

Eden Locality Board 18.9.23
Via Teams.

Report by Michael Hanley

Chair: John Murray (JM, LD).

1. Nick Wright (NW, Officer): There will be 6 ELB meetings, 6 workshop sessions and 2 working groups: Connecting Places and Life-classes for Young People. Discussed Place Action Groups (PAGs). Amy Frith (AF, officer) and Kellie B (didn't get her surname) will administer. There will be a consultation with the local area and an action plan will be worked out with stakeholder and resident representation. Discussed Terms of Reference (TOR): setting scope and limitations. Slight variations in the current Area Planning Groups (APG). The officers will help the groups focus to achieve positive outcomes. Membership: WAF councillors, Cumbria CVS, PCs, local stakeholders, local community and voluntary groups. The group can co-opt members.

Previous Successes:

(a) Kirky Stephen (KS) Youth Centre: In 2018 the previous youth group ended. A new facility was needed for the 600 young people of the area. The project raised £120k in cooperation with KS Town Council. The project was to provide a youth centre space. The new Youth Centre opened in September 23.

(b) Shap Footpath: To improve the footpath network around Shap. A community group was formed. Paths were mapped out. Work was done through the local APG. Resources and funding were identified. The group will be promoting local walks for tourists. Also ongoing work to find more volunteers.

(c) Alston Warm Hub: This was developed with the help of local volunteers. Also there has been ongoing work to appoint a Youth Officer for Alston.

(d) Appleby: To install an EV charger and improve signage.

2. Place Action Groups

NW: There will be 8 PAGs, one for each electoral ward. Each PAG will have an annual action plan to decide on priorities. Meetings will be bimonthly and supported by a WAF officer (Amy and Kellie). A local stakeholder will chair the meeting and the emphasis is that the group is owned by the local community. They are not decision making bodies but action based. Part of the action of the PAG will be "Place Shaping" based on the Place Standard Tool (PST, this survey questionnaire was sent out a few months ago to the Alston area). Alston and Appleby will be pilot areas. Alston has already used the PST. The process will be: place plan -> funding plan -> requests for funding from WAF.

3. Strong and Connected Communities

NW: £100k fund. Each Locality Board is doing something different. There will be £12.5k for each PAG. Proposals will have to be submitted in time for the January ELB.

J Derbyshire (JD, LD): We are looking at community buses in Greystoke. Other PCs are looking to review their local plans.

NW: It will be locally nuanced. We will need to look at local resources.

L Baker (LB, LD): How much time will we get from our community officer?

NW: This is a big part of their job.

V Taylor (VT, LD): The neighbourhood plan sits with the Planning Dept. The parish plan is different.

M Hanley (MH, L): Pointed out that Alston has had an APG for some time and Fellside is very different. Asked whether there could be a separate Fellside PAG.

M Robinson (MR, I): Agreed that Alston and Fellside are very different. If we have one PAG for the whole area, it will be difficult.

A Connell (AC, LD): Once you start splitting up PAGs where do you stop. I think you will have to stick with PAG per ward.

J Murray (JM, LD): The comments about Alston and Fellside make perfect sense.

G Simpkins (GS, LD): Brough would like to stay with Kirkby Stephen and not Appleby. We need to take into account what locals want.

NW: There will be a lot of work to get this done.

JM: The APGs have worked very well. Getting local stakeholders involved might be difficult.

NW: The chair (of the APG) could be the chair of the PC.

Kelly (Officer): We did agree that quarterly meetings might work better.

P Dew (PD, C): There needs to be a degree of flexibility. It would be easier for the officer to not chair the meeting if they are minuting it.

Finish of meeting.