

Notes from Environmental Well-being Review Group
21st December 2005 Held at Copeland BC Office, Moresby Parks 2.30pm

Present:

Steve Bradley	Westlakes Research Institute (Chair)
Keith Parker	Copeland BC (Lead Officer)
Ian Payne	Allerdale BC
Haydn Howard	
Mike Heaslip	West Cumbria Partnership
Janice Carroll	Copeland BC
Tony Temple	BNG
Susan Hammond	Environment Agency
Maria Toman	Copeland Homes
Christine Johnstone	Community Empowerment Network (Older persons)
Peter Johnstone	Community Empowerment Network (Older persons)
Tom Millar	South Whitehaven Partnership
Liz Clegg	Community Empowerment Network (S. Copeland)
Alex McKenzie	Cumbria County Council
T. Mageean	Copeland BC
Jan Naylor	Community Empowerment Network (Secretary)

Apologies:

Bob Sutcliffe	Cleator Moor Developments
Debbie Cochrane	Copeland BC
Bart Donato	
Cllr. Maureen Rourke	Allerdale BC
Cllr. Bill Southward	Copeland BC
Deb Muscat	Community Empowerment Network

1. Minutes Matters arising from previous meeting.

None

2. Cleaner Greener Safer Fund (CGSF) Proposals - Copeland (Agenda Item 4)

Keith Parker, Copeland BC handed out a paper which set out the proposals for using the Cleaner, Safer, Greener Funding allocated to the Copeland area focussing on South Whitehaven. The group was asked to ratify these which would then be passed via Cumbria County Council to GoNW who will ultimately decide acceptability. Keith explained the project totals figure don't add up to the full £2.1 million because allowance has been made for a contingency, a flexible project at Mirehouse Shops, and the cost of a Project Officer to manage the process.

Liz Clegg felt that it was good to have clear ideas of how we wanted to spend the CGSF budget. Keith went on to explain that the summary was just the cleaner/greener/safer which specifically was for Kells/Woodhouse, S. Whitehaven areas. Liz asked about Millom – Mike Heaslip said this was not currently included, but after the spending review in 2007, Millom may be part of future funding streams.

Mike said that the proposal may need to be balanced towards capital as GoNW don't want to have revenue included which will be needed beyond the two year funding package.

3. Liveability – West Cumbria Strategic Partnerships’ Action Plan (Agenda item 2)

Mike Heaslip talked through the paper that had been sent out. Mike said he was responsible for the presentation of it but for information behind it, he would pass us on to Ian Payne or Keith Parker.

This paper covers priority neighbourhoods and would be presented to the ODPM by January as the Improved Plan to enable the release of the Neighbourhood Element. It relates to the floor targets which are similar to the ones for Safer, Cleaner, Greener in S. Whitehaven but had a wider geographical base which covers West Cumbria. It seeks to “reduce the gap” between what the most deprived areas get and the average for the area.

Janice Carrol pointed out that the S. Whitehaven Community Environment campaign was not running any more due to the demise of Groundwork and Mike said he would talk to her about other gaps in information. **ACTION: Mike Heaslip**

Mike said that this document showed that things were improving, showed where extra interventions were needed and identifies what we are going to do. It forms part of the neighbourhood improvement plan which involves partnerships who are doing the work.

Liz Clegg asked whether the Sustrans cyclepath arrangements had started yet. Ian Payne confirmed that it had begun. Liz asked what it would be doing and Ian said they are responsible for making sure the pathway is clean and maintained, i.e. removing glass, overhanging branches, and dog-fouling.

Concerning the S. Whitehaven Environment Campaign – it was suggested that as some work had already been done, it might be worth contacting the Greenbank Centre to see if perhaps the National Trust could be asked to pick this work up. **Action: Tom Millar to look at this.**

Steve Bradley asked if there was a cultural difference between dog ownership from one area to another. Keith Parker said he had some details for Copeland concerning dog-fouling, but while not necessarily statistically valid it did tend to show in S. Whitehaven, dog-fouling is less of a problem than some other wards.

Some changes were suggested to the table, which Mike made a note of and will re-produce accordingly.

Ian Payne asked about monitoring and Mike Heaslip confirmed that it would be the job of the Environmental Well-being group to assess whether enough is being done to improve the liveability agenda. Keith Parker said that improvements should be included in future local authority service plans and that the EWBG will monitor “if” it happens. Mike further commented that the LSP was trying to ensure that there structures would be resourced to monitor neighbourhood management locally, and they would feed back results to the EWBG who would be accountable for ensuring that the Plans are applied. Communication would be two-way.

4. Housing – West Cumbria Strategic Partnerships’ Action Plan (agenda item 3)

Mike Heaslip said that again, national floor targets are used as an overall target for improving housing. The four main towns were covered again although there are some issues for N. Allerdale which basically relate to an ageing population rather than deprivation. These problems could be solved by getting a broader social mix within neighbourhoods.

Again there are some gaps in the information – still waiting for Home Housing to supply figures in order to complete the table.

Liz Clegg mentioned that there had been some research carried out recently concerning insulation which showed that new houses were actually very bad. Steve Bradley felt there should be more

information available from the fire services with regard to private housing. He felt that it there would be a role for the EWBG in the future to ensure that links are made concerning energy efficiency and fire safety.

Maria Toman asked if there was a deadline for the information to be passed to Mike Heaslip and he replied that the table was really “work in progress” and that the information was required ASAP.

5. West Cumbria Strategic Partnership Restructure (agenda item 5)

Mike Heaslip said that with regard to the Environmental Well- Being Group, this would in future be one of now five “thematic” groups who would look at joined-up services. The purpose of these thematic groups would be more focused and have more scope for getting into detail. It is proposed that new Terms of Reference will be produced for the groups. Mike said that the groups were not meant to be silos, but would have significant overlaps. Below these thematic groups would be task groups who would exist only until the specific issues they looked at were resolved.

Concerning the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership restructure itself, it was proposed the 5 thematic groups will be:

- Healthy Communities & Older People
- Children and Young People
- Community Safety
- Economy & Enterprise
- Living Environment (where the EWBG will sit)

Above these groups will sit the Community Engagement Group and the Chief Executives Group which in turn will feed up to the Board.

When the restructure has been formally approved by the current Board it will be presented to a meeting on the 4th January to which the Chairs of the groups will be invited. The West Cumbria Strategic Partnership will be a “new animal” who will issue instructions to the Chief Executives Group who in turn will make decisions concerning budgets and will have a strategic role. Plausibility tests will be applied by the thematic groups as to whether things can be achieve or not

Alex McKenzie said he felt that the EWBG needs to keep going and that hopefully with the new Terms of Reference it would enable this group to keep influencing. He felt that it was vital to ensure that the Terms of Reference were appropriate. Mike Heaslip said that when Local Area Agreements are introduced, certain topics will come into peoples awareness that are not currently covered. The EWBG will be able to look at issues that are cross-cutting, e.g. this group can respond from an environmental perspective but cover other themes.

6. A.O.B.

Liz Clegg said that there was another ATAG meeting in January.

Alex McKenzie advised that a “sustainable construction programme” has been set up and they plan to speak to various construction companies concerning this.

Mike Heaslip advised that there is a 10 year plan which will cover housing renewal.

6. Next Meeting:

Date to be advised – this will be circulated after the 4th January meeting.

Notes from Environmental Well-being Review Group
18 January 2006 Held Lakes College, Distington.

Present:

Steve Bradley	Westlakes Research Institute (Chair)
Haydn Howard	
Maria Toman	Copeland Homes
Liz Clegg	Community Empowerment Network (S. Copeland)
Cllr. Maureen Rourke	Allerdale BC
Cllr. Bill Southward	Copeland BC
John Hughes	Copeland BC
Cllr J Millburn	
Deb Muscat	Community Empowerment Network
Claire Killeen	West Cumbria Partnership
Chris Shaw	CALC
Stella Kent	
Peter Folley	Community Empowerment Network (BME)

Apologies:

Keith Parker	Copeland BC (Lead Officer)
Mike Heaslip	West Cumbria Partnership
Ian Payne	Allerdale BC
Tony Temple	BNG
Susan Hammond	Environment Agency
Christine Johnstone	Community Empowerment Network (Older persons)
Tom Millar	South Whitehaven Partnership
Alex McKenzie	Cumbria County Council
Jan Naylor	Community Empowerment Network (Secretary)
Debbie Cochrane	Copeland BC
Bart Donato	English Nature
Katrina Rice	LDNP
John Hetherington	Cumbria CC
Sue Stevens	Cumbria cc
Jonathan Smith	Cumbria cc
Malcolm Guyat	Ravenglass Coastal Partnership

1. Minutes from previous meeting.

Agreed as true record.

The aim of the rest of the agenda was to map out the role of a number of transport related groups that meet to discuss transport in West Cumbria.

2. Cumbria Strategic Partnership

DM distributed a paper from Sue Stevenson that illustrated the structure of the Cumbria Strategic Partnership. It has two subgroups that will be dealing with Environment: transport, spatial planning, housing and environment and heritage. (paper attached)

DM has spoken to Rob Turvey, Chair of the Transport group and explained that this group is the one that they will need to link to within the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership and that we would like to offer our help to explore how the linkage works. They are currently reviewing the Cumbria wide groups and have recognised that there is no obvious Transport Group. Liz Clegg

who attends the Cumbria meeting through the Patient and Public involvement forums said that the group is also looking at its membership, but like all Cumbria wide groups it has to deal with linking to 5 local strategic partnerships.

3. Update from local Area Transport Advisory Groups (ATAG)

Area Transport Advisory Groups are advisory bodies to the County Councils Local Committees. They act independently.

Liz Clegg and Cllr Millburn fed back information from the two transport advisory groups.

Allerdale TAG receives a quarterly report regarding the progress made with regards to the Local Transport Plan. It was felt that this information would be useful to both ATAGs and the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership.

It is apparent that the two groups operate differently and sharing information and good practice would benefit them. Furthermore, is it really reasonable to ask members such as Stagecoach to attend two meetings to discuss the same or similar issues?

Action: Through Keith Parker and Jonathan Smith organise an event that would bring the two groups closer, to share information and good practice.

4. Copeland Transport Group

JH described the group as made up of 6 councillors meeting twice a year. The group has been in existence for a number of years and its role is to lobby for Copeland transport schemes. In the past they have fed information into the Copeland TAG.

5. Other Transport Groups

South Copeland Area Transport Group - was set up to look at the Transport in the Lake District. No longer meeting.

Ravenglass Transport Group – came about in response to Countryside Agency funding for parish transport grants.

Social Car Schemes. There are a number of local, County Council supported car schemes to support the rural disabled and elderly.

Rural Transport Partnership: County Council supported group focusing on rural transport issues across the county.

Community Transport Partnership: County Council supported group focusing on community transport issues across the county.

Millom Transport Group. Looking at local issues in Millom – linked to the Market Town Initiative group.

6. Local Transport Plans

Jonathan Smith County Council has informed DM that Andrew Butler is responsible for piloting the Community Transport Plans in Allerdale. Five areas have been chosen. Communities are consulted via the Neighbourhood Forum as to what “quick fixes” could be done locally to address local concerns. Expenditure is usually in the region of £10k.

The group agreed that this appeared to be a good process and requested feedback from the Allerdale pilots.

South Whitehaven Partnership has included local transport in their consultations.

Flimby Cycle Track. The CEN representative for Maryport has fed back to DM that the County Council are intending to put a Cycle Path through Flimby. The community is not happy with where the proposed route and are finding it difficult to engage the County Officer. DM through the CEN has tried to contact County Officer but messages have not been responded to. DM requested that Chair of this group write to the County Council and invite them to a meeting in Flimby.

Action: Env. Wellbeing group to facilitate a meeting between the Flimby group and the County Council. SB to write to County Council.

7. Regional Transport Funding Allocation Meeting

Liz Clegg had attended this meeting in December on behalf of the Env. WBG. JH endorsed LC's concerns that Cumbria did not appear to have a joined up approach to submitting applications and that small and large schemes all appeared to be competing against each other. Also, despite input in the studies such as the Access to Cumbria and Furness our transport concerns do not appear to be being heard at a regional level.

Action: DM to circulate notes from this meeting.

Action: Env. Well-being group to continue to respond to consultations and take all opportunities to raise the issues of West Cumbria.

Action: Regional Spatial Strategy consultation – future agenda item.

8. West Cumbria Strategic Partnership Restructure

CK confirmed that the Environmental well-being group will become the Liveability group in the new West Cumbria Strategic Partnership structure and the Crime and Disorder Reduction partnership will become the Community safety group.

The group will be responsible for monitoring targets relating to liveability, environment, transport, housing, waste. Some targets such as reducing road deaths may fit better with the Community Safety group. The two chairs are meeting to discuss which group leads on which target.

Clarification is needed regarding the role of monitoring the Neighbourhood Renewal Targets and the role of the Local Authority Scrutiny Committees. CK said that this will become clearer when the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership has drafted the terms of reference for its sub-groups. Previously, there have been benefits from Copeland aligning the work programme of its scrutiny committees with the work programme of the well-being groups.

9. Agenda themes for future meetings

Local Transport Plan
Accessibility Strategy
New Terms of Reference for the group
Success and progress of the group's action plan
Cumbria Spatial Strategy
Neighbourhood Renewal Progress on floor targets
County Local Development Frameworks and Housing Strategy

10. AOB

There is currently a Government consultation on the future of Local Strategic Partnerships ending on 3rd March. Members were invited to feed comments into the West Cumbria Partnership. Copies of documents available from DM.

11. Date of Next Meeting.

15th February 06.