

# Cumbria Association of Local Councils

## Allerdale District

Liaison officer

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### **Report by Liaison Officer to the Annual Meeting Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

#### **1. Meetings**

There were three 3 tier meetings in the year. These were held in September 2016, January 2017, and May 2017. The September meeting incorporated the annual meeting of Allerdale District of Cumbria Association of Local Councils. The aim is to hold meetings in different locations through the borough and in the year under review the venues have generally speaking met the aim although a meeting in North Allerdale was, unlike other years, not held. The plan is to rotate the chair through the 3 tiers but circumstances resulted in Rick Petecki from Calc chairing all three meetings.

#### **i) September 2016**

At the annual general meeting held on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at Cockermouth town hall Rick Petecki from Embleton and District parish council was elected chairman of the Allerdale Association of Local Councils. Peter Bales from Workington town council was elected vice chairman and was also elected in November 2016 to the county executive by the full membership at the Cumbria Association of Local Councils annual meeting for a period of three years. Jenny Alexander of Kirkbampton parish council took the second Allerdale seat on the county executive. An executive committee was elected with Margaret Throp (Above Derwent PC), , Jenny Alexander (Kirkbampton PC) and David Colborn (Boltons PC) joining Peter Bales and Rick Petecki. In the main meeting the county council spoke about area planning, an update on the Thirlemere link was given and the then present position on the Allerdale district council ward boundaries review outlined. The final item was information about the work of the Allerdale Flood recovery group.

## **ii) January 2016**

The meeting was held in Allerdale House and the main item was on the work on a health impact assessment being undertaken in advance of an application for a development consent order by Nu Gen to build a nuclear power station at Moorside north of Sellafield. The two principal authorities spoke about their budget consultation and the recommendations that were being made to their full councils. The matter of the out of date Parish Charter was raised for consideration at future meetings.

The relevance of the 3 tier meetings was briefly discussed for consideration at future meetings

## **iii) May 2016**

The meeting was held at Allhallows community centre in Fletchertown and three presentations were given. These were by the county council on the Highways Information Management System and by the district council on the "MY Allerdale" app. which is a new way of communicating with and reporting to the district council. The third item was a presentation by Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) explaining the work they were undertaking on a household emergency plan and parishes were encouraged to order the leaflet and circulate.

The matter of Parish Councils having to pay for new non highway lights was raised for clarification at future meetings.

It was agreed to invite items and circulate the agenda of 3 tier meetings to make them more relevant for all participants.

Normally there are four meetings in the year but 2017 saw the county council elections when Purdah blocks a substantial period and a general election.

## **2 Executive Meetings**

The executive met on a number of occasions in the year. These in the main were to discuss items to be placed on the 3 tier meeting agendas. However other topics were discussed including the United Utilities legacy fund for the Thirlemere link, a renewal of the parish charter, the principal authorities planning panel arrangements and the ward boundaries review consultation

## **3 The County Executive**

Allerdale parishes have four representatives on the county executive. Margaret Throp and Peter Bales were elected by the full membership for a three year term at the November 2016 annual meeting. Rick Petecki the Allerdale district chairman and Jenny Alexander are the Allerdale representatives. In January 2017 Rick was elected Chairman of the county executive and at a subsequent meeting Margaret was elected Vice Chair of the county executive

## **4 Managing Radioactive Waste Safely.**

Some progress has been made in the year but none that impacts on the general public.

Following the general election Richard Harrington was appointed as a new minister

and his brief covers nuclear issues. His appointment as a new BEIS Minister may require a further Government review the draft proposals for the community and land use planning aspects of the GDF before the consultations are launched.

It is now therefore thought unlikely that these consultations will commence before October. Should the consultation period run over the Christmas holidays, BEIS has indicated that the consultation would be extended beyond 12 weeks to take account of these holidays. Given that the consultations are being launched later than anticipated, it is now likely that the final Government framework will not be published until spring 2018, with the official launch of the process anticipated in summer 2018. As and when the consultations are 'live', BEIS is planning a series of one-day engagement events, delivered in partnership with 3KQ, and held in Bristol, London, Birmingham, Preston and Darlington. In addition, there will be an event on the technical aspects of the GDF and may be further events in Wales to support the separate consultation process there. Meeting to raise awareness of the proposed consultations have been arranged for county and district councils.

## **5. Footway Lighting**

The district council have indicated that they did not expect any immediate issues considering the funds available and the current rate of replacement but there has been no formal statement about the future and it is still of concern to some Parish councils. The question of financing new footway lights was raised and has not been resolved to the satisfaction of some parish councils

## **6. Infrastructure Projects in West Cumbria.**

### **a) Moorside Power Station**

Nu Gen held two officers and councillors briefing meetings in January 2017 and May 2017. On these occasions parish and town councils who NU Gen considered were likely to be particularly affected were invited. The January meeting followed the practice adopted at earlier meetings in explaining the progress that had been made. The May meeting was simply a statement by the NU Gen CEO giving details why the process that been halted. There is a meeting planned for September 21<sup>st</sup> 2017 when it is expected that NU GEN will set out their present thinking.

### **b) National Grid**

The National Grid project to erect new power lines from Moorside north to Harker near Carlisle and south to Heysham is now on hold. Meetings were held for local councils which were in addition to a round of drop in events along the length of the line. Nu Gen announced in the spring of 2017 that there would be a pause before action to obtain a Development Consent Order (DCO) continued and the National Grid took the view that they should act in concert with Nu Gen. They did however announce that they would consider the responses to the consultation and be in a position to proceed towards a DCO should NU Gen end their pause.

### **c) United Utilities Thirlemere Link**

This project will affect a number of parishes in Allerdale and not only those within the boundaries of the National Park. Planning applications have been granted and

work has started. The developer United Utilities has indicated that a legacy grant scheme is appropriate. They are not yet in a position to say how the scheme will be administered.

**7. Allerdale Review of Ward Boundaries and Councillor Numbers.** The review has now been completed and elections will take place in 2019 in the revised wards. The Boundary Commission determined that the number of ward councillors should be 49 which is a reduction of 7 and that there should be 23 wards which is 8 fewer than present. There were changes to all but two wards and there will now be 9 three councillor wards, 8 two councillor wards, and six single councillor wards.

**8. Parish Charter.** A three tier charter was signed by the county council, the district council and Calc representing the local councils in July 2007 which set out how partnership working could be achieved. The charter was to be reviewed no later than 2011 but that work has never taken place. Mention was made of the charter at the annual meeting in September 2016 and informal discussions have been held on the way forward. Clearly there have been a number of changes in the last ten years and as an example the charter refers to the work of the "highwayman scheme". Nalc were asked whether legislation required a formal agreement between different tiers of local government and said that it is not required, however, it is advisable if there is to be any delegation of services from one tier to another that it is covered in a contractual agreement.

J C Shaw September 5<sup>th</sup> 2017