

**CARLISLE PARISH COUNCIL ASSOCIATION  
EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 at 7.00pm at Forge Green, Dalston**

**MINUTES**

**1. Welcome**

**In Attendance**

M. Higginbotham Chairman, W. Bundred, B. Craig, W. Little, D. Moorat, M. Ridley and S. Hutchinson Liaison Officer, A. Smart School Places Manager, Cumbria County Council and S. Daniels, Carlisle City Council Development Representative.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from C. Nicholson Vice Chairman and K. McIntosh

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019**

The minutes were approved.

**4. School Places in relation to large housing developments**

M. Higginbotham thanked A. Smart and S. Daniels for attending and explained CPCA's concern about there being insufficient school places to meet the demand created by planning developments around Carlisle.

See attached notes for information.

**5. Matters arising from the minutes**

**5.1 Carlisle City Council – Asset Transfer Policy**

S. Hutchinson fed back on behalf of B. Craig, D. Moorat, and C. Nicholson with regards to their review the policy. It was agreed that S. Hutchinson will draft a letter to go to D. Crossley with suggested changes to the policy for when it comes up for its annual review. M. Higginbotham will sign the letter.

**5.2 St. Cuthberts (Garden Village) Local Plan**

B. Craig then provided the following update:-

It is envisaged that the village will comprise of 4 or 5 primary schools, 1 or 2 secondary schools a Crematorium, a church, shops and cycle ways.

The next meeting which will involve parish councils in the area, Dalston, Cummersdale and St Cuthberts Without will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

**5.3 Parish Planning Charter Review**

To be deferred to the next meeting for an update from C. Nicholson.

**5.4 CPCA Strategic planning – Health and Wellbeing Workshop working in partnership with Carlisle City Council**

S. Hutchinson, K. McIntosh, and W. Little will meet with Jeannie Pasley in June to discuss the conference. S. Hutchinson to write to D. Crossley to ask if this was still a priority for the council following the elections.

**5.5 Parish Council representatives not allowed to contribute to discussion at Carlisle City Council Planning Committee site visits**

The draft letter previously circulated to all members regarding the request for parish councillors to be able to speak at site visits was approved and S. Hutchinson was asked to send it to John Mallinson and Jason Gooding.

**5.6 Highways re the lack of information on closures of the A7 & A6071**

W. Bundred informed the members that he hasn't written to Highways as communication regarding notification on road closures has improved. It was agreed to remove the item from the agenda.

**5.7 Brampton Toilets**

S. Hutchinson informed the members that she has not had any feedback from J. Gooding regarding the request for him to visit Brampton Toilets.

D. Moorat pointed out that: -

- Toilet door does not lock;
- Hand wash facility not working;
- Tiles are broken on the wall by the door;
- Baby change in disgusting condition – extremely dirty and
- Disabled toilet was hand basin is pitted with filth.

It was agreed that S. Hutchinson will email D. Crossley to say that the Executive Committee is disappointed that no action has been taken to resolve the issues at Brampton Toilets.

**6. Local Area Committee Representation and proposed meeting with Cumbria County Council.**

M. Higginbotham explained that at the CALC Executive meeting in March it was agreed that District associations should approach the Chairman of the Local Area Committee to ask them to consider adopting a member of the CPCA Exec as a co-optee on the committee. It was agreed that M. Higginbotham, B. Craig and S. Hutchinson should meet with the Chairman of the LOAC and P. Musgrave. S. Hutchinson to arrange.

**7. Any other business**

**Appraisals**

D. Moorat asked if it was possible to have a format for appraisals that includes self development for the Clerk. It was agreed that S. Hutchinson will provide a template policy and appraisal forms.

**AGM**

It was agreed that the AGM will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> September at Downgate Room, Warwick Bridge if available, S. Hutchinson to arrange and to source a guest speaker to speak about climate change.

**8. Date of the next meeting –**

Date to be confirmed in early July.

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## **9. Notes of the discussion that took place regarding School Places in relation to large housing developments**

Andy Smart (AS) explained that the County Council has a vision for sufficient school places to be accessed fairly locally to home and hopefully not going across the city. There has to be sufficient school places for everyone living in Cumbria and we try to ensure that through using historic data to project pupil numbers based on where they live etc. We assess if there is going to be an impact from planning developments based on 0.345 children per household, calculating pupil yield from the planning application and then looking to see if there is capacity to accommodate children in the area where they live. If we are short of places we will ask for a contribution from the developer if we don't need the places we won't ask for a contribution. Developers are not bound to give money towards school places as Cumbria county Council are responsible for education places. We do have discussions with planning as to when developers will be asked to contribute as the money is never provided up front – developers often have cash flow problems and don't want to contribute financially to school places until they have sold some houses.

The example of Crindledyke new housing estate was raised and the issue re section 106 agreements enabling developers to stop a development before they reach the point of having to contribute to school places.

AS - agreed that in this instance the developer stopped building before the target that required the developer to build a school in the area, of 200 houses was reached.

MH – pointed out that there was also an issue in the South of Carlisle with children being taken out of the area by bus to school?

AS – agreed that it is difficult at times to build in extra capacity.

MH – asked if there was no way that planning can hold a developer to their promise to build a school or contribute to school places.

Stephen Daniels (SD) – pointed out that if a developer does not meet the trigger set in a 106 agreement then there is nothing that planning can do about it. Planning do not have the authority to make them build more houses.

BC – asked if something could be done at the planning consent stage before the developer starts building.

AS – pointed out that the County Council are in a tricky position in that liability to provide school places lies with them. He went on to explain that additional classrooms have been added at Houghton Village School and Rockcliffe all at County Council expense and not the developer.

MH – pointed out that in other parts of the county a more tiered approach is being taken.

KM – asked if it would be better if a proportion of the money from each new house that is built goes towards the cost of school places.

SD – explained that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) means that every time a house is built money goes to the County Council and it makes it

easier for them to plan for the capacity. SD went on to explain that CIL is not in place in Carlisle because there are issues with operating CIL in determining per household how much money should go to Education or roads for example. He added that using section 106 agreements secures more funding for school places.

MH – asked if there was any urban to rural population drift?

SD – confirmed that there is a lot of development at the moment in villages.

AS – pointed out that after 2008 people couldn't get mortgages to move and between 2009 and 2014 more places were needed in Carlisle.

MH – asked if that meant that there are places available in the centre of Carlisle.

AS – said that it does as capacity was increased in 2012, he added that numbers are now dropping off as people have a little more mobility and are moving into rural areas.

DM – asked why, if there is a strategic plan with regards to houses and school places are 4 bedroom houses being built in Brampton? He also asked if there are enough places at William Howard School?

AS – informed the members that contributions have been received for additional secondary places across Carlisle, Brampton to Dalston.

DM – asked about the capacity in secondary schools and if they are getting to big pointing out that William Howard has 1500 pupils at the moment rising to 2000.

AS – said that it is not uncommon to have 2000 places in a secondary school.

MH - asked about primary school provision?

WL – pointed out that there was an issue at Great Orton with regards to parking and it was resolved by asking parents to park in the village hall car park and walking the children to school.

AS – confirmed that residents who live near Warwick Bridge School also have an issue with parking at the school. He went on to say that an additional class room is being built at Thursby with contribution from the developer. He also pointed out that certain schools are incredibly popular and people want their children to go there even if they are outside of their catchment area. If places are available in a school we have to fill them even if the pupils don't live in the area so if someone then moves into the area there may not be a place in the local school.

MH – asked if this could be resolved using CIL.

SD – pointed out that this isn't always the case with 106 agreements you can ensure that money allocated for school places will go to Education however if you use CIL it may not go to Education if for example a £1000 per house is the CIL and a relief road is needed in the area the money from CIL may go towards that rather than school places.

MH – asked how it can be made better.

BC – agreed that if section 106 agreements are managed correctly it is a very good scheme.

MH – pointed out that new housing developments are not going to stop so how are things going to get better and wanted to know how parish councils can help? He went on to point out that the CPCA are representing rural areas and that new homes brings more traffic with school journeys contributing to this.

AS – pointed out that if there is more development in the villages more local children can go to the local schools.

MH – asked if the towns are getting quieter.

AS – said not always it can increase in both areas.

MH – asked what will happen if we get more refugees into the area?

AS – said that the county council would have to accommodate them.

MH – asked if Government would assist with the funding?

AS – said that they wouldn't he went on to add that when refugees come into the area the council will try to find them housing in the areas where school places are available.

WB – pointed out that when secondary schools are removed parents now have to pay for the transport for pupils over 16 when previously this was paid by the county council.

AS – pointed out that Longtown school was closed as it was too small and unviable and therefore not able to provide a good quality education, he agreed that the county council used to pay for transport for children over 16 but that they can't do this now because of the lack of funds.

MH - pointed out that transport is also limited for children up 5 years old.

As – confirmed this was correct and reiterated that it was only available up to 16.

BS – suggested that developers should contribute for every 10 houses they build and the money could be pooled.

SD – pointed out that section 106 monies can only be kept for so long it has to be used.

DM – asked if the County Council and Carlisle City Council Planning communicate.

SD – said that they do have meetings.

AS – confirmed that when the City where drawing up the Local Plan the county were involved in the discussions regarding school places. He added that when 106 agreements are being drawn up there is lots of communication with representatives from county, city and the developer often sitting down together.

SD – added that when looking at applications the city also consults with the county on Education and highway matters.

MH – pointed out that the parish councils don't know anything until the application is on the website – could they not help at the pre-application stage with local knowledge?

SD – pointed out that the pre-application stage is confidential.

MH – said that the system doesn't allow the parish councils to get the best results for the parish.

SD – reiterated that an application can't be made public when in the pre application stage.

MH – asked if it would help if the developer wanted the parish council involved.

SD – confirmed that planning would not have a problem with the developer talking to the parish council if they wanted to.

BC – pointed out that this sometimes already happens and that Dalston has met with a developer for a development of 122 houses. He also pointed out that developers are avoiding the need to build affordable housing by building in blocks of 4.

SD – made it clear that if a developer builds a block of 4 houses and then a further block of four the city will still ask them for a contribution to affordable housing.

MH – asked where the hot spots are in Cumbria.

AS – confirmed that Carlisle was the hottest.

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The discussion ended and MH thanked Andy and Stephen for attending the meeting.