

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM CALC

For District Association meeting on 29th November 2018

1.Community Governance Review

Led by SLDC. Last one in 2013. This one follows new District ward boundaries. Covering letter, summary sheet and terms of reference emailed to all parishes in August 2018. It is a legal process that SLDC has to complete in 12 months and ends with a Reorganisation of Community Governance Order. Parishes have been asked for their initial submissions by the end of November 2018. These will be considered as part of preparing draft recommendations. Stakeholders will then be consulted on these recommendations in spring 2019 and those comments will be considered as part of preparing the final recommendations. Full Council of SLDC will decide on those in July 2019.

2.Interest-free loans for energy saving projects

Salix Finance provides 100% interest-free loans for energy saving projects for the public sector. The company can support over 120 different technologies and projects with parish councils. This can include upgrading street lighting and footpath lights to LED, as well as public buildings such as boilers in village halls. Minimum loan value of £5,000. The loan is repaid through savings in energy bills over a maximum 5 year period. The company offers support and assistance and is able to split projects into phases. There is a knowledge sharing area to its website (with previous projects): www.salixfinance.co.uk/loans To apply or for more information on funding, the contact is george.patrick@salixfinance.co.uk

3.ACT Improving Community Resilience: A Guide for Parish & Town Councils

2 sides of A4 packed full of ideas on how parish councils can help communities to face challenges and recover from them quickly (ie. be more resilient). The guide is on the ACT website: www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/WhatWeDo/CommunityEmergencyPlanning Ideas include:

- Getting community resilience on the agenda of a parish council meeting – consider the role of the parish council. Invite Police, First Responders etc along.
- Writing a Community Emergency Plan – identifying emergency situations; what local people can do to help; key contacts in the community.
- Reviewing existing networks – contacts with wider community so can provide updates on the situation (eg. blocked roads, vulnerable residents); formal/informal community networks
- Providing seasonal information – in the local newsletter, website and social media on what to do in heavy snowfall, heat wave etc.
- Encouraging individual resilience – of residents (ACT has a leaflet for households) or local business.

- Promoting existing services – Priority Service Register of energy suppliers for vulnerable residents; Cumbria Community Messaging System with local updates; MET Office Severe Weather Warnings & Environment Agency Flood Warnings.
- Promoting good neighbourliness – community litter pick; thanking individuals & groups; “chatter and natter” tables; welcome pack for new residents. If people know each other it is a lot easier to ask for help or to pop by and check everything is OK. Introduce private social network (eg. NextDoor is a free app) for community updates.
- Setting up a Good Neighbours Scheme – a co-ordinated community-run initiative which helps people with household repairs, gardening, shopping, transport etc. It means that vulnerable residents are known and can be supported in an emergency.
- Holding a public meeting – to discuss emergencies that the community has faced before and what can be learnt for the future.
- Encouraging local groups to help – using the village hall as a place of safety; arranging First Aid training amongst their members; being a point of contact in an emergency.

4. Glover Review of Designated Landscapes – Call for Evidence

This review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) began in May 2018, looking at the purposes of these special places, their governance and funding, their work with communities and whether there should be any new or extended ones. Over the summer chairman John Glover and his advisory panel visited many designated landscapes and talked to people who live, work, visit and care for them, gaining insight into both opportunities and challenges. On 20th October 2018 a call for evidence was launched with a series of open questions across a range of issues: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use/landscapes-review-call-for-evidence> with a closing date of 18th December. The review is expected to report in summer 2019.

5. Business Rate Relief for Public Toilets

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond MP, announced in the autumn budget, that public toilets will receive new mandatory business rates relief, following a prolonged campaign to end the toilet tax by parish and town councils through the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Members of Parliament. Among the range of tax and spending measures announced by Philip Hammond MP was a commitment to exempt public toilets from paying non-domestic rates whether in public or private ownership. Business rates on public conveniences currently cost local authorities including local (parish and town) councils around £8m. NALC has worked with the All-Party Parliamentary (APPG) on Local Democracy, co-chaired by Scott Mann MP, on this campaign.

6. Flood Hub Website

Please follow the link to check out the brand new website – The Flood Hub – and the various flood resilience information and resources that are available. <https://thefloodhub.co.uk>



The Flood Hub is a one stop shop to help householders, businesses, communities and landowners across the North West become more flood resilient.

7. SLDC Grants

It has two grant funding schemes now open for applications, full details are on its [website](#).

a) Locally Important Projects (LIPs) – funding for capital infrastructure

For example providing community infrastructure such as additional or extension of social facilities, improvements to paths, walkways and the local environment. You can apply by completing a [LIPs application form](#). All completed forms must be received by 5pm on Friday 11 January 2019.

b) Changing Places – funding for toilets/changing facilities for people with disabilities

Groups can apply for funding to help improve changing facilities for people with disabilities and additional needs. This can support feasibility studies or initial costs for the installation of facilities in line with the standards recommended by [Changing Places](#). You can get an Expression of Interest form by emailing: communitygrants@southlakeland.gov.uk All completed forms must be received by 5pm on Friday 7 December 2018.