

LUDDENDEN CONSERVATION SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2015

PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

There have been no new planning applications submitted to Calderdale since the last newsletter.

SANTA'S VISIT TO LUDDENDEN

Santa's visit to Luddenden on the 5th December again took place in pouring rain, but this did not deter over 50 children coming along to visit him and have a word. Many thanks to all our helpers, and particularly to the Midgley School choir and their staff, who again sang carols. This has now become a feature of Santa's visit, and we are very grateful to them for giving up their time, and coming to perform for us.

CHRISTMAS WALK

The Christmas Treasure Hunt walk will take place this year on Monday, 29th December starting from the War Memorial in the centre of the village at 11am. For newcomers to Luddenden, this is a great way to get to know people, and for everyone to walk off some of the Christmas puddings. The route will be suitable for families with a push chair, and will be between 2 and 3 miles in length. There will be about 30 questions that you will have to find the answers to on the route, and afterwards, pies, pasties and peas, home-made cakes, and assorted drinks will be available in the Church (paid for separately). The charge for the walk is £1 per adult (children free), which is exactly the same as it was 20 years ago, and it provides a great family event.

CALDERDALE RIGHTS OF WAY SERVICE

CROWS is a group of volunteers who maintain and improve the Footpath network in the Upper Calder and Ryburn valleys. We clear vegetation, build stiles, gates and boardwalks, deal with drainage and way-mark routes. We also monitor and survey paths. We currently work on Wednesdays and Fridays from about 9.30-2.30 from our base in Mytholmroyd. At the moment we are particularly short of people who can work on Fridays. In addition we have nobody from Luddenden and Luddendenfoot in the group, so we feel that we are missing some local knowledge. If you are interested in helping us, or if you have any questions, please get in touch by email to crows-coop@outlook.com or contact us on 0787 296 0942

CALDERDALE LOCAL PLAN

As many people are now aware, the Council is preparing a new Local Plan. This will set out a framework for how the District should grow, over the next 15 years, to meet the need for new homes and jobs, and will also identify sites for proposed development, and areas that will be protected. The special meeting to discuss this matter took place on December 3rd, and a good discussion took place on how people could respond to the plan. The Society's Planning Committee have commented unfavourably to Calderdale regarding development at Kershaw and New Road, and have made the following comments about Greave House Fields.

As a general principle, the Society is strongly of the view that priority should be given to developing existing brownfield sites before virgin green field sites. In addition, the number of dwellings in the Luddenden area has increased by 93% since 1975, from 262 then to 506 today, and there is now a very real danger that any further large scale development could overstretch school, medical and other infrastructure facilities.

The land at Greave House Fields is designated as Protected Open Space, is a Special Landscape Area and is part of a wildlife corridor. Access would be along Dene View, which is very narrow. It is very doubtful whether emergency vehicles could pass if cars were parked along there. In addition, Dene View contains old people's flats, and is the entry route to both a special school and a junior school. It may, therefore, be considered inappropriate to channel so much traffic along there, when there is such a possibility of accidents. The site has a bridleway running across it, there are overhead power lines and pylons, and almost certainly bats nesting on the land.

However, the Society may not be opposed to housing development on the site, but would reserve our position until any further detailed proposals are forthcoming.

The Planning Committee felt that in view of the acute shortage of houses, particularly affordable houses for young people, our area should begin to look for suitable sites for them. We are adamant, however, that any new development should be of high quality and blend in sympathetically with surroundings.

NEXT MEETING will be on **THURSDAY 28th JANUARY**, and will be in the **ST. MARY'S CHURCH** at **7.30pm**

Luddenden Conservation Society

Founded 1975; Registered Charity Number 504387

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For more local and Society information, visit our website www.luddenden.com