

# **NORTH WEST COPELAND NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM**

**Notes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2011  
in Distington Community Centre**

**Meeting started at 7:00pm**

**Forum Chair: Cumbria County Councillor Cam Ross**

**Councillors Present: Cllr Brian Dixon**

**Councillor Apologies: Cllr John Bowman**

**Councillors Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interest: None**

**Topic 1: Copeland Youth Council**

**Speaker: Emma Dickinson, Youth Engagement Officer**

**Youth4U – Young Inspectors** is a new programme running across England to bring young people together and support them to influence local services for young people. Youngsters from North Copeland Youth Partnership at Parton, having just completed their training to be young inspectors, carried out their first ever Mini Inspection at a Neighbourhood Forum on 22 June 2010. Observations were made, an interview was conducted with the Community Involvement Worker and 12 surveys were completed by residents attending the meeting. A Report was compiled and sent to the Neighbourhood Development Office at Cleator Moor.

Young Inspectors from Parton attended the February 2011 Neighbourhood Forum to give feedback on their findings. The aim of the Youth4U Inspection is to make services better for young people and meetings more young person friendly.

## **General Impressions:**

1. Layout of the room – this wasn't too welcoming for young people;
2. Topics - there needed to be more for young people;
3. Agenda/Meeting itself – should be broken down into sections, which would then enable people to leave, after a specific section had finished.

The Chair, Councillor Cam Ross, responded by saying that this Neighbourhood forum is always keen to take advice, is open to suggestions for its agenda and is willing to move on and involve young people.

Emma Dickinson then explained about the new Youth Council that CBC is setting up in Copeland. As Copeland covers a huge geographical area Emma is keen to make sure that there is a Young Persons Forum in each locality/Neighbourhood forum working with the youth providers and alongside the Neighbourhood forums. The Youth Forums will be informal; they will set their own agendas with the young people chairing the meetings.

Copeland Youth Council will be made up of representatives from each Youth Forum who will come together to discuss what they've been doing, any issues and it will be more informal. It could even give the young people a taste of what it means to be an elected member, the voting system and maybe even in time becoming a councillor.

## **Questions and Discussion**

Q When are the next Youth Forums?

A NE Copeland are onto their second meeting; Whitehaven is on Thursday 17 February and Howgate will be meeting in Distington, we hope to have this one up and running in the next few weeks.

Q How are you going to publicise them?

A A Poster for each one is taken to the community centres; we are working with the youth providers and through the schools.

Comment: Distington Club for Young People hadn't heard anything about the Youth Council.

A I'm hoping to get Howgate up and running shortly and also to get the Youth Providers together for a Youth Participation User Group.

Other suggestions were made for advertising:

Parish newsletters, Word of mouth, Website – Social network: Copeland BC is setting up a "Speak Up" page.

## **Topic 2: West Lakes Peer Education Project to the Gambia**

### **Speakers: Young Cumbria**

In 2010 Young Cumbria was awarded £250.00 from this forum towards their project; they brought along a DVD of their adventures and were very keen to answer questions. They hope to return to Gambia later in the year.

### **Questions and Answers**

Q What was the biggest difference?

A Culture, walking down the street, the houses, open gutters smell they have to live around that everyday there's no posh houses, no running water so they carry water in containers on their heads.

Q Are you planning to go back?

A November later this year.

Q What would you do differently or improve next time?

A We want to work with children who can't afford to go to school, in the film you could see them looking through the windows; we worked with 20 kids in Gambia, we did a presentation and people wanted to come in and watch.

Young Cumbria was congratulated on their presentation and for all they had learnt and done in this project.

### **Community News and Updates**

- **North West Ambulance Service, Foundation Trust Consultation** – Information available.

Consultation Document: *Seeking your views on our plans for becoming an NHS Foundation Trust*

North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust is applying to become an NHS Foundation Trust. Foundation Trusts are still part of the NHS and subject to NHS standards, performance ratings and systems of inspection. The difference with a Trust is it is run locally, with local people as members, having a say in how they wish their services to be developed.

Main benefits to NWAS and its users: freedom to design services that meet community needs; greater financial freedoms; much more involvement for staff and members of the public to have their say in developing services; the opportunity to have a voice as a Governor of the organisation; support for staff and improvement to their working lives; strengthening local partnerships.

The closing date for consultation is 1 April. For further information go to [www.nwas.nhs.uk](http://www.nwas.nhs.uk) email [communications@nwas.nhs.uk](mailto:communications@nwas.nhs.uk) or call 0845 112 099.

- **Handy Loan Scheme** – Information packs were available.
- **West Cumbria Age UK – Security Alarms** – samples and price list on back table.
- **Temporary Road Closure on C4001 Lowca** from its junction with the U4007 Foundry Road from 21 February 2011 for approximately 5 days.
- **Copeland Borough Council** – Joe Shearer, Locality Officer was available to take comments, compliments, and complaints.
- Questionnaires on **Copeland Matters** were available to complete.
- **Lillyhall Wind Energy Exhibition - Tuesday 9 March 2011** – 1.00 – 8.00 pm at Distington Club for Young People, Main Street, Distington. Following the public exhibition and a successful outcome from the Environmental Assessment, Waste Recycling Group intends to submit a planning application for the Lillyhall Wind Energy Project in Spring 2011.

**Forum Grants Budget £1,648.85 Youth Budget £ NIL**

#### **Grant Applicant Presentations**

The grant applicants made their presentations.

**Consideration of applications** (Applicants and their supporters withdrew whilst those remaining, decided the awards).

#### **Grants Awarded**

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	<b>PURPOSE OF GRANT</b>	<b>AMOUNT AWARDED</b>
<b>Whitehaven, Egremont &amp; District Credit Union</b>	To market new financial products and existing services including drop-in sessions at local community centres	£200
<b>Copeland Talking Newspaper</b>	To purchase a computer or laptop, plus software and hardware for the group	£150
<b>Parton Village Hall Management Committee</b>	Towards the installation of a new central heating boiler for the hall.	£500
<b>Distington ARLA</b>	To deliver a “Young Peoples Participation and Engagement” Pilot Project	£798.85

**Request for Change of Use** – In January 2010 a grant for £500.00 was awarded to North Copeland Youth Partnership to purchase equipment and materials for a new youth project in Lowca, however due to lack of support from Lowca a request was made for the money to be spent on activities for the youngsters in Parton.

**This Request for a Change of Use was Agreed by the Neighbourhood Forum.**

**Topics for Future Meeting** – No suggestions

**Date of Next Meeting to be advised**

Meeting finished at 8.15 pm.