the Community Facilities Action Group, we turn our attention this time to the Conservation and Environment Action Group, which also came out of the Parish Plan.

The Conservation and Environment Action Group was set up in response to the people of Hesketh Bank wanting their village to be safe, clean and well maintained.



The Group was behind the installation of 'dog poo bins' and 'dog fouling notices' around the village. These are still in position and used, which is great to see. However, there are still incidents of irresponsible dog owners not cleaning up and there is more about that later on in this newsletter.

The Parish Council now employs a Lengthsman to keep public areas clean, and is reminding villagers of the need to keep hedges cut back and commissions an extra road sweep in the run up to the Best Kept Village competition every summer. In addition, we have the Parish Walks leaflets and information board outside Booths and Cllr Kirby is already working on the next version of the walks leaflet with new routes.

Ongoing challenges are the impact of traffic congestion, climate change issues and amenity developments.

The proposed 'Linear Park' which was also in the Community Facilities manifest is still hoped to be achieved,



Around the village

Many of you complained to us about the unsightly tree stump outside HSBC, which was not improved when set alight during the robbery last year. So, you will be pleased to see that we have now removed it along with those at Beconsall Gardens and Glenpark Drive. In addition to this, Chapel Road bus shelter, which was damaged in 2016, has been replaced and a safety gate has been fitted in the Shore Road car park.

We are given to believe that Persimmon will be lodging a Planning Appeal with regard to the proposed Henry Alty Park, Planning Consent for which was turned down prior to Christmas.

CCTV Cameras continue to play an important aspect of the Parish Council's work in keeping crime at a very low level and helping to reduce public nuisance. The Council now has some 13 monitored locations within the village with plans to include the Poppyfields Play Area and Public Open Space once the land is passed over to the Council. The system uses a state of the art wireless network to provide fast broadband to all the locations enabling monitoring and recording of video images to be constantly maintained.

We are pleased to announce that we have now reached an agreement with our Internet provider to make available this superfast broadband to all Hesketh Bank residents with, subject to survey, totally free installation worth £200 until the end of May. With mobile phones being so predominant, many people simply want a broadband data connection for their computer, tablet or mobile phone without the cost of a telephone line rental or call charges. If you want to take advantage of this unique offer, contact **Virair** on 01772 367700.



West Lancashire Borough Council has been working with the Regenda Group to develop 14 new properties for affordable rent and sale in Hesketh Bank on Chapel Road, adjacent to the Methodist Church. The new homes are expected to be completed in May 2017. There will be four two-bedroom houses and four three-bedroom houses available for shared ownership sale through Redwing Living, who are a part of the Regenda Group. Six two-bedroom apartments will also be available for rent. The Council has nomination rights for the rental apartments, and initial preference will be given to households with a local connection to the Hesketh Bank area. You will need to be registered with HomeFinder, the Council's choice based letting scheme, to bid for properties go to www.westlancshomefinder.co.uk.

2017-2018 Council Budget

Each January, the Council sets its Budget for the ensuing Financial Year; for the year commencing April 2017, the cost to a Band D home in Hesketh Bank will amount to just 70p per week, actually less than it was ten years ago.

The money collected, or *Precept as it is known*, allows the Council to provide services not provided by others or enhance the provisions made by West Lancashire or the County Council. In particular we own and maintain on behalf of the village all the Bus Shelters and Way-Side seats in the village along with the Shore Road Recreation Ground, Sports Pavilion and Car Park and three Play Areas. We also maintain the Car Park and common areas at the Centenary Sports Ground which between the three clubs provides facilities for over 600 local sportsmen. We have recently undertaken an ongoing scheme to take into ownership and manage several areas of open green space, the latest being at Ashbrook Close, The Nurseries, Pardoe Close, Glenpark Drive and Chapel Road. The services of a 'Lengthsman' are also employed to ensure the village is cleaner and tidier than it might otherwise be.

During the year we are also looking, in conjunction with the Environment Agency and RSPB, at an exciting scheme to expand the Village Walks project on the Hesketh Out Marsh. Drainage at the Shore Road Recreation Grounds has been an issue for some time and we are presently accruing funds to undertake a major re-scheme in an effort to make the grounds more accessible in the winter months. One of the biggest assets in the village is the Shore Road Allotments which managed on behalf of the Council by the 'Poor Marsh PALS', goes from strength to strength.

We also hope to start working more closely with the Community Centre, which serves Hesketh Bank, Tarleton and Banks, to develop the site and enhance the facilities that it offers.



Don't forget, if you want to be kept informed each time the Council's WebSite is updated, send an email to the Clerk with the word "**SUBSCRIBE**" in the subject line.

Flooding update

A number of questions were raised at the January Council meeting following our article in the last newsletter about flooding. So, to expand on that article, we thought we would cover some information from the Environment Agency and RSPB presentation given at our December meeting.

Hesketh Outmarsh is part of an extensive refurbishment of the flood defence embankment directly affecting 143 properties in Hesketh Bank, which has been in progress now for a number of years. The third and final phase will be carried out in Spring/Summer 2017 and will open to the public in September as a local visitor destination. It is intended to install kissing gates and benches along the route, which will become an extension of our existing Parish Walks.

It was noted that although householders can take measures to prevent against flooding, if main drains are blocked then this can be in vain. If you are aware of any main drain or street gully issues then please contact Lancashire County Council on 0300 123 6780.

Richard Plant

“As many of you will know, I was Rector of All Saints Parish Church until I retired in 2007. I live in the village with my wife and two dogs and I am pleased to be able to serve our local community again.”



Did you know?

Were you foxed by the bin men over Christmas when they turned up on the ‘wrong’ day? For future reference, if your bin has not been emptied you can report it to West Lancashire Borough Council www.westlancs.gov.uk/refuse-recycling

The Parish Council has, jointly with Tarleton Council, donated projection equipment to the Friends of Tarleton Library, and funds to the North West Air Ambulance Charity, who have been called out to the village on several occasions recently.



Your Concerns

Residents that attended our January meeting raised concerns over dog fouling, litter and parking on pavements. These are sadly perennial issues, which only a few people create, but become the responsibility of everyone in the village.

Dog mess is probably the most unacceptable and offensive type of litter on our streets. It is not only deeply unpleasant, it can be dangerous. Contact with dog excrement can cause toxocariasis – a nasty infection that can lead to dizziness, nausea, asthma and in very rare cases blindness.

Please note the dog fouling ‘hot line’ 01772-977513

If you can provide sufficient information for a prosecution, offenders may be fined up to £1000 and receive a criminal record upon conviction.

We continue to employ a Lengthsman in the village to keep public areas clean and tidy but it would be a great help if all litter found its way to a bin or was taken home to be disposed of. It’s not ‘cool’ or ‘clever’ to leave it for someone else to deal with.

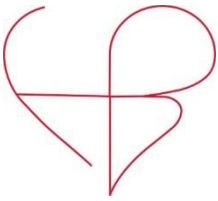
We have very narrow pavements in the village and parking on them causes problems for pedestrians, wheelchair users and those with prams. There have been instances where parents with small children have had to walk in the road as a result, which clearly is a safety issue too. We appreciate that car parking can be difficult in some areas, but please consider your fellow villagers and their safety when leaving your vehicle in public spaces.

Dates for your diary

Parish Council meetings are held in Booths Café on the second Monday of every month 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. Forthcoming meetings are as follows:

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.



Love Hesketh Bank Awards

We launched Love Hesketh Bank on 14th February 2014 to celebrate all that is great about our village. In 2015 we introduced the Best Kept competition and in 2016 we followed that up with individual awards, recognising those that have made an outstanding contribution to Hesketh Bank life. The 2017 winners are as follows:



Martin Forshaw, who 'badgered' the Council for new kitchens in Cropper Gardens when he was a Borough Councillor.



Maureen Baldwin, who stood down last year from The Parish Council and Hesketh Bank Community Centre after many years of service, and her husband Terry Baldwin, who will stand down as the first Chairman of Becconsall U3A this year, which now boasts 140 members.



Andy Simpson, for his involvement with the Scouts for over 30 years and Jennifer Wright (left) and Pat Hankin (right) for their involvement with Cubs.



Harry Edmondson, who does a lot to support the community including sponsoring Hesketh Bank Football Club.

Your Parish Councillors

Paul Sergeant, Chairman, 108 Moss Lane, Hesketh Bank

Iain Ashcroft, 1 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank

Mike Ellis, 17 Astland Gardens, Tarleton

John Hunter, 1 Langdale Avenue, Hesketh Bank

Steve Kirby, 50 Shore Road, Hesketh Bank

Richard Plant, 12 Granville Avenue, Hesketh Bank

Road, Hesketh Bank

Diane Earles, 2 Chandlers Croft, Hesketh Bank

Norma Goodier, 43A Fermor Road, Tarleton

Simon Kenyon, 3 Alder Close, Hesketh Bank

David Maughan, 52 Newarth Lane, Hesketh Bank

Ron Tyson, 'Lansdowne' Shore

Parish Clerk, Ian Cropper

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

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