

# Sedbergh & Kirkby Lonsdale Neighbourhood Forum

## A Summary of the meeting held on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at Kirkby Lonsdale Institute

Councillor Kevin Lancaster welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Ian McPherson

### **AGE UK SOUTH LAKELAND – VILLAGE AGENTS**

Penny Pullinger, from Age UK South Lakeland, started by thanking the Sedbergh & Kirkby Lonsdale Neighbourhood Forum for the grant it had previously awarded to enable the Village Agents to purchase large format games and an indoor curling set. She had brought some of the games to the meeting, including the curling set, and everyone was invited to have a go before they left!

Penny then spoke to the Forum about the Village Agent scheme and in particular about the work of the two local Agents, Jules Drummond Hay who covers the Kirkby Lonsdale area across to Endmoor, and Linda Greensmith who covers Sedbergh and Dent. Agents are paid for 10 hours work per week, but in reality most of them devote quite a lot more time to their work which breaks down into three main areas. They are an excellent way of, at least partly, solving the issue of making contact with and getting information out to those in more isolated rural areas. The Agents first commitment is to work with any individual over the age of 50, and their families/carers who require help to access basic information on what services and benefits are available to them and which may help an individual enjoy a better quality of life. Agents can also help with filling in forms but for matters which require more detailed knowledge or will take a considerable amount of time they can also call on the back up service of Age UK Community Officers based in Kendal, who will be able to spend more time working on an individual case.

The Agents second area of focus is to improve general well-being. This is done through support for individuals and also by organising groups that meet regularly such as lunch clubs and book clubs. There is an over-60s club Kirkby Lonsdale and in Sedbergh a regular tea club will be starting at the Bull. Age UK also promotes happy and active events such as Café D which is aimed specifically at supporting those with memory problems or dementia and their carers. This

meets regularly on Thursdays at the Institute in Kirkby Lonsdale from 2pm – 4 pm.

Although Age UK South Lakeland has now secured funding from various sources which will allow the Village Agent programme to continue for at least another 5 years, there is a great need for more volunteers to help out, especially with some of the activities, and, for instance, delivering magazines. If you are interested in helping out by volunteering then please contact the Kendal office on 01539 728118.

### **SEDBERGH & KIRKBY LONSDALE LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP**

The last meeting mostly considered Highways issues. Kevin Lancaster has had a productive meeting with Steve Gibson and Keith Masser from CCC Highways team and most issues raised can and will be resolved sooner rather than later. A member of the audience queried the quality of some Highways work that had been done recently.

Aside from the Local Area Partnership, Cllr Lancaster has also been looking at directing funding to various local traffic issues such as “Not Suitable for HGVs” signs on the Barbon road and assessments for an alternative route to Biggins Lane for HGVs. Speeding between Kearstwick and Kirkby Lonsdale has also been raised as a problem and monitoring work will be done to try to establish concrete rather than purely anecdotal evidence for this. It was pointed out that the “No Entry” signage in Kirkby Lonsdale Square has still not been improved as was promised.

### **APPLEBY HORSE FAIR**

Rob Kitchen, Streetcare Client Officer, from South Lakeland District Council is responsible for overseeing the transit of gypsies and travellers through the Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh area on their way both to and from the Fair. At a meeting held earlier on the day of the Forum, dates for the various measures to be put in place for the 2012 Fair had been agreed.

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### **APPLEBY HORSE FAIR (cont'd)**

The Traffic Regulation Order will come into force on 27<sup>th</sup> April. It will be applied to all vehicles whether they belong to a local resident or someone passing through the area. The posts will also be in place from 27<sup>th</sup> April. It is hoped they will be slightly less in number than last year as they will be spaced 10m apart although they may be closer together in key areas. The boulders will be put in place before the Bank Holiday weekend of 7<sup>th</sup> May.

Scrogg Bank and the other temporary sites in south Lakeland will open on 28<sup>th</sup> May. Cote Moor, which is in Eden, will not open until 3<sup>rd</sup> June but from 1.00 pm in the afternoon rather than 5.00 pm in the evening. On 7<sup>th</sup> June, the date the Fair starts, all the South Lakeland sites will shut. Scrogg Bank, and the other sites will re-open again on 11<sup>th</sup> June and will shut finally on 17<sup>th</sup> June. This final closure will be strictly enforced, especially in the Kirkby Lonsdale area. Bank Holidays for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee fall on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June just before the Fair starts. Anyone planning a special event in the area of the A683 over this period who thinks that their traffic/parking may be affected by additional traffic for the Fair should contact Rob Kitchen at [r.kitchen@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:r.kitchen@southlakeland.gov.uk) Any queries arising either before or after the Fair can be raised through the Respect Group which is a sub-group of the Local Area Partnership – your parish/town council clerk can advise who to contact. A drop in session to publicise the final arrangements for the transition through South Lakeland of those travelling to the 2012 Fair will be held immediately prior to the next Neighbourhood Forum meeting. Information will be placed in local press, and on relevant websites, and will also be communicated through Parish Councils.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM**

PCSOs Karen Dakin and Rachel Thomas cover the Sedbergh & Kirkby Lonsdale area for the Kendal Rural Neighbourhood Policing team. The current community priority and a focus of police time is Anti Social behaviour around the People's Hall in Sedbergh. The most recent incident involved criminal

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM (cont'd)**

damage to wheelie bins after the 5<sup>th</sup> November bonfire and firework display. Despite this priority the Kirkby Lonsdale area receives just as much attention and two people have been arrested for a break in at Aroma Spice in the town. Along with colleagues from the Fire Service the PCSOs have visited St Mary's Primary school in Kirkby Lonsdale to talk about road safety, in particular proper use of booster seats and seat belts. The children have also designed safety posters to be placed as flyers on cars parking along the road outside the primary and secondary schools. During 2011 all Police forces in England and Wales will be changing their individual non-emergency numbers to a single, easy to remember number: '101'. This will eventually replace the current 0845 33 00 247 number - indications are that Cumbria Constabulary will be able to use '101' from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011 but continue to use the '0845' number until the change is widely publicised.

### **BROADBAND**

Jock Cairns from Dent is the local area's Broadband Champion for the Connecting Cumbria project. Cumbria County Council has delayed the announcement of the preferred supplier for faster broadband services in the county until January 2012. Improvements to the availability of broadband in rural areas is the main focus, with the project reviewing the best ways in which this can be achieved. There is still concern that the target speeds are unimpressive and unambitious and will still be much slower than the EU target of 30 megabits.

### **GRANT APPLICATION**

An application from Dent Memorial Hall Trustees was heard and supported with an award of £1000 being made.

### **THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Forum has yet to be arranged. Details will be circulated as soon as they are available. In the meantime, if you need to get in touch please telephone 01539 713405 or email: [alison.love@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:alison.love@cumbria.gov.uk)



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