

**Executive Report to Full Council – 18 August 2011**

**Strategic Leadership and Nuclear Portfolio – Councillor Elaine Woodburn**

**Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership**

The partnership has almost completed its preliminary assessment of the information and evidence it has received over the last 18 months. This assessment will now form the basis for a written report which will be the subject of round 3 public and stakeholder consultation, due to start in the Autumn. As part of this process the intention is for Copeland to hold a workshop in early Nov to ensure all CBC members have an opportunity to feed into the formal public and stakeholder consultation. As colleagues will remember a report will be coming to Full Council early 2012 asking Council to agree / or not to make a formal decision to participate. This will be based on the two year work programme of the partnership, mori polls and most importantly the public/ stakeholder engagement information.

**Nuclear New Build**

NuGeneration Ltd continue to progress their assessment of the site adjacent to Sellafield and have strengthened their team with the appointment of planning consultants. This signals the start of an intensive period of work for the Council and it is envisaged that resource implications for the Council will form the subject of a Planning Performance Agreement with the developer. As negotiations with NuGen proceed the Council is progressing work to understand the potential spatial implications of the proposals and is feeding this work into the development of the Local Development Framework for Copeland. As the new build project is dependent on upgrades to the National grid network regular meetings are being held to ensure the planning processes for both projects are compatible. Again the resource implications for the Council from the engagement with National Grid will be the subject of a Planning Performance Agreement. NuGen Ltd are still projecting to complete all design and planning matters by end 2014 to enable them to take an investment decision in 2015. This will allow a start on site in 2016 and the site becoming operational by 2023.

**West Cumberland Hospital**

The Full Business Case was approved by the Trust Board of North Cumbria University Hospitals in May, and now requires the support of NHS Cumbria and the formal approval of NHS North West before it can go forward to the Department of Health and the Treasury for final approval. This will again result in a further delay to the project as NHS North West need

a fully costed clinical strategy a point that was raised when we attended a presentation on the strategy.

As members know the Acute Trust board agreed in February that they would need to join with an existing NHS foundation Trust, three neighbouring Trusts have expressed an interest

- The University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust
- Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- A partnership with Newcastle in Cumbria which is an alliance between Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and the Newcastle upon tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

All three have been approached to provide financial and non financial information as part of the Phase 1 acquisition process. A stakeholder event will be held in October where we will be given the opportunity to hear the three proposals and to ask any questions of the Trusts. As soon as I know the date I will let Members know.

### **Finance and Resources Portfolio – Councillor Gillian Troughton**

The Statement of Accounts for 2010/11 were produced to deadline and handed over to the External Auditors. The audit process is underway and will be completed by the statutory deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Resource Planning Working Group is continuing to consider the early budget options for consideration of the budget savings target of £1.5m for 2012/13, £0.7, for 2013/14 and £0.6m for 2014/15. These will be reported to the Executive in due course in accordance with the 2012/13 budget timetable.

### **Full Service Reviews**

A programme of service reviews are being planned to contribute towards the financial savings required over the next 3 years. These reviews will provide short, medium and long term recommendations in order to meet immediate budget requirements and deliver long term service improvements.

### **Performance and Transformation Portfolio – Councillor John Bowman**

#### **Locality Working Update**

Locality Working is progressing in Copeland and gaining increasing recognition across the County as being a leading example of Locality Authorities engaging and working with local communities.

At the end of June each of the six Localities presented to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Copeland Partnership conference updating on achievements to date and key priorities for discussion as part of the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). This ranged from access to health in the south to youth issues in Whitehaven and environmental management across

the north. The Partnership conference provided additional guidance and input to steer the evolution of the SCS and with further input from across the voluntary and community sector will be finalised for agreement at the meeting of all Localities Together in September. This will then come to Full Council for formal council approval.

Locality Working is combining joint approaches to service delivery with the public services as well as leading on key community regeneration initiatives to address local needs. Our experience is also helping to steer a countywide approach to community engagement, building on the Listening and Learning document that provides a framework for consultation and engagement across the public sector in Cumbria.

### **Performance Management Framework**

Following a review of performance management a new performance management framework was launched in July. The new framework is being implemented for the first quarter monitoring; reports in the new format will be going to Executive on the 23 August.

### **Housing, Planning and Community Safety Portfolio – Councillor George Clements**

#### **Cumbria Warm Homes Project**

We are preparing the Copeland launch of a Cumbria wide project in Autumn 2011. It aims to increase the uptake of energy efficiency measures and reduce fuel poverty in the private housing sector. The Cumbria Warm Homes Project is being delivered in partnership with EON which, as an energy provider, is obliged to meet its Carbon Emissions Reduction Target before the government's Green Deal initiative takes effect in December 2012. EON is therefore providing substantial funding for the project.

The offer to householders is a whole house energy survey, which includes guidance on how to take control of energy consumption at home. It will automatically refer priority households into free insulation schemes. Other households will be able to access insulation measures at discounted rates plus advice on heating options and renewable energy.

The project is aimed at all homeowners and private sector tenants across the whole Borough. Our 2007 private sector stock condition survey identified specific areas with a high rate of fuel poverty and hard to heat homes. These will be especially targeted.

I will announce more details nearer the launch date, which is most likely October 2011. Publicity is being prepared and all affected ward Councillors will be informed before the project goes live.

Social housing residents have not been forgotten and their landlords operate energy efficiency schemes funded from other sources. The tenure distribution in the Borough is currently 72.4% owner occupied; 22.3% social rented; 5.3% privately rented.

## **Housing Information in Egremont**

In recent weeks we have examined locations for a service point in Egremont where people can access information about Cumbria Choice. We have now decided to provide it in partnership with Home Group, who own 702 properties in the town, and they will participate in selecting the location. I will announce the location and service arrangements in my next report.

## **Planning Update**

### **Quality Review**

On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011 Planning Panel members, accompanied by officers, carried out a Quality Review of developments undertaken within the past 12 months. Sites visited included the ongoing housing developments at High Road and Wastwater Road, Whitehaven; Walkmill Court, Red Lonning; St. Kevin's Hall, Cleator Moor and Beckermest Industrial Estate. This annual review has become an established part of monitoring the quality of planning decisions and feedback from Members has been most positive.

### **Performance Monitoring**

Top quartile performance for the speed of determination of planning applications has again been achieved, placing Copeland as one of the best performing authorities in the country, with 96% of all applications decided in the period 1 April - 30 June 2011 having been determined within the prescribed timescales.

### **Customer Satisfaction Survey**

To ensure that the quality of planning decisions is commensurate with the speed of determination, a customer satisfaction survey of applicants and/or their agents has been undertaken for the period 1 April - 30 June 2011. The results are most encouraging, with 92% of respondents stating that they are "very" or "fairly" satisfied with the quality of service provided and no respondents expressing dissatisfaction. Of those respondents who have used the service previously, almost half (41%) consider that the overall quality of the planning service has improved with no respondent stating that the service has worsened. In addition to complimentary comments some suggestions for service improvements were also received which are being afforded close scrutiny in order that appropriate actions may be implemented.

### **Planning Policy**

Work is progressing on the Core Strategy and Development Management planning documents. The Council's Planning Policy Team is engaged on this and we have now had two meetings of the new Members' **Local Development Framework Working Party**. The Councillors involved are all new to the subject and I am greatly impressed and encouraged by their enthusiasm for the task. Some additional Core Strategy work is being carried out as

part of the externally funded “Blueprint” economic strategy including new forecasting and there are some consultation exercises due this month.

The consultation events on the Council’s **Town Centre and Harbour Supplementary Planning Document** have been very successful with many people taking advantage of the Market Days drop-in sessions. I was especially keen to involve schools and youth groups in the process and would like to thank the many teachers and pupils of the High School, and Valley and Bransty schools plus the Youth Forum who took part and submitted exhibition material. Their appreciation of economic and design issues in the town centre and their ideas for future development have been really impressive. The standard of exhibition material was so good that we were able to display it to very good effect for the representatives of English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund who came to assess our preliminary bid for a **Townscape Heritage Initiative** on 29<sup>th</sup> July. They, too, commented on the quality of the work which contributed to a very positive visit overall. A new Townscape Heritage scheme could be an extremely important grant regime to help reinstate historic building frontages in the town centre and we hope to report on a successful bid early next year.

### **Environment and Sustainability Portfolio – Councillor Allan Holliday**

#### **Seagull survey**

In response to concerns of residents a survey of seagulls in Whitehaven town centre and surrounding areas took place on 11th and 16th May 2011 when all potential and previous nesting sites were visited and counted.

The survey is a count of nest sites – the numbers of nests are a count of visible nests and nesting seagulls. As many of the nest sites are inaccessible the number of eggs in each nest is not counted but it is assumed that each nest will be for a breeding pair with 1 – 3 successfully hatched eggs. The results of the seagull survey are that overall the number of nesting sites remained similar to 2009 at 237 nests.

Questions are asked about a cull of seagulls and at present there is not the evidence to support this approach. There is a need first to demonstrate that other methods of control have been used such as removing food sources, reducing nesting. Advice to businesses and property owners such as Home Group on proofing buildings has and will continue to be provided.

#### **National Food Hygiene Rating System (nFHRS)**

The successful scheme operated by Copeland and other local authorities in Cumbria will be changing in April 2012 to be part of a national food hygiene rating scheme (nFHRS).

The results of food hygiene inspections will be published on a national website and shown on distinctive black and green window stickers with a rating of 0,1,2,3,4,5 - 5 is the best

rating. There will be more information on the new way of displaying the results of food hygiene inspections in coming months.

The current system of 1 – 5 stars has been very successful in promoting the excellent standards of most food business in Copeland and has been an encouragement to others to improve standards – businesses will be supported and guided through the changes.

An application was made to the Food Standards Agency for a grant to cover the costs of changing schemes and Copeland was awarded a small grant of £11,000 to support accelerated implementation and provide additional support to food businesses

### **Tesco Recycling Site**

Following some adverse national and local coverage colleagues may be aware of Tesco's plans to manage their own store recycling sites. Like many other Council's the potential loss of the recycling material from the site on Whitehaven's Tesco Car Park was seen as a major blow. Around 20% of all the material collected across recycling sites in Copeland comes from the one site in Whitehaven. The loss of the site would have therefore lead to a substantial decrease in the Councils' reported recycling rates and a reduction in Recycling Reward payments affecting our ability to fund recycling as a whole.

As a result of lobbying from Copeland and others the company suspended the proposals whilst discussions took place. I am therefore very pleased to be able to report Tesco's have confirmed they have decided not to introduce their own recycling facilities at this time and we look forward to continuing to work with them for years to come.

### **Green Flag Awards 2011**

Green Flag awards were first introduced in 1996 with the aim of recognising the highest quality of green space management. It is also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve the same high environmental standards, creating a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas. Copeland's track record of achievement in the awards has been consistently strong over recent years.

This year I am pleased to be able to inform Members that we have retained our awards for:

- St Nicholas Garden,
- TrinityGardens,
- Egremont Castle & Grounds
- Distington Crematorium Grounds

In addition to these, the three Green Heritage Awards have also been retained for the environmentally sensitive management of heritage locations at St Nicholas Gardens, Trinity Gardens and Egremont Castle.

In this context Copeland holds 3 of the 9 Green Heritage Awards in the whole of the North West Region.

As an addition this year we also have our first Green Flag Community Award winner. This is a national award that recognises high quality green spaces that are managed by voluntary and community groups. It being won by Jacktrees Community Group, Cleator Moor who are due our congratulations.

### **Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio – Councillor Phil Greatorex**

#### **Pow Beck Community Stadium**

It's good to report that after 18 months of Technical Appraisal and Design work the Planning application has recently been submitted for the first Phase of the new Community Stadium which will act as a catalyst in the creation of a Sports Village at Pow Beck Valley. The task of obtaining the Capital Funding for the scheme is progressing well with every indication that this is achievable.

The essential next stage for the partners will be the selection of a Design and Build Contractor to work within the fixed Budget for the scheme. The aim is to align the appointment of the Contractor to coincide with the confirmation of Funding and Planning approval at the end of October 2011. Working to this timeline will allow Construction to commence late in 2011 so that the Stadium is completed by the end of 2012 in readiness to participate in the Rugby League World Cup in 2013 if the Whitehaven bid is successful.

#### **Dilapidated Buildings**

We are continuing our work to encourage owners of derelict and dilapidated buildings to address the condition of their properties either through renovation or demolition, whichever is most appropriate. Using either Town & Country Planning Act section 215 notices which requests owners to take steps to address land/property which 'adversely affects the amenity of the neighbourhood', or through a Building Act section 79 notice used against owners of property considered 'seriously detrimental to the amenity of the neighbourhood. We actually use both dependent on the required outcome; section 215 notices request remediation/renovation whereas section 79 notices request either renovation or demolition – therefore a section 79 notice can only be used when demolition would be permitted (ie. Not on mid-terrace properties). In both instances failure to comply with the notices can lead to prosecution and / or The council undertaking the works in default. It has taken almost three years and involved serving two section 79 notices on the owners of the former Methodist Church at Cleator Moor (the first responded by selling the property to the current owner to avoid either works or prosecution, the current owners failed to respond to the notice) but CBC are now undertaking works in default to demolish the property and all works are expected to be completed this month. If the owner fails to pay for the works when invoiced a charge will be put on the land.

## **Copeland Apprenticeship Initiative**

As part of the recruitment for Round 2 of the Copeland Apprenticeship initiative, over 50 learners were invited to the Civic Hall on the 12 July. The event was attended by 13 employers. A small number of employers interviewed after the event due to being unavailable on the day.

Of those learners invited, 33 accessed pre-interview support from Connexions (one of the partners in the scheme) during the build up to the event.

The following employers appointed apprentices following the event: PHX Training (Customer Service), Acorns Pre-School (Childcare), St Thomas Cross Hydraulics (Motor Vehicle), Amec (Business Administration x 2), Mitie (Business Administration + Electrical), Works 4 You (Horticulture), Gosforth Nursery (Childcare), New Image (Hairdressing), Galemire Vets (Business Administration), DejaVue (Hairdressing), Coach Road Garage (Motor Vehicle), Tyson Burrigde (Motor Vehicle). The target number of apprentices for Round 2 is 15.

As part of the Copeland Apprenticeship Initiative, it is the aim to produce a DVD that captures some of the highlights and challenges experienced by apprentices and employers who take part in the Programme. This DVD will then be used as a promotional tool and help to support the development of future apprenticeship programmes in West Cumbria. It will also acknowledge those who have contributed to the Programme and form part of its legacy.

The scheme is to be highlighted at the forthcoming 'Future of Apprenticeships' Conference on the 24<sup>th</sup> November in London. Members of the partnership will deliver a presentation under the theme: 'Developing apprenticeship programmes in partnership: FE colleges working with local businesses'.

## **Ways into Successful Enterprise (WISE)**

This programme helps individuals and groups, in the most deprived communities in Copeland, develop a career in enterprise, be it through self-employment or starting a small business, or to consider other options including volunteering or training. The project commenced in April 2009 and since then 552 people have been assisted through the scheme as at end June 2011.

The team is continuing to raise the profile of the project and engage with new clients and is now working closely with the Chamber of Commerce to help support the delivery of the New Enterprise Allowance scheme (NEA) which aligns closely with the existing activities of WISE giving access to potential new clients. WISE clients in Copeland who complete the ISUS programme with the Chamber of Commerce are now able to be access the West Cumbria Development Agency's business grant from the LinkstartXtra programme.



## **Cumbria Intensive Start-up Support Programme (ISUS)**

The ISUS programme in Copeland is delivered by the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce and managed by Cumbria County Council. The programme is running reasonably well and a total of 35 starts were achieved in Copeland in 2010/11. 14 of these were on the local side of the programme which Copeland Borough Council directly contributes to and 4 were social enterprises. The programme overall achieved 246 start-ups in Cumbria in the year.

This year's programme has been confirmed by NWDA and will operate until end of December 2011, subject to a possible extension to the end of the financial year. For this reason all funding and targets have been applied pro-rata for 9 months of the financial year. Since April this year 5 new businesses have started up and 6 existing businesses have been given post-start assistance. There are currently 54 clients engaged in the programme in Copeland.

### **Copeland Backing Business Project**

Activities in this financial year include a successful business event which was held in Seascale. The new West Cumbria Development Agency website is now up and running with several Copeland clients featured in the profile section and the Copeland business directory is also included on the site. The number of existing businesses assisted, grants awarded and consultancies carried out for the project are £97 K awarded in grants, 141 businesses assisted and 70 consultancies carried out.

### **Business Support Initiatives**

#### **Retail Sector Support**

Funding has been allocated from LABGI and the DCGL Empty Shops budget for retail sector support in the four main towns of the borough to provide an incentive for local businesses to engage in improving the retail sector.

£8,500 was split between Mid and South Copeland with £7,000 awarded to Millom town and South Copeland and a further £1,500 awarded to Seascale.

In South Copeland the funding is being utilised to support a facelift incentive scheme which is named "Kerb Appeal" offering a 50% grant up to a maximum of £300 for retailers to enhance the appearance of their shop fronts and 14 applications have been received to date. To compliment this initiative, Bill Smith (the Shop Doctor) was invited to carry out a one day evaluation of the retail environment in Millom to inform and motivate retailers towards cost effective routes to revitalising their business opportunities.

Also in South Copeland the funding has acted as a catalyst for creating a monthly locality based traders group, hosted by Millom Network Centre (MNC) and facilitated by Ways into Successful Enterprise. The group have now met over 3 months to work together on issues including:

- Millom Shop Watch in partnership with PCSO Lorna Brookes & Paul Sullivan
- Christmas Festival preparations in partnership with South Copeland Tourism

- Street signage
- Opening hours
- Implementing suggested improvements from the Shop Doctor Report

In Mid Copeland, specifically Seascale, again in partnership with Ways into Successful Enterprise and MNC, we have now offered the funding as a 50% grant up to a maximum of £200 per business. This fund will be officially launched at a Traders meeting within the next month and in cooperation with Seascale Parish Council and Seascale traders, would follow a similar model as in South Copeland.

In Egremont and Cleator Moor, from a funding pot of £17,100, a Building Improvement Grant scheme is being offered to help bring empty commercial premises back into use and give facelift assistance to local businesses. There has been 10 enquiries into the scheme so far, which has already resulted in 4 application forms being sent out. Of the 2 that have pulled together detailed costs there is around £3.5k commitment already. The interest has been really good and we are happy with progress. It is intended to review commitment in September towards opening up the scheme around the localities if appropriate at that time.

In Whitehaven the Council is offering a shop front improvement grant scheme from a pot of £20,000. The grants are for up to £2,000 or 60% of the proposed works, whichever is less. There has been much interest in the scheme and 20 application forms have been sent out so far. 7 applications have been received and £9,727 of the budget has been committed to date.

### **Copeland Low Carbon Business Grant**

In April 2011 the Council launched a low carbon business grant using £25k of LABGI funding, in partnership with Cumbria Business Environment Network (CBEN). The grant is available to encourage SMEs in Copeland to improve the environmental performance of their business through the implementation of low carbon measures such as insulation, energy efficient heating and lighting, waste and water reduction.

Since April, due to the presence of Copeland's grant, CBEN's activity in borough has dramatically increased with over 32 new business engagements in the area in the last 3 months leading to a 400% increase. All the businesses visited have had a full resource efficiency visit carried out for free under the Enworks programme (NW business environmental support service) with support on identifying and quantifying savings opportunities, in both energy water and waste, as well as support with legislative compliance and business sustainability. 4 grants have been awarded to date in Seascale, Holmrook, Cleator Moor and Whitehaven. The grant has been well received by businesses and a number of additional applications will be received within the next 4-6 weeks with the first few projects completed by the end of August.

### **Whitehaven Network**

£10k of LABGI funding has been made available to set up a Whitehaven Network that will benefit a broad spectrum of businesses from the sole trader through to SMEs, large

employers and other organisations. Plans are underway with Cumbria Chamber of Commerce to develop a sustainable group which will benefit from a series of monthly events providing opportunities for businesses and organisations in Whitehaven to promote themselves, raise their profile, make new contacts, share best practice and benefit from high quality advice and support. Twelve business networking events are to be held during 2011/12 which we hope will become self-sustaining.

Other towns in the borough have already received funding for this type of activity and it has proved very successful in areas such as Millom with its business breakfast club and Cleator Moor/Egremont who hold a regular business forum.

### **Economic Blueprint Update**

As part of a larger piece of work looking at the spatial implications of nuclear new build and other proposals contained within Britain's Energy Coast investment plan, an updated economic development delivery plan (known as the Blueprint) is being developed for West Cumbria. The intention is the delivery plan will provide a 'refresh' of the original Energy Coast Masterplan and identify the strategic linkages between priority projects and interventions required to realise the aspirations and ambitions articulated in the original document. The project is being managed by an officer team from across the West Cumbria partners and directed by a Member-led Steering Group. The process to date has involved consultation with public sector stakeholders and private sector businesses and a further draft of the document will be considered at the next meeting of the Steering Group on 19th August with the final version available in October.

### **Leisure Culture and Youth Portfolio – Councillor Hugh Branney**

#### **West Cumbria Tourism Partnership**

The Launch event in July 2011 was well attended by private, public and third sector partners. The Partnership set out its vision and plans to support local tourism businesses and focus on cluster activity.

#### **Sports and Health Service Level Agreements**

Through our continuing support to Millom Recreation Centre, Egremont Swimming Pool, Egremont Market Hall and Cumbria Sports Academy. During 2010-11 they had 130,056 visits, which is an increase of over 40% from the previous year. This increase has been brought about by increased levels of support from CBC, developments at the sites and the dedicated team of staff and volunteers that help to run the centres for our residents. The sites are confident that in 2011-12 they will be able to increase their number of visits.

#### **NCL participants**

In 2010-2011 there were 452,834 participants across all of the sites managed by NCL (Whitehaven sports centre, Copeland pool, Whitehaven civic hall and Copeland bowls and sports centre). This is a fantastic achievement and is testament to the excellent service that NCL are offering our residents.

## **Sportivate**

This is a new programme from Sport England is targeted at young people between 12-25 and will deliver 6 sessions per activity(<http://www.activecumbria.org/sportivate>). CBC has secured £3396.00 worth of funding from this funding source. The funding will cover: learn to swim classes, disability sport classes, 'Be Active' community sports classes and sessions for obese young people. The learn to swim classes started on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July and the other sessions will take place in 2011-12 once venues have been confirmed. The sessions will reach over 280 young people in Copeland.

## **Whitehaven Civic Hall First Floor**

The first floor of the Civic Hall is being redeveloped into three great useable spaces with full access via a new lift. The spaces will be used to deliver music lessons, visual art sessions, youth activity and other learning opportunities. The space will be open by October 2011. Funding has been secured from Copeland Borough Council, NCL, WREN and the Copeland Community Foundation; total funding was £89K. This funding was secured by a partnership between Copeland Borough Council and NCL.

## **Copeland Youth Council to meet for the first time**

The youth forums in Copeland have been meeting for some time and it is now time for representatives from all 6 locality forums to come together and form the Copeland Youth Council. The plan is for the Youth Council to come together in two stages, the first stage will take place Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September and will be hosted by the North East Copeland Youth Forum (as this forum has been running the longest) at Phoenix Youth and Community Centre; and will be a chance for forum members in different areas to meet and get to know each other. The second stage will take place Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September and will shape how future Copeland Youth Council meetings will be conducted in the future including roles and responsibilities etc. Representatives will discuss youth priorities that have been discussed in each forum and will look at tackling each of these youth priorities.

Below is a quick update from each forum, including priorities:

- **The Whitehaven Youth Forum** has met 5 times and a total of 21 young people have been involved. In this area young people's issues include retail and recreational facilities, communication about youth opportunities and job opportunities, these priorities have been linked to the Whitehaven locality Partnership. The Forum is currently supported by Whitehaven Harbour Youth Project, Young Cumbria and West Cumbria Young carers.
- **The North East Copeland Youth Forum** has met 4 times and a total of 10 young people have been involved, the next meeting will take place Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August. In this area young people's issues include transport, the profile of Young People in the area and food outlets. The forum is linked to Cleator Moor town council. The Forum is currently supported by Phoenix Youth Project

- **The Mid Copeland Youth Forum** has met 3 times and a total of 11 young people have been involved, the forum was launched in the together we can week, Parish, Borough and County councillors are engaging with the forum and links are being established with the Parish council as the members of the group feel generational gaps in the area are a problem, other issues for young people include transport and homelessness. The next meeting will take place Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August. The forum is currently supported by Shackles off
- **The Howgate and Distington Youth Forum** has met once and a total of 7 young people have been involved, the next meeting will take place Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. In addition to this 8 young people from this area are working with Brathay on the demoxchange, which aims to show decision makers and other adults how to engage with young people effectively. They have now put a presentation together and will be working with a group of councillors September 5<sup>th</sup>. The forum is currently supported by North Copeland youth partnership and Distington club for young people.
- **The South Copeland Youth forum** has been operating as a school group and a total of 18 young people have been involved in the process. The group has been working on getting a recycling scheme in the school and recently presented their ideas to the head teacher who has agreed to trial their ideas. The forum will be
- **The West Copeland Youth Forum** has not met yet but working with Egremont youth works and young Cumbria to engage young people in this area to establish an appropriate time and location. At the moment the proposed date is August 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **The Beacon**

Since opening on 11 June, and up to 31 July, The Beacon's BBC Walking with Dinosaurs exhibition has attracted 18575 visitors. The success of the show is clear when comparing it to the same period last year when 11411 people visited the museum. Marketing for the exhibition can be seen on the sides of buses in Cumbria, on CFM radio, and even on station platforms across the North West region. Plans are afoot to look for another blockbuster exhibition which might be possible for future years.

Thanks to the Greener Museums programme, changing behaviour of the team and investment from Contracts & Property section, The Beacon has managed to reduce its carbon footprint by 21% in one year. Activities have included car sharing, training for cleaners in how to operate lights when needed and the installation of LED low voltage gallery lights. As well as energy reductions and business travel, the carbon footprint also captures details of personal commuting travel, art transport, refrigerant gases, waste and water usage.

A mystery shopper visit to The Beacon on 15 July resulted in the award of "Quality Assured Visitor Attraction" status from Enjoy England. The report stated that –

“The award-winning Beacon is a model of what a local museum can achieve. It has excelled in its presentations, which include Whitehaven’s history, the weather and local arts. This season it has made a real coup, hosting a part of the brilliant BBC’s Walking with Dinosaurs, exhibition displayed alongside most of the resident collection for 12 weeks. The result makes a most attractive site even more attractive – providing a substantial reason for repeat visits. Museum facilities are excellent – the staff engaged brilliantly. Copeland should be very proud indeed of this Museum – it is certainly amongst the best in the region”.

### **Lakes Alive in Copeland**

This has been another successful year for Lakes Alive and Copeland Borough Council. The main spectacle was scheduled for the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 10pm to 11pm. CBC officers decided to provide extra activity throughout the day. There were art performances on the Hub, King Street and the Sugar tongue and Made in Cumbria/Cumbria Farmers markets set up stalls on the Millennium promenade from 12pm -4pm . Throughout the 4 hours there were 12 individual performances which were watched by estimated 600 people. The Beacon Museum stayed open until 8.30pm especially for the event.

At 10pm the MauditSonnants (Celestial Carillon)started which was a bewitching performance from French company Transe Express. The evening culminated in a dazzling firework finale from pyrotechnic masters, pa-BOOM and marked one year to go until the start of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. The atmosphere was amazing there was easily over 6000 people in attendance and the marina was full of people of all ages in awe of the MauditSonnants, which was finished with an outstanding fireworks display. According to police estimates there were 6,500+ people in attendance.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> July was only the start of the Lakes Alive tour in Copeland. Lakes Alive team brought together a carefully selected collection of artists whose sole purpose was to captivate and charm our residents/tourists. Music, dance, magic, mayhem, & tom-foolery occurred at all of the banquets dates. There was an exceptional turnout in the region of 700 people at the Millom banquet on 27<sup>th</sup> July 6pm -9pm this was supported by Jakki Moore of Moore Arts Millom. The Cleator Moor Banquet on 28<sup>th</sup> July had a good turnout in the region of 300 people, who were intrigued by the different artists and brought the Civic Hall area alive with activity.

In summary all of the events have been well attended and received throughout Copeland. The performances have been to a very high standard, appealing to a wide and diverse audience groups. The staffing of the events has been excellent, friendly, approachable and knowledgeable.

Please note that I am still waiting for the full evaluation and estimates to be confirmed by Lakes Alive (Kendal Arts International) and Manchester University.

### **Health Improvement**

GP Referral Programme –Fit4Me: Partnership Programme between Copeland Borough Council, NHS Cumbria, Connexions and North Country Leisure.

The Fit4Me programme recently concluded the first 12 week programme. The idea behind the development is that GP's who are working with obese young people now have somewhere that they can refer the young people too where they will receive support and exercise in a safe and friendly environment. Initial feedback has been good, with the young people involved stating that they enjoyed the programme and the variation in activities that they took part in. A full report detailing how the young people felt about themselves before and after the programme is currently being collated and will be released shortly. The next 12 week programme is scheduled to take place in September.

### **Peer Review Completion Report:**

The healthy communities peer review in 2009 suggested a number of key recommendations for Copeland Borough Council to work towards to make steps towards improving health within the borough. A report has recently been put together detailing how the work over the past two years has met these recommendations and set the foundations in place for the council to make further steps towards reducing health inequalities and making Copeland a healthy place to live and work.

### **Workplace Wellbeing Charter**

We are currently looking at developing a Workplace wellbeing charter in partnership with the NHS. This charter will ensure that the council continues to prioritise health and take steps to ensure healthy lifestyle opportunities are available for employees. It is hoped that the charter can be rolled out to local employers to encourage them to take responsibility for providing healthy choices for their employees and reaping the benefits a healthy workforce can have.

### **Local Events**

We are currently working on a number of local events to promote and increase opportunities for local people to make healthy choices. Egremont all together, takes place on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of August. A health and wellbeing event at Millom is planned for the 19<sup>th</sup> August in partnership with Millom Network Centre.

We are also undertaking some health initiatives with the local employer LLWR. A series of health events are planned monthly for the coming year looking at various health topics for the LLWR staff. The first event is based around Physical Activity and is scheduled to take place in September.

The Sports and Health team also offered Health MOT's as part of the Open Weekend in July, giving local people the opportunity to have a general health check using our Body composition machine.

### **Breastfeeding Campaign**

A breastfeeding campaign is due to be launched in the Millom area looking at increasing awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding and also the number of breastfeeding friendly

venues available to mums in and around the town. It is hoped that if successful this campaign can be rolled out throughout Copeland.