

CUMBRIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

Minutes of 171st Meeting on Thursday 9th March 2017

Part 1 Role & Work of Leven & Kent Catchment Director

Celia McNally of Environment Agency (EA) explained that the devastating and widespread events of Storm Desmond was a catalyst for approaching flooding differently as simply higher defences is not the answer. Instead there are five themes of work: upstream management (“slowing the flow” upstream through tree planting, water storage etc); maintenance; strengthening defences; water level management (as proposed for the Lyth Valley); community resilience (at settlement level). In June 2016 EA published three documents: “Reducing Flood Risk from Source to Sea” (mentioning 3 key catchments of Eden, Derwent, Leven & Kent); Cumbria Flood Action Plan (with 102 actions, stating leading partner and timescale – 30% have been completed); community action tables for individual communities. For flooded communities, draft Flood Investigation Reports were presented in 2016. Community input has been invaluable and final reports are currently being presented, with community meetings about proposals planned for May and June 2017. She explained that county and district councils, EA and United Utilities (as “risk management authorities”) are part of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) for the North West and that central government funding comes through RFCC. Below this is the Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership of local authorities, charities, Network Rail, Highways Agency and community reps. Five principles underpin the partnership: collaborative working; catchment approach; integrated solutions (eg. surface water and drainage, not just rising rivers); community-focused decision making; evolution and learning (so action plan evolves and knowledge is shared to help with decisions).

In questions, Celia said that a commitment was made in the budget for Cumbria, with money allocated and set aside. However, this could prove insufficient and additional money could come from applications for government grants (with criteria to meet eg. no. of households benefit); raising money from local authorities (“local levy”) or partnership funding. There has been collaborative working between agencies to do work at the same time or to speed up permits (sometimes within 2 days) to allow work to take place (where protected species). Parishes stressed that strategic actions (eg. tree planting) need to be made relevant to people who are constantly worrying – when it rains – about their homes or businesses after being repeatedly flooded (eg. will Newby Bridge sluice gates be open during prolonged rain to prevent Windermere’s water level rising and flooding parts of Ambleside and Bowness?)

ACTION: Celia to get update on Troutbeck Bridge for Windermere town council. EA can use CALC to let parish clerks know about projects planned (eg. bridge maintenance, gravel extraction). Parishes said that water levels could be lowered in some reservoirs (eg. Pennington, Birds Park about Kendal) - before a wet period - in order to create space to store rain water and thus “slow the flow” for Ulverston or Kendal. **ACTION:** Celia to get update for Pennington parish council on Pennington reservoir. **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to get digital copy of presentation and email to parish clerks.

Part 2 Association Business

1/17 Present

David Peters (Chairman and Natland); Amanda McCleery (CALC); Simon Blyth (SLDC); Peter Winter (Preston Patrick); Howard Graves (Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley); John Saunders (Windermere); Andy Blackman (Kendal); Jim Shaw (Arnside); Richard Sutton (Kendal); Angela Scrogam (Pennington); Lorraine Thompson (Pennington); David Rogerson (Levens); Roger Atfield (Levens); Alan Baverstock (Milnthorpe); Enid Hastings (Casterton); Joss Curwen (Duddon & SLDC councillor); Peter Smillie (Arnside).

2/17 Apologies for absence

Sedbergh parish council; Urswick parish council; Leslie Johnson (Lakes); Martin French (Crosthwaite clerk); Ken Dean (Colton); Claire Maclaine (Skelsmergh & Scalthwaiteirigg); John Chapman (Skelsmergh & Scalthwaiteirigg); Leith Hallatsch (Windermere); Ken Humphris (Casterton).

3/17 Minutes

Minutes of 170th meeting, held on 24th November 2016, were approved as a true record of the meeting.

4/17 Matters arising from the minutes

- (i) *Kendal day centre* – is not closing, so no need for CCC Area Manager, Karen Johnson, to speak to Kendal town councillor, Richard Sutton.
- (ii) *Report on CCC (in South Lakeland or division) for county councillors to send to parishes* – no parishes have seen this, so **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to chase CCC Area Manager, Karen Johnson, about this.
- (iii) *Colton parish to contact CCC Karen Johnson about improving relationship with their county councillor* – no councillor from Colton present to ask, so **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to contact Colton parish clerk.
- (iv) *National Grid Power Lines & NuGen Moorside* – currently everyone still expecting the companies to make a joint application to the Planning Inspectorate (as national infrastructure) in April. Councillor Curwen mentioned a secondary line for 7-10 years. **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to enquire (through CALC, FLD etc) and let clerks know.
- (v) *Election of Parish Councillor to Represent South Distinctive Area on LDNPA Board* – Amanda McCleery confirmed that parishes in the South Distinctive Area (aligned to the parishes of High Furness LAP) had not nominated anyone to represent them on LDNPA Board. As a result the nominations have re-opened and this time those parishes, plus parishes in Central and SE Distinctive Area, can put forward a parish councillor to the CALC office by noon on 15th May 2017.

5/17 Items of Interest from Parishes, LAPs and CALC

Windermere – the first Christmas market for a long time was successful, so it will be repeated this year. Public realm improvements to Ellerthwaite Square are imminent.

Milnthorpe – Local landowner is preventing accessing to the river (with padlocked gates) which will prevent children paddling and dog walking. Same landowner had previously tried to prevent access in neighbouring parishes, with Beetham and Arnside having to go to court to resolve the situation.

Preston Patrick, Old Hutton & New Hutton – these parishes have raised about £335,000 towards providing fibre optic broadband to the home, through Broadband For Rural North (B4RN). 70% of properties have signed up. With advice from CALC, they have purchased micro diggers (owned by the group) through Section 137 expenditure.

Pennington – a concrete batching plant (ie. where aggregates are made into concrete) is being proposed for Lindal-in-Furness (just off A590), though the location is within Pennington parish and only 60m from the nearest houses. Normally you would expect to see such sites in quarries or on industrial estates and not in a rural setting. The Highways Agency currently has a holding order on it as A590 is a strategic route for Barrow.

Kendal – SLDC is leading a project to improve the market square (with a current consultation), eg. new lighting and the removal of trees.

LAPs – Low Furness discussed using social media to get messages out fast. *Upper Kent* heard a presentation from the Integrated Care Community Project Manager on changes to public health and the meeting also discussed gaps in mobile 'phone infrastructure and drafted a letter to local MP, Tim Farron, on the matter. The next meeting of *South Westmorland* will consider the elements of a sustainable community, from active school and village hall to affordable housing, with examples from Crosthwaite. *Drains and gully maps* have been issued, via LAP meetings, to parishes and these need to be returned to CCC Highways, with top 5 parish priorities identified (eg. bottom of a hill, round a bend). CCC has purchased 4 new wagons to clear drains. **ACTION:** All parishes should keep sending photos of blocked drains etc. to Highways Hotline. 2 members, of *LAP Highways Working Group*, met with CCC to test the improved Highways Information Management Systems (HIMS) and were impressed, though the system will not give a completion date for any job. It should be live for all to use by the end of March 2017. *Grange and High Furness LAPs* are holding a joint meeting on rural crime, on 10th May, with talks by Police and Crime Commissioner and rural police officers and a question and answer session. Other parishes can attend. More information is on the LAP page of SLDC website: www.southlakeland.gov.uk Click on Your Council and then Partnerships for LAP page.

Funding of community pharmacies – item on the agenda of Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Board on 29th November 2016 and emailed by CALC to all parish clerks. For South Lakeland the new funding formula will affect pharmacies in: Flookburgh, Staveley, Arnside, Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh, according to the list in the report. It does not appear to affect others (eg. Hawkshead, GPs with dispensing services)

CCC Elections – take place across Cumbria on 4th May 2017, with purdah beginning 6 weeks earlier in late March. There are no district or parish councillor elections this year. CALC has written to parish clerks about purdah.

Lyth Valley Water Level Management Board – EA has agreed to further extend the Notice period (when intend to stop operating the four land drainage pumping stations) to December 2020 because it is proving difficult to obtain 1990 rateable values (as required by 1991 Land

Drainage Act). So much so that DEFRA is now seeking Parliamentary time to change the legislation to allow more recent rateable values to be used across the country. Thus, the timing of any future public consultation – on a water level management board for the Lyth Valley – will depend on any new legislation to recalculate the rates and levies in line with the proposed changes.

SLDC Toilet Review – In 2012 Grange-over-Sands, Ulverston, Windermere, Kirkby Lonsdale, Arnside, Milnthorpe and Lakes took on 10 toilet blocks from SLDC. The funding arrangements finish in March 2017 for most (Milnthorpe does not end until March 2019 and Lakes has been superseded by the White Platts agreement). SLDC has agreed to fund the specified toilets in Grange-over-Sands, Ulverston, Windermere, Kirkby Lonsdale and Arnside at a similar rate to now in 2017/18 but by 2021/22 the contribution from SLDC will have roughly halved.

CCC 2017/18 Budget – Due to budget cuts and increasing demand on care for the elderly and vulnerable, CCC has agreed a council tax rise of nearly 4% (or £49 on a Band D property), made up of 1.99% “normal” increase and 2% adult social care. Parishes discussed how wages are low (by national standards) in Cumbria, yet rates are high (again compared with other areas).

Rebuilding Together grant – this is a 3 year BIG Lottery funded programme to build the resilience of people, communities and organisations in Cumbria, so that they can prepare for events similar to the devastating floods of December 2015. The programme is led by Cumbria CVS and delivered in partnership with ACTION with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) and Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS).

Heversham and Hincaster Neighbourhood Plan - is the first in the planning area of SLDC. 36% attended the referendum and approved the plan by 77%. It will become part of the development plan for the district and has to be taken into account when determining planning applications within those parishes. The parishes will receive 25% (rather than 15%) of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) arising from developments in their area.

CCC Trading Standards – has launched a self-help tool kit for assisting residents and local communities in setting up No Cold Calling Zones, with a step-by-step guide, door stickers and signage. www.cumbria.gov.uk/tradingstandards/consumers/nocoldcallingzones.asp

Consultation on Coastal Community Team & Economic Plan for Morecambe Bay – Morecambe Bay Partnership (MBP) is currently running workshops around the bay to seek the views of parishes on creating an economic plan for the area and forming a Coastal Community Team (which means a local partnership of public, private and voluntary sectors and does not mean dedicated new officers). MBP and SLDC will submit a draft plan by the end of March which could then form the basis of an application to the Coastal Communities Fund later in the year.

NHS's New Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Cumbria – in April the current Cumbria CCG will be replaced by the North Cumbria CCG (for Carlisle, Eden, Allerdale and Copeland) and the Morecambe Bay CCG (for South Lakeland, Furness and North Lancashire). This better reflects the existing hospital trusts – for example Morecambe Bay with hospitals in Barrow, Kendal and Lancaster – and NHS' 5 year Sustainability and

Transformation Plans (with one for W, N and E. Cumbria and another for Lancashire and South Cumbria.

NALC's Campaign for 100% Mandatory Rate Relief for Public Toilets – the Local Government Finance Bill only has rate relief for local authority public toilets as discretionary, so NALC has tabled an amendment to make this 100% mandatory. **ACTION:** Parish councillors are being asked, by NALC, to write to their local MPS seeking their support for this amendment.

6/17 Reports from Representatives to Other Bodies

CALC Executive Committee – David Peters

Housing Advisory Group – David Peters

CCC South Lakeland Local Committee – Allan Muirhead and John Saunders

Rusland Horizons – Amanda McCleery

See attached papers on all the reports above.

7/17 Dates, Venues and Times for Future Meetings

Thursday 15th June 2017

SLDC Council Chamber, Kendal Town Hall

From 7.00pm. SLDC hosted. Ideas for presentations:

1. Update on planning
2. Locally Important projects – criteria, tips on writing an application.

ACTION: Amanda McCleery to contact SLDC.

ACTION: Amanda McCleery to find out the date of 2017 Westmorland Show in order to avoid the show day for AGM in September.