

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 19 January 2019 meeting Stephen Hall, CCC Assistant Director responsible for Highways, gave updates on various highway matters, some of which had featured in this District Association's November meeting. HIMS continues to be improved, with roadworks and closures now online, online application for skip and scaffolding permits is imminent, and individuals can register for targeted updates rather than hopefully trawling the site. 'Working Together' (Victoria Percival leading) is progressing less quickly than hoped, but draft agreements and supporting documents should be ready in about three weeks, followed by a couple of months trial with selected parishes, then full roll-out. He stressed that operational requirements would be 'proportionate' and hoped for 'less sporadic' arrangements with more groupings (e.g. for lengthsman and winter resilience). Following problems caused by footway lighting removal ultimatums in Allerdale and Eden, County Highways have assembled a street lighting support service for parish councils, offering to manage and maintain their footway lighting under a no-profit charging structure, with a model agreement and 20-page guidance document (Nick Raymond and Ian Harker leading). Chair Rick Petecki intervened to point out the project still needed to be discussed with CALC before going live.

In the business meeting which ensued: the question of Cumbrian parish representation on the YDNP (in respect of its areas in South Lakeland and Eden districts) was left in the air; eleven pages of bullet points arising from an informal 'Executive Forward Planning Day' in October (which I had failed to attend) gave food for thought; a 'skills audit' of Executive members will be carried out to stop them hiding their particular talents or expertise when called upon; officers will trawl member councils' websites to identify weaknesses that Executive members would be asked to rectify through mentoring.

Rick Petecki now chairs the Cumbria Leaders' Board (he has also been elected onto NALC's influential Policy Committee). He voiced his frustration at being the only leader unable to express his organisation's view on policy matters under discussion. He suggested another informal get-together to air the issue of CALC policy formulation; this was agreed, to take place before the next meeting on 9 March 2019.

South Lakeland Health and Wellbeing Forum (SLHWF) – Peter Smillie

This forum is currently in abeyance – to be covered in Matters Arising at the meeting.

Housing Advisory Group – David Peters

This meets on 5th March 2019.

Standards Committee – David Peters & Peter Smillie

This next meets on 23rd April 2019.

CCC South Lakeland Local Committee – Allan Muirhead & John Saunders

At the meeting in November 2018 the Windermere ferry and rugby club grants were the two main issues considered by members of the CCC Local Committee for South Lakeland at the meeting. Members received a detailed report about the ferry service, following the fire in the engine room in May, 2018. The report detailed what had happened, what was done in the wake of the fire, what lessons had been learned, and how staff were now better trained and able to deal with emergency situations. The debate centred on whether there was still a need to refer the topic to Cabinet as agreed in September, given that the report was comprehensive and there was nothing new to add. The discussion took on a political slant for a time and there was some confusion around the definition of a motion and an amendment, which led to a 10-minute recess to clarify matters. The outcome was a decision to refer the issue to Cabinet and to ask Cabinet to consider creating a new Ferry Advisory Committee with improved terms of reference.

Kendal Rugby Club have failed to get matched funding from Sport England for development plans at their new site on Shop Road. The committee had previously granted them two sums of £15k for phase 2 of their development plan and for support for younger players. In view of the lack of support from Sport England, the committee decided to withdraw the two grants and make £30,000 available elsewhere, noting that the club can reapply when circumstances change. The question of 20mph speed limits was also considered. Members noted a report from the Highways and Transportation Working Group which proposed that a new service procedure be introduced which required requests for 20mph speed limits to be considered by the traffic management team leader in discussion with the divisional elected member.

At the meeting in January 2019 the previous minutes were agreed and Members were advised that reinstatement of the Windermere Ferry Advisory Group had been passed by Cabinet and its terms of reference would come to a future meeting of SLLC. Although not on the agenda, due to time constraints the proposed new Grasmere TRO was discussed. Members agreed to pass it through with certain amendments, specifically the removal of proposed line restrictions. New terms of reference for CCC Local Committees were noted. An update from the Highways Network Manager (Copeland) on “Working Together” with Parish Councils was unfortunately cancelled due to the weather. An interesting in-depth presentation by Cumbria Fire and Rescue services followed, highlighting the services aims and objectives in its new 2019-23 Risk Management Plan. It stressed putting customers first at the heart of what the service does and “protecting the vulnerable in society”. Three of its main areas of focus were Terrorism, Brexit and Climate change and the impact these would have. The last 10 years had seen a massive focus on fire prevention. Currently there were 11 incidents a day of which 5 were false alarms, 2 primary and 2 secondary fires, 1 rescue and 1 road traffic accident. Currently 74% of calls were responded to within 10 minutes. New types of vehicles termed Rapid Response Vehicles or RRV’s were due to be trialled for six months starting in March at Staveley and Arnside. These have a crew of three and can respond faster and more efficiently than the four man crew engines. They will work with and be supported by fire engines as appropriate and will often be able to reach an incident faster.

Reporting on Highways, Peter Hosking informed members that in November the revenue budget stood at £882,307 with a forecast overspend of £8,215 whilst the capital budget was running at £3.319m with an underspend of £17,636. This underspend was no longer expected. The report was noted. Work on the A591 Culvert was nearly completed, but more carriageway resurfacing and crash barrier replacement would result in continued disruption through to the end of March. The extra £1.9m allocated to South Lakes of the £12m extra funding recently provided by government had to be spent by the end of March 2019. Considerable discussion then took place regarding the proposed new parking arrangements in Kendal for County Hall. Members stressed the need to have free spaces available for their use on Council matters as well as the need to ensure that new areas opened to the public were charged at sensible rates. Consideration should be given to longer term public parking and free overnight parking as appropriate.