

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 January annual meeting Rick Petecki was re-elected Chair for 2018 and CALC reps on various national and local bodies were appointed. Rick reported that NALC is dominated by the South and by larger councils. Real influence in NALC lies in its committees, so the northern counties, including Cumbria, need to bus their quota of voters to the London meetings that elect those committees. And vote for Rick! The need to review CALC's subscription fees structure – where some large councils pay less in total than CALC passes on to NALC on their behalf – made it onto the Agenda at last. A working group of three (including me) was set up to report back in June. Any recommendations for change would be taken to the 2018 AGM for implementation in 2019-20. The introduction of the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) in May 2018 is a big worry, not helped by NALC's advice that in general the DPO (data protection officer) cannot be the Clerk. Lobbying continues, also efforts to work with the District Councils, but the outcome is uncertain.

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

No report received.

Housing Advisory Group – David Peters

At the 2 February 2018 meeting the draft SLDC and Eden DC Older Persons' Housing Strategy 2018-2025 was discussed. It was going through O & S Committee that afternoon, then Cabinet for publication in April. The key priorities are: promoting awareness of what services are currently available for older people; making the best use of existing homes; assisting those who wish to downsize to do so; increasing the supply of housing for older people; working in partnership. How to persuade private house-builders and housing associations to prioritise the building of bungalows, and to build to better standards, were two issues. All agreed developers should want to be loved, but would they accept lower profit margins?

There was an update on community-led housing. The latest appeal for parish councils to get involved had met a poor response. Setting up local bodies was a slow process, but Helsington CLT now seems to be revitalised with a capable group of people. The guy from South Lakes Housing felt trying to get a fresh local community involved was "like breaking rocks" and dreamt instead of the more active and competent CLTs expanding their areas to take in adjacent communities. There was a general discussion about YDNPA's idea of curbing the spread of second homes by draconian council tax increases which would require primary legislation. Good luck with (persuading HMG to introduce) that one!

CCC South Lakeland Local Committee – Allan Muirhead & John Saunders

Reporting on the Communities Activity and Budget it was confirmed that the Local Committee had agreed its 4 priorities up to March 2021. These are Economic development, Education and Skills, Travel and Accessibility, Health and Wellbeing. The importance of forging effective relationships with SLDC to maximise resource allocation and provide

services was highlighted. The financial statement relating to the 2017/18 budget of £440,463 was noted. Unallocated resources currently stood at £132,229, of which £46,500 was community grants.

Highways revenue and capital budgets are forecast to be overspent by the end of the year. Totals to the end of November showed a revenue budget overspend of £79,902 on a budget of £1,077,822 and capital budget overspend of £414,837 on a budget of £4,729,000. The report was noted. Consideration was given to the report by the Highways and Transportation Working Group regarding new speed limits, speed monitoring and progress on the devolved capital programme as well as progress made on assessments of footways that requiring resurfacing. Speed limit recommendations for the A6 Shap Road, A65 south of Endmoor, A591 north of Grasmere and the A5284 Coast road were approved.

The report by the Children's Champion highlighted the favourable results of the recent OFSTED survey. Of particular note was the improved communication identified between different agencies. The desperate need to find more foster parents in the County was stressed, as well as the need to retain those already providing the service.

SLDC Standards Committee – David Peters

No meeting since the last District Association meeting.

Rusland Horizons – Amanda McCleery

There was a mass volunteering event in December, with coppicing, walling, footpath and bridge work. Wood Matters is working with staff and volunteers from Ford Park in Ulverston to coppice hazel, make charcoal and then tools and finally create greenwood crafts. Last year's apprentices are now applying for jobs, whilst the current apprentices have secured chainsaw, trimmer and first aid qualifications, which complement practical woodland management. Conservation work parties continue each month. I attended a Community Forum in February to receive an update on Rusland Horizons and to find out what is planned. There will be more archaeological surveys in March and April 2018. There is a blacksmithing day in March as part of the programme of heritage skills. Glades have been widened on the Graythwaite estate to encourage violets (for Small Pearl-bordered fritillaries) and primroses planted (for the rare Duke of Burgandy butterfly). Community volunteers continue to manage Old Hall Woods, Bouth as part of a sharewood scheme. The first Greenwood trail was launched last year from Old Hall Farm to Rusland Moss. A new trail is being developing around Stott Park Bobbin Mill and Finishwaite. More information can be found at: www.ruslandhorizons.org