

Longtown moving forward

Your
future ...

get
involved

cumbria.gov.uk/longtown

Newsletter One • March 2008



Cover star kids

Five lucky Longtown primary pupils recently got the chance to be Longtown moving forward cover stars for the day. The photogenic five will feature on the front cover of the spring edition of Cumbria County Council's Your Cumbria magazine; look out for your copy at the end of March.

Welcome

to the first edition of the Longtown moving forward newsletter. Exciting things will be happening in Longtown over the coming months and we'll be using this newsletter to keep you informed and make sure you know how to get involved and have your say!



Longtown moving forward is about coming up with a plan for the town's future; thinking about the public buildings, services and facilities in Longtown and asking if they are what are needed by the local community. This includes the range of services currently available, whether public buildings are in a fit state or even whether new facilities might be needed. In particular the closure of Lochinvar school gives an opportunity for us to think about how the site and buildings that the school currently

occupies could be developed and used.

Your local councils are leading this project but listening to local people's views is at its heart.

The outcome of Longtown moving forward will be recommendations for the future that will be considered for approval by the councils in 2008. The recommendations will be based on what you tell us.

We really hope you will get involved – it's up to you to tell us what Longtown needs. You can find out how to tell us inside.

A word from your local councillors

“ Longtown moving forward provides a great opportunity to make a real difference to life in the town. We're all behind the project and really looking forward to hearing your ideas for the future. *Make sure you don't miss this chance!* ”



John Mallinson, Geoff Prest
and Ray Bloxham.

To get involved in making decisions about the future of your town call 01228 606474 or email longtown@cumbria.gov.uk



What does the future hold for Longtown?



Longtown moving forward really is a chance to shape Longtown's future. Could the people in this old photo have guessed how things would turn out? The picture comes from the council's archives but no-one can tell us when it was taken or which street it is, if you can then get in touch via the website!

Neighbourhood forum starts the debate

Over 60 local people, including young people from the Longtown youth group, attended the Longtown and Bewcastle Neighbourhood Forum on 16 January to talk about Longtown moving forward. The meeting explained what the project is about and asked people to share their ideas for how the local community could be informed and involved as the project progresses. Their ideas have directly shaped the council's plans so far.

You're invited to the next forum meeting on 12 March which will also be talking about Longtown moving forward.



What's happening and when?

This phase of Longtown moving forward is planned to run between March and July. You can check the proposed key dates below.

1st week of March

Longtown moving forward newsletter sent to all households and discussion packs distributed around Longtown.

12 March

Longtown and Bewcastle Neighbourhood Forum meeting at the community centre. The councils will give a progress update on Longtown moving forward.

1 April

The last chance to get your discussion pack feedback sent in to the councils!

1 April - 1 May

The councils will gather all the feedback from the packs and come up with options for Longtown.

1st week of May

2nd Longtown moving forward newsletter sent to all households. It'll tell you what came out of the discussion groups and explain the options the councils have come up with.

March

April

May

Contact: 01228 606474

Here's how you can have your say!

Before we come up with any proposals for Longtown we need to hear what you think. That's why we've set up the Longtown moving forward discussion pack. It's designed to help you think about the issues and get talking with other people about what the town needs. Things will be changing in Longtown; it's up to you to tell us how.

The pack is really easy to use, simply sit down with friends, family, or colleagues (or even on your own) and follow the simple instructions. Write down your group's opinions and ideas in the discussion booklet, and then post it back to us in one of the reply paid envelopes. We'd then like you to pass the pack on to someone else (or deliver it back to where you picked it up).

If you're happy for it to happen, we'll publish your booklet on cumbria.gov.uk/longtown so other people can see the ideas you've come up with!

We'll use all your feedback to help us come up with proposals for the future.

The proposals won't be surprising, because they'll be based on what you've said in your discussions. There will then be a second phase of consultation on the proposals, probably in May.

How can you get hold of a discussion pack?

You can get your hands on a discussion pack in several different ways. You can pick one up from:

- The community centre
- The medical centre
- The primary school
- The parish rooms

There will also be packs available in the local pubs and tea rooms so you can get talking over a pint or a cup of tea.

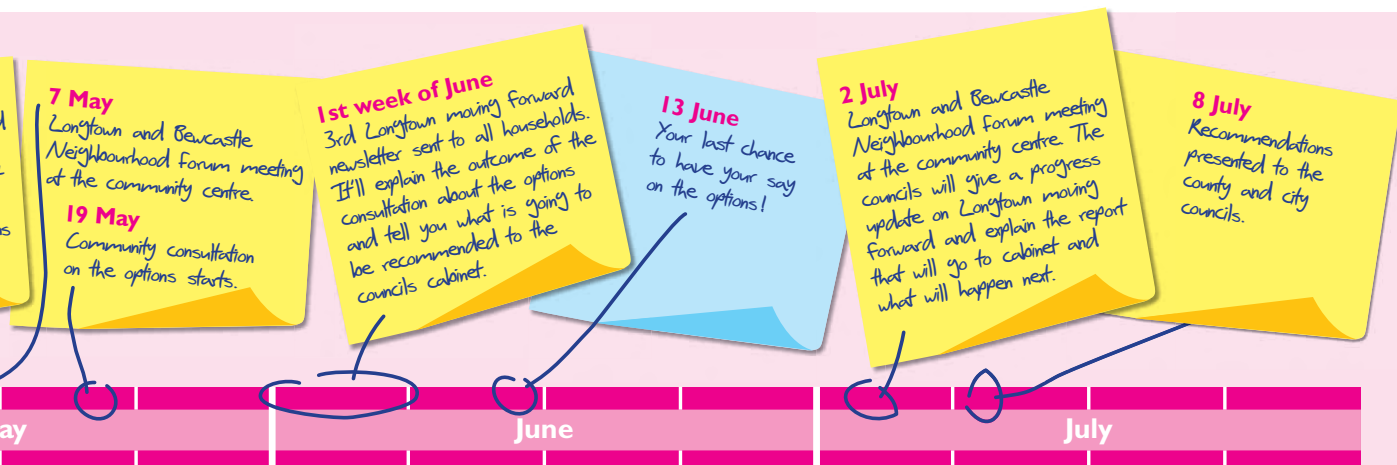
You can also request a pack direct, and ask for any help, by contacting:

Judith Gardner, Cumbria County Council.

Tel: 01228 606474 or email: Judith.gardner@cumbriacc.gov.uk



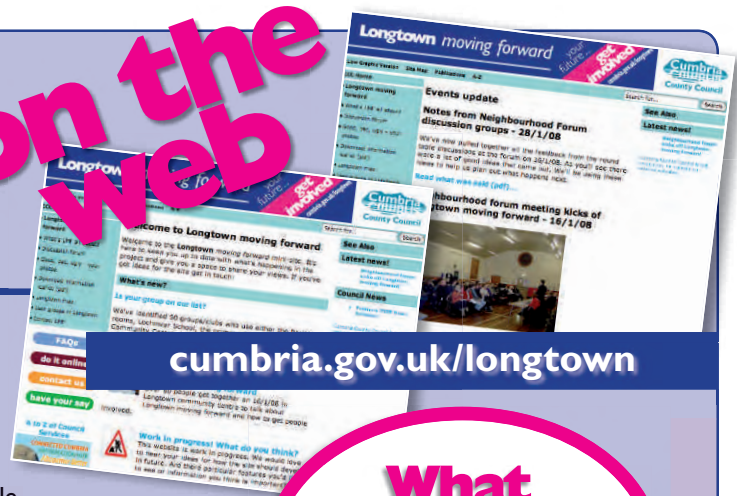
After 8 July Longtown moving forward will enter a new phase and a new plan will need to be put together.



Contact: longtown@cumbria.gov.uk

Longtown moving forward

on the web



cumbria.gov.uk/longtown

cumbria.gov.uk/longtown is the place on the web to get the most up to date information on Longtown moving forward. It's also the place to have your say on what's happening through the discussion forum. It's easy to use and a great way to raise issues or share ideas with other local people.

It's a great place to have your say. Here's what some local people have said, do you agree?



*David Ratcliff
Headteacher, Longtown Primary School*

“ Longtown moving forward for us means:

- increasing standards for every child
- growing our role in the life of the Longtown community
- working with partner organisations for the good of all children and their families
- creating an integrated and extended range of services from this campus.

We have the facilities and enthusiasm to do this, and look forward with Longtown to a bright future. ”



*Rodney Boguszynski
Chair of Longtown Gala Committee*

“ I think it's time to acknowledge that Lochinvar school is closing and we need to make sure that what replaces it meets the needs of the community. Longtown moving forward is a chance to make that happen. At the moment I'm cautiously optimistic. ”

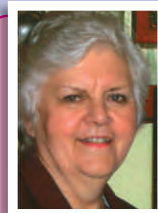
*Daan van Belzen,
Longtown youth worker*

“ Young people in Longtown have had a rough deal of late with no safe place to meet any longer. It would be terrific if the Longtown moving forward could result in a dedicated youth centre for young people who have no public meeting place other than the streets and the parks. ”



*Nigel Williamson
Community Centre Manager*

“ Longtown Moving Forward is a wonderful opportunity for local people to get involved with shaping the future of their community. It heralds a great way to the capture the imagination of Longtown people to produce long-term meaningful community-based solutions to some age-old concerns. ”



*Ilene Forsyth
Chair of Arthuret Parish Council*

“ I would like to encourage everyone who cares about Longtown to get involved. The county and city councils are leading this with the support of Arthuret Parish Council. As residents we are being given the opportunity to be positive in putting forward our aspirations for the future of Longtown. ”

If you require this document in another format (eg CD, audio cassette, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone 01228 606060.

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