

## **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**

At the 20 October 2018 meeting there was disappointment at the non-appearances of Cllr Keith Little, CCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, with Stephen Hall, Assistant Director Highways, Transport and Fleet. This was explained as a ‘mix-up’, but some members couldn’t resist surmising their absence was ‘political’. They had been expected to update the Executive on HIMS improvements and progress on working with third party organisations on highway maintenance activities (“Working Together” agreements – volunteer verge mowing, gully clearance, litter picking, lengthsman etc. etc. to you and me).

Discussion of motions on subscription fees to the 10 November 2018 CALC AGM dragged on a bit because no proposed wording had been circulated. It was left to be sorted out after the meeting – which it was, just in time.

The Chief Officer, Sam Bagshaw, is seeking to buy in specialist advice in respect of finance, planning and human resources, in order to improve the support offered to CALC members. As a first step the Committee agreed to fund (£200) a six-month trial with Steve Parkinson LLP for the provision of financial advice.

There was a debate about whether to invite Cumbria Trust, a pressure group where Eddie Martin, a former CCC Leader, is prominent, to address the Executive about government proposals on the search for a new Geological Disposal Facility for nuclear waste. Upon a vote it was decided not to invite them.

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

No report received.

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

At the 5 October 2018 meeting an officer (Alan Davis of SLDC) presented a review of Homelessness indicating a sharp rise (from 82 to 158) since 2015, located mainly in Kendal and Ulverston, with loss of tenancy in the private rented sector as the dominant growth area. There is a lack of social housing to rent, with a long waiting list. A bad situation is getting worse. He will bring a new draft strategy to the next meeting on 1 February 2019 for consideration.

Officers (Julie Jackson and Lynne Leach) presented a mid-term review of the Empty Homes Strategy, where significant progress has been made since the appointment of an Empty Homes Officer (Lynne). She deals mainly with properties which are empty and unfurnished for over six months because they can be easily identified through the council tax records when owners claiming 100% discount for the first six months revert to the full amount;

empty but furnished properties are classified as second homes even when not used as such. There was a good feedback in response to the issuing of the “Empty Homes Guide for Parish Councils” to all parish clerks in July 2016, but the document is not available on the SLDC website because the design team produce documents in pdf format (not Word) and such documents are currently banned from the SLDC website because they are not accessible to some users (i.e. those without Acrobat Adobe reader)!

The annual affordable housing price increase (2.3%) was routinely agreed.

Officer presentations (Alastair McNeil and Laura Chamberlain) were made about changes to the Affordable Housing Policy Guidance Note (to conform with the new NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework) and to a guidance note about SLDC’s policies (in the new Development Management Policies DPD) regarding standards for accessible and adaptable new homes. SLDC is requiring higher standards than previously and wants developers to be mindful of this by changing their house designs in anticipation of the DPD’s adoption (expected February 2019).

It was reported that there are now two adopted Neighbourhood Plans in the South Lakeland local planning authority area; a combined one for Heversham and Hincaster parishes, and (after a recent referendum) for Grange-over-Sands. These now form part of the Local Plan for South Lakeland and mean that the Parish Councils receive 25% rather than 15% of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income from development in these parishes (but tough on Hincaster – parish meetings get nothing!). Lower Allithwaite Parish Council is also preparing a neighbourhood plan.

Early work has started on the SLD Local Plan 2016-2036.

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

Prior to the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September a statement was read out from CCC regarding the Windermere Ferry. The engine build and commissioning will start in the next few days and new permanent staff are being recruited. They will be interviewed shortly. Consultation on a major refit planned for next year is underway. It is hoped to minimise disruption following the inconvenience caused by the fire and subsequent repairs. The meeting opened and the minutes of the last meeting were agreed. The revised Community services budget for 2018/19 of £735,031 has a projected outturn currently of £609,227 leaving £125,804 unallocated. From the general budget provision, it was agreed to allocate £20,000 towards Ulverston Highways and Transportation studies to improve the A590. It was agreed to contribute £12,500 to the Brathay Trust towards their Resilience Project for at risk young people. It was also agreed to contribute £8000 to the Brewery Arts Centre and members voted unanimously to support renewal of the upcoming Kendal BID.

The Highways revenue budget is currently forecast to show an overspend of £28,913 mainly due to expenditure on Better Highways activity. Efforts will be made to reduce this overspend. At the end of July the Highways devolved capital budget of £3,979,000 was forecast to be spent to budget, whilst the Non Devolved capital budget of £3,081,952 is forecasting an underspend of £501,361. Work is already being allocated against this. Whilst a

proposed reallocation of over £400,000 in the Devolved capital budget was agreed, concern was expressed specifically that monies being moved from schemes for Red Lane, Biggins Lane and Heron Hill would be reinstated next year. Serious concern was expressed regarding the efficiency of the new gully cleaning program in terms of staff and equipment with some new equipment apparently sitting idle for several weeks. Members were assured that this would be improved. A risk-based system will be introduced to determine cleaning frequency. It was suggested there should be more liaison with town clerks regarding gully cleaning programs. This would ensure areas were “coned off” to stop car parking when gully cleaning was expected. More effort should be made to enforce hedge cutting by landowners when it affects highways. It was noted that Barrow now have a white lining lorry which is available for use by County when needed. It was suggested that members who need lining should contact highways.

A short presentation on the Health and Wellbeing programme noted that businesses were getting more involved. A series of training sessions were now being held around the district on how to host community group networking sessions. Various groups are carrying out different activities and surveys of community needs including the Grange and Cartmel, Milnthorpe, Windermere, Ulverston and Arnside Community Groups. The Education, Skill and Training area of Community Services measures the lack of attainment of skills in the local population, both young and adult. Surveys had identified Milnthorpe and Windermere as the two most deprived towns in South Lakeland in this respect. CCCC educational services, Kendal College and Inspira were being asked to consult with these communities regarding their needs and aspirations to improve awareness and access. A report on the meeting of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership held in July has received a presentation on Parking enforcement in Cumbria by the senior manager in charge. In 2017/18 a total of 37,324 Penalty Charge Notices were issued compared with 31,295 in 2016/17 and an increase of almost 20%. A current surplus income of £100K is being used to refresh current priority lining and signing. Four additional Civil Enforcement Officers will be recruited. Discussion topics raised included the introduction of targeted on-street parking, on-street parking permit charges, areas of off-street parking to increase car parks and District council enforcement of on-street parking. Finally, it was noted that the Tour of Britain cycle event had been a great success and it was generally felt that, subject to an economic impact assessment, this should continue to be strongly supported in the future.

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

The 18 September 2018 meeting was preceded by the usual post-election training session on the Code of Conduct, this time including examples of court cases, in particular the recent (and embarrassing – google it) R (Harvey) v Ledbury Town Council. The meeting itself was pretty routine. The Local Government Ombudsman’s Annual Review was fairly reassuring; Code of Conduct complaints were relatively few and were being dealt with by the Monitoring Officer and Independent Person without needing member involvement; both district and parish registers of disclosable pecuniary and other interests were reviewed and it was confirmed that all newly elected district and parish councillors had returned their register forms. In response to a query it was confirmed that SLDC regularly invites all parish councillors, through their clerks, to refresher Code of Conduct training and offers targeted training to whole councils if they wish or deserve it