

Eden Locality Board (ELB) 18.10.23

Report by Michael Hanley.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

Phil Dew (PD, C): Asked about the progress of Voreda House (building near the Town Hall which is being renovated and will be the base for the Eden branch of WAFC).

John Murray (JM, Chair, LD): Said that an update needs to be given to the cabinet first.

2. Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

Presentation by Alison Goodfellow (AG, Assistant Safer Communities Manager). The partnership promotes a collective responsibility and strategic approach towards reducing crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and fear of crime. Five authorities are involved: WAFC, Cumbria Constabulary, Cumbria Fire and Rescue, Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB,NHS), North Cumbria and Northeast ICB and Northwest Probation. There is a statutory duty to prevent serious crime and serious violence. ASB Case Reviews (previously Community Triggers) are carried out where the community is consulted when there is ongoing ASB. Safer Cumbria continues in a pan-Cumbria role combatting drug and serious crime.

CSP had its first meeting on the 4th of April 2023. Farming groups were formed. Quick wins were identified: begging, dangerous dogs. There is a pan-Cumbria approach to Prevent (this is an organisation which seeks to prevent radicalisation of mainly young people by extreme right wing and religious groups).

How can we support each other?: by eyes and ears of our communities, local focus groups, Streetsafe tool and consultation/feedback. The police have just launched a Rural Crime Team. We need to make sure our farming community is safe.

M Robinson (MR, I): Discussed Domestic Homicide Reviews. Who will be funding this?

AG: There is an inconsistent approach across the country. The LGA (Local Government Association) is looking into this. There are now 22 domestic homicides being investigated in Cumbria.

Michael Hanley (MH, L): Asked about the Community Trigger as he has recently been involved with this.

A Connell (AC, LD): Asked about begging and dangerous dogs.

AG: We are going to look into these.

J Derbyshire (JD, LD): Discussed the refusal by London Metropolitan Police to attend people causing a disturbance due to mental health issues. There is a possibility that the police in other areas, including Cumbria, might take the same approach.

MH: Related his experience as a GP and having to get the police to assist with very violent mentally disturbed patients. It would have been disastrous if the police had refused to respond.

3. Proposed Expansion of Beaconside Church of England Primary School, Penrith.

Amy Holliman (AH, Transformation of Childrens Services)

Sharyn Duffy (SD, Senior Manager, School Organisation).

AH: There has been an increase in housing in Penrith. The developers who built the houses had to provide money (for infrastructure) under Section 106 obligations and if this money is not used it will be returned to the developers. We need to use this money to increase school places. We

propose to expand places at Beaconside CE Primary School. There is not enough money to build a new school. There would be a possible increase of 119 places. The earliest these would be available would be 2026. Some people are unhappy that the money is only going to one school.

M Eyles (ME, LD): Asked about S106 money.

MH: Asked whether CE stands for Church of England and does the school take children of any religion?

AH: Yes, it is a Church of England school and it is multi-denominational.

H Carrick (HC, C): How will we cope with the increased need in areas outside Penrith?

C Atkinson (CA, C): If parents in Penrith send their children to a village school, should we not increase the resources for the village school?

AH: The Section 106 money has to be spent in Penrith.

G Simpkins (GS, LD): What is going to happen to the site (provided by the housing developer) for the new school?

AH: That land reverted back to the developer when it was known that a new school wasn't going to be built.

JD: With increased housing we predicted an increase in children, has that happened?

AH: The increased number of children hasn't been as high as anticipated.

MR: Asked about children transferring from Key Stage (KS) one to Key Stage two.

P Bell (PB, LD): Said that she is disappointed that a new school will not be built. A lot of the residents moved there because they expected a new school. There is a real problem with anti-social behaviour. There is no flat area for playing football. That school site would be a brilliant site for recreational purposes. That is what the community is asking for. The kids are not bad, they are just playing.

MR: I am very supportive. It is a problem when children have to move from KS1 to KS2.

HC: The increase in resource provision has to be commended. If children are pulled away from North Lakes and this makes it non-viable, this would not be good.

JM: I think Eden Locality Board is supportive.

ME: Its one of the few schools in Penrith that can expand. It is a wonderful school.

PB: When the council considers the site that has been set aside, could it be considered as a recreational area?

Vote: unanimous in favour of proposal.

4. Safe and Strong Communities

Karen Johnson (KJ, Senior Manager, Community Services): Discussed finances and the two current Action Working Groups: Children and Young People and Highways.

Report on Safe and Strong Communities:

Alston Moor legacy Area Planning Group met on 7.6.23. 150 local responses from the Place Standard Tool had been received and will be processed.

Appleby APG: an enterprise hub in Appleby, develop a heritage trail, complete a new playground, install an EV charger and improve signage.

Kirkby Stephen APG: Launch of new youth club and new Town Forum.

Shap APG: Visitor leaflet and improved footpaths.

Penrith APG: Bigger and better Christmas lights called "Make Penrith Sparkle." Also a Penrith Cycling and Walking Infrastructure plan.

The Eden Strong and Connected Communities has been awarded £100k with £12.5k going to each of PAGs (formerly APGs). ELB also has been awarded £250,200 to support the development of local sustainable travel and transport schemes. This includes footpaths and

rights of way, cycling, school streets and community transport. £3.04 million is the fund for all of WAFC for the Household Support Fund (HSF). This supports recipients of free school meals during school holidays, foster carers and helps those struggling with energy, water and food bills. Also it is recommended by councillors and the Eden Community Resilience Forum to allocate the following funding from the HSF: Penrith Foodbank: £4k, Upper Eden Foodbank: £4k, Carer Support (households with disabilities or ill health): £10k, Riverside Housing (supporting young people in or leaving care): £3k, Cumbria Family Support: £5k, Barnardo's: £5k, Linking Lives (supporting households with elderly people): £1.5k to Penrith, £1.5k to Appleby/KS, 4 Eden (Supporting people with learning difficulties and disabilities): £6k.

PD: Asked whether community transport meant bus transport and remarked that there was a reference to a European law in the document, even though we had left the EU.

KJ: Discussed the definition of transport which includes footpaths.

Neil Hughes (NH, LD): Buses may come from commercial providers but be run by the community, including volunteer drivers.

PD: Asked about the Community Transport Grants Panel.

JM: Transport in this sense is usually a bus.

NH: Discussed the panel that will be able to award grants for community buses and the transition of APGs to PAGs.

Sue Castle-Clarke (Parish Councillor): Eden is a predominately rural area. I live in Fellside and there is very little bus provision. We are very aware of the needs in the rural areas.

JD: Discussed rural poverty. There are a lot of people in need in rural areas who are not applying for help. These people are very resilient.

MR: Referred to the recommended schemes. Will the budgets be carried forward to the next financial year? We will need to carry these forward.

KJ: That will have to be decided by full council.

Nominations were called for the Community Transport Grants Panel: Phil Dew, Graham Simpkins, Neil Hughes and Michael Hanley (and a fifth member which I missed) were nominated.

MH: Public transport from and through Alston is mostly provided by Northumbria (about five bus routes during the summer) which leave that county and return there. The one route that comes west into Cumbria goes from Newcastle to Keswick and (as far as I know) receives no subsidy from WAFC and this route only operates during the summer. Therefore (as far as I know), no Cumbrian authority gives any help to any public transport from or to Alston.

5. Sustainable Transport and Travel Fund

In June £250k was allocated to ELB for this fund. There were 33 potential schemes. On the 12th of September, the Highways, Infrastructure and Connectivity Working Group narrowed down this list to 11. This is the list:

Eden Community Bus Grants Panel: £20k (set aside for community group applications),

Kirkby Stephen High Street Controlled Crossing: £50k,

Kirkby Thore Stile: £1.5k, Bollam Lane Ford (improved access for horses): £2.5k,

Alston, Road surface work: £5k, Penrith, Road surface: £10k,

Signposts: £6.5k, Drovers Lane, Penrith, dropped kirb: £4.5k,

Folly Lane, Penrith, improved pedestrian crossing: £7.7k,

Bridle Crossing, Thacka Beck: £92k, Stenkrith Park, KS, repair wall: £14.9k.

End of Meeting.