

EALC

Making Eden voices heard

ANNUAL REPORT FOR EDEN ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS 2020/21

Summary

In spite of the Covid-19 restrictions extending throughout 2020/21, a busy programme of interactive virtual forum events has been delivered that has helped councillors and clerks stay in touch and remain up-to-speed on important legislative and lockdown issues.

District officers

At the July 2020 AGM, a district officer team was elected comprising Sue Castle-Clarke as Chairperson, Jane Tea as Vice-Chairperson and Sonia Hutchinson as Parish Support Officer. Sue and Jane were also elected as Eden representatives at the CALC Executive meetings.

Interactive virtual forum events

During 2020/21, Covid-19 lockdown restrictions dramatically changed how Eden Association of Local Councils could go about its activities, with all meetings held virtually. Nonetheless a busy programme of 10 forum events was delivered comprising:

- September 2020 - *'Dark Skies'* with Friends of the Lake District project officer
- October 2020 - *'Nature recovery in climate change'* with Cumbria Local Nature Partnership
- December 2020 – *'Are your jeans getting tight?'* with Active Cumbria and the Womens' Institute
- March 2021 – *'Local Government Reorganisation'* – Information on the four proposals submitted to Westminster by Cumbria's principal authorities
- March 2021 – *'Local Government Reorganisation'* follow-up discussion event
- April 2021 – *'Hanging around the house with nothing to do?'* with Cumbria Community Learning and Skills team, including a mindfulness taster session.
- May 2021 - *'Are you on the right track?'* with CCC Rights of Way senior officer
- June 2021 - *'Greening Eden, Community by Community'* with Terena Plowright and EDC
- June 2021 – *'One front door'* launch and demonstration of CCC Highways new reporting system
- July 2021 – *'EDC Local Plan 2014-2032 partial review'* briefing session for 6-week consultation

Clerks' support

Clerks are the backbone of every parish council. Their continuous professional development has been supported by Sonia, our Parish Support Officer, through various 1:1 coaching sessions for new and experienced clerks throughout the district. Sonia has also continued to attend resilience meetings throughout the year and share the latest guidance with Eden's parishes.

I would like to thank our Vice-Chairperson, Jane Tea, Parish Liaison Officer, Sonia Hutchinson and colleagues at Cumbria Association of Local Councils, Eden District Council and Cumbria County Councils for all their help and support in making possible the success of this challenging year.

I also wish to thank Eden's town and parish councils, parish meetings and clerks for their time and participation at our forum events and encourage you to continue having your say in shaping the future of our communities, as we fully emerge from the Covid-19 restrictions and establish a new and different way forward.

Sue Castle-Clarke
Chairperson – Eden Association of Local Councils

July 2021