

# Sedbergh & Kirkby Lonsdale Neighbourhood Forum

## Summary of the meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011, at Killington Parish Hall

Councillor Kevin Lancaster welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Councillor Roger Bingham whose electoral division covers Mansergh Parish. Both councillors declared that, as the grant application from AgeUK was being presented by a Conservative party colleague, they would defer the decision on any award to Cllr Stan Collins whose Firbank and Killington parishes are in the Sedbergh & Kirkby Lonsdale Forum area.

### **K-SET: Killington Sustainable Energy Trust**

Ian Dawson, chair of K-SET outlined for the forum the history of the company and its work to date.

The non-profit making trust was set up two years ago with seven trustees with the initial aim of helping all households in the parish to reduce their carbon footprint. They produce a regular newsletter and hold open evenings and all dwellings have had a reduction target set. Additional insulation has been added to the lofts of 10 homes and nine people took a course on energy saving techniques and have since been able to put the advice they were given into practice and pass tips on to others. The trust is hoping to provide opportunities for local trades people to train in the installation of all types of energy saving equipment and also to offer the facility of low interest loans to households wishing to install new energy efficient equipment.

An interest in generating power for the parish was the logical next step. Wind turbines were quickly ruled out as the obvious option was hydro- power, given the amount of rainfall locally and the three becks running through the area. The aim however is not to supply power direct to dwellings but to send all the electricity generated straight to the National Grid and take the benefit of the feed-in tariffs available. An existing weir and fish counting on the Lune near the site of the old Broadrairie Mill seemed to be an obvious and ideal location. The preferred method of generating the power is a turbine in the form of an Archimedes Screw, due its efficiency in coping with a low head but large volume of water.

Only a small amount of the water going over the weir (c. 10%) will go through the turbine so there will be no harm to fish or effects on angling.


The project has been phased and the first part, the design study, which includes improvements to the fish ladder as well as the turbine installation, was

funded with support from various sources including the Sedbergh & Kirkby Lonsdale Local Area Partnership. Negotiations with the Environment Agency on water extraction and licences will largely form the second phase and after that the design will be finalised, the necessary planning application will be submitted and work will be put out to tender. 2013 should see the start of the final phase – construction. The net income is currently estimated in the region of £12-13k per annum, but will depend on the charges levied by the Environment Agency. A similar project at Beetham was reported to have had a number of teething problems but was now generating a substantial income for the Heron Corn Mill.

### **YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK**

Kathryn Beardmore, Director of Park Services, advised the Forum that there had been a number of changes within the Authority in the last 6-9months. The Authority is funded by Defra and has had a 30% cut in funding spread over the next four years. This has meant a restructure of some roles and an overall reduction in staff, mainly through retirement or voluntary redundancy. Thus, for example, traffic and transport issues are now dealt with by planning rather than separate officers and rangers have taken on education and Rights of Way roles. Maintaining frontline services has been the prime focus so there are now also less senior managers overall. In terms of local projects, a report from Paul Wilkinson, the ranger stated that among other things maintenance on Rights of Way had been carried out in the Sedbergh, Dent and Garsdale areas and east of Sedbergh a number of stiles had been replaced with gates.

A member of the audience asked how the cuts might affect the Authority's



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## YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK (cont'd)

ability to cope with any extension to the Park's boundary. Kathryn advised that the Authority was broadly in favour of the extension provided the number of members and the funding were increased proportionately. However, the final decision rests with Defra and the authority would have to manage any extension even if no additional resources were allocated by Defra. A decision on extending the National Park is at least another two years away.

## CUMBRIA HIGHWAYS

Steve Gibson, Highways Engineer, reported that the Better Highways scheme had led to greatly improved road conditions in the area. The aim was to identify and fix problems before they got to a stage where someone reported the fault. With current budget availability Cumbria's 7,700 km of road would be completely resurfaced every 114 years and for some types of work budgets are half what they were 15 years ago. £1.4m of funding for pothole repairs has been drawn down from the Government and, although this has to be spent by September, a lot of work can be done with that money in the time available.

Some roads do need larger programmes of work, the A683 round Barbon for example.

These will take time to get to the top of the schedule as work is now being programmed for 2012/13 to ensure funding will be available. Inspections are carried out monthly on A class roads, quarterly on B and C class roads and annually on unclassified routes. One pothole does not constitute a scheme of work which is why they are simply patched with small aggregate. Several potholes and other defects over a certain distance can equal a scheme where more substantial re-surfacing work can be undertaken. Road closures are avoided wherever possible but, although they can be inconvenient they are often the quickest way and safest to get the work done.

Some queries were raised and answered about specific faults in the area and generally it was reported that efforts are being made to get utility companies to resurface to a higher standard when they complete work but it is a slow process.

## LOCAL UPDATES

### Local Area Partnership

Cllr Lancaster advised that there would be a slight change in future, with SLDC co-ordinating and providing admin for all LAPs, ensuring consistency of support. LAPs would also adopt a more strategic role and work closely with the Neighbourhood Forums to engage community support. LAPs are public meetings and notes of meetings can be viewed at:

[www.southlakelandsp.org.uk/local%20area%20partnerships.aspx](http://www.southlakelandsp.org.uk/local%20area%20partnerships.aspx)

### Police Report

No PCSO was available to attend the Forum but regular updates are provided through Parish Council meetings.

To contact your local officer call 0845 33 00 247 or e-mail [rachel.thomas@cumbria.police.uk](mailto:rachel.thomas@cumbria.police.uk)

### Appleby Horse Fair

Dr Gina Barney reported that Cautley residents were satisfied that this year's arrangements had worked very well and any minor infringements were quickly dealt with. Due to the timing of Easter and Royal Wedding bank holidays (and requests from the Police) the posts and boulders were put out quite early and remained in place for up to 10 weeks which was felt to be much too long. This issue will be considered with all the other feedback by MASCG. Rob Kitchen of SLDC was pleased to report that the Fair support team in South Lakeland had received a Silver award in the Partnership group of the Local Government awards.

## GRANT APPLICATIONS

Kirkby Lonsdale & District Civic Society: Awarded £900  
AGEUK South Lakeland : Awarded £393

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

A notice advertising the disposal of the playing field at Balliol School had been spotted in the Westmorland Gazette – this is on the agenda for discussion at Sedbergh Parish Council.

The next meeting of this Forum will be held in the Autumn, details to follow. In the meantime contact the Area Support Team on 01539 713419.

