

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM CALC

Not covered at District Association meeting on 14th June 2018

1.SLDC New Homes Bonus

40% is for Locally Important Projects (eg. village halls, playgrounds, footpaths – that parish councils, youth groups, village halls etc can apply for). The other 60% is a capital programme, which currently includes: affordable housing grants; improvement works for Town View Fields homeless hostel; junction improvements at Cross-a- Moor (near new Uverston housing development); structural improvements to Grange prom; disabled toilet improvements (local communities will be invited to bid for this one).

2.Grants to Restore Historic Farm Buildings in National Parks

£2 million historic building restoration grant has been announced for 5 National Parks (including Lake District & Yorkshire Dales). Owners apply for a grant covering 80% of the cost of restoration (eg. replacing roof, weatherproofing exterior) so that the building can be used again for farming purposes. The fund is open for application until January 2019, with 2 years to complete the works.

3.SLDC Older People’s Housing Strategy

It outlines how SLDC can work with housing providers & other partners to address housing support needs of older people, with a target to deliver 300 homes that offer extra care for the elderly in the next 7 years. It aims to increase awareness of services available to older people; tackle fuel poverty & poor housing; provide housing that is suitable for the needs of older people; offer advice on housing options. It also aims to deliver more than 500 completed handyman tasks over the same time period.

4.Flood Wall Plan for Kendal

Environment Agency is spending £24 million on defence infrastructure along the River Kent to protect homes and businesses from flooding. It has unveiled a short list of options for the Kendal scheme, which involve defences along the river in the town (including along New Road).

5.General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Parliament agreed that parish councils and meetings are not required to appoint Data Protection Officers. Information Commissioner will want councils to demonstrate that they are “*making progress towards* embedding the right processes and procedures” (NALC Parliamentary Briefing 18.4.18). CALC has produced an abridged version of NALC’s GDPR Toolkit for smaller councils and parish meetings.

6.Audit

CALC Circular (May 2018) mentioned that external auditors (PKF Littlejohn for Cumbria) have received a number of Certificates of Exemption where “it appears that the council has not resolved at a (full council) meeting to certify the council as exempt from a limited assurance review by the external auditor and that the qualifying criteria have been met.”

7.CCC’s New Staffing Structure for Executive Directors

This is called the Extended Leadership Team and, along with Chief Executive Katherine Fairclough, there are:

- Executive Director for People – John Macilwraith
- Executive Director for Economy & Infrastructure – Dominic Donnini (ie. Highways)
- Chief Fire Officer – Steve Healey
- Director of Finance – Julie Crellin
- Executive Director of Corporate, Customer & Community Services – Dawn Roberts (ie. Area Managers & Community Officers)

8.Charges from Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO)

Parish councils are data controllers. Data Protection Regulations (2018) require all data controllers to pay a data protection fee to ICO. If there are less than 10 staff, the charge will be £40 per annum. For organisations with between 10 and 250 staff, the charge will be £60 per annum.

9.LDNPA Area Rangers for Central & SE Distinctive Area

There are now 2 Area Rangers for this busy distinctive area in the Lake District National Park. David Switzer covers the parishes of: Lakes, Skelwith, Fawcett Forest, Whinfall, Kentmere, Longsleddale, Whitwell & Selside, Grayrigg. Marian Jones (who used to Manager of Rusland Horizons) covers the parishes of: Windermere, Staveley-with-Ings, Burneside, Crook, Crosthwaite & Lyth, Underbarrow & Bradleyfield, Cartmel Fell, Helsington, Levens, Staveley-in-Cartmel, Lindale & Newton-in-Cartmel, Witherslack, Broughton East.

10.LDNPA Local Plan Review

There was a public consultation (with drop-in events & an online survey) in May and June 2018 on suggested policy options. Changes to the draft Local Plan will then be made – as a result of the consultation – before the document is submitted to the Planning Inspector for examination prior to adoption.

11.Friends of the Lake District’s Great Cumbrian Litter Pick

FLD is co-ordinating this event, across the county, on 6th July 2018, encouraging parish councils, schools and community groups to get involved.

12. Western Parish Forum of YDNPA

This took place on 16th April 2018 with Sonia Hutchinson attending for CALC. There was a demonstration on the planning application database, which can be accessed by clicking on the “living and working” section of the home page (www.yorkshiredales.org.uk). There was a presentation by the Chief Executive, David Butterworth, on an initiative to attract families, which is considering housing, broadband, careers etc and the Great Places project (between SLDC, Craven DC, YDNPA & LDNPA) is all part of this. The meeting covered the Secretary of State parish member election process and the National Park Management Plan (which is now in the consultation stage with adoption in September 2018 likely).

13. Torver Neighbourhood Plan

There was a consultation on the second draft, prior to independent examination and parish referendum. CALC submitted some comments on this plan, which if adopted will form part of the legal development plan for Torver and thus must be taken into consideration by LDNPA when deciding planning applications in the parish.

14. Holme Community-Led Plan

This was published in 2018 and is a thorough, well-written example of a community-led plan. The scene setting is brief but there is useful detail in its four sections on housing/employment/environment, roads/lighting/statutory services/signs, transport/shops/sports/social, health/welfare. On each, there is: background to current situation, main issues, policies/principals, proposals (ie. actual projects with timescale & costs). There is a link to the plan on the home page of Holme parish council website (www.holme-westmorland-pc.gov.uk)

15. Guide for (County or District) Councillors on Community Asset Transfer

This guide (full title is “Building Powerful Communities through Community Asset Transfer”) has been produced by Locality and covers: what is community asset ownership? what can it achieve for your community? how to support it in your community? addressing risks. There are also case studies.

16. (County or District) Councillor’s Workbook on Working with Parish

Councils

This excellent publication has been produced by the Local Government Association. It is about how county or district councillors should work more closely with parish councils, for example by “attending regular parish meetings, acting as a communication conduit, consulting parish councils on... issues, using... influencing skills to broker talks, challenging... own council to provide parish councillors or clerks with advice, training and support” (page 13). It states that the size of a ward (which might include many parishes) is “not a reason

for inaction”, encouraging attendance at the annual parish meeting and other significant meetings that involve key players (page 13).

17.England Coast Path

An update from Natural England stated that 101 km stretch from Silecroft to Silverdale is under development, with route options currently being finalised prior to publishing a report, though no date was given for this.