

COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR SOUTH LAKELAND

Minutes of a Meeting of the County Council Local Committee for South Lakeland held on Monday, 30 September 2019 at 10.00 am at County Offices, Kendal

PRESENT:

Mr N Cotton (Chair)

Mr RK Bingham
Mr J Bland
Mr M Brereton
Mr W Clark
Mr SB Collins
Mr GD Cook

Mrs S Evans
Mrs BC Gray
Mr C Hogg
Mr P McSweeney
Mr WJ Wearing
Mr M Wilson

District Council

Mr G Archibald

Parish Councils

Mr J Saunders

Officers in Attendance:

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Mrs K Johnson | Area Manager |
| Mr M Conefrey | Public Health Locality Manager |
| Mr P Hosking | Highways Network Manager |
| Mr M Dooz | Traffic Management Team Leader |
| Mr A Shields | Parking Manager |
| Mr T Murphy | Parking Team Leader |
| Ms V Percival | Working Together Service Manager |

Also in Attendance: Mr Martin Lucas – Public Participation

PART 1 – ITEMS CONSIDERED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J Airey, Mr B Berry, Mrs S Sanderson, Mr P Thornton and Mrs J Willis.

The Chairman announced that Mr Allan Muirhead had resigned from the Committee as a Parish Council representative due to family commitments. Mr Muirhead was thanked for his input into the work of the Committee.

29 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Martin Lucas, a resident, gave the context for presenting his petition regarding tree felling at Collin Road in Kendal:

Collin Road was a tree-lined road with houses built in the 1930's. Historically, trees had been felled without consultation with residents. Three months ago, Highways staff had been observed viewing three trees on the road and after speaking with them, Mr Lucas was advised that their roots were causing a trip hazard. Residents were concerned that if the trees were removed, then the character of the tree-lined street would be changed, the wildlife corridor would be negatively affected (Mr Lucas worked at home and observed animals such as Jackdaws, insects, and bats in the trees) and there would be a negative impact on carbon absorption. Mr Lucas had asked officers to involve residents when considering the removal of trees on the street. Mr Lucas thought that the trees were not in decline but did understand that they did get damaged by vehicles. He understood that the Council did have budget constraints. He suggested alternatives to tree removal such as a flexible pathway or if the trees had to be removed, that other trees were planted. He considered that if the trees were removed and the footpath be tarmacked then trees would not be able to be replanted. Mr Lucas reiterated his request for consultation.

The Chair advised that the petition, received by Democratic Services had 47 signatories. He read out the following response:

“Cumbria Highways do appreciate that street trees form part of the overall street scene and are often considered to be aesthetically pleasing.

This amenity value does need to be balanced with the requirement to maintain a safe highway and to ensure that the footway is maintained in a safe manner for footway users. Reports were received that the footway had been damaged by tree roots and engineers visited site to assess options. Cumbria Highways endeavour to retain healthy trees wherever it is possible to do so and still maintain a safe footway.

We are happy to look at alternatives to removal with you but ultimately Cumbria Highways may have to remove some trees”.

Mrs Gray, the local Member stated that she sympathised with residents and appreciated the aesthetic nature of the road but that trees had a finite lifespan. In the 1930's it had been fashionable to plant trees on the footway but this was no longer the case as the footway was too narrow and that it was an obstruction and hazard to footway users. Safety was paramount for all, including local residents. She asked that residents consider planting trees in their own gardens to mitigate the removal of trees.

A number of members felt that consultation with residents should take place. The Highways Network Manager explained that consultation had not currently taken place, however, Highways engineers had assessed the footway and work had not taken place to allow Mr Lucas to attend the meeting and present his petition. He reported on the new Code of Practice for the removal of trees and advised that consultation was not required for their removal if there were questions of safety. He confirmed to the Committee that the County Council had an arboriculturist who which had been consulted in this case.

A member considered that residents planting trees was a good idea whilst another suggested that a tree planting scheme run by South Lakeland District Council could help with tree planting in the area. The Leader of South Lakeland District Council offered his support for this. A member asked that residents be aware of tree root positioning as they may damage drains. The Highways Network Manager advised that currently there was not a tree planting scheme in place, however this was something to consider in future.

The Chairman thanked Mr Lucas for attending the meeting.

30 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, the press and public not be excluded from the meeting for any items of business.

31 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

The Chair stated that due to a backlog in the number of private briefing sessions for members, a seminar would be held to cover several briefings in one session. Members would be advised of a date in due course.

A discussion took place on the importance of members' attendance at briefing sessions. A member stressed that it was essential that all should be aware of the issues in their electoral division and it was raised that there should be sufficient time for members to ask questions of those presenting information. Using new technology to receive presentations was suggested. The Chair would liaise with the Area Manager on dates for future sessions.

32 MINUTES

RESOLVED that, the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

33 AREA PLANNING - SOUTH LAKELAND

A report was considered from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services regarding Area Planning in South Lakeland. The report provided service information and offered recommendations to South Lakeland Local

Committee for approval from the Strategic Planning Working Group meeting held on 19th August 2019 and the Children and Young People's Working Group meeting held on 2nd September 2019. The report also provided Local Committee with an update on activity against agreed priorities and provides an overview of the current budget position.

The Area Manager referred members to the Financial Statement and notes of the Strategic Planning Working Group. A member referred to a discussion held at the Highways and Transportation Working Group regarding the Healthy Ways to School Programme and commented on the issues in Ulverston regarding traffic congestion around schools and urged schools to engage with Travel Plans. Discussion took place on encouraging parents to use car parks away from school premises which would reduce emissions and congestion around schools (helping with the climate emergency) and encourage children to exercise which supported the health and wellbeing agenda. The Chair emphasised the requirement to work in partnership with schools, Governors and the District Council. A member thought that improving footpaths, bicycle and car parking would contribute to climate and health and wellbeing improvements.

A member welcomed the suggestions but commented that there was no public transport in his division so a one size fits all approach was not feasible. It was noted that the four schemes reported in the Strategic Planning Working Group were pilots but it was hoped that they would be supported. A member concurred with the problems raised where there was no public transport and referred to issues with unstaffed crossing patrols and suggested rural areas could create safe drop off areas away from school to encourage walking. Creativity was encouraged when drawing up future plans which members could then lead on.

The award of £20,00 to facilitate the Healthy Ways to School Programme was moved by Mr Cook, seconded by Mr Wilson and agreed by assent of the Committee.

The Area Manager reminded members of the Local Committee's history of funding the Outside In project. She advised that a change of premises had resulted in the benefit of an extensive outside play area which needed attention before children could use it. The additional offer of an outside space would enable the enterprise to grow further and become sustainable. The issues raised at the meeting when the original grant was awarded were addressed by the Area Manager who then asked members to decide on the amount to be awarded, which would protect the Committee's original investment.

Members commented on how the additional space would benefit the project, it was now more accessible by public transport and the volunteers had already undertaken a lot of fundraising and they were a dedicated team of volunteers,

It was moved by Mrs Evans and seconded by Mr Bingham that £8,730 be awarded to the Outside In project. This was agreed by assent of the Committee.

Discussion ensued on the funding of the A2B Now Scheme from the General Provisions Budget. Some members considered this to be a discriminatory service as it only benefitted areas where there was a bus service. Members raised the problems related to rurality and sparsity. A member referred to the suicide rates and mental health of young people in rural areas and the need to support the CAHMS service. The Area Manager reassured members that mental health was high on the agenda for the Children and Young People Working Group and offered to convene a session dedicated to these issues.

Members asked that the service be better publicised using social media and advertising in schools. Members noted that a statement about the scheme was being circulated to Parish Councils.

The Chair of the Children and Young People's Working Group drew attention to the Minutes of the meeting of the Group, commenting on the funding awarded to the Brathay Trust South Lakeland Resilience Project and clean-up work undertaken after Kendal Calling which had resulted in tents and equipment being passed on to those in need.

RESOLVED that,

- 1 Members note the budget update for 2019-20 including the commitments and expenditure to date, Appendix A of the report.
- 2 Members note the work of the Strategic Planning Working Group as set out in the minutes at Appendix B of the report.
- 3 Members agree to facilitate the Healthy Ways to School Programme (Appendix C of the report) and approve a supporting budget of £20,000, broken down £9,336 from General Provisions and £10,664 from the School Crossing Budget currently earmarked for school crossing safety measures.
- 4 Members note the work of the Children and Young People's Working Group as set out in the minutes at Appendix D of the report.
- 5 Members approve a grant of £5,000 towards the Dreamscheme Project from the 0-19 voluntary youth group support budget, Appendix E of the report.
- 6 Members approve a grant of £8,730 towards the Outside In project from the 0-19 universal services budget, Appendix F of the report.
- 7 Members agree to fund the A2B Now Scheme for the 2020/21 financial year from the General Provisions Budget (subject to available funding) with an increase to £10 for the membership card but for fares to remain the same (paragraph 4.1 of the report).

34 HIGHWAYS DEVOLVED REVENUE AND CAPITAL UPDATE

A report was considered from the Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure regarding the 2019/20 Highways Devolved Revenue and Capital Update Report. The report presented the Highways Revenue and Devolved Capital and Non-Devolved Capital Budget finance reports and updated members as to

current progress on the budget lines as detailed in the appendices attached to the report.

Referring to the recent heavy rain, a member reported on the successful Environment Agency system in place to notify the public of flooding events. The Highways Network Manager advised that he had not received any reports on flooding in the area from the duty engineer over the weekend prior to the meeting.

Members talked about how members of the public reported flooding but this tended to subside over a short period of time after rain stopped, they commented on locations where flooding solutions had been implemented and were no longer flooding. A number of issues specific to member divisions were raised which would be addressed outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED that, Local Committee note the revenue and capital budget allocations for 2019/20 and the commitments and expenditure recorded to the end of August 2019 and shown in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report.

35 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION WORKING GROUP

A report was considered from the Acting Executive Director- Economy and Infrastructure regarding the Highways and Transportation Working Group meeting held on 2 September 2019. The report provided the notes of the meeting of the Highways and Transportation Working Group (the Working Group) held on 2nd September 2019 and included recommendations for consideration by the Local Committee.

In presenting the minutes, the Chair of the Highways and Transportation Working Group reported on the business conducted at the meeting. He drew members' attention to the change to procedure for proceeding to advertisement and consultation for Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) and commented on the discussions about Victoria Bridge and the Troutbeck Flood Wall TRO. He asked all members to check that their schemes were included in the Members Highways Priority Works 2019/20 list. He highlighted that the Highways Network Manager had asked members to let his team know about the areas with drainage problems in their divisions, in order to avoid flooding in those areas.

The Highways Network Manager advised that the footpath at Calgarth View would be accessible unless the flood gates were closed. Discussion ensued on the responsibility for certain actions during flood events. The Highways Network Manager outlined the responsibilities of the Environment Agency, United Utilities and the County Council during flood events. A member raised the point that the emails sent out to the public to advise that broken lights had been repaired would benefit from review.

A member indicated that during flood events, the increased water level in the river could prevent water discharging from drainage outfalls. He asked that drainage outfalls were altered so they directed the flow downstream and therefore, at times of high water, the river water would draw water out from outfall pipes. He asked that

this be addressed by engineering solutions. The Area Manager agreed to liaise with the Environment Agency on this issue.

RESOLVED that,

- 1 Local Committee note the Minutes of the Working Group meeting of 2nd September 2019 which are attached as Appendix 1 of the report
- 2 The recommendation of the Working Group be agreed, that the current Traffic Regulation Order process be changed so that Highways Officers proceed to statutory advertisement and consultation of a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), but only after consultation with Local Member(s). (Note: This would dispense with the need to obtain firstly a recommendation from Working Group and then approval from the Local Committee before being able to commence the statutory advertisement and consultation process).
- 3 Local Committee agree to proceed to statutory consultation and advertisement of “No Waiting at Any Time” restrictions on the spine road off the A590 Daltongate, Ulverston, serving the Blue Light Hub, and on the entrance to Daltongate, as shown on the plan attached in Appendix 1 of the Working Group report.
- 4 In the event that there are no unresolved objections at the expiry of the statutory advertisement and consultation period, that Local Committee agree that the “No Waiting at Any Time” restrictions referred to in paragraph 3.3 of the report, be brought into operation, as advertised
- 5 Local Committee agrees to proceed to statutory consultation and advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order which would prohibit pedestrians from using the footway adjacent to numbers 3 -7 Calgarth View, Troutbeck, only at such times as there is a risk of damage to those properties at times of flooding, as shown on plan attached as Appendix 1 of the Working Group report (“the Order”).
- 6 In the event that there are no unresolved objections to the proposals detailed in paragraph 3.5 of the report, at the expiry of the statutory advertisement and consultation period, the Local Committee agree that the Order be brought into operation, as advertised;
- 7 Local Committee approves the current Members Highways Priorities Works Programme 2019/2020 (“the Programme”) attached as Appendix 1 of the Working Group report and Appendix 2 of the report.

36 PARKING UPDATE

A report was considered from the Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure which gave a Parking Services Update. The report provided an update on the enforcement of on-street parking in the South Lakeland Local Committee area and included the Parking Services Annual Report 2018/19.

In response to the issues raised earlier in the meeting about school-related parking problems, the Parking Manager advised that they were dealt with through the CRASH Group and a number of initiatives were in place to try and resolve them. He

guided members through the report and after members queried the resources available in the team, in particular the two vacant posts, the Parking Manager stated that by the end of November 2019, the two vacancies would be filled.

A member referred to a new TRO being implemented in his division and asked that Civil Enforcement Officers were visible in the area.

Questions were asked on the underspend in the Annual Report 2018/19 and where it would be spent. The Parking Manager would let members know the figures for South Lakeland. The Area Manager explained the principles behind the allocation of the underspend and on what the money would be spent on. The Parking Manager advised it would be ring-fenced to Highways work and there was liaison with the Highways Team on where it was best allocated. Following a member query on the pavement parking trial, the Parking Manager reported on how it would be addressed and how it would be publicised. A member was keen to employ this scheme in his division. Members were keen to have visibility of Civil Enforcement Officers in peak tourist season. If there were localised issues with parking, members were encouraged to let the Parking Team Leader know so they could be resolved.

Members thanked the Parking Manager for his excellent work and speedy responses to their queries. He informed members how to access the Active Travel team's self-help kit. The Parking Manager explained how evening parking enforcement and enforcement in outlying residential areas were carried out and reported on the pressures of a high workload on the number of officers in the team. A query was raised as to whether Town and Parish Councils could contribute financially to the provision of Parking Services. Members would be informed in due course if this was possible.

Discussion ensued on parking across dropped kerbs. The Parking Manager explained that such markings were no longer required and that the Civil Enforcement Officers were concentrating on vehicles parked across dropped kerbs in busy locations and/or where there was tactile paving in place.

The Chairman thanked the Parking Manager for attending the meeting.

RESOLVED that,

- 1 Members note the report as an update on the performance of the on-street parking enforcement service in the South Lakeland locality.
- 2 The Parking Services Annual Report 2018/19 be noted.
- 3 The issues recorded in the Minute above be considered by the Parking Team in making improvements to the Service.

37 WORKING TOGETHER

A report was considered from the Acting Executive Director – Economy and Infrastructure regarding the Working Together Service. The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an understanding of the next proposed steps for the Working Together Service. The update highlighted the development of a number of

draft trial agreements with a number of third parties to establish the suitability of the agreement document and support in determining the resources required to roll out the service County wide.

The Working Together Service Manager provided the background to the Working Together initiative. She advised that trial agreements were now in place which would allow information to be gathered on the work of communities. Two agreements would be used; a Volunteers agreement and Lengthsman agreement which would allow the County Council to work with Town and Parish Councils. These would be circulated after the meeting. There were four trial agreements in place in South Lakeland. Developing the Service had been a lengthy process with the Working Together Service Manager collating all the information and drafting agreements which were fit for purpose. Agreements would be bespoke.

Following member questions, the Working Together Service Manager talked about what the £150,000 start-up costs had been spent on and how CALC was working as an advocate with Councils on the agreements. All documentation would be available on the County Council's website and circulated to members to enable them to forward it on to Parish and Town Councils. Once Councils had indicated a desire to engage with the Service, the Working Together Service Manager would meet with them. This would only be constrained by her diary commitments.

Members welcomed the Working Together Service and talked about how Parish Councils were eager to engage with the Council and have the agreements in place. A member reported on one local Parish Council which had been trying to implement such a scheme for a number of years. A member raised that without funding, the Service would not be successful.

The Chair stated that the Service required more officers to facilitate its success as there was widespread demand and members were being asked by Parish Councils when the agreements would be in place. He did not consider that one officer was sufficient to do this work. It was highlighted by a member that Parish and Town Councils would be setting their budgets in the forthcoming months therefore would need to know if they had to provide funding as soon as possible.

In concurring with the Chairman and expressing that there was insufficient officer support available, Mr Cook moved that the Acting Executive Director - Economy and Infrastructure makes available increased resources for the Working Together Service. The Area Manager is to liaise with the Executive Director Economy and Infrastructure and report back on progress in her Area Planning report to the next meeting of South Lakeland Local Committee. If there is not a satisfactory response, the Committee will make a referral to Cabinet on the matter. This was seconded by Mr Bland. This was agreed by assent of the Committee.

Mr Brereton reported on two excellent projects in his division and asked that momentum for engaging the Parish and Town Councils carried on through the winter months. He commented that feedback from Parish Councils not involved in the pilots had been useful and considered that the agreements would result in

savings for the County Council. The Chairman stated that there was a great opportunity for partnership working.

RESOLVED that,

- 1 The report be noted
- 2 The Area Manager liaises with the Acting Executive Director Economy and Infrastructure to express that South Lakeland Local Committee requires increased resources be made available for the Working Together Service. The Area Manager to report back on progress in the Area Planning report to the next meeting of South Lakeland Local Committee. If there is not a satisfactory response, South Lakeland Local Committee will make a referral to Cabinet on the matter.

38 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITY - UPDATE

A report was considered from the Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services which gave a Community Development and Public Health Activity update. The report drew attention to key Community Development and Public Health Activity undertaken by the South Lakeland Area Support Team and the Locality Public Health Manager.

The Public Health Manager drew members' attention to the Bishop of Carlisle's Lenten Walk through Cumbria, the Bay Health and Care Partners work to develop a Morecambe Bay Population Health Plan and dates for members' diaries.

A number of members highlighted the importance of the report and the details contained within it. Mr Wilson talked about the work being undertaken in Ulverston on the Healthy Town Initiative and highlighted that there would be a skills and training deficit in Cumbria in fifteen years' time. He encouraged members to work in partnership to resolve this issue. He suggested that the Scrutiny Management Board investigate this issue.

Members raised the critical issues and high numbers in the South Lakeland area of malnourished children, the increased use of food banks and incidences of self-harm, high poverty levels, increasing air pollution, a reduction in lifespan of residents in some electoral divisions and the weakness of the third sector. A member asked that metrics be included in the report on these issues.

A member commented on the impact of a lack of provision of dentists in South Lakeland. It was noted that lifespan differed between electoral divisions and there were pockets of deprivation in the area. It was noted that there was a difference of satisfaction levels between those people who left the area and returned, compared to those who stayed in the area. It was highlighted that arts and culture were important for community cohesion and happiness.

The impact of the removal of bus services on social isolation in rural areas was highlighted by a member who urged the County Council ensure that bus services

could be funded and asked that South Lakeland District Council lobbied the County Council to provide a sustainable bus service in South Lakeland.

RESOLVED that, the report be noted

39 LOCAL COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND LEADERSHIP

The Minutes of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership meeting held on 8 July 2019 were presented by the Vice Chair of the Committee. He informed members about the Bicycle Mayor of Cumbria whilst the Area Manager referred to a number of additional subjects and what it meant for the area including opportunities to work with the District Council on refreshing the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and the funding gap.

Mr Collins, Chair of the Communities and Place Scrutiny Advisory Board reported on the work members were undertaking to ensure the County Council was not left responsible for work which should be undertaken by developers after planning permission had been granted.

Members asked that a mechanism be developed in order to ensure that agreed actions arising during meetings were captured and resolved.

RESOLVED that, the minutes of the meeting of the Local Committee Chairs and Leadership be noted.

40 PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

41 OUTSIDE BODIES

Mr Wilson gave an update on the following:

- Flying the Merchant Navy Flag
- He would be attending an Autism meeting in the week following the Local Committee meeting

Mr Cook reported that he was the Committee's representative on the Brewery Arts Centre and would respond to any member questions should they have any. He encouraged all members to respond to the Vision for Kendal project's consultation.

42 CHILDREN'S CHAMPION

Mrs Evans gave a detailed report on the business conducted at the Corporate Parenting Board meeting held on 27 September 2019.

The meeting ended at 1.05 pm