

# Sedbergh & Kirkby Lonsdale Neighbourhood Forum

## Summary of the meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March at Kirkby Lonsdale Institute

Councillor Kevin Lancaster welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Roger Bingham, Cllr Ian McPherson and Mike Roberts from Middleton PC.

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

Paul Bradshaw 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 aims to be about more than just getting to people quickly in an emergency. It is also about ensuring people are treated in a safe and clinically sound manner and having staff who are trained to the highest possible professional levels. This would mean patients receiving the most appropriate treatment and not just being taken directly to hospital if that was not necessary. Maintaining service levels in rural areas will be a key aim, 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.

Becoming a Foundation Trust will enable the service to build on the strong community links it already has and will give it greater financial freedom and the ability to plan more specifically according to local needs. 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 service is currently 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.

### **LOVE THE LUNE**

Claire Benson, Project Manager for Love the Lune, addressed the Forum, giving an outline of the project, and what it has achieved so far.

Currently based in Kirkby Lonsdale, the project aims to link all communities along the Lune valley for the benefit of residents and businesses, by attracting more visitors and new businesses to the area thus increasing economic activity and making the area more sustainable. The many very small communities in the locality find it hard to be self sufficient individually but can thrive by combining resources. The project is a Social Enterprise scheme where any profits generated are put back into the communities involved to help keep services alive.

Premises have been secured at 24 Main Street in Kirkby Lonsdale for 18 months and, alongside the Tourist Information centre, a "Made In Cumbria" outlet will open at the same location, to help generate further income for the project.

Through local consultation, nine issues were identified as priority areas for action, including provision of more activities for young people, better use of the Institute's facilities, broadband access, sustainability of retail activity along with increasing the local tourism market share, green energy schemes and protection of the local scenery and environment.

Various steering groups are already at work looking at the provision of public toilets and how to reinvigorate the market in Kirkby Lonsdale. For full details about the project and how you can get involved by joining a steering group or becoming a volunteer then visit [www.lovethelune.com](http://www.lovethelune.com) or call 07821001352.

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## **SEDBERGH TOWNSCAPE INITIATIVE**

This is a joint project involving Sedbergh Parish Council, the Yorkshire Dales National Park, Cumbria County Council and South Lakeland District Council. It stemmed from various issues, including traffic, parking and access to facilities, which either individually or collectively were beginning to have a negative impact on the quality and vitality of the town centre.

The first task for the members of the project board was to commission designs for the improvements to the whole town centre area and suggestions for solutions to traffic management issues. The draft proposals were presented to local people in December 2010, receiving a reasonable response. The plan is that the bulk of traffic will be directed away from Main Street, with improved crossing places and remodelled junctions on other routes. The Joss Lane area will be improved as a central open space, likewise the area in front of the church.

Although much of the funding has been pledged it is intended that the planned scheme will be carried out in manageable phases as and when funding is made available, any necessary planning permission is gained and Highways works can be scheduled. The first actual phase of work, where all the street name plates will be replaced, will be completed very soon. To view a copy of the proposals which were presented to the town visit:

<http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/pdf/final%20dec1.pdf>

Further details can be obtained by contacting the clerk to Sedbergh Parish Council on 01539 730597

## **LOCAL UPDATES**

### **Neighbourhood Policing Team**

John Stephens, Community Sergeant for Sedbergh, Kirkby Lonsdale and Milnthorpe, updated the Forum on the latest local issues. Thefts of fuel and scrap metal are on the increase; fuel suppliers can give advice on how to keep your fuel secure and any scrap should be kept locked away or disposed of promptly. For further advice contact the local Crime Prevention Officer, Terry Belshaw. Theft from vehicles continues to be a problem but is difficult to detect so remember

## **LOCAL UPDATES (cont'd)**

to remove or lock all valuables away when leaving your car or van.

The Road policing unit is still actively monitoring motorbike activity in the area.

### **Appleby Horse Fair**

Sgt Stephens is also responsible for supervision of those travelling through the Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale area on their way to and from Appleby Horse Fair. Measures for this year will be broadly the same as 2010 with a few minor adjustments. A meeting is to be held with police and council officers from neighbouring local authorities to build stronger cross boundary relationships along the routes used by those attending the Fair. Two community drop-in events will also be taking place, from 5.00 – 7.30 pm on **6<sup>th</sup> April at Kirkby Lonsdale Institute** and **11<sup>th</sup> April at Sedbergh People's Hall**.

### **Local Area Partnership**

The Local Area Partnership offers great scope for local decision making on where and how available funding should be spent. Funding for the 2011/12 financial year has already been secured from South Lakeland District Council and a decision on the level of funding support from Cumbria County Council is awaited.

## **GRANT APPLICATION**

An application from Kirkby Lonsdale Bowling club was heard and supported with an award of £782 being made.

### **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 they are available and also circulated to those on our electronic mailing list.

In the meantime, if you need to get in touch please telephone 01539 713405 or email:

[jeff.tweddle@cumbriacc.gov.uk](mailto:jeff.tweddle@cumbriacc.gov.uk)



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