COPELAND HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP

Minutes of a Meeting of the Copeland Highways Working Group held on Tuesday 12 February 2013 at Richmond House, Whitehaven at 2pm.

PRESENT:

Mr J Woolley (Chair) – Member for Mirehouse
Mr M Hawkins – Member for Hensingham & Arlecdon
Mr FI Morgan – Member for Cleator Moor South & Egremont

Also in Attendance:-

Elaine McQuire - Acting Business Support Team Leader
Paul Little - Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager
Ted Thwaites - Area Support Manager
Sean Sykes - Better Highways Network Manager

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Member for Bransty and the Member for Seascale & Whicham.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There were some actions on the Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager from the last meeting held in December.

Third parties purchasing grit bins – once the bins have been purchased by a third party, responsibility for filling and maintaining the grit bins then falls to Cumbria Highways.

Calderbridge A595 Diversion Study – Capita Symonds were commissioned to undertake a survey into an alternative route. The Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager is to contact Karl Melville to see if he can assist.

ACTION – The Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager is to contact Karl Melville to source the survey carried out by Capita Symonds
Development Control – The Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager was asked to invite a member of the Development Control team to the next meeting. He informed the group that a paper from the Development Control team will be brought to a future Local Committee meeting.

Highways Restructure – A meeting has been held between the Members and Andrew Moss as requested. A follow up meeting is to take place soon.

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true record.

4. HIGHWAYS YEARBOOK

Copies of the 2012/13 highways yearbook were distributed to Members. The yearbook outlines the scope of work carried out. The book does not include the Traffic Management schemes; these will be brought to Local Committee in a report.

This is the second year that the yearbook has been produced and Members agree that it is a very useful document. Copies are to be circulated to the remaining Local Committee Members and those present from the media team for their information.

5. CORKICKLE STATION

A draft copy of Corkickle Railway Station Development Plan was circulated to Members for their information.

6. DEVOLVED BUDGET

A draft paper was circulated to Members outlining the proposed budget lines for 2013/14. For comparison, the original and revised 2012/13 revenue and capital budgets that were approved at Local Committee were included in the report.

The mobilisation and transition costs have impacted on last years budgets.

The Member for Cleator Moor South & Egremont made an enquiry about the contracts for materials which are managed countywide.

The budget has been adjusted to include increased energy costs for street lighting. A survey has been carried out in Ulverston to check the lighting stock and a trial on the use of LED street lighting is awaiting the results being analysed.

The Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager has proposed increasing the capital budget for drainage works in light of the recent flooding pending the results of the County Council’s flood risk management team. The budget for minor structural repairs has also been increased to allow for the use of a hotbox team to carry out more substantial patching works.

The Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager asked for Members views on the report with the intention of bringing the report to Local Committee for their consideration.

ACTION – The Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager brings the report to Copeland Local Committee in the form of a paper.
7. **SALTON PIT**

A briefing note was circulated to Members informing them that a new paper is to go to Copeland Local Committee regarding a permanent prohibition of pedestrians order on part of footpath 431043 at Saltom Pit which went to Committee in January. The drawing attached to the previous paper was incorrect and the Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager offered his apologies for this oversight. It is anticipated that a new paper will be produced with the correct drawing and appropriate order attached for the Committee meeting in March.

8. **MAINTENANCE OF HOMEWOOD ROAD**

The Member for Arlecdon & Hensingham enquired about the maintenance of Homewood Road, Hensingham. Maintenance of the road has now reverted to Cumbria Highways. The Better Highways Network Manager informed the meeting that he is looking for contributions from a local contractor to carry out works to the road in the vicinity of Sneckyeat Road. Routine maintenance in the form of find and fix is ongoing.

9. **COACH ROAD**

The Member for Mirehouse expressed his concerns that although works had been carried out on Coach Road the painting of the lines had not yet been carried out. This was causing problems with vehicles parking on the areas that previously had double yellow lines causing obstructions. The Better Highways Network Manager apologised for this and agreed to look into the request.

**ACTION** – The Better Highways Network Manager is to arrange the painting of the lines on Coach Road.

10. **OBSTRUCTION TO HIGHWAY, PRESTON STREET**

The Member for Mirehouse reported that due to a mobile van parking on the forecourt of the garage on Preston Street, vehicle stopping for refreshments were parking on the double yellow lines and causing obstructions to traffic. The Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager agreed to speak to the enforcement officers and bring this to their attention.

The other issue on Preston Street is with cars parking opposite to the junction for Asda, a number of minor incidents have been reported in the area. The Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager agreed to look into this.

**ACTION** – The Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager is to discuss the issues with the enforcement officers and the Copeland traffic team.

11. **AREA MANAGERS REPORT**

The Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager circulated a report to Members and gave a verbally update from the report on issues in the Copeland area.

Updates were provided on the following:-
Under the item titled “Fell Roads – Winter conditions”, the Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager informed Members that a number of complaints had been received about the recent closure on the Cold Fell Road and vehicles had breached the closure and were using the road despite the poor conditions. He requested Members permission to investigate permanent electronic signs which can be remotely updated notifying drivers of the road conditions. He also asked for Members permission to investigate an option of installing road closed gates at Hardknott Pass. Members agreed to this request.

**ACTION** – The Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager is to investigate the options for electronic signs for Cold Fell and closure gates for Hardknott Pass and report back to Members on the cost.

Under the item titled “Whitehaven Harbour Area”, the Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager requested Members approval to reinstate complete sections of the harbour using tarmac rather than patching small areas between the setts which look out of place. Members agreed with this request.

**AGREED** – Where necessary replace complete sections with tarmac as the setts are expensive to maintain.

**12. ST BEES FOOTBRIDGE**

An update on the situation with Rottington footbridge was given to Members. It was agreed that it was a major achievement to have progressed the scheme so far.

No future dates have been agreed for the Copeland Highways Working Group meetings. The Copeland Local Committee dates are still to be agreed by Cabinet.

The Chair thanked the Interim Area Highways & Transport Manager for all of his help during his time in the Copeland Office as he is leaving to move to another job elsewhere in the country.

The meeting ended at 3.55pm