

Report by Michael Hanley.

## 1. Borderlands 5G Innovation Region Programme

Catherine Wheldon ( CW, Connecting Cumbria Team): The Borderlands Growth Deal is a collaboration between the Scottish and English governments for the border counties. There are one million residents in the area and 63 million tourists visit per annum. The programme was awarded £3.8 million to provide advanced wireless technology. Cumberland Council is the home partner. The fund must be spent by March 25.

Five venues have been chosen: Denton Tweed, Kielder, The Sill at Hadrian's Wall, Stranraer Marina and Windermere Car Ferry. We are looking for other venues in Cumbria. The supplier is AWTG (Advanced Wireless Technology Group). The plan is to provide a private 5G network at the five sites. Usage will be monitored, person counting, car park management (vacant spaces, CCTV), environmental monitoring, support apps for ticketing (Windermere Ferry), atmospheric and water monitoring. 18 million visitors come to Windermere every year. Engine monitors could be put on the ferry engines. There are plans for the programme to continue beyond March 25.

Questions:

S Pender (SP, LD): There are fundamental issues with the ferry. It's like putting icing on a cake which hasn't been baked. Many people don't use the ferry anymore.

CW: This was a pot of money, we had to do something quickly. We picked the ferry because it was something we could do quickly and was under WAFC control.

SP: Spending money in a rush isn't an excuse for poor investment.

Cllr Hamilton (CH, Windermere parish council): Questioned the value of the project.

Pam Dukes ( PD, Director of Resources): This is a cooperation between England and Scotland. This project is what Connecting Cumbria can get involved with to make the Windermere Ferry financially viable. The funding focus is quite narrow.

S Bavin (SB, LD): Is this a private network? We have problems locally with the 4G network.

CW: We will be controlling who can use this network.

CH: Asked about improved 5G provision for Windermere.

CW: That is not the remit of the programme.

SP: It is important that local parish and town councils should be involved with these decisions.

CW: If we had more of an idea of what people wanted bringing forward we could adopt this in our planning. Borderlands projects are different, we have to follow the rules.

SB: Asked about real-time tracking of the ferry.

CW: We plan to do this.

A Jarvis (AJ, LD): The Borderlands Project predates this council. After Wednesday's budget we might have more freedom as to how to spend the money.

CW: This is more research into a different way of doing things (using 5G).

Windermere Councillor: What have you done to engage with interested groups?

CW: We have contacted various groups but we intend to engage with other stakeholders. You will hear a lot more about this programme over the next few months.

Project Gigabit is progressing. It will provide connectivity to more than 99% of properties in Cumbria and the Shared Rural Network will improve things.

## 2. Revenue and Capital

PD: Income for 24-25 is forecast at £1.2 million. The outstanding amount owed (mainly by properties which encroach on the lake and/or have slipways and jetties) has improved by £40k

The amount owed is now £175k

Windermere Councillor: Asked about the money owed and what action was being taken.

PD: Legal action has been taken.

### 3. Fees and Charges

Anna Smith (AS, WAFC Officer): A working group has recently met to discuss charges and fees for moorings, berths, holiday moorings, slipway charges, encroachments (where a property includes the lake shore), storage of boats and licence fees.

M Brereton (MB, Chair, C): One reason for non-payment of charges may be that the charge system is too complicated. They haven't changed since the 1979s.

Cllr Heffernan (Windermere PC): A lot of work needs to be done. We need to avoid letting the debt mount up.

4. Application for jetty extension by 7 metres at Lake House (south-western shore). Planning permission was granted.