

High Furness Neighbourhood Forum

A summary of meeting held at Spark Bridge Village Hall on Wednesday 20th July 2011

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

TRADING STANDARDS

Gail Savage, a Senior Enforcement Officer for Cumbria Trading Standards based in Ulverston introduced herself and her colleague, Jane Tideswell, Senior Community Support Officer from Kendal and outlined some of the work that Trading Standards is involved in. To seek advice or report a doorstep crime people should call the national number for Consumer Direct (08454 04 05 06). Operators will give advice as necessary, to the public or traders, but if any follow-up is required the matter is referred to a local Trading Standards office.

At the request of communities or even just particular streets, Trading Standards will work to set up "No Cold Calling" zones to prevent unwanted selling on doorsteps. Most recently in South Lakeland one was set up in Levens and there are some in Kendal too. Junk mail continues to be a problem for everyone and Trading Standards do organise collection boxes for people to dump this in (one current location is at Morrisons in Barrow) but it was suggested smaller communities might also benefit from a collection too. Trading Standards regularly check the mail left in these boxes and may investigate any which might be potential scams.

Other ways in which criminals seek to con individuals can include bogus telephone calls offering to fix computer faults by which they can gain access to personal details and passwords, fake lottery wins, bogus e-mails from HMRC offering tax rebates, fake charity boxes and doorstep bag collections. Many ask for a sum of money to be paid up front for services or goods which are then never delivered.

Cumbria has recently signed up to join a national scheme with 20 other local authorities called "Buy with Confidence". Local trades people and businesses are invited to apply to their local Trading Standards office to become a member of this assured trader scheme. Checks are carried out and a fee has to be paid before a business is accepted. For more details about the scheme call 01539 713594.

CUMBRIA YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE

Bill Livingston is a Police Officer, seconded to the Youth Offending Service and he enthusiastically described some of the work he does with young

people who come to the service via the criminal justice system.

Offences committed by these young people range from the very minor to the serious but all present some degree of risk to the locality and Bill's task is to identify the best way of managing this risk and where possible rehabilitating and re-integrating the young person back into their community.

The service is a multi-agency one with input from the Police, Education, Health, Social Services, Probation and Cumbria County Council, with each one bringing different skills to the team. The overall aim is to try and prevent the young person repeatedly coming into the criminal justice system especially for minor offences.

Within the Youth Offending Service Bill's main focus is to assess young people to try and understand why they have behaved on the way they have and what has led them to commit an offence. This includes looking at their background, family life, interests, attendance and performance at school and their level of understanding of the seriousness of any offence committed in order to establish the best way of engaging with them and trying to modify their behaviour. This process does take a lot of time, something the Police do not have. This is why the work off the Youth Offending Service is so important; locking a young person up remains an option in the most serious of cases however it does not deal with any underlying problems.

POLICE UPDATE

Following on from the previous item Sergeant Rupert Johnston advised that the Police had changed the way they deal with some young people by using a form of restorative justice which is particularly effective for minor shoplifting offences and also helps to keep young people out of the criminal justice system.

Sgt Johnson then reported that for the year to date recorded crime across south Cumbria is down overall and the area also has the lowest rates of dwelling burglary in the country.



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POLICE UPDATE (cont'd)

The Ulverston and Lakes Neighbourhood Policing team, which covers the High Furness area, has seen 162 fewer reported crimes to date this year against the same period last year and an increase of 14% in detection rates. Priority target areas for the police are burglary and assaults.

Various specialist operations are raising awareness and tackling issues such as theft from unattended vehicles, parking machines and boats. Thefts of scrap metal, lead and fuel also continue to be a problem. Recent local events such as the Great North Swim, the Fred Whitton Challenge, Windermere Air Show and Flookburgh Steam Gathering also require planning and a police presence to ensure they run safely.

In answer to a query as to why a recent theft of wood had not lead to a prosecution even though the culprits had been identified, Sgt Johnson's advice was to write to the Crown Prosecution Service which is obliged to give its reasons for not pursuing a case.

A new community messaging service is helping people across Cumbria stay up-to-date with issues in their community. Cumbria Community Messaging allows anyone in the county to receive up-to-the-minute information via email, text or voicemail on a wide range of matters. Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch Association is leading the scheme, with support from Cumbria Police and other partners, including Trading Standards

It's free to receive information and alerts on a range of community issues from emergency incidents and bogus sales people, to fire safety events will be issued. For more details and to register visit www.cumbriacommunitymessaging.co.uk. If you have a question for your local Neighbourhood Policing team, call 0845 330 0247.

GRIZEBECK VILLAGE HALL

Rick Goodson, Chair of Grizebeck Village Hall Committee presented the Forum with the background and developments which had lead to the rebuilding of this essential facility. The old hall had been built in 1928, with the help of a substantial donation from a local landowner. It became a registered charity in 1962 and in 1990 a car park was added. However the hall had become totally unfit for purpose and the committee's vision was to provide a vibrant social hub for the community.

GRIZEBECK VILLAGE HALL (cont'd)

A parish plan was required to ensure that the community would get what it wanted and needed from the new facility and a business plan was also drawn up to make sure the project was viable. Eventually the enthusiastic and hard working committee raised nearly £394,000 of funding, the old hall was demolished in October 2010 and work began on the new cedar clad, timber framed building. Logistical headaches in getting the larger parts of the building frame actually onto site were overcome and, although the winter weather in late 2010 didn't help either, the build progressed rapidly. A small piece of extra land was also donated to create additional parking. To make the best of the new facility a Hall Manager has been recruited and a website set up to publicise events and make booking easier. The official opening will be on September 3rd at 3.00 pm.

www.grizebeckhall.co.uk

LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP

At the June meeting of the High Furness Local Area Partnership, Dave Coxon was elected as the new Vice Chair, working with the recently elected Chair, Dave Fletcher. Work continues on deciding the Partnership's priorities for funding and it has been confirmed that financial support will be given again this year by both the County and District Councils. Regular updates on the work of the LAP will be given at subsequent Neighbourhood Forum meetings. The next meeting of the Local Area Partnership will be held on 29th September at Braithwaite Hall, Far Sawrey. For details about the LAP follow the link for Local Area Partnerships at www.southlakelandisp.org.uk

GRANT APPLICATIONS:

Blawith & Nibthwaite Village Hall: Awarded: £750

Grizebeck Village Hall Committee: Awarded £463

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

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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