

Notes from Environmental Well- being Review Group
20th April 2005, West Cumbria CVS, Maryport



Present:

Steve Bradley	Westlakes Research Institute (Chair)
Keith Parker	Copeland BC (Lead Officer)
Deb Muscat	Community Empowerment Network (Secretary)
Haydn Howard	
Jenny Gallagher	Allerdale BC/LA21 Forum
Howard Jones	Fire and Rescue Service
Liz Clegg	Community Empowerment Network (S. Copeland)
Christine Johnstone	Community Empowerment Network (Older persons)
John Hughes	Copeland BC
Stella Kent	Derwent and Solway
Sue Crisp	Cumbria CC
Sandra McDonald	BNFL
Roxine Beaumont-Sempil	Groundwork
Chris Shaw	Cumbria Ass. of Local Councils
Chris Briggs & Lindsey Campbell	Cumbria County Council Emergency Planning Unit
Jonathon Smith	Cumbria CC

Apologies:

Joe Holliday	Cumbria CC
Susan Hammond	Environment Agency
Collette Small	Derwent and Solway
Paul Hancock	Fire & Rescue Services
Maureen Rourke	Allerdale BC

1. Minutes Matters arising from previous meeting

There are no minutes from the last meeting. Matters arising from previous minutes.

a. Tesco's Planning Application

Letters have been received from the Copeland BC and the Development Co. in relation to our response to Tesco's planning application. The local press have run a recent article that gave members the impression that the application had been passed. Copeland BC officers confirmed that it had not.

b. Environmental forum

The first meeting is to take place on 21 April 2005 in Workington. Invitations had been sent out to LA 21 group members in Allerdale and Copeland, Env. WBG members, and other interested parties. JG recognised that the lists may not have been up to date and apologised if anyone had been missed off.

c. COWRM

A public meeting is due to take place on the 16th May. The Lead officers of this group have been invited to an interactive meeting on the 17th. KP and DM to attend.

2. Regional Spatial Strategy

John Hughes, Copeland BC introduced the Regional Spatial Strategy.

- The NW Regional Assembly's main method of consultation is via the website. There was only a four week consultation period (7th March – April 8th).
<http://rpg.nwra.gov.uk/planning/spatial.php>

- The resulting document will be published in September 2005 and submitted to the Government.
- The Regional Assembly proposed that Cumbria consisted of 2 sub regions North Cumbria and West Cumbria and Furness. The County responded to say that one Sub region of Cumbria is more appropriate. Their response to West Cumbria and Furness makes it clear that West Cumbria and Furness are separate entities.
- Allerdale and Copeland BC have to consider how does the LSP and the West Cumbria Strategic Forum fit with the proposals.
- Copeland BC are looking to meet with the North West Regional Assembly again in April.
- Although it was recognised that there are reasons why West Cumbria and Furness are brought together for planning processes, it feels awkward as there is very little physical connection due to the geography. It is also contradicts other plans such as the detrunking of the A595 which effectively cuts the links further!
- It was noted that it was important that the National Park need to be engaged in this process and linked to the West Cumbria Partnership.

Action: KP to invite LDNP to future meeting.

- The deadline for responses and issues is 26th May.

Action: Any responses that members feel should be put forward by this group should be forwarded to KP or DM

Copeland Local Plan 2001-2006

JH informed the group that Copeland has produced a revised version of the Copeland Plan. It is on deposit for 6 weeks (Deadline 3rd June 2005). He encouraged people to complete the interactive page on Copeland BC's website.

4. Local Transport Plan

The group welcomed Jonathon Smith as a new member of the group.

Jonathon explained that the plan is not just a transport plan for Cumbria County Council but for all agencies and communities in Cumbria.

- It is the result of extensive consultation via neighbourhood forums and Area Transport Advisory Groups.
- CC Local Committees set local targets. Approx. £1m for local projects.
- Schemes over £5m are subject to separate bids to Government.
- Approval guidance is not helpful as it appears to not favour areas of low population density ie rural areas. JS said that the North West Development Agency and the Regional Assembly are trying to change this.
- Some targets relate to road deaths. This can only be achieved in partnership. HJ informed the group about the multiagency "CRASH" group (linked to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership) that are looking at reducing accidents resulting in death or serious injury.
- Questions were raised about dirty and rusty road signs.
- Questions were asked as to whether there was a proper competitive tendering process for signs as Parish Council experience is that they are extremely expensive.

Action: JS said he would find more details for the group.

- Holes in roads should be reported to the Highways Hot Line. This is monitored.
- Rural areas are also concerned about poor maintenance of ditches, drains and gullies.
- LC asked if the Accessibility Guidelines published by the Countryside Agency had been used? JS confirmed that they had.
- The Area Transport Advisory groups are the link between the WCP and the Local Transport Plan. The group questioned the current membership of the groups and requested that this group look at the membership to identify if there was anyone else

who would be able to strengthen the links between the ATAGS and the West Cumbria Partnership.

- Stronger links would mean improved communication and this group and the West Cumbria Partnership would then be able to reinforce any messages, such as funding issues and local priorities.

5. Emergency Planning – Chris Briggs

Chris gave a presentation that outlined the current procedures for emergencies in Cumbria from nuclear accidents to road traffic accidents. A recent example was how the agencies responded to the New Year floods in Carlisle.

In terms of emergencies the immediate responses are well planned and well rehearsed. What needs to be addressed now is the next steps. What happens when the emergency services stand down, what do every day agencies and organisations have to deal with ? There is a Recovery Planning Exercise due on the 7th June. The Emergency Planning Unit will be seeking appropriate local organisations to participate.

6 Next meeting

Date to be confirmed. Chris Shaw to arrange venue.

FUTURE Meetings:

Third Wednesday in the month. 2pm – 4pm

June 14th

July 20th

August 17th

September 21st

October 19th

November 16th

December 21st

Attachments

Contact list