

## **COPELAND HIGHWAYS WORKING GROUP**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Copeland Highways Working Group held on Wednesday, 20 April 2022 at 10.00 am at Teams

### **PRESENT:**

Mr K Hitchen (Chair)

Mr MS Barbour

Mr AWC Lamb

Mr FI Morgan

Mr GRPM Roberts

Mr CP Turner

Mr CJ Whiteside

Mr AW Wonnacott

### **Also in Attendance:-**

- |              |   |  |
|--------------|---|--|
| Mr B Carter  | - | Traffic Management Officer               |
| Mrs L Davis  | - | Democratic Services Officer              |
| Mr S Giles   | - | Flood and Development Management Officer |
| Mr M Reeves  | - | Traffic Management Team Leader           |
| Mr M Taylor  | - | Local Area Network Manager (Copeland)    |
| Mr P Telford | - | Development Management Officer           |

### **30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Mr D Wilson.

### **31 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2022 be agreed as a true record of the meeting.

### **32 DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Members received a report that presented an overview of Flood and Development Management activities in the Copeland area. Appended to the report were major and strategic planning applications, a section 106 contributions update and current flooding investigations in the area. The newly appointed Flood and Development Management Officer for Copeland was welcomed to the meeting.

In discussion of planning applications, the Local Member for Cleator Moor West raised safety concerns and the need for work to be carried out at the Keekle Meadows development. The Development Management Officer confirmed that occupancy of 125 houses would trigger the developer contribution, 98 houses were occupied and this application was for a further 51 dwellings.

The Local Member for Bransty raised major concerns in relation to the proposed development of 23 residential dwellings on land at Harras Road, as there were existing flooding issues, access problems and overcrowding and requested a site visit take place and the invite to this be extended to residents.

The Local Member for Egremont North and St Bees requested an update and careful review on the application for 3 dwellings on Nethertown Road, St Bees. The Development Management Officer reported that from a highway and lead local flood authority perspective there were no concerns around this development.

In answer to a question from the Local Member for Cleator Moor East and Frizington, the Development Manager Officer confirmed that no consultation had taken place with the County Council for a visitor centre and the reintroduction of beavers in the Ennerdale Valley.

The Section 106 contributions for Copeland were outlined. The Flood and Development Management Officer agreed to provide further more detailed information at future meetings on these.

**RESOLVED**, that the report be noted.

### **33 LOCAL AREA NETWORK MANAGER'S REPORT**

The Local Area Network Manager presented a report updating members on Highway Network matters following the last group meeting in February. The Local Area Network Manager took members through the report, detailing:-

- Works Programme 2022/23
- Countryside Access Update
- A595 Liaison Group
- Revenue Pothole Budget

Members were informed that the breakdown of the proposed schemes for the next financial year was attached to the report at Appendix 1 following confirmation of the NPRN Devolved budget. Appendix 1 also included the proposed schemes for the PRN network and the DFT Pothole budget.

Members received a countryside access update and noted that the team, working with the Local Member for Gosforth, had assessed a footbridge close to Beckermat with a view of it being refurbished as an Environment Funded scheme but had determined that the timescales were too tight to deliver within the current financial year.

At the Local Committee meeting on the 22nd of March 2022, the Local Member for Egremont North and St Bees had expressed concerns over the list of proposed schemes laid out by National Highways at the A595 Liaison Group meeting in March. It was noted that National Highways had put their list of preferred schemes in writing which had been circulated to members. The Local Member for Egremont North and St Bees noted the latest discussion with National Highways,

acknowledging that a number of potentially very beneficial projects to improve the road were discussed but felt that there was a complete absence of any firm delivery dates or confirmation that funding was available even for the prioritised schemes. The Local Member continued by supporting the aims of the “Levelling up” agenda and expressed concerns that failure to deliver highways improvements in this part of the North of England could have harmful effects on local economic growth and thereby adversely affecting the ability to promote not just highways improvements but also the remainder of the agenda. It was agreed that the Local Committee be recommended to write to the Local MP for Copeland, and to the Chairman of the House of Commons Transport Select Committee, explaining the concerns and asking for an investigation into whether the delays in delivering small and medium highways schemes to support the “Levelling up” agenda reflect funding levels, capacity within National highways, or both, and what could be done to address them.

The Local Area Network Manager reported on the allocation given to Local Committees by Cabinet for of £200,000 within the revenue pot, dedicated to the treatment of

potholes. Following an informal meeting to discuss the best use of this budget, and three options being presented to members, it had been agreed that the best use of the budget was to fund an additional team of two personnel for the whole financial year resulting in three identical teams across the whole of Copeland equipped to deal with a range of defects from potholes, flags and kerbing defects, small drainage related defects as well as dealing with road traffic accidents when needed. It was noted that this would help to reduce the numbers of defects currently on the HIAMS system as well as reducing response times for any urgent defects which require an immediate response.

The timing of the Whitehaven TRO Review and the involvement of the Whitehaven Town Council and other organisations was discussed.

**RESOLVED**, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Local Committee be recommended to agree that a letter be sent by the Chair on the Committee’s behalf, as outlined above, to the Local MP for Copeland and to the Chairman of the House of Commons Transport Select;
- (3) the Local Committee be recommended to agree option three, outlined above, for the use of the allocated additional budget of £200,000 dedicated to the treatment of potholes.

### **34 COPELAND REMAINDER TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER REVIEW**

The Traffic Management Team Leader presented a report, the purpose of which was to Members with the background and details of proposed changes to The County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Copeland Remainder) (Consolidation and Provision of Traffic Regulations) Order 2020, following informal consultation. The

plans showing the proposed changes were attached as Appendices to the report, together with a copy of the Council's Statement of Reasons for proposing to introduce the changes.

The Traffic Management Team Leader outlined that during 2021, officers collated all requests held on file for additions and alterations to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Copeland Remainder and this proposed Order captured the majority of the Copeland area, with the exception of Whitehaven and its surroundings. Members had been encouraged to inform the Traffic Team of any requests they, or their constituents had for inclusion in the review. Over the latter months of 2021, officers had carried out thorough assessments to develop proposals and the initial set of these consisted of 32 separate locations, which were distributed to Members for comment prior to public engagement. It was noted that informal consultation had been carried out between March and April 2022, with a period of 5 weeks given for responses to be submitted. A total number of 113 responses were received within the consultation period, with a summary of them attached as Appendix 43. Details of each proposal were outlined in the report

Members held a detailed discussion regarding the recommendations. In discussion of the proposals for The Gather, Ennerdale (Appendix 23) and Shephards Arms, Ennerdale (Appendix 24), it was agreed not to proceed at present but revisit these at a later date. It was further agreed to proceed with the proposal for Arlecdon Parks Road, Arlecdon against the officers' recommendation.

In discussion, it was agreed that a representative from the Parking Services Team be invited to a future Local Committee to discuss operation and delivery.

**RESOLVED**, that

- (1) the Local Committee be recommended to agree to proceed to statutory consultation and advertisement of a Traffic Regulation Order ("the Order") which would: -
  - (i) consolidate the provisions of
    - (a) The County of Cumbria (Various Roads, Borough of Copeland) (Consolidation and Provision of Traffic Regulations) Order 2020; and
    - (b) The County of Cumbria (A5086/U4017 Arlecdon Parks Road, Arlecdon) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2003
  - (ii) introduce new restrictions as shown on the plans attached as Appendices 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, & 42 only;
  - (iii) appendices 4, 33 and 36 be revised and considered further at the Local Committee

(2) the Local Committee be recommended to agree that, subject to there being no unresolved objections received at the end of the statutory consultation and advertisement referred to in paragraph 3.1 above, that the Order be brought into operation, as advertised, having taken into consideration the matters contained in Section 122(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which are more specifically referred to in paragraph 7.2 of the Report.

### **35 CRASH GROUP**

The CRASH representative informed members that a traffic data summary sheet was available on request.

### **36 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting will be held on 22 June 2022 at 10 am via Teams. The Chair advised of the intention to invite newly appointed Unitary Authority members to future Highways Working Group meetings. A member, although in agreement, expressed caution because of the confidential nature of the meetings and the Democratic Services Officer agreed to get advice on this.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm