

Upper Kent Neighbourhood Forum

A summary of the meeting held on Thursday 17th March 2011 at Selside Memorial Hall.

County Councillor Stan Collins welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies from Cllr Brenda Gray.

LOCAL VIEW

Simon Elliott of Whitwell & Selside Parish Meeting gave an entertaining view of life in and around Selside. The parish is very scattered and apart from the hamlet at Watchgate has no centre to speak of. Unusually there are no holiday homes in the parish and the majority of residents were born and bred locally. Those of all generations mix well together. The Memorial Hall was built in memory of a tragic incident in 1941 when a German warplane dropped a land mine on Cooper House killing 11 people, some of whom ironically were evacuees from London. The Hall is now the hub for many social events including Harvest Festival and regular meetings of groups such as the W.I. and the Young Farmers. The Church is also central to the community and a service is held every Sunday, whether or not a vicar is in attendance. The village school has an excellent reputation and now serves nearly 70 children, many travelling some distance to attend.

Country pursuits are popular, with locals following trail hounds, sheepdog trials and the parish has even produced international Cumberland & Westmorland wrestling champions.

Evidence of human occupation and farming in the area stretches back to the Iron Age. Once an arable area, farms now mainly produce livestock although there are no dairy farms left. Before construction of the A6 a Roman road passed through and Bonnie Prince Charlie took this route on his retreat northwards in 1745. From its heyday in the 19th Century, in 1970 the A6 fell eerily quiet when the M6 took the bulk of traffic away to the East.

UPDATES

Endmoor & District 1st Responders

Martin Smith thanked the Forum for its earlier grant towards the purchase of a defibrillator for the Old Hutton Area. Sue Garrett from Stainton reported that there are three new recruits in the Stainton area being

trained. More volunteers are still needed, particularly in the New Hutton area. Contact Martin Smith via martinsmith@kencomp.net for details.

Upper Kent Local Area Partnership

Margaret Belk, co-ordinator for the Upper Kent LAP reported that various projects were now underway supported by funding from county and District Council funds allocated to the Partnership. These include a wind monitoring device for Skelsmergh Village Hall to assess if a wind turbine would be beneficial. Once this trial is complete the device could then be passed on to other groups in the area to carry out the same exercise. Details of all LAP meetings can be found at: www.southlakelandsp.org.uk/local%20area%20partnerships.aspx

Neighbourhood Policing Team

Sgt Bill Nolan updated the Forum on the new structure for the Neighbourhood Policing teams based in the Kendal area which came into force on 7th February this year. Teams have been given responsibility for specific geographical areas and there should be at least two officers on each shift with detailed local knowledge and it is believed the new format will lead to much better coverage for local communities. For details of all the officers covering this area visit www.cumbria.police.uk/neighbourhood-overview For non emergencies or to contact Sgt Nolan or his colleague Sgt John Stephens continue to call the central number 0845 330 0247.

NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting of the Forum has yet to be arranged. Details will be circulated by e-mail and posted on our website as soon as they are available. In the meantime if you need to get in touch, please contact Kelly Alty on 01539 713447 or e-mail: kelly.alty@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Your local
neighbourhood
forum

NORTH WEST AMBULANCE SERVICE NHS TRUST

Sarah Smith and Kathryn Gudgeon 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, the 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.

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 will be a membership based organisation, with a Council of Governors appointed by the members and a Board of Directors, making it directly responsible to its staff and the people it serves. Information about the planned new organisation can be viewed online at www.nwas.nhs.uk where you will also find details on how you can become a member of the new Foundation Trust. Alternatively call 01539 713419 to request a hard copy of the document.

A resident and 1st Responder from Kentmere expressed concerns about waiting times for ambulances trying to deliver patients to Royal Lancaster Infirmary. There are instances when this happens, usually beyond the control of the Service, but the Forum

was assured that these are taken very seriously and monitored very closely in order to promptly address any issues. Response times are also carefully checked and although 75% of Category A calls within the whole area covered by the Service are reached within the target 8 minutes, it was acknowledged that in rural areas this could not always be achieved. The service in this area receives about 270-300 Category A calls per week.

OPEN FORUM

Localism Bill. Those attending the Forum were urged to find out more about the proposals in the Bill which aims to devolve more power and financial control down to community level. Detailed information can be found at:

www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/decentralisationguide

Notes of Forum Meetings

The Forum notes are designed to provide a general overview of the meeting not only for those present but those unable to attend. It was felt that, even though space is limited, there was still not enough detail about questions raised at meetings in relation to specific agenda items or how to contact speakers to follow up on specific matters. The meeting was advised that any queries post meeting can be dealt with by Kelly Alty, Neighbourhood Development Officer on 01539 713447 or via kelly.alty@cumbriacc.gov.uk

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Staveley Roundhouse:

Requested: £ 1000 **Awarded:** £1000

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

SLDC has a small amount of funding available in grants worth up to £200 for charitable or non-profit making groups through it's Community Leisure Grant programme. For further details visit www.southlakeland.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/sport-and-recreation/funding.aspx or telephone Margaret Belk on 01539 797762.

On 4th June, Endmoor & District 1st Responders local neighbourhood forum will be holding a fundraising Cream Tea at Marwood, Gatebeck Road, Endmoor, LA8 0HH, from 2 – 4 pm.