

# CUMBRIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

## SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of 170<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016

#### **Part 1 Presentation**

Councillor Nick Cotton, Chairman of Cumbria County Council (CCC) South Lakeland Local Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **Area Working – Karen Johnson, CCC Area Manager (South Lakeland)**

Karen started by talking through the challenges for Cumbria with its sparse, ageing population; government austerity and complex governance. She stressed that communities are a priority both to the county council as a whole and to South Lakeland Local Committee in particular. CCC is taking an area-working approach, with communities co-designing and co-delivering services if there is the capacity and the need locally. It will involve working with volunteers more, which brings its own challenges. The Community Services Team is looking at what exists already and building on it. Flood recovery work has shown how organisations can come together to take action. CCC is working with many parish councils in South Lakeland on different projects, from bus services to safety schemes, from gritters to youth shelters, from lengthsman to verge cutting. **ACTION:** Parishes to share any priorities (from community plans or budget setting) with CCC as early as possible. Parishes can contact Community Services Team direct, who will then involve county councillors.

Questions were taken. CCC is looking at day services, for example whether it is better to support clients at a village coffee morning, rather than drive them to a day centre in a nearby town. NHS integrated care communities is also about keeping people out of hospital or getting them back home as quickly as possible. **ACTION:** Karen to speak to Councillor Richard Sutton about Kendal day centre closing. The problem of some county councillors never attending parish council meetings was discussed. It was explained that more work can be done, on the parish's behalf, by its county councillor through one-to-one meeting with the clerk and chairman or through 'phone or email. However, parishes felt that attendance (even if they only stayed for 10 minutes or so for their slot) built up personal, face-to-face contact. **ACTION:** Karen to develop one page report (on CCC in South Lakeland or division) that county councillors could send to parishes. **ACTION:** Colton parish to contact Karen about improving the relationship with their county councillor. Parishes also find out about CCC through reading reports from parish reps on CCC South Lakeland Local Committee. **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to obtain a digital copy of the presentation and forward to all clerks.

#### **Highways – Peter Hosking, CCC Highways Network Manager (South Lakeland)**

Peter explained that CCC Highways has been restructured by function, not geographic area, with Nick Raymond taking on infrastructure recovery programme and highways information management system (HIMS) for the whole county; Andy Brown leading on highways network and asset management for Cumbria (line managing Peter and other Network Managers) and Carl Melville managing operations across the county to ensure delivery is consistent. Staff will increase, both engineers and apprentices, in order to deliver large capital programmes (even though the revenue budget is small) and to ensure continuity when

staff retire. Peter stressed that the Highways Hotline is still manned by the same staff, even though its number has changed. Any information given by the public will be captured by HIMS, so there will be a record. Windermere had some lights replaced quickly, following a call to the Hotline, which was excellent. Peter then gave a presentation on the flood recovery work, giving both the storm statistics (eg. 557 out of 1900 bridges in Cumbria were damaged) and the timeline. He said that videos of dive inspections were extremely useful in communicating with the public. There is £120 million from central government, of which £25 million is being spent in 2016/17(eg. 130 bridges) and more in both 2017/18 (eg. 327 bridges) and 2018/19 (eg. 100 bridges). Throughout the year, bridges have been re-inspected. Nevertheless, normal, routine maintenance work continues and Peter is hoping that there will be an improvement in service, once more staff are employed. 6 new gulley wagons have already arrived, for example, and they look professional.

Questions were taken. Parishes said that currently Highways Hotline gives little feedback (having telephone or email with cracked pavement, pothole or blocked drain). As a result parishes contact county councillors who then contact CCC Highways. Peter agreed that feedback (whether action is going to be taken or not) is really important and that in the future the website will give automatic updates on the “job” to those that give an email address. For those without a computer, parishes could always get the update and pass it on or Highways could pop a card through the person’s door. Parishes stated how their highway priorities can be ignored and other works done that they don’t need. They don’t know where parish highway priorities are in the CCC system. Peter explained that the maintenance programme (ultimately resurfacing) is identified through an asset management approach of both comments from officers, parishes and county councillors and defects mapped by a Google-type van. The improvement programme (of new footways, traffic calming etc), which needs money allocated, goes through an assessment criteria. County councillors can choose to support these through small, member budgets ((£6000 in 2016/17). Parish councils want more influence to reflect community needs as they submit ideas but never hear anything more. Parishes can decide to look for external funding (eg. Kirkby Lonsdale for a footway). Parishes can offer to pay themselves (eg. for a road sign). Parishes can still approach CCC Highways, even if their county councillor doesn’t support the parish idea. **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to obtain a digital copy of the presentation and forward to all clerks.

Karen handed out paper copies of CCC’s current consultation on budget saving proposals “Delivering public services through turbulent times”, which is primarily about responding on proposed increases in council tax. The deadline is 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The consultation can be found on the county council’s website: [www.cumbria.gov.uk](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk)

## **Part 2 Association Business**

### **25/16 Present**

Amanda McCleery (Secretary); David Peters (Chairman & Natland); Norman Winter (Selside & Whitwell); Peter Winter (Preston Patrick); Ken Dean (Colton); Simon Blyth (SLDC); Enid Hastings (Casterton); Leith Hallatsch (Windermere); John Saunders (Windermere); Howard Graves (Egton, Newland, Mansriggs & Osmotherley); Claire MacLaine (Skelsmergh & Scalthwaiterigg); Angela Scrogam (Pennington); Lorraine Thompson (Pennington); Richard Sutton (Kendal); Andy Blackman (Kendal); Peter Smillie (Arnside); Jim Shaw (Arnside); Nick Cotton (county councillor); Karen Johnson (CCC); Peter Hosking (CCC).

### **26/16 Apologies for absence**

Ken Humphris (Casteron); Leslie Johnson (Lakes)

## **27/16 Minutes**

The minutes of the 169th meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 were approved as a true record.

## **28/16 Matters arising from the minutes**

*National Grid North West Coast Connections consultation* – between 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016 and 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017. There are various drop-ins for North and West Cumbria, plus the Furness Peninsula and Natland, for those communities affected by the proposed route. There are also 5 parish workshops, facilitated by WYG (a company who is supporting the planning authorities and parishes as statutory consultees). There has been a strongly-worded letter from CALC about how 10 weeks (including Christmas) is insufficient time for parishes to draft, discuss and agree a response but the early January deadline has not been extended. All parishes can reply, and those affected would welcome such wider support, as unaffected parish councils can still consider the effect of the route on tourism, transport, setting of the National Park etc in their area. David Peters and Amanda McCleery attended the parish work shop at Dalton-in-Furness on 21<sup>st</sup> November. Parishes present naturally formed two groups: one around Dalton and Askam who worked with the current proposal to improve it by pointing out historic buildings, nature reserves, landscape impact etc. A second Duddon group concentrated more on dismissing the proposal (as viable alternatives eg. HVAC offshore exist). However, WYG advised them that, having first stated their total opposition in their response, they should still go on and comment on the proposed route. **ACTION:** Parishes to respond direct to National Grid on consultation by 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017. **ACTION:** Parishes to send a list of concerns (bullet points is OK) to their planning authority (at SLDC to Alastair McNeill by 13<sup>th</sup> December 2016) as district councils/National Parks want to hear parish views as part of agreeing their responses. **ACTION:** Parishes to send same list of concerns to CALC Chief Officer, Samantha Bagshaw, which she will attach to a general covering letter from CALC.

*Lyth Valley Water Level Management Board* – Amanda McCleery met with Environment Agency (EA) Senior Adviser, Ruth Forrester, to discuss this project for which Ruth is responsible. The data for 1990 (as demanded by 1991 Land Drainage Act) – and not 2010 data as previously collected – is still being collated. A consultation with Lyth Valley communities is likely in 2017 and this feedback (plus consultation on SLDC website) will form part of a report to SLDC Cabinet before it decides on whether to fund the Special Levy or not. Ruth is on maternity leave from Christmas.

## **29/16 Items of Interest from Parishes, LAPs & CALC**

(i) *Preston Patrick, Old Hutton & New Hutton broadband project* – working with B4RN (broadband for rural north) on laying trenches for superfast broadband. 7 miles dug in ploughed fields, with further 30 miles to be dug in pasture. £300,000 has already been raised by the local communities. Elsewhere: it will be live at Hincaster by early 2017 and there have been some problems in Casterton.

(ii) *Windermere* – the town has its switching on of the Christmas lights, plus a German market, in early December.

(iii) *Natland* – there is £100,000 from SLDC (through Locally Important Projects fund of the New Homes Bonus) for a towpath (for pedestrians and cyclists) between Kendal and Natland – developed by the Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership – if there is community support. Natland parish council may endorse it but not at the expense of an ongoing parish priority for a footway between the village and Kendal along the main road.

(iv) *LAPs* – the Flooding Conference (with speakers from SLDC, CCC and EA) went well with all issues discussed and notes to follow. Currently, Grange and Cartmel LAP is exploring broadband and NHS integrated care communities; High Furness LAP is discussing LDNPA Local Plan; Low Furness LAP had a presentation on First Responders; Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale LAP shared information on street lights; South Westmorland LAP talked about mental health and the Kentmere Ward and Upper Kent discussed how LAPs can add value. SLDC Simon Blyth is working on a LAP newsletter and an event on rural crime and policing (eg. poaching, off-roading, burglary) for 2017.

(v) *Parish Charter for 2016/17* – this tells parishes where to go within SLDC for different support and has been sent out to all parish clerks.

(vi) *South Lakeland Credit Union* – there is a proposal that it should merge with Eden Credit Union which will occur if both groups agree.

(vii) *SLDC Consultation on both Arnside and Silverdale AONB Plan and draft Development Management Policies* – between 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The policies are important as they set the tone for development and are what planning applications are measured against. A useful 6-page summary document (on SLDC website) has been produced.

(viii) *SLDC Planning Workshop* – in October 2016. Few present knew of it and it had been poorly attended. Few had received the handout. **ACTION:** SLDC Simon Blyth to feed all this back to the Planning Department and ensure the handout is emailed to clerks. But Pennington parish said the workshop was really useful. It covered: transfer of planning functions to the National Parks; current Local Plan and Development Management Policies; Infrastructure Delivery Plan; Community Infrastructure Levy and a legal update on the Housing and Planning Act. SLDC is still keen to stop paper copies to parishes but no date.

(ix) *LDNPA Planning* – have attended meetings of Windermere town and Colton parish council to advise that parishes either need to recommend/support a planning application (and give the reasons why) or refuse/object to a planning application (and again give the reasons why, including such concerns as “out of keeping”).

(x) *YDNPA Planning* – have attended a meeting of Casterton parish council, now it is in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The parish requested large plans but have not received any to date.

(xi) *CALC AGM* – there was a presentation from John Connell, Head of Community Policy at Department for Communities and Local Government. This is covered in CALC Circular for November. Leslie Johnson (Lakes) was directly re-elected to represent parishes on the Executive Committee.

(xii) *NHS Integrated Care Communities (ICCs)* – these are teams of health and care professionals across NHS, social care and third sector organisations that work with local populations. ICCs have been created based on GP surgeries so South Lakeland is covered by: Dalton and Ulverston; Grange/Cartmel/South Lakes; Kendal and East (Sedbergh, Kirkby Lonsdale, Arnside and Milnthorpe). Amanda McCleery attended a workshop for residents of East ICC in November and was concerned that some proposals (from health professionals) were unrealistic (eg. commuting bus from Dent to Kendal; one budget for all NHS and CCC social care).

(xiii) *LDNPA South Distinctive Area Member Election* – parish clerks have been emailed by CALC about the casual vacancy in the South Distinctive Area, with parishes to nominate a councillor by February 2017.

(xiv) *Environment Agency (EA) Weekly Works* – CALC has emailed to clerks the works from the EA for November which states that there has been additional checks of debris screens county-wide, before listing works taking place in Ambleside, Arnside, Kendal, Lyth Valley and Troutbeck Bridge.

### **30/16 Reports from Representatives**

- (i)CALC Executive Committee – David Peters*
- (ii) South Lakeland Health and Wellbeing Forum – Peter Smillie*
- (iii)CCC South Lakeland Local Committee – Allan Muirhead*
- (iv) SLDC Standards Committee – David Peters*
- (v) Rusland Horizons – Amanda McCleery*

The above 5 reports were emailed out to parish clerks in advance of meeting. Amanda McCleery let parishes (within the Rusland Horizons' project area) know of a conference on 29<sup>th</sup> November at Brantwood. **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to email digital roadmap (see South Lakeland Health and Wellbeing Forum report above) to all parish clerks. John Saunders explained that, as part of the agenda papers for CCC South Lakeland Local Committee, there are lists of all the Highway works (by parish) on the website. These lists are not always easy to find, within long agenda papers, so **ACTION:** Karen Johnson to send link to correct page (on CCC website) to Amanda McCleery to forward to parish clerks.

### **31/16 Dates, Times and Venues for 2015 Meetings**

*Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016      Gilpin Bridge Inn, near Levens      From 7pm*  
A presentation by Celia McNally on her work as EA Levens and Kent Catchment Director.

*Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2016      SLDC Council Chamber, Kendal Town Hall*  
*From 7pm*  
Hosted by SLDC.