

REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES

South Lakeland & Barrow Community Safety Partnership (CSP) – Leith Hallatsch

The minutes as always are on the website: www.onesouthlakeland.org.uk/community-safety-partnership/

CALC Executive Committee – David Peters

At the 20 June 2020 remote (Zoom) meeting only eight members appeared, with no apologies. The first task was to dismantle the pretence that emailed comments from six (out of fourteen) members about issues raised on the Agenda of the cancelled 28 March 2020 meeting could be translated into minuted decisions for approval en bloc. As no valid meeting had taken place, fresh decisions were taken from scratch. The new job description for (renamed) Parish Support Officers was approved. There was still no information about the annual local government pay award. The CALC AGM will be held remotely on 26 September 2020 with no guest speakers. Recommendations to the AGM in respect of the CALC (as distinct from NALC) element of 2021/22 subscriptions were agreed: subscription income to increase by 4%; subscription for precepting parish meetings to rise from £34 to £35; non-precepting parish meetings to have free membership. A proposal to move the Committee's annual meeting from January to March/April was not approved. There was no enthusiasm for starting to plan for marking the 75th anniversary of NALC/CALC at the present time. An update from Sonia Hutchinson on Learning and Development was received with approval and thanks to all the training staff. A visionary draft "Strategic Management Plan 2020-2025" needs some redrafting before approval by the Committee. There was resistance to attempts to persuade the Committee to adopt a position on Local Government Reorganisation in Cumbria by seeking member councils' views on the principal (further devolution and funding in return for restructuring), setting up a working group to formulate policies, then taking those policies to the AGM for approval. This was watered down to simply keeping member councils informed about recent developments, including progress towards the Government's Devolution White Paper, and inviting any comments.

An additional remote meeting was held on 12 August 2020 in order to reverse decisions taken at the 20 June meeting in respect of Local Government Reorganisation because it "is moving swiftly up the agenda in Cumbria". Seven members attended. It was agreed to invite a speaker (as yet unidentified, but 'neutral') on "local government reorganisation and its impact on the parish sector" to the remote AGM on 26 September 2020, and to issue an 'interim position statement' to member councils requesting their views "as soon as possible". That was sent out the following day.

Standards Committee – David Peters & Peter Smillie

The 7 July meeting was held remotely using Microsoft TEAMS. Unfortunately the (co-opted) Parish Members and the Independent Person could only participate sound-only by telephone, although proceedings could be viewed online as a live-stream but with a 20-second delay. This was said to be because of the need to be accessible to the public, and only SLDC members/officers had the requisite 'kit' for the full works. Don't ask me to explain...The minutes of the 15 October meeting were amended to clarify the appointments of

the parish co-optees, including that Peter Smillie's appointment is until September 2023 and therefore not subject to decisions by the CALC District Association before then. The Committee was informed of the Council's decision to extend the appointment of David Tweddle as the Independent Person until 30 June 2024. The main item was an opportunity for members to express their thoughts on the Local Government Association's draft Model Code of Conduct for Members, which was prompted by Recommendation No 1 of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CPSL)'s January 2019 Review of Local Government Ethical Standards. Parish Councils were encouraged to respond to the consultation by the 17 August deadline, either as individual councillors or clerks, or collectively. SLDC is formulating a collective response. An update report on code of conduct complaints since October 2019 followed a typical pattern – only four, all by members of the public against parish councillors, all apparently minor but we and the public won't know any details unless the Government one day enacts legislation to implement Recommendation No 15 of the CSPL's 2019 Review: that councils publish annually specified information about the code of conduct complaints they receive.

Housing Advisory Group – David Peters

At the 12 March 2020 meeting of the renamed Group the (young-ish) membership showed few signs that meetings would be discouraged four days later and officially banned a week after that. Dan Hudson and Alastair McNeill presented an update on the Review of the Local Plan, mentioning the 6 March Carus Green launch event. A fresh search for sites was needed as a lot of the smaller allocated sites in villages were not 'moving' (i.e. being developed), in contrast to those in large settlements, which were. Dan then gave an overview of progress towards the adoption of a 'Cumbria Housing Statement' aiming towards a joint approach with common practices and high standards across the County. Dan (again – he's the main man now) introduced a discussion on future design standards for homes (space, insulation, accessibility, connectivity etc.) with particular regard to climate change issues. There is a tension between what housing developers/providers feel they can achieve and the aspirations of society (i.e. local authorities). 'Viability' was mentioned a lot but 'regulation of land prices' not at all. The Government's role is decisive as its regulations will apply to all new homes in 2020 while local planning authorities cannot set their own standards.

The 17 June 2020 meeting was held remotely using Microsoft TEAMS with 21 attendees. Dan Hudson led an update and discussion on the impacts of Covid-19 to date. There was some crystal-ball-gazing, with one observation that Kendal and South Lakeland could do very well out of the Pandemic as city-dwellers moved to the country and pushed up house prices (a developer, of course). Officers gave presentations on various topics: the draft Cumbria Choice-based Lettings Allocations Policy; the 2018-based Office of National Statistics population projections; SLDC's Climate Change Action Plan (Simon Blyth has got that one). An update on the Review of the Local Plan indicated slippages because of Covid-19: the early engagement period was being extended; the 'call for sites' postponed a bit; a study of employment needs paused because of uncertainty; the 'Issues and Options' consultation now aiming for January 2021. Dan had earlier observed it was a strange time to

be making quantitative assumptions about need... The next meeting is still planned for 9 September 2020.