



# Sedbergh & Kirkby Lonsdale

## LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP

## Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale LAP Minutes

### Date and Time

Wednesday 15 November 2017, Barbon Village Hall, 19:30 – 21:30.

### Key Points From The Meeting

- **Warning signs instead of closing roads:** Closing roads requires knowledge of what is happening in the surrounding area, it is very difficult to coordinate this with services. It is much more favourable for parishes to have warning signs on roads rather than close them. Cllr Stan Collins has referred the Firbank request to Stephen Hal, AD for CCC Highways with regards to redirection of traffic when there are closures on the M6
- **Utility companies leaving road signs:** the back of the sign should have contact details for the owner. Highways signs can be placed in one location for collection by CCC, or returned to the depot at Millness. Highways teams have been asked to keep their eyes open and retrieve signs as they go about their day to day jobs. Parishes could nominate a person to coordinate a central list for unused signs and report as a job to Highways.
- **Using Community Led Plans to set priorities for your town or village:** these priorities can be achieved over 5-10 years. It's best to have a range of plans so some can be achieved quickly and others may take longer. Consultation with the community is also important and ACT can help and assist with asking the right questions.
- **South Lakes Flood Action Partnership is looking for parish input:** Specifically where vulnerable people and places that flood often are. Janet Chapman's email is: [chas.chapman@btinternet.com](mailto:chas.chapman@btinternet.com)

### Key Actions

- **Action:** Gillian Holmes and Nick Cotton to raise the question as to whether parishes could have signs saying 'road may be impassable' before any money is spent
- **Action:** Nick Cotton to look at white lines and signage before Middleton Bridge to warn people of how narrow it is as there is a problem with it being hit on a number of occasions
- **Action:** Cameron Yazdi to send out link and information from ACT website
- **Action:** Cameron Yazdi to send out Flood Action Partnership brief
- **Action:** Nick Cotton to link to YDNP Natural Flood Management Handbook
- **Action:** Cameron Yazdi to include LIPs Grants info in minutes
- **Action:** Gillian Holmes to look into query regarding CCC funding the refurbishment of a play area which is an SLDC asset.

- **Action:** Amanda McCleery to attach funding information from YDNP to minutes
- **Action:** Cameron Yazdi to include 3<sup>rd</sup> sector grants information in minutes.
- **Action:** Cameron to send out future notes and posters of ICC community meetings to the LAP
- **Action:** Cameron Yazdi to circulate housing report to the LAP

## Next meeting agenda items, date and venue

June 2018, Kirkby Lonsdale – Lunesdale Hall

### Chair

Kevin Lancaster (Sedbergh)

### 1. Welcome and apologies

**Present:** Janet Chapman (SFAP), Amanda McCleery (CALC), Annette Colton (Garsdale), Geoffrey Buswell (Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council), Mike Burchnall (Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council), Gordon Chivers (Firbank), Ian Dawson (Killington), Jim Atkins (Sedbergh), Kevin Lancaster (Sedbergh), Gill Holmes (Cumbria County Council), Nick Cotton (CCC/SLDC), Roger Groves (Barbon).

**Apologies:** Graham Dalton (Sedbergh), Michael Roberts (Middleton in Lonsdale), Enid Hastings (Casterton), Bert Metcalfe (Mansergh)

### 2. Last meeting minutes and actions

Minutes from the last meeting agreed, no actions arising.

### 3. Highways Updates: Nick Cotton and Gillian Holmes

#### Parishes closing roads

Parishes closing roads emerged with the idea that if there was a sufficiently bad flood then rather wait for stretched services then parishes could close roads. The suggestion was for Parishes to work in partnership with services. The issue is that road closures need to fit into the context of what is happening in the wider area and parishes may not have this information available when they make a decision to close a road. This means that only police can close a road. However, warning signs that warn of possible deep flooding are a much more favourable idea for the Police.

Stan Collins is focusing on road closures at Firbank. The Police have given consent for parishes to close roads at Firbank but only under certain conditions. Stan Collins has passed the full matter to Steve Hall but Stan Collins is still pursuing the Firbank issue.

Kevin Lancaster: On parishes closing roads, Storm Desmond was an exceptional circumstance. Diversions take people down Firbank and Killington road to get round blockages on the M6 - this can block roads for agricultural vehicles and other important vehicles that need to get through.

Nick Cotton: Although the roads through Firbank seem fine they are very narrow, however the diversions are massive and can put people into longer delays.

Kevin Lancaster: Is it unreasonable to put up a yellow warning sign at turn off points on the motorway?

Annette Colton: There needs to be pressure to keep at least one lane on the motorway open.

Kevin Lancaster: We thank those who have taken this issue forward, we would like to go further.

Jim Atkins: Could we purchase a sign that says 'road may be impassable' - please could Gillian Holmes and Nick Cotton raise this?

Action: Gillian Holmes and Nick Cotton to raise the query on the wording on signage 'road may be impassable'

### 3.1 Progress on replacing Middleton Hall Bridge

Nick Cotton: As we know Storm Desmond badly damaged Middleton Hall Bridge, but within 10 days of the storm there was a Bailey bridge (multi-girder bridge) in place. Since the bridge has had tarmac over the top of it, it works well. Highways estimated 3-6 months road closure to rebuild the original Middleton Hall Bridge - Nick has asked for them to wait until a replacement bridge can be in place and the road can be left open.

### 3.2 Damage to Middleton Bridge

Jim Atkins: Middleton Bridge has been hit (driven in to) again, could there be a sign before the bridge or white lines on the road before the bridge that could warn people of how narrow the bridge is?

Action: Nick Cotton to look at white lines and signage before Middleton Bridge to warn people of how narrow they are.

### 3.3 Old road sign removal

Nick Cotton: There would be scope for Parishes who know where there have been signs for a year or more then they could let County Councils Highways know. They could either be taken to a single location where lots of signs can be collected or if possible the signs could be taken down to Crooklands depot.

Gillian Holmes: Highways Teams are being asked to be vigilant and pick up signs if they see them. Some of the signs are from utility companies, there should be a note on the back that tells the public who to call if they are found. It does seem to be a problem in this area because it keeps occurring. Could a single person be nominated in a parish to pick them up or make note of them and send them to highways?

Nick Cotton: It can be difficult to make a note of where they are location wise, so if anyone is in a position to pick them up and take them either to a central area or to the depot then that would be ideal.

## 4. Community Led Plans: Gillian Holmes and Amanda McCleery

Amanda McCleery: Community Led Plan - document that outlines what Parishes want to see in their community, shouldn't just have parish councillors on it. The plans are a good way to set priorities for the town or parish and find out what people want and what their priorities are. It takes 18 months - 2 years to get them completed and normally last 5-10 years. Always worth having a range of actions, some that can be completed quickly and others that may take more time.

Casterton Parish Council currently have a Community Led Plan in place

Kirkby Lonsdale are hoping to start the process in January next year - Lunsdale Hall, priorities around the church. Using the plan to raise the priorities in the town. They want to know what the town wants from the town council. Another consideration is CIL and how that funding is spent. If it's going to be done it has to be done properly. Very good information on the ACT Website.

Sedbergh hasn't progressed its Community Led Plan, it is due to the number of plans they have published - volunteering fatigue - particular issues are of great concern which they would like to take head on rather than through another plan. Not to belittle then concept of a plan. Neighbourhood plans have a higher legal standing have had some bad press.

Kirkby Lonsdale - need help with what questions they need to ask the communities.

Gillian Holmes: Looking to do more work with Kirkby Lonsdale, perhaps meeting to discuss and work on the Community Led Plan.

Action: Cameron to send out link and information from ACT website.

Action: Cameron to report feedback to Fran Richardson.

## 5. South Lakes Flood Action Partnership (JC)

Janet Chapman: There will be another flooding incident and not enough is being done currently - over reliance on community resilience, many people live in places with no communities (second homes), pushing for vulnerable to be identified and supported.

The Flood Action Partnership is trying to create links to local and national government to gain funding for flood prevention. The Flood Action Partnership is asking for communities to get in touch to bring forward issues.

A lot of talk about Natural Flood Management but not a lot of hard engineering is being done.

Nick Cotton: Hard Engineering may make it much worse for somewhere downstream, but there will be a range of solutions, there is no one solution.

Environment Agency is working incredibly slowly - they have to be incredibly careful about saying they have solved the problem in one place without taking account of the problems a solution could create in another area. EA is doing work based off computer models which are predicting what should happen.

LEP is providing money to try and reduce flooding.

If there was a way of staggering out peaks in certain areas across a river then there would be less of an impact when it floods.

In Kirkby - many houses have been flooded by blocked drains and gulleys, there should be better housekeeping.

Nick Cotton: In heavy rainfall the drains block very quickly due to debris gets swept into the drain. There are times when the rain is extreme and people need to be asked to do what they can to keep the drains clear.

Rivers are running high and some of this is because there is a lot of gravel in the rivers which can be removed and sold.

Dent parish council have had this issue with environment agency and showing them the amount of gravel and silt down into the river

Sedbergh Community Resilience Plan, Health Centre didn't feel able to pass on information about vulnerable people. Janet will raise

Action: Cameron Yazdi to send out Flood Action Partnership brief

Action: Nick Cotton LDNP will be sending out a document with flooding measures

Action: Report back on flooding from strategic partnership flooding meetings, etc.

## 6. Bus service for young people (CY)

Cameron Yazdi: 30 students surveyed last year, I'm trying to gather more information from students in colleges but haven't been able to get through. I've met to discuss train services but haven't been able to get anywhere with bus services so far. Many students are paying huge sums - over £1,000+

There are no easy answers, but one of the aims of the project is to engage students in these conversations and help them learn about the process of making change.

Annette Colton: Garsdale has no bus service. The alternative is that there are several 17 year olds driving 18 miles twice a day to get to school.

Jim Atkins: Sedbergh is one of the worst served communities. Settlebeck does not have a 6th form so students have to travel to Kendal or Barrow.

Nick Cotton: County is under massive pressure to make cuts and they have had to make this cut.

Jim Atkins: Sedbergh has made representations at cabinet, they have written to the Secretary of Education, County don't have the money.

Any local authority can raise their council tax - suggestion to have a referendum and ring fence the extra money to provide transport

One Funding Opportunity is the Leaders in Fells leader programme - provision of rural services.

## 7. Grant Funding:

### 7.1 Locally Important Projects (CY)

Sedbergh - 2 applications, 1 for the playground (which was won), one which was for the People's Hall.

Locally Important Projects funding comes from the New Homes Bonus. Under the new Homes Bonus the Government matches the Council Tax raised for new homes and properties brought back into use, with another £350 for each affordable home.

SLDC is using these funds to address the needs of local communities by dividing the funds into two areas:

- 40% for Locally Important Projects
- 60% for Housing and Neighbourhood Planning

Bids for funding need to show that they:

- Address community needs identified in local community plans
- Produce good value for money
- Show that they are possible

The Locally Important Projects (LIPs) fund is now open, the deadline for application is 22 January 2018, at 4pm.

[The LIPs Guidance Notes](#) document is available to download from the website and offers extensive guidance on how to fill out a successful application:

[The Application Form](#) and guidance are available on the South Lakeland District Council website.

Please send applications to: [communitygrants@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:communitygrants@southlakeland.gov.uk)

## 7.2 Cumbria County Council funding (GH)

**Community Grants** - all information on Cumbria County Council website. Community specific grants.

**0 to 19 children and young people's grant** - reasonable amount of money with a loose criteria

Jim Atkins: Could CCC money be used to refurbish SLDC asset i.e. playground

Action: Gillian Holmes to look into this query.

**Community Waste Prevention Fund** - Volunteering fund to prevent waste.

## 7.3 YDNP funding (AM)

### **Sustainable Development Fund**

This fund aims to support small-scale projects that result in positive benefits for the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It is a simple and accessible source of money for a wide range of initiatives, with the average grant being about £5,000. Any scheme that:

- contributes to conserving the Yorkshire Dales National Park and/or promoting the public enjoyment of it and
- provides some social and economic benefits in a local community in the National Park

...will be considered. Parish councils are eligible, along with community groups and businesses.

Heritage, broadband, wildlife, access and recreation and community facility projects have all been funded over the years, with examples including renewable energy for village halls, a cycling festival, a community village shop and post office, online resources, themed panels and bringing broadband to remote communities.

Before sending an application visit the Yorkshire Dales website and read the guidance notes on the [Sustainable Development Fund \(SDF\)](#).

The Sustainable Development Fund Officer, Andrea Burden: [sdf@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:sdf@yorkshiredales.org.uk) or (01969) 652337

### **Sustainable Wildlife Project**

Purpose: It helps communities to identify how they can contribute to the conservation of habitats and species within their local areas. Local groups identify, develop and manage local wildlife projects within the National Park. The project works with local community groups, parish councils, landowners, local people and individuals.

Examples: Since the programme started, groups have:

- restored and created hedgerows
- created species-rich grassland
- planted scrub
- managed woodland
- installed bird and bat boxes
- created and managed ponds and wetlands

Support from YDNPA: Through the YDNPA Wildlife Conservation Officer, Mark Hewitt, the National Park Authority offers an advice and guidance service and operates a grant fund. Mark says that “the whole process is designed to be as informal as possible, flexible and hassle free.”

First steps: Mark continues, “Generally I visit the site/person and have a chat and listen to any ideas and help them understand what may or may not be possible/realistic and then if people want to take a project forward I would help them to develop it in whatever way was most appropriate. Grants are available but not all projects necessarily need money sometimes it is just some vision or direction that is required.”

Deadline: Currently the Parish Wildlife Project programme is due to finish at the end of March 2018.

YDNPA Wildlife Conservation Officer: Mark Hewitt: [Mark.Hewitt@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:Mark.Hewitt@yorkshiredales.org.uk) or (01756) 751624

For more information please see the Yorkshire National Dales [Parish Wildlife Project](#).

## **7.4 3rd Sector funding (CY)**

[Information on funding for business support, arts, and sports](#) is available on the SLDC website.

## 8. Around the Parishes: News/Projects/Information

### 8.1 Hedge cutting at Dent (reminder)

Dent - Hedge cutting has been very well received by the community. (Dent has used money spent on verge cutting has been used to get a local contractor). Number of community members attended parish council meeting to give their positive feedback. County is assessing it's funding on this.

## 9. Feedback on Integrated Care Communities from the Parishes

GH: Giving an overview of the ICG's

Using Morecambe Bay footprint

Ultimate aim is to improve services and make them more efficient

Community wellbeing network groups to engage parishes and communities in finding resources.

Once communities get up and running with these groups they can run them whenever they want. There is a small amount of money for each group, the County will also be supporting to take feedback and build community directories.

Funding can be used by the group on anything that will benefit the wider community, they have to show they have consulted with the wider community.

Suggestion to place story in AKL - Kirkby Lonsdale paper

Suggestion: Community Facebook group - We are Kirkby Lonsdale

Action: Cameron to send out notes and posters

Action: Circulate housing report via email