

Upper Kent Neighbourhood Forum

A summary of meeting held on Wednesday 15th December 2010 at Staveley Village Hall.

County Councillor Stan Collins welcomed everyone to the meeting.

LOCAL VIEW

Arthur Capstick of Staveley with Ings Parish Council started his overview of the work done in the local area by the Parish Council by noting that Staveley with Ings was a relatively new addition to this Forum area. The Parish had chosen to move into Upper Kent when the creation of Local Area Partnerships led to a review of the boundaries as it was felt they had more in common with the Upper Kent area than Windermere and Lakes parishes.

For their size, the communities of Staveley and Ings both offer a huge range of services and activities. As working villages there is probably rather more community spirit than is found in some tourist spots. This has been shown by the efforts to rebuild the playground in Staveley and it is now very well used by all. The playground in Ings is also considered to be a hidden gem!

Over the past year the parish council has been involved in a number of projects including the proposal by SLDC to close public toilets including the facilities in Abbey Square. The parish hopes to be able to make a contribution to keep them open.

Many of the priority actions outlined in the current Parish Plan have been achieved over the last few years. This Plan is now under review and local residents will be consulted during 2011 on what they want the Parish Council to focus on as a priority in coming years.

Other services vital to the community which are currently being worked on include better parking provision in the village, a new footway at the South end of the village and the website, which will soon include a page where details of local events can be added.

Finally, he extended an invitation to younger residents to consider joining the Parish Council, to give the "under 60's" better representation in community decision making.

UPDATES

Fire and Rescue Service: Station Manager Brian Steadman reported that the Service was facing cuts of c. £2m as part of the wider council spending review. However, Staveley fire station will remain open and is recruiting 2/3 retained firefighters. For details contact: 01900 820268, visit the open day on Sat. 8th January, 10.30 am – 3.30 pm; e-mail hr.fire@cumbriacc.gov.uk

AGE UK

Village Agent Wendi Lethbridge gave details of the wealth of information available to help older people access all the help and services they might need. There are also regular social meetings. For any enquiries contact the helpline on 01539 728180.

Lake District National Park Authority:

Sue Thompson, Ranger, reported that funding is in place for the work on the new bridge and path which form part of the "Miles without Stiles" scheme. Work planned to take place during May 2011.

Sue also announced that she will be taking early retirement at the end of March.

Staveley Environmental Network:

Sue Whalley reported that the network is now three years old with a regular membership. It has helped form the Barley Bridge Weir Action Group and is working with the Parish Council in looking for land for allotments. It has started the Big Onion exchange for home grown produce and is launching a Car Club in the Spring. In the survey on updates to the Parish Plan it is hoping to include a question about setting up a village hydro scheme.

OPEN FORUM

Repairs to a collapsed culvert in the Kentmere road will be carried out by Utd Utilities. Timing of the work will have to be considered as it will temporarily restrict HGV access to the valley.



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WINTER MAINTENANCE

John Robinson from Cumbria County Council's Highways department gave an interesting outline of how the council goes about setting and implementing its winter maintenance programme.

Information gathered from experiences during each winter is collated and any adjustments to the policy are put forward to County Council Cabinet by July. The priorities are to ensure safety and safeguard the economy of the county whilst ensuring value for money within the constraints of the budget.

The County has 30 gritting lorries, with specially trained staff to crew them. A single county-wide grit/salt treatment run covers the equivalent distance of driving from Penrith to Barcelona. Good weather forecasts are vital and are supplied at regular intervals during the day by Meteo Group, allowing well informed decisions on matters such as when/where to treat, rest periods for crews etc.

Due to the varying geography across the county, separate forecasts are provided for 8 different climatic areas. There are also 18 roadside weather stations across the county, some with camera feeds which update half-hourly, as well as temperature and humidity sensors in road surfaces. Information from all these sources feeds back to the forecasters and the specific local information is used to assess the best time to start treatment (it takes 4 - 4.5 hours to do a complete run). Information from satellites and radar, plus a thermal map of all the main roads showing minimum expected temperatures from noon to noon each day, complete the picture.

Roads are categorised as 1st, 2nd or 3rd priority. 1st and 2nd priority routes comprise about a third of the roads in the county and are pre-treated when frost is forecast. 3rd priority routes usually link smaller towns and villages – they are not pre-treated but are gritted once 1st and 2nd priority routes have been treated and/or cleared. A single pre-treatment run ahead of frost will use 200-300 tonnes of salt. Snow is easier to clear if the road was pre-treated but any rain preceding snow means salt cannot be put down. A single run to clear and treat snow covered routes will use 1500 tonnes of salt. Although salt is viewed as a "miracle cure" it does lose its effectiveness between minus 8 and minus 10°C. It also takes time to work but traffic does help speed up this process.

There are 10,000 salt bins and heaps across the county which can be used to clear local paths and side roads which gritting lorries cannot access. The Parish Salt scheme has also helped communities to do more to help themselves and has already been put into action this winter. For all gritting enquiries, including replenishing of grit bins, please contact the **Highways Hotline on 0845 609 6609**.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Meals on Wheels - Volunteers urgently wanted to drive/deliver meals in the Windermere area. If you can help, even occasionally, call 01229 894338.

A2BNOW Card - A new travel card for 5-18 year olds gives reduced fares for bus travel across South Lakeland. For more details visit your local library or www.cumbria.gov.uk/a2bnow

CCC & SLDC Budget Consultation - Have your say on where your money should be spent at www.cumbriacc.ning.com or call 01539 713180 to receive a copy of the County Council information by post. For details of SLDC's consultation go to www.southlakeland.gov.uk

Community Rail Partnership – the partnership is supporting a call to electrify the Windermere line so

as not to lose services to Manchester if the main line is electrified.

Broadband – To take part in the Local Area Partnership's broadband survey visit

www.surveymonkey.com/s/UpperKentLAPsurvey

There's also still time to register a vote for priority in super fast broadband delivery to the local area at www.racetoinfinity.bt.com.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Longsleddale Community Hall:

Requested: £ 1000 **Awarded:** £1000

NEXT MEETING

**Thursday 17th March 2011
at Selside Memorial Hall**

Contact: Kelly Alty on 01539 713447

E-mail: kelly.alty@cumbriacc.gov.uk



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