

# CUMBRIA ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

## SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

### Minutes of 183<sup>rd</sup> Meeting on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020

#### **Part 1**

##### **Update on A590 by Jonathan Reade, Asset Manager, Highways England**

Jonathan explained that Highways England (HE) is a government company within the Department of Transport (DofT). In Cumbria it is responsible for: M6, A66 (Workington to Durham boundary), A595 (Workington to Sellafield) and A590 (from Park Road roundabout on the outskirts of Barrow through to Junction 36 of M6). HE will organise litter picking on the fastest roads for safety reasons but it is actually the responsibility of SLDC on the trunk road network. The demands of drivers using the full length of A590 as a strategic road (only actually about 4% in a survey done) will be different from local people driving short stretches and wanting to get onto and off the road. Multiple data (eg. travel flows, percentage of heavy goods, accidents) will feed into scheme development but hearing the views of local people is important. There are various groups of local councillors that meet with HE, business community and transport operators: one for Brettargh Holt to Meathop roundabout stretch; another for Haverthwaite; a third for Ulverston. HE also organise local drop-in sessions, for example at Gilpin Bridge in 2019 and Backbarrow in 2020, to present its issues and proposals but also to find out about specific junctions from residents. This local knowledge is vital in applying for funding for both studies (to demonstrate need) and actual works. Jonathan said that HE does have an emergency diversion route (that has been agreed with CCC and the police) but it could be an extra 60 miles and people will take other roads using their sat nav. which can cause problems for narrow lanes. It is working with police to help them speed up accident investigations so the road is re-opened sooner. People will also take alternative routes to avoid roadworks (HE will think about the timing of its roadworks but it is not always notified by utility companies of cable laying etc).

In 2016 West of M6 Strategic Connectivity Study was published (by HE, CCC and Local Economic Partnership) which considered improvements to various A roads in order to support the economy of South and West Cumbria. The study fed into the priorities of Transport for the North and HE route strategies. DofT will ask HE to investigate named, big schemes (of over £10 million), such as dualling A66. Smaller schemes (eg. junction improvements) are not named by DofT but HE will have to bid for the funding. In 2019 there was a study called A590 Wider Economic Benefits which explored how road improvements could contribute to various economies (such as advanced manufacturing) and job creation. Feasibility studies look at junction improvements or road realignment in more detail. Jonathan listed all the potential schemes for A590: roundabout at Gilpin Bridge and closure of some side junctions; sorting out the bumps near Meathop roundabout (where A590 is sinking); creating a climbing lane for the hill at the Newby Bridge garage/waiting space mid-lane/raising the road (as prone to flooding); make it left hand turn only onto A590 at Swan Hotel; Haverthwaite village signs; removing the dual carriageway by steam railway; sorting out the bends near Greenodd (any widening would require raising the road as the fields flood); whole series of improvements in Ulverston. A coherent package of works would need to be put together so parts of the road are not looked at in isolation. The government budget announcement will set the budget for HE.

Jonathan anticipated a question on a bridge across Morecambe Bay which would need to be about 30kms and cost over £1billion. He said that it would need to demonstrate £2billion worth of benefits which would be a challenge. Windermere town council asked about A591 which is managed by CCC but is a key visitor route and part of the diversion route if A590 is closed. Jonathan said that HE can spend some money off its own network on the grounds of network resilience, so this could be A591 or A6 near Milnthorpe for example. One contact for parishes at CCC is Peter Hosking. **ACTION:** Jonathan to forward contact at HE to Amanda for parishes. One comment was that not everyone understands that the national speed limit sign means 60mph and suggested that the actual numerical limit is written on.

## **Part 2 Association Business**

### **1/20 Present**

David Peters (Chairman and Natland); Amanda McCleery (CALC); Peter Winter (Preston Patrick); John Stott (Stainton); Richard Sutton (Kendal); Roger Atfield (Levens); David Rogerson (Levens); Freya Burrill (Skelsmergh & Scalthwaiterigg); Diana Rutherford (Blawith & Subberthwaite), John Chapman (Skelsmergh & Scalthwaiterigg); Julie Huck (Burneside); William Huck (Burneside); Leith Hallatsch (Windermere); Sandra Lilley (Windermere); Pennie Ridyard (Burneside).

### **2/20 Apologies for absence**

Margaret Knowles (Beetham); Ken Dean (Colton); John Saunders (Windermere); John Houghton (Natland); Chris Hogg (Kendal); Peter Smillie (Arnside).

### **3/20 Minutes**

Minutes of 182<sup>nd</sup> meeting, held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019, were approved as a true record of the meeting.

### **4/20 Matters arising from the minutes**

- (i) *Eden Transport Toolkit for South Lakeland* – The meeting said that they would find a similar transport toolkit for South Lakeland useful. **ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to let CCC Area Manager, Karen Johnson, know.
- (ii) *Contact details of reps. to various bodies* – Amanda confirmed that Peter Smillie’s contact details had been sent to Samantha Bagshaw for CALC Executive Committee and that Leith Hallatsch’s contact details had been sent to Nicola Harrison for CCC South Lakeland Local Committee.
- (iii) *Accessibility Regulations (2018)* – Amanda said that an A4 sheet on this had been emailed to all parish clerks on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020, along with the meeting paperwork. Taken from NALC LO9-18, the document outlined the purpose of the regulations, the deadline (September 2020), what it means for parish councils and what steps should be taken. Information can be found at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/accessibility-requirements-for-public-sector-websites-and-apps#making-a-plan](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/accessibility-requirements-for-public-sector-websites-and-apps#making-a-plan) Burneside parish council passed the information onto its IT company who has made the website accessible; the work was not expensive. Some parish councils (eg. Natland) use community websites.
- (iv) *Locality Working Task and Finish Group of SLDC Overview & Scrutiny* – David Peters attended the meeting. It was expanded to a special meeting of the Overview &

Scrutiny Committee with stakeholders invited (CALC, CCC and police attended) invited. There was a presentation from SLDC Director, Simon Rowley, introducing the three, recently appointed Locality Team Leaders (for Ulverston, Windermere and Kendal) and explaining how queries come to Customer Connect who bring in case officers and specialists as required.

### **5/20 Compliance with Transparency Code**

Amanda McCleery explained that there is a legal requirement for parishes (with a turnover of less than £25,000 per annum) to comply with 2014 Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. Larger parishes (with turnovers between £25,000 and £200,000 per annum) have a moral obligation to meet 2015 Local Government Transparency Code – which is then a legal requirement for the largest parishes of over £200,000 per annum. She had been tasked with looking for ten key documents on the websites of all small parishes in autumn 2019 and found that only 13% were fully compliant. She was next asked to write a generic email (in January 2020) to all those parishes that were not compliant, explaining what was required and attaching a copy of the Code. Having added some documents, a few clerks contacted Amanda to ask her to check their websites again. She told the meeting that the 2014 Code is a short document with a useful appendix listing all the key documents that need to be on the website, most of which is published annually (though minutes, agendas and papers are published more frequently). David Peters added that the 2014 Code specifies the details required for all items of expenditure above £100. Amanda said that it is the clerk's contact details that must be published plus responsibilities for councillors (though some websites have contact details of councillors too). Though an asset register for every parish is good practice even if they only have laptops and noticeboards, David stressed that 2014 Code is only about the location of public land and building assets.

### **6/20 Items of interest from parishes, SLDC and CALC**

*CALC* – Amanda had emailed all parish clerks on 25<sup>th</sup> February with “items of interest from CALC” which summarised any publications and projects she had been made aware of since the November District Association meeting. However, since then she had found out about:

- *Support for storm-hit areas* – there is financial assistance for flood affected residents and businesses through the local authorities. Both can apply for up to £5,000 for a Property Flood Resilience Grant to protect against future flooding. Households can apply for up to £500 Community Recovery Grant and 100% council tax relief (for at least 3 months), whilst businesses can apply for up to £2,500 Business Recovery Grant and 100% business rate relief (for at least 3 months). This information was emailed by CCC Flood Partnerships Officer, Anthony Lane (01228 221331).
- *Consultation on draft NW Marine Plans* – these have been developed with stakeholders to reflect the needs of specific areas and are to help ensure the sustainable future for seas. Topics covered include: climate change, tourism/recreation and biodiversity. The deadline is 6<sup>th</sup> April and the website is: [www.gov.uk/government/news/have-your-say-on-marine-planning-in-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/have-your-say-on-marine-planning-in-england)
- *United Utilities Haweswater pipeline project* – this major project runs until 2024. There have been exhibitions and consultations at Grayrigg, New Hutton and Mansergh in March.

*Upper Kent LAP* – the next meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> March and there will be a presentation on SLDC Local Plan Review.

*Broadband For Rural North (B4RN)* – the joint project at New Hutton, Old Hutton and Preston Patrick led to an increased interest in the parish councils and the purchased digger has now been sold at a profit. If any other parishes want to know more about buying machinery, a model has been developed with CALC. Most of Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg is connected and it is working well. B4RN fibre is currently being laid in Preston Richard (from Crooklands to Sedgwick) and there will be a public meeting in Natland. B4RN is using Levens as an example of more urban construction. It is already live at The Institute in the village and four houses nearby where download is a speedy 280 mbps. Take up by business there has been higher than expected but some more interest from residents is needed as 60% or so of the village has to be committed. Witherslack could take the connection on from Levens and then it could go further west in the future.

*Lakes* – the police station has reopened at Ambleside. Income from the public toilets is falling because 20p payments can be made by contactless now and the contactless company keeps 7p in every payment.

*CCC Working Together* – those councillors at the meeting confirmed that none of them had a bespoke agreement for working on the Highways under the Working Together project and none of their parishes had been contacted by CCC about this.

### **7/20 Reports from Representatives to Other Bodies**

*CALC Executive Committee* – David Peters

*CCC South Lakeland Local Committee* – John Saunders

The paper on the reports above was emailed to parish clerks in February.

Having received the minutes of *South Cumbria Community Safety Partnership* meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020, Amanda shared a few highlights. There is a force-wide rural, acquisitive crime operation (Operation Lantern) combatting theft of quad bikes and farm equipment, with some arrests made and the criminals are predominantly travelling in from outside the area. The police have recently dismantled an active county drugs line into Kendal, with rail usage (as well as road) being targeted. There has been an increase in the number of bikes being stolen from sheds/garages in the Kendal area. The police are hoping to recruit between 140 and 170 additional police for neighbourhood policing. There is a new problem solver for Kendal (South Lakes East) called PC Vicky Hayley. Quad bike trackers are being handed out to Sedbergh, Dent and other rural locations. The force is further developing Sedbergh Farm Watch.

Amanda received an email from Councillor Peter Smillie (who was the rep. on Health and Wellbeing Forum until it stopped meeting) to say that he had attended a first meeting of *South Lakeland Health and Wellbeing Partnership* (led by CCC Public Health Manager, Mike Conefrey) on 27<sup>th</sup> February where make-up of the partnership, terms of reference and priorities were discussed. Five priorities were agreed, namely: tackling poverty; supported social prescribing; improved planning; better transport and connectivity; food and healthy weight agenda. There will be a workshop in April before a formal launch of the partnership in June. It was agreed that Peter will represent the District Association on this partnership until the next AGM.

**8/20 Dates, Venues and Times for Future Meetings**

*Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June                      SLDC Council Chamber, Kendal Town Hall                      From 7pm*

SLDC hosted. Requests for presentations:

1. Update on internal restructure, especially Locality Working team.
2. Update on Local Plan Review.

**ACTION:** Amanda McCleery to contact SLDC.

*Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September              Gilpin Bridge Inn, near Levens                      From 7pm*  
AGM

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November              Gilpin Bridge Inn, near Levens                      From 7pm*  
CCC hosted.