

# High Furness Neighbourhood Forum

## A summary of meeting held at Water Yeat Village Hall on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2011

County Councillor Claire Salisbury welcomed everyone to the Forum and introduced Cllr Janet Willis. Apologies were received from Cllr Rod Wilson, Cllr Anne Hall and the Police.

### **NORTH WEST AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST**

Paul Ferguson gave the Forum an outline of the background to the Service's plans to become a Foundation Trust.

Based in Bolton with regional offices in Liverpool, Preston, Manchester and Carlisle, North West Ambulance Service is the largest in the country covering 5,400 square miles and a population of 7 million. Its 5,186 staff handle around 1.1 million calls and from these they initiate around 900,000 responses per year from one of 114 ambulance stations. In addition to 24 hr emergency response, the service also provides patient transport, major incident management and event support (e.g. football matches and major sporting events). The service's vision for the future is to ensure it continues to deliver the right care at the right time and in the right place, but with planned changes to the NHS, in particular the disappearance of PCTs and the move to GP led commissioning of services, it could be facing wider competition so must focus on offering excellent value and a service which is relevant to local people.

A Foundation Trust is still a part of the wider NHS but has greater freedom from central control and, if a surplus is made, then this can be carried into the next financial year rather than being handed back to central Government. It is a membership based organisation, with a Council of Governors appointed by the members and a Board of Directors, making a Foundation Trust directly responsible to its staff and the people it serves. The changes will mean greater local accountability, better organisational planning and financial freedom. Trying to improve the clinical side of the operation and maintaining service levels in rural areas will be key aims. However a review of facilities will be needed based on the suitability of premises and their location. New stations may be required to reflect current and predicted population centres.

The service is currently in the middle of a 3 month consultation period, which ends on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011. It is seeking feedback from the public, partner organisations and members of staff on these plans. A full copy of the consultation document can be viewed online at [www.nwas.nhs.uk](http://www.nwas.nhs.uk) where you will find details on the various ways in which you can have your say and also how you can become a member of the new Foundation Trust. Alternatively call 01539 713419 to request a hard copy of the document.

### **LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

Dave McGowan spoke to the Forum about the LDNPA's new approach to planning policy as outlined in the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework for the LDNPA, published in October 2010. The document outlines a new approach to planning within the National Park to meet the needs of communities, businesses and visitors, whilst still protecting the landscape. It is not a "one size fits all" approach, but a combination of several policies which are specific to five distinctive areas within the Park, which have been identified by common geography, and socio-economic factors. High Furness falls within the South Distinctive Area. Each of the five distinctive areas has been allocated its own planner and compliance officer who are familiar with the detail of the area and the concerns and needs of the local people. Each area also has its own unique strategic planning policies which complement the overall strategy of the National Park.

Nationally, Neighbourhood Planning is likely in the future to allow for much greater input from Parish Councils and the Park's planning officers will have a duty to support this. They have already worked closely with Coniston & Torver PC on its



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## LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK (cont'd)

application to be part of the pilot for the Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard of the Localism Bill currently going through Parliament. The current priorities in all areas of the National Park are housing for local people and land for business development. Under Neighbourhood Planning Parish Councils could specify sites for building.

The new strategy recognises the importance of links with adjacent authorities and uses nationally agreed principles for assessing local housing need and defining affordable housing.

Anyone with an enquiry or seeking general planning related advice should contact 01539 724555 or email [planning@lakedistrict.gov.uk](mailto:planning@lakedistrict.gov.uk) Full details of the National Park's Local Development Framework Core Strategy are available at [www.lakedistrict.gov.uk](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk)

## THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

Dave Lowe, Grizedale Area Manager for the Forestry Commission gave the Forum an update on the latest position of the Forestry Commission following on from the details he gave to the previous meeting of the Forum in January.

Following widespread public outcry, the Public Consultation on the future and potential sale of all land held by the Forestry Commission in England was halted after three weeks and two related clauses in the Public Bodies Reform Bill have been removed. The Forestry Commission's target for savings of 25% under the Comprehensive Spending Review still has to be met so the Commission will have to continue to carry out its normal duties but with less resource. The additional matter of the sale of 15% of the woodland it controls has been put on hold, but not abandoned. A panel of experts will report in Autumn 2011 on future options for the Commission and will address that requirement to sell off part of its estate.

The Regulatory Reform Task Force's review of how woodland can and can't be used and controls on felling and replanting licences is ongoing. This covers all woodland in England and not just the 18% under the control of the Forestry Commission.

## LOCAL UPDATES

### Local Area Partnership

A number of projects have come to fruition in the last few months:

22 new salt/grit bins will be placed across the area. Coniston & Crake Valley Partnership has had assistance in producing a leaflet to inform residents about phosphates in water.

Funding was also provided for a pedestrian survey for Hawkshead and an interactive whiteboard for Lowick Community Hall.

The LAP has also been looking at improvements to local broadband coverage. It is hoped this will progress by linking with other groups in the area working to the same end.

The next meeting will be on 31st March, 7.00 pm at Greenodd Village Hall.

### Community Noticeboard

Colton Parish News would be happy to receive information about forthcoming events in the locality. The deadline for receiving articles is around the middle of the month for the events in the following month. For further details please contact Donald Wroe via [dwroe@mymail.uk.net](mailto:dwroe@mymail.uk.net).

There are various events coming up at Water Yeat Village Hall: **26<sup>th</sup> March** – Comedy Poet Les Barker. 7.30 for 8.00 pm Entrance £8  
**9<sup>th</sup> April** – A dance in aid of a South African orphanage. 7.30 for 8.00 Entrance £5.

### Grant Applications:

**Grizebeck Village Hall Committee:** Awarded £750

**The Braithwaite Hall:** Awarded £750

**Lowick Community Hall:** Awarded £184

### The Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Forum has yet to be arranged. Details will be posted on our website

[www.cumbria.gov.uk/neighbourhoodforums](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/neighbourhoodforums)

as soon as possible and also circulated to people on our distribution lists.

In the meantime if you need to get in touch please telephone 01539 713419.



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