

# ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM CALC

## For District Association meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019

### **1.Charter for Trees, Woods and People: A Guide for Parish Councils**

This useful publication was produced by NALC and the Woodland Trust. There is a brief introduction to each of the 10 Principles of the Tree Charter (around nature, planting, culture, forestry, protection, planning, health, access, threats & landscapes) and an explanation of what, in practice, they mean for parish councils (with web links to key organisations). It then gives 3 examples of how the Tree Charter can be used, namely as part of neighbourhood planning, in appointing Tree Wardens or developing a tree guidance document (with suggested content listed). At the end the Tree Charter itself is summarised.  
<https://treecharter.uk>    <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/news-stories/2664-charter-for-trees-woods-and-people/file>

### **2.Kendal Future Flood Risk Management Update**

A short newsletter was produced by the Environment Agency in December 2018. It explained the three phases to the Kendal, Burneside, Staveley and Ings Scheme. Phase 1 is about 6 km of linear flood defences of walls and embankments (between 0.3m and 1.5m high) for Kendal town, with SLDC deciding the planning application in March 2019. Phase 2 is about linear flood defences for Burneside, Staveley and Ings. Phase 3 is about upper catchment flood management, with the construction of 2 flood water storage areas on the River Kent upstream of Kendal and Staveley, plus a 2km long catchment drain from Stock Beck into the River Mint to reduce the flood risk in Sandylands. It also gave responses to questions and concerns that have already been raised (eg. why not temporary defences? Insufficient time to deploy on River Kent as rises and falls very quickly. Why not upstream storage first? Need to spend money now on town flood defences or lose it). Newsletter and other information by emailing: [KendalFRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:KendalFRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk) Find out about local flood action groups and community resilience by emailing: [clfloodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:clfloodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk)

The next newsletters were produced by the Environment Agency in January and February 2019 on Kendal Future Flood Risk Management. As I think these newsletters will be monthly or so, you can find them on the following websites:

Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership:

<http://www.cumbriastrategicfloodpartnership.org/index.html> Interactive website with information on Environment Agency reports, Flood Action Groups, catchment management groups and funding. Scrolling down on home page to different sections.

The Flood Hub: <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/> Home page for clicking on: household, business, community, landowner, planning and development, education, plus reporting floods, knowledge hub and your local area.

### **3.Responses to Glover Landscapes Review**

Various organisations have responded to the call for evidence by the Glover Review of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (deadline was 18<sup>th</sup> December) as you would expect. NALC wrote that “National Parks in particular have become too popular” with damage, noise and congestion. Later, it highlighted the “major problem within these special areas of second home ownership” as it affects affordable housing and community services and one proposal is “a significant tax increase” on second homes. It mentioned the parlous state of rural bus provision at a time when tourist traffic is increasing and the “dire need for more imaginative ways of funding public transport” as community transport is not enough. It stressed the huge value and importance of local council representation on National Park Authorities (NPAs) and AONBs and the role of county associations in the local council elections to NPAs. It advocated that there needed to be more collective working between National Parks and AONBs and “an adequately funded champion at government level.” It felt that the terms (National Parks and AONBs) are “long-established... (and) well recognised” so “changes would be unnecessary.” It concluded that these landscapes are “well-loved, hugely important, national assets... (that) must be properly financed and protected.”

### **4.Village Halls: Managing Risks Toolkit by ACT (2018)**

This informative toolkit (on the ACT website under Resources and Publications, then toolkits) was developed by ACT working with village hall volunteers. It covers risk in its broadest sense, not just health and safety or emergencies. There is a general section at the end which summarises additional guidance available on village hall topics. There are four main sections on law and governance (legal responsibilities and governing documents); people (involving the community, dealing with volunteers, staff and hirers); money (income from hiring and fundraising, budgets and accounts) and buildings (cleaning, maintenance, accessibility). With each topic comes a numbered Village Hall Information Sheet which are produced by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and available free to Cumbrian halls by contacting ACT direct ([www.cumbriaaction.org.uk](http://www.cumbriaaction.org.uk) )

### **5.Consultation on Increasing Police Element of Council Tax**

Online survey was open until mid-January on Police and Crime Commissioner’s proposal to increase council tax precept for 2019/20 by £2 per month for a Band D property. He gave the following reasons for the proposed increase. The changing nature of crime and increased demands on our police service is a constant pressure. There is now a greater focus on complex crimes such as child sexual exploitation, online crime, and county lines drug dealing. Also, the funding will enable the police to sustain the additional 25 neighbourhood police officers (that were recruited last year) and to provide a further 20 additional officers.

## **6.YDNP Management Plan 2019-2024**

This important plan sets out the vision, special qualities and strategic objectives (with wherever possible measurable targets which will form part of an annual progress report) for the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP) over the next 5 years, ensuring that National Park statutory purposes (around conservation and enjoyment) are delivered. There are six themes in the plan: cultural landscape; enjoyment; wildlife; climate change; local economy and communities (with CALC contributing to the last two at the drafting stage). The website ([www.yorkshiredalesmanagementplan.org.uk](http://www.yorkshiredalesmanagementplan.org.uk)) will provide more detail on how each objective will be delivered and should be launched in April 2019.

## **7.NALC Legal Topic Notes – Handling Complaints & Data Protection**

*LTN 9E (December 2018) Handling Complaints* – Help parish councils deal with formal complaints about their operations and services. It should be treated as a complaint against the body corporate. The Local Government Ombudsman has no jurisdiction in respect of a parish council. Sometimes the council's insurer need notifying. The LTN explains who a complaints procedure is for and when it is not appropriate and how complaints are determined. There is an outline complaints procedure in the appendix.

*LTN 38 (November 2018) Data Protection* – Data Protection Act 2018 gives effect to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), providing the statutory framework for the use of computerised information and certain manual records about identifiable individuals. The relevant GDPR requirements are summarised in a table in the appendix. The LTN defines key words, states the six principles of data processing and explains that processing can only be carried out where one of six conditions has been met. It talks about “sensitive data” and lists the rights of data subjects. It gives practical considerations for a council to bear in mind to help ensure it complies with the 2018 Act.

## **8.Fire & Rescue Service Consultation**

CCC acts as the Fire Authority for Cumbria. Its role is to make sure that the people of Cumbria are protected by an efficient and effective fire and rescue service. The Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) is the document the fire and rescue service will deliver against on behalf of CCC to make this happen. A draft IRMP has been published and public consultation closed on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019. [www.cumbria.gov.uk/fire](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/fire)

## **9.Lower Allithwaite Emergency Plan**

Clearly many parishes have published emergency plans – some in conjunction with Action for Communities in Cumbria (ACT). I came across Lower Allithwaite's emergency plan recently so I thought that I would just remind everyone what they normally cover. It starts with the aim and objectives of the plan and by defining emergencies (not just flooding). Next it states the role and responsibilities of the parish emergency co-ordinator, the

community emergency wardens and other agencies (eg. blue light services, councils, Environment Agency, utility companies). Finally, it covers parish cascade, parish emergency team and parish emergency control centre. Contacts for councillors and useful organisations are in the appendices, along with a flood plan. It can be found at: [www.allithwaiteandcartmel.co.uk](http://www.allithwaiteandcartmel.co.uk) and by clicking on publications (above the search box on the home page).

### **10. Lyth Valley Meeting on Water Level Management**

I attended a meeting for parish councils and landowners on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at which the Environment Agency (EA) talked about the Water Level Management Board proposals where legislation is still needed to get up-to-date land values before an internal drainage board can be established so EA has extended its notice to withdraw until 2021. EA Officer, Ruth Forrester, said that budget cuts mean that it will not be removing grass etc. from 7 side drains from April 2019 but the main water carriers down the valley (eg. Lyth main drain) will continue to be maintained. Landowners will now be able to do routine riparian maintenance without an expensive permit. EA offered to decommission two mothballed pumping stations and to provide the valley with a mobile community pump. There was mixed opinion to this offer so EA is going to run a demonstration of a mobile pump and anyone who is interested can come along.

### **11. Great Place – Lakes & Dales (GPLD)**

We had a presentation last year from this Arts Council funded project covering Skipton via Kendal to Grasmere about trying to retain and attract young people to this rural corridor. The project's website is: [www.lakesanddales.org](http://www.lakesanddales.org) and you can find its latest newsletter (Winter 2018/19) there under the "news" tab. It covers a £10,000 grant being available for working differently to support young people to live and work in the area and how creative arts are flourishing in Kendal amongst other things.

### **12. Cumbria Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2029**

This was a consultation between November 2018 and January 2019. The strategy outlines how the Board will work together to improve the overall health and wellbeing of residents and reduce health inequalities over the next 10 years. The first theme to protect the health of the population as a whole prioritises MMR and flu vaccines and screening opportunities. The second theme to provide high quality, person-centred care focuses on integrated health and care teams. The third theme to tackle the wider determinants of health and wellbeing looks at air quality, educational attainment, childhood obesity and housing. The third theme to improve health and wellbeing throughout the life course stresses diet, physical activity and mental health.

### **13. Healthier Lancashire & South Cumbria**

A partnership of NHS, county councils, voluntary and community organisations working together to improve services and help residents live longer, healthier lives. Five local areas, with South Lakeland falling in Morecambe Bay: Better Care Together. Trying to address the

challenges of: less funding, above the national average for poor health, recruitment and retention issues of health and care staff, older people with many illnesses, mental health and knowing where to go. [www.healthierlsc.co.uk](http://www.healthierlsc.co.uk)