

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 22 October 2016 meeting the Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan were considered. In view of various uncertainties about future income, including the prospect of further reductions in CCC grant, it was decided to recommend a 2% increase in the affiliation fee to the AGM. It was disturbingly revealed that the newer, large councils (Penrith and Whitehaven) paid less than CALC passed to NALC on their behalf; this will need to be addressed. The Chief Officer provided written updates on a number of ongoing matters – a new and useful feature of the meeting. The Chief Officer stepped outside during a lengthy discussion of her pension arrangements when it was resolved to make an employer contribution of 7.5% of salary to her personal pension plan, backdated to 1 April 2016. It was pointed out that other employees may deserve similar treatment and this would be looked into.

As I reported to you last time, the 25 June Executive Committee meeting considered a request from the Barrow Joint Rural Committee (BJRC - comprising Cumbria CC, Barrow BC and the three parish councils) that CALC's constitution should provide for an additional seat on the Executive for Barrow's parish councils (Askam & Ireleth, Dalton with Newton, Lindal & Marton) and had agreed that they should first be encouraged to attend the South Lakeland District Association meetings as a means towards greater involvement and representation in CALC. This drew an indignant response from the Chair of the BJRC, arguing that they represented a sixth of Cumbria and rejecting the suggestion that they "tag on to" our meetings. The Executive was minded to discuss with the three Barrow parish councils the possibility of forming their own District Association for Barrow, which would require a decision by a CALC General Meeting.

The Government's latest proposal (annual bluff?) to introduce precept referendum principles for parish councils was discussed with a view to putting a motion to the AGM, but this idea was dropped as the consultation would have closed by then and NALC had responded anyway. A string of largely routine reports and updates made for an unusually long meeting which closed after 2¾ hours under its third Chair.

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

The last SLHWF meeting was held on 13th September at Kendal Town Hall. For some time now the NHS, County Council and third sector have been working to achieve a "joined up approach" to the provision of both healthcare and social care to local residents and also those presenting from out of county. A lengthy (60-odd pages) Digital Roadmap was presented to the meeting which shows the design of and reasons for the wish to have a more unified approach. There was also a progress report on how the various parts of the NHS are managing to achieve their goal.

Housing Advisory Group – David Peters

The Group has not met since the September District Association meeting and will meet in December.

CCC South Lakeland Local Committee – Allan Muirhead

The September meeting received a report on financial inclusion in the district. In South Lakeland, 12.1% of households had an income below £10,000 in 2015, the lowest of all districts in Cumbria, and lower than the national average. The number of households in this

category rose from 7.4% in 2009. In the financial year 2015-16, the Money Advice Service resolved 277 cases representing a total of £2.6million in problem debts. Since 2013, the largest number of clients using the service has come from Windermere Town, Windermere Bowness and Ambleside and Grasmere. Many of the difficulties experienced by clients centred on benefits problems, leaving care programmes, or problems around short-term accommodation.

Under health care and community services, it was reported that £5,000 was being spent providing around 130 secure cycle parking spaces across South Lakeland to encourage people to cycle to work. Coun Shirley Evans highlighted work being done around children in care, officially known as Children Looked After (CLA). At the end of July this year, there were 68 CLA with a home address in South Lakes. There was a short debate about terminology in her report, which referred to children affected by domestic violence. Members felt it more appropriate to use the term abuse instead of violence as it covered a broader spectrum. It was agreed that this was better wording, and would be adopted. Headstart, a county scheme to support children and young people with emotional well-being and mental health, has not had funding renewed. There are plans to share best practice and resources in a new initiative and alternative sources of funding are being explored.

SLDC Standards Committee – David Peters

Peter Smillie and I attended the 20 September 2016 meeting which was preceded by a voluntary one-hour briefing session on Standards conducted by Monitoring Officer Debbie Storr. The meeting itself was again largely routine (minutes on SLDC website), but included a resolution that interest forms for parish or town councillors who are no longer in office be retained for a period of only 12 months (formerly 18 months). Also a report reviewing the Parish Register (of disclosable pecuniary and other registrable interests) following the 2016 parish elections indicated that 12 individuals' interest forms had not been returned (out of 28 parishes where elections had taken place). It was decided that those parish councillors who have not correctly returned their forms be given 28 days from 21 September to do so and the Chair would follow up any outstanding forms after that period. With regard to a report on complaints and compliments received so far in 2016/17, which seemed to indicate little cause for concern, the Chair expressed a hope for greater awareness of the existence of the District Council's complaints procedure, suggesting that parish councils may wish to spread the word. I was noncommittal, as usual.

Rusland Horizons – Amanda McCleery

Since the summer, the archaeological survey and dig at Cunsey Forge have been a great success; the heritage skills courses are up and running; the wildlife projects are making good progress; 6 enthusiastic apprentices have started; the Fell Care Day attracted nearly 200 volunteers. The staff team is in the new National Park Southern Office at Lanes End, Haverthwaite.

To remind people of some of the various projects that form part of this community-led Heritage Lottery landscape partnership scheme. One is about monitoring red squirrels and controlling greys ("Rusland Reds). Another is about surveying the caterpillars of the very rare Netted Carpet Moth (that only feeds on Touch-Me-Not-Balsalm). Some of the apprentices are getting general experience of countryside management ("Valley Futures") whilst others are working more specifically with wood, especially through coppicing. There is an oral history project and another on mapping place and field names.