

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

There was a low turnout (8 members) at the 24 June 2017 meeting. This report may be a bit ‘dodgy’ as the draft minutes had not appeared at the time of writing and my memory has faded with time. Parish Development Officer Sonia Hutchinson and Jane Langston (Eden District Council Assistant Director Technical Services) gave an update on collaborative projects between EDC and CALC. EDC is looking to devolve non-statutory services (toilets, grass-cutting, footway lighting etc.) with a 4-year funding transition. And planning consultations with parish councils would be all-digital – memory sticks could be used to overcome broadband inadequacies at meeting venues. Sonia is regarded as impartial by EDC and her involvement is much appreciated. Sonia also presented her annual update on CALC’s Learning and Development programme, gathering further plaudits for her work. Rick Petecki (Chair) has been elected Vice-Chair of the Cumbria Leaders’ Board, meaning he is in line to become Chair next year which might enhance CALC’s influence. Rick reported from the CLB that obesity, particularly among children, is of huge concern in Cumbria, and that many refugees preferred to be left in peace to sort out their lives rather than, as had been expected, require considerable public support.

A parish clerk had made a number of criticisms and suggestions regarding the County Council’s Highways Information Management System (HIMS) and was seeking CALC’s support for her “requests for improvements”. This was duly offered (but it concerns me that CALC might routinely accede to such ad hoc requests for advocacy). A report was presented about parish council involvement in Planning Committee site visits, which differed significantly between the nine Cumbrian planning authorities. It was agreed that the current LDNPA policy should be CALC’s preferred model. The Chief Officer (Sam Bagshaw) will liaise with the President (Bob Mather) to re-vamp the format of the regular accounts report so as to facilitate monitoring (against an agreed budget) and making unplanned spending decisions. This should bring the Executive more in line with good practice among parish councils. The accounts will also change from ‘receipts and payments’ format to ‘income and expenditure’. The AGM will be recommended to change the Constitution so as to establish a Barrow District Association with a second representative (in addition to the Chair) on the CALC Executive, despite comprising only three parish councils. The Committee had second thoughts about its 1 April 2017 decision (previously reported) to alter the Constitution following recent difficulties with a parish facing a legal challenge; no change is now considered necessary. Sam has recently sent Exec members an 86-page document detailing the 88 responses (naming about 75 parish councils/meetings – there are 268 in Cumbria but not all are CALC members) to the CALC Member Survey 2017. She intends to produce a summary to guide the Committee’s deliberations about what CALC should best be doing given its limited resources – perhaps at the next meeting on 21 October?

Health and Wellbeing Forum – Peter Smillie

Report for the forum meeting 6/7/17 @ Kendal Town Hall. 22 delegates in attendance.

Report from SLDC on poverty workshops:-

Main issues 1 High house prices.

2 Ageing population.

3 Rurality.

Poverty mainly concentrated in the normal few wards, however there have been incidents in other wards. The action plan using MARS (Multi agency referral system) and Gateway groups is coming together. Mike Conefrey (CCC Public Health) pointed out that poverty and disadvantaged health can be linked so a working group could be set up by the forum. Andy Knox told of the great work being done by the Leeds Poverty Truth Group and of the starting of a similar group in Morecambe Bay. They co-create poverty improvement through listening to people experienced in living with poverty & working with them. MIND will be offering a countywide free programme of mental health training, details to follow.

CCC Update:-

CCC now has "Time to change" hub status. The aim is to set up champion groups with people who have experience of living with mental health problems. There will be 4 across the county, one of them in South Lakes.

Active Cumbria Report:-

AC sent their mission statement as their report.

ICC Report:-

Better Care Together website shows ICCs in detail and will host future updates.

Morecambe Bay Trust has to save £85m within the next year and will have to consult with the community as to how to achieve this.

Public Health Update (CCC)

There was a discussion about RSFPA falls campaign which is in development. Active Cumbria and Age UK to be involved. Better Health at Work Awards being funded by CCC and open to all businesses in SL for free. NHS have signed partnership agreements with British Athletics to start walking and running groups from local G.P. surgeries.

Housing Advisory Group – David Peters

Next meeting on 6th October 2017.

CCC South Lakeland Local Committee – Allan Muirhead

The man in charge of the county council's on-street parking service was hailed as 'a brave man' when he invited members of the South Lakeland local committee to comment on parking enforcement issues in their area. Members feared Austin Shields may have 'opened the floodgates.' In fact, he got off lightly as members at the July committee meeting agreed that the service was efficient and fair. There were critical comments about parking on pavements and grass verges, and the mis-use of Blue Badge disabled permits, but overall the situation was satisfactory, members determined.

The parking service's annual report showed that the top offence is parking in a disc parking area without clearly displaying a valid disk. Some 9,787 drivers committed this offence in 2016/17. Second top offence was parking for longer than permitted (7,805), and third was parking in a restricted street during prescribed hours (6,964). The service's accounts for the year show for on-street parking, total income was £861,156, with total expenditure at £950,832. Off-street parking total income was £28,064, but gross expenditure was £41,393. Conservative members were angered by a section of their new Terms of Reference which would give powers to an officer to introduce a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which involves the introduction of on-street parking charges. Bill Wearing said that was

undemocratic; it was for committee members to determine such thing. James Airey gave notice that the Conservatives would call in each and every TRO relating to on-street charges and ‘fight them every step of the way.’ After an intervention by Lib Dem’s Ian Stewart, it was agreed to send the matter back ‘for review.’ Nick Cotton was re-elected as committee chairman, with new member and fellow Lib-Dem, Chris Hogg, elected vice-chairman.

SLDC Standards Committee – David Peters

Next meeting on 19th September 2017.

Morecambe Bay Partnership (MBP) – Amanda McCleery

MBP (with SLDC) is forming a Coastal Community Team (CCT) to help shape a framework for investment. A CCT is a local partnership working to develop a strong understanding of the issues and opportunities in an area. The board for Morecambe Bay CCT is made up of MBP, district councils and tourism organisations, with a long list of wider stakeholders (including parish councils and CALC). The first step is to develop an economic plan (drawing from existing plans/strategies/data and talking to a wide range of organisations) and to this end Morecambe Bay CCT consulted on its draft economic plan over the summer. Amanda McCleery submitted a general response on behalf of CALC and then parishes would have contributed their own individual and more specific responses.