

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM CALC

For District Association meeting on 20th September 2018

1.CCC Highways Information Management System (HIMS)

Since March 2017 more than 57,000 defects have been reported online or through the Highways Hotline. There has been a review of the system to ensure that defects are being processed effectively and that customers receive timely, relevant responses. As a result some fundamental improvements have been made to HIMS.

2.Broadband

- Preston Patrick, New Hutton & Old Hutton Broadband For Rural North (B4RN) project – trunks will be finished summer 2018
- Mint & Sprint B4RN project involving 8 parishes – planning in early stages but moving quickly. Consulted Preston Patrick, New Hutton & Old Hutton project for advice.
- Kentmere – gone live with BT, so broadband speed increased to 20+ mbps (from 0.3mbps).
- Stainton B4RN – completed digging across Lancaster Canal. It will enable parish to link to existing network near Hincaster, then running through to the main cabinet at Crosscrake church to feed routes to all parts of the parish.

3.Government’s Review of Designated Landscapes

The panel will make recommendations to Government in 2019. It is a cross-government review but implementation will be led by DEFRA. It will examine and make recommendations on, for example: existing statutory purposes of National Parks and AONBs; case for extension or creation of new designated areas; how to improve governance of National Parks and AONBs; financing of National Parks and AONBs; how well National Parks and AONBs support communities. This summer there are strategic discussions and site visits before a formal call for evidence this autumn and a final report expected next year. No reductions in either geographical extent or existing protections for designated landscapes are proposed.

4. “One Community: A Guide to Effective Partnership Working between Principal and Local Councils” by NALC & LGA

This easy-to-read guide was published in 2018. It considers partnership working in terms of three elements: community influence, local participation and service delivery. Each element is broken down into several aspects, each with a useful case study (with contact details) involving a parish or town council.

5. “A Toolkit for Neighbourhood Planners” by Locality

Don't be put off by the title of this excellent 2018 guide as it is not just for parishes working on a neighbourhood plan. The whole of the first half of the publication is a really useful summary of the wider planning system, including: plans, planning permission, planning applications, Community Infrastructure Levy, planning obligations, use classes order, appeals and enforcement. It is only the second half that is about neighbourhood planning (and neighbourhood development orders) covering: designated area, steering group, time and cost, community engagement, evidence, process, differences from a community plan or village design statement.

6. “Community Resilience across South Lakeland: Contacts & Resources 2017”

This short but useful document was emailed to all parish clerks (with District Association minutes) in July 2018. It explains what community resilience is and its benefits before listing resources and organisations (including weblinks). It recommends that “rather than attempting to maintain a list of vulnerable people it is best to rely on local knowledge and check that people are safe” as “there are significant data protection issues associated with producing a list of named people and lists become out of date almost immediately.” It talks about the role of a councillor in an emergency and lists all the community resilience groups across the district (Kendal has several). Finally, it gives a template for a community emergency plan for smaller communities.

7. “Community Risk Register for Cumbria” (2017)

This was cited in resources in the document above (paragraph 6). It was produced by the Cumbria Local Resilience Forum (which is administered by CCC Resilience Unit). It covers what a community risk register is before exploring some common consequences (eg. transport disrupted). It then looks at top hazards (eg. inland flooding) and malicious attacks (eg. on a crowded place). It explains that “public awareness and warning and informing advises the public of risks before an emergency and maintains arrangements to warn the public and keep them informed in the event of an emergency”.

8. “Community Emergency Planning Toolkit” by ACT

This was also cited in resources in the document in paragraph 6 above. This toolkit was produced in 2012 (after 2009 floods) but is still relevant. It walks you through the ten steps needed to produce a resilience plan for your area. Step 1: getting together (holding an open meeting). Step 2: organising the work (through a Community Emergency Group). Step 3: knowing the unknowns (not planning in detail for each specific risk but identifying the people, resources and facilities that the community has). Step 4: identifying skills and resources. Step 5: legal and financial issues. Step 6: organising key facilities. Step 7: keeping in touch (telephone “tree” cascade work well, though access to contact details

should be restricted to specific individuals for specific purposes under data protection).
Step 8: activating your emergency plan (listing the triggers, eg. changes in river levels, for local action). Step 9: taking control (holding a meeting for key people as emergency begun – template agenda given). Step 10: testing your plans (and routine checks of contacts list etc).

9.LDNPA Planning

Changes to planning consultation process with LDNPA from 1st August 2018. New applications will only be advertised with a site notice, neighbours will not be advised and parish councils will no longer receive paper applications to consider. Applications will only be available on line.

10.SLDC Paperless Planning

Taken from the minutes of Low Furness LAP meeting (July 2918): From June 2018 SDLC is no longer providing paper copies. SLDC Team Leader for Development Manager, David Cooper, is attending LAPs and parish council meetings to make parishes aware. For large/controversial planning applications, SLDC will request paper copies from the applicants which will be passed onto parish councils. Members of the public and statutory consultees are expected to use online portals so it is reasonable to expect parishes to do the same. Equipment (eg. portable projectors) can be used by parishes to look at applications in meetings. Parishes can contact David to express interest in funding to purchase equipment. Parishes can also get in contact to arrange training to upskill people to use equipment.

11.Police Annual Survey

This was emailed to parish clerks by CALC in August. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), and Cumbria Constabulary have launched their joint annual public consultation survey. This gives people across the county the opportunity to let the police know what is important to them and to help the police improve the services it provides. It covers:

- How safe you feel.
- Your views on local policing.
- How confident you are in Cumbria Constabulary.
- What you think the main policing priorities for the County are.
- What you think the main policing issues in your neighbourhood are.
- Whether antisocial driving takes place in your local neighbourhood.
- How you would like to engage with Cumbria Constabulary.
- If you have contacted the Constabulary in the past 12 months, how satisfied you were with the service you received.
- What you know about the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Access the survey via Constabulary's website (www.cumbria.police.uk) which is available until 30th September 2018.

12.Future Flood Risk Management in Kendal

Previously there has been a “long list” of flood risk management options which then became a “short list”. The latter has been further refined to a list of “preferred options” which will be presented this month (Wednesday 26th September). Environment Agency Officers will be on hand to explain these options, the process going forward and to respond to any queries. There is an afternoon meeting for councilors and flood group reps, followed by a drop-in event (3pm to 7pm) for the wider community. A flood risk management newsletter for the Kendal catchment is being written.