

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM CALC

Not covered at District Association meeting on 8th March 2018

1.Grange-over-Sands Neighbourhood Plan

There was a submission consultation during the winter. If adopted (after referendum), it will become part of the development plan for land use and development projects within Grange-over-Sands until 2027.

2.General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

This concerns all parish councils (including parish meetings). There is a dedicated telephone advice line for smaller organisations at Information Commissioner's Office (0303 123 1113 + option 4, plus useful information and resources on the website. In February, NALC published its toolkit to help with GDPR compliance. The toolkit is on the NALC website and includes: action plan checklist; data audit questionnaire; templates for privacy notice and consent forms.

3.Makeup of South Catchment Management Group & Natural Flood

Management

CALC Chairman Rick Petecki (who represents parish councils on Cumbria Strategic Flood Board) sent round the attendees of the three catchment (South, Eden, Derwent) management groups. In the south, there are attendees from: South Cumbria Rivers Trust, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, National Trust, SLDC, LDNPA, Natural England, United Utilities, Environment Agency, some business and community (Peter Lansberry – chairman of South Lakes Flood Action Partnership). Hot topic is natural flood management (NFM) measures (eg. tree planting, ponds) and YDNPA has produced a practical guide for farmers which will be of interest to all. In Lunesdale, YDNPA (Farm Conservation Advisor, Hannah Fawcett) facilitates a NFM farmers' group (for Sedbergh, Dent, Garsdale and Howgill) to bring them together and offer talks (eg. on soil health).

4.Cumbria Winter Ready

There is a new look website: www.cumbriawinterready.org.uk where advice on flooding, emergency planning and winter driving.

5.South Cumbria Species Restoration Programme

A wide range of environment partners (led by University of Cumbria) have secured £174,000 (development stage) from Heritage Lottery Fund to develop area's landscape through community-led species restoration programme (identifying dozen species to introduce over next 5 years), with project officers, local growers and education establishments.

6.Community Police Inspector for Each District in Cumbria

In South Lakeland, the Community Police Inspector is Inspector 931 Paul Latham (tel: 101 option 2 ext 40931) who is based in Kendal and the contact for communities and oversees the work of PCSOs.

7.Grants for New or Improved Community Facilities

New fund launched, with grants up to £150,000, to provide new or improve existing community facilities (eg. energy saving): Weston Anniversary Fund. Charities, places of worship and state schools are all eligible.

8.Broadband For South Westmorland (B4SW)

28 miles have been dug for fibre cable in the parishes of New Hutton, Old Hutton and Preston Patrick, involving 70 volunteers and benefiting 500 customers. Hyper fast broadband (speeds of 1,000 mbps) is being enjoyed, with 3 businesses moving to the area as a result. This is compared with one quarter of South Lakeland having less than 4 mbps (when the government universal service obligation is for all to have at least 10 mbps).

9.CCC 2018/19 Budget

Full council has agreed 3.99% (1.99% general and 2% for adult social care) increase in council tax (equating to £51 pa increase for Band D property), plus a new budget and council plan for 2018-2022.

10.Elections in May 2018

There will be parish council elections in Dent (Cowgill and Dent wards), Garsdale, Sedbergh, Natland and Kendal (all wards) plus district council elections in all district wards (as new boundaries).

11.Household Emergency Planning Leaflet

CALC emailed all clerks (23.2.18) a household emergency planning leaflet (have a plan, grab a bag, stay informed), with additional copies available from Hellen Aitken, ACT Development Officer (01228 817592 – info@cumbriaaction.org.uk)