

## **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/](http://www.onesouthlakeland.org.uk/community-safety-partnership/)

### **CALC Executive Committee – David Peters**

I was unable to attend the meeting on 24 March 2018. Although I have the agenda pack, the draft minutes have not yet appeared on the CALC website (and haven't for some time now) so I feel unable to present a report worth reading. Sorry.

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

Nothing to report as Peter has not attended meetings whilst he recovers from surgery.

### **Housing Advisory Group – David Peters**

At the poorly-attended 1 June 2018 meeting Chair and portfolio-holder Jonathan Brook explained that the Council had a fresh mandate and housing would be a key component in its plans. The main item was the annual review of the Housing Strategy Action Plan. A trawl through the latest update – some targets met, some getting there, some behind or ditched – didn't produce any new bright ideas for policies or targets. Officers reported that discussions with lenders had not yet resolved the difficulty of persuading them to lend on properties with occupancy restrictions. The problem of attracting developers/builders from outside the area is related to travel distances and the difficulty of recruiting a skilled workforce locally; this will be discussed with the colleges. Other issues were touched upon, such as the reluctance of housing associations to purchase newly-built 'affordables' for rent because of their poor specifications (something that Development Control cannot control, apparently), and the problem of growing families trapped in their small 'affordables' because no larger ones were available.

Dan Hudson asked if CALC could remind parish councils in receipt of CIL (community infrastructure levy) payments of the need to submit their annual returns to SLDC which has the power to require the return of unspent payments after five years. Tony Whittaker (Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager) gave a brief update on Community-led Housing (my previous report mentioned the problem of setting up and supporting local bodies and the burden it placed on SLDC staff time) including his aspiration to set up an umbrella CLT (community land trust) group. We'll hear more from him about this on 14 June, no doubt.

### **CCC South Lakeland Local Committee – Allan Muirhead & John Saunders**

Less money is going to be spent on roads. The March meeting heard that the devolved highways capital allowance for 2018/19 has been cut by £233,000 to £4.2million. Also, the needs-based allocation of £571,000 has been removed altogether. Specifically, spending on verge maintenance will be reduced, but more will be spent on weed spraying. More positively, Cumbria is expecting an additional £5m from Central Government to be used to ensure the principal roads network (PRN) is accessible during poor weather. Concerns were expressed about the Kendal North cycleway which was deemed less safe than a riverside route which would avoid many road junctions along Shap Road.

Changes to disabled parking provision in Kendal's Market Place and Finkle Street were described as experimental and subject to review. Users were invited to provide feedback. It was said more disabled parking bays would be provided on Highgate and Stricklandgate.

A number of changes are being introduced around off-street parking. Early bird parking charges are to be extended at Broad Street, Windermere; Hampsfell Road, Grange; and Lake Road, Ambleside; the new car park at Snowsports Club, Kendal, will now be regulated; operating times are changing at Kendal's Westmorland Shopping Centre; and there will be changes to charges at Joss Lane and Loftus Hill in Sedbergh and at Library Road in Kendal. Wednesday and Saturday restrictions on Sandes Avenue, Kendal, are being reversed. The committee has been given £47,550 to deliver a money and debt advice contract with CAB to provide support for those in debt with their homes or personal liberty at risks, as well as advice about how to avoid debt. It's anticipated that CAB will support at least 250 cases across South Lakeland in a financial year. A priority for the Children and Young People's Working Group is to ensure young people, including those leaving car, are work-ready. £5,865 has been allocated to work to support more young people to access help and support which will enable them to be work-ready. This could involve assisting in writing a CV and giving them interview preparation and practice.

At the start of the May meeting Councillor Mr N Cotton was elected as Chairman with Councillor Mr C Hogg being elected as Vice Chair. A member of the public spoke regarding the apparent problems of pavement merchandising in Grange-over-Sands causing blockage to the carriageway and again becoming a serious problem. A request for the Council to take a more forceful approach was made. Assurances were given that letters had been sent and failure to comply would result in action. Mention was made of the Cumbria act of 1982 which gave local authorities the power to remove offending items causing obstruction such as merchandising, A-boards etc. Regarding the Local Committee Community revised budget for 2018/2019 of £735,031, the April 2018 report showed unallocated resources of £158,327 of which £55,237 was community grants. It was agreed to give £5,000 to the Lakes Alive Programme and £7,750 to support the Kendal Futures Coordinator post (Total cost £23,250).

The report from Highways stated that all new staff were now in place. Catch-up on works was being made along with efforts to deliver within budget. Improvements in feedback on members works was discussed, since some projects appeared to be taking over a year or longer to implement. Lack of information meant members could not inform their constituents of progress. It was agreed to consider this at the next Highways and Transport Working Group and see if improvements to the reporting back process could be made. Concern was expressed regarding the state of many bridges in the area that still needed or were being repaired after the storm. It was pointed out that many belonged to private land owners and had not been insured, so funds were not readily available for reconstruction. The problems of the present train service failures in the region were discussed at length. It was agreed to send a letter to the Minister expressing serious concern and asking for action to be urgently taken. There were no nominations for County Council school governors. The Children's Champion gave an update on the success of the Virtual School initiatives saying how well they were performing and providing a vital service to the community. Whilst progress was being made with fostering, more carers were still needed. Regarding community development and public health, support for recent school theatre events had exceeded expectations. There were now many good examples of working together to develop community partnerships throughout the area and things were generally progressing very well.

#### **SLDC Standards Committee – David Peters**

At the four-member 17 April 2018 meeting the routine update on compliments, customer feedback and complaints showed a gradually improving picture and no cause for particular concern. Likewise an update on code of conduct complaints; as usual no details were

forthcoming about the two parish matters mentioned. The Committee recommended continuing for a further four years the dispensations enabling members and co-opted members to make representations under the public participation scheme as the new arrangements seemed to be working effectively.

Revised guidance on gifts and hospitality for members and co-opted members was considered. I failed to persuade the three other (voting) members that extending to the leader and portfolio holders the existing criterion that allowed the chairman to be exempt from the requirement to register hospitality (ask “Would I have received this hospitality even if I were not the leader/portfolio holder?” If the answer is “no”, then it needn’t be registered) would be inappropriate, and the revised guidance was duly approved. The Council’s response to the stakeholder consultation on the Review of Local Government Ethical Standards was considered. I (again) failed to deter the Committee from seeking stronger sanctions for dealing with councillors found to have breached the Code of Conduct, such as the power to suspend members.