

## **Rural proofing video transcript**

Video Title: Rural Proofing
Clip Length: 5:42
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### **Councillor Tim Stoddard; Leader Cumbria County Council:**

“Cumbria is one of the largest shire County’s in the Country, and therefore we have not only in my particular ward but also throughout Cumbria particular problems with communication, travelling.

Rural Proofing means that we understand the effects of a policy in connection to rural sparsity. This is perhaps best exemplified by ‘Library Links’. Library Links was formed in pubs and shops and other places to provide library services – books, CD’s, videos – far more closely to where people are living without them having to travel long journeys.

One major thing that we’ve started is to provide a service called ‘Rural Wheels’ which is to answer the problem of the lack of rural transport, where by people can literally just phone up and say they want to travel from a village to a town or whatever, and a car will arrive and take them to where there destination is.”

### **Betty Foster; member of the community:**

“I live in a really rural area and I actually work in Carlisle so I find it really difficult to get to and from work because I don’t drive. ‘Rural Wheels’ is very handy because it was costing me £8 twice a week to travel to and from work and it was very difficult.

### **Cheryl Cowpethwaite, Community Transport Officer:**

“We’re providing a number of different transport providers in a planned scheme which is using smart card technology and that means that people don’t have to pay the vehicle for transport, they are issued with a card and they join the scheme which they can then top up at libraries or post offices.

We are able to subsidise the difference between what the passenger pays which is about 30p per mile, and what we pay the provider. Obviously, there is a cost but it is a cost that the Council feels that we need to have to help people.”

### **Councillor Tim Stoddard; Leader Cumbria County Council:**

“The Police Authority in their wisdom started to close the local police station and sell off the local police house, and that meant that there was an access to police services lost. We thought to try and find a way to bring the police back into the heart of the community.”

**Hugh MacNaughton; Group Manager, Cumbria Fire Service:**

“The police first approached us to see if the joint fire and police station was a possibility we jumped at the chance. Fire stations aren’t used every day of the week – the ones that are retained fire stations - it’s not like working in a big city where there’s someone there all the time. The only time this station [Shap] was used was when there was a callout which in the case of Shap is about 60 times a year.

Having the police and the fire service together has a lot of attractions for people and I would strongly recommend it to other fire services the length and breadth of Britain.

**Councillor Tim Stoddard; Leader Cumbria County Council:**

“One of the main projects that I have for my tenure as leader is bringing the Council evermore down locally. We have neighbourhood forum meetings which are a way in which people can bring things that are burning in their minds to a more open discussion.”

**Councillor Joan Stocker; County Councillor, Windermere:**

“Each forum has a grant pot which is based on the number of residents in the forum’s area, and various organisations come regularly to make grant applications particularly our local village halls which have regular grants, youth groups, nursery & toddler groups – all sorts of people come for little grants.”

**Jim Bland; County Councillor, Windermere:**

“They’re usually local issues – something like a car park or a serious road junction. It seems to be mostly highway matters because locally people seem to get uptight about things like that.

**Councillor Tim Stoddard; Leader Cumbria County Council:**

“One of my main commitments to the people of Cumbria is to try to make sure that what we do give to them is the best – the best efficiency and the best value in the best way that I can ensure.”