

Eden Locality Board 24.4.24

Report by Michael Hanley

Chair: John Murray (JM, LD)

1. Public Participation: Jonathan Davies (Clifton Parish Council).

Previously we submitted an application for a 20mph speed limit for Clifton to Cumbria County Council. We see that some other parishes are going forward (to have a 20mph speed limit). Our parish has been campaigning for years, due to drivers speeding through the village. We haven't any support. We would like to know the criteria by which these other parishes were chosen.

2. M6 Lune Gorge Update

Khalid El-Rayes (KER, Senior Project Manager): We are carrying out ground investigation work, below and above the carriageway. We had 10 km of contraflow and we have reduced this to 5 km. We will use specialist gantry cranes. Junction 38 will be affected. We will be going to local parish council meetings to explain the plans. We have contacted local charities (social value contribution of the scheme): donated easter eggs to a charity and a new slide to a playground. Also a career stand at The Lakes School, Workington and civil engineering students were given a tour of the work site.

P Dew (PD, C): Asked why a school in Workington was involved.

KER: We would be happy to reach out to other schools.

JM: We will make sure you have the contacts.

KER: The main construction starts in summer 26. We are working in collaboration with the A66 team, to avoid multiple closures.

M Robinson (MR, I): Asked whether they are working with the Highways Department (WAFC).

KER: Yes, we are.

J Derbyshire (JD, LD): Asked where will the workforce come from and where will they stay?

Other representative : We are working on the accommodation strategy. Some staff will have to be brought in.

3. A66 Peninne Upgrade

Representative: This will improve the local economy and tourism. The plan is to transform all of the A66 into dual carriageway. Construction will start in late 24. Social Value contributions: £11 million to date going to Carlisle Youth Zone, Teachers Encounter, Catterick Garrison Veterans, 150 career events, 85 hours of equality and diversity training, £6 million to business start ups and micro-businesses. There is a 40 mile radius for Social Value. We will be building relationships with local organisations, parish councils and charities. Our contact is nationalhighway.co.uk/ourwork/A66-northern-trans-pennine.

PD: Queried why the money is going to Carlisle Youth Zone. Asked whether any money will going to the local tourist railway.

P Bell (PB, LD): Asked about the accommodation strategy.

Rep: We are looking at that. Holiday lets have been messaging us. We might use people from outside. We might use Centre Parcs.

MR: Asked about the Social Value for Newton Rigg.

Rep: We had a training programme at Newton Rigg costing about £10k.

4. Assets and Capital Programme

James Daplyn (JD, Capital Programme Control Manager) , Alan Murray (AM)

AM: Listed the main assets: 69 schools, 44 toilets, 19 libraries, 11 day centres, 10 residential care homes, 6 leisure centres, 4 county/town halls, 434 pieces of land (woodland, playing fields, playgrounds), 85 car parks, 28 allotments. 4.5k miles of road, 1075 bridges, 56 footbridges. The Capital Programme can act as an independent driver of economic growth. The 2023-24 value is £500 million: Thriving Places: £254m, Thriving Communities: £86m, Adult Services: £14m, Children's Service: £41m.

JD: We are attracting a lot of central (government) funding because the government is trusting us. Voreda House (Penrith) cost £8.3m and is in the final stages of construction. There will be 85% kksavings in energy costs. There will also be the expansion of Beaconside Primary School with a budget of £2.67m. This will be funded from S106 contributions (from housing estate developers). The A592 upgrade will cost £7.45m (Windermere to Glenridding road). There will be an increase in funding of £4.3m for school maintenance. £94.7k will go to a back-up generator for Grisedale Croft Residential Home (Alston). There will be a new heating system at Penruddock Primary School. £2m will go to the Decarbonisation Programme mainly for solar panels and increased insulation at Penrith and Appleby leisure centres and Grisedale Croft. Other Capital Delivery Programmes focus on the Highways Capital Budget, Housing and Housing Renewal.

PD: Asked about the amount of savings made from Voreda House.

AM: It is estimated £11 million over 25 years. We will have to look at the first 12 months. There will be a lot of focus on decarbonisation in the next 10 years.

MR: Asked about investing in solar energy in rural areas.

JD: The council has never built a solar farm before but now we have done it ourselves (as opposed to letting a commercial company do it).

JD: Asked about small patches of land such as road verges and patches between roads and how to know whether the council owns them (as this is a common question from residents).

AM: Discussed trying to sort this out in the next year.

5. WAFC Local Plan

Dan Hudson (DH, Senior Manager, Planning Policy).

The local plan sets out how our vision will change over the next 15 years. It will involve the whole community. What is involved?: sites, environmental and heritage assets. There will be work in the three different areas. There will be significant growth in Barrow. By 2043 there will be a 26% increase in the over 65s (15,800 more), a reduction in the 16-64 year olds by 7.9% (10,400). We will need 10,000 more new people just to stand still. We will need to attract young people. In Eden 13.7% of the workforce works in agriculture compared to 0.6% in Barrow and 1.1% in the UK. Our carbon footprint shows the following CO2 emissions in tonnes per year: residents: 3.5 million, industry: 3.5 million, visitors: 2 million, M6: 1.4 million, agriculture: 1 million. Another problem is Housing Affordability: South Lakes is the most expensive area where houses on average cost 10.1 times average yearly income. Eden comes second at 8.4 and Barrow is 3.7. There is a significant concentration of low quality and energy inefficient housing. We need to listen before we plan (consultations with our residents). We have appointed consultants to look into land use.

M Eyles (ME, LD): Cannot we look at what is not working in the inherited old local plans. New housing developments cause problems in local areas.

DH: In South Lakes they have a different system from Section 106 contributions. It is called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This system works better.

PD: Asked about giving a lot of the work to consultants.

DH: The government has said that the plans have to be done within 30 months but the government is giving the go ahead to different authorities at different (to avoid all plans having to be assessed at the same time). We will be one of the first to start. Some of the money will be used on consultants but we will do as much as we can in-house. We manage consultants very well.

MR: Our rural areas do need some development to keep them viable. We need to support young people to stay where they are.

DH: There is a difference between strategic planning and what is needed for small communities.

MR: We will need to discuss this in our Alston and Fellside PAG and get you to come and talk to the group.

H Carrick (HC, C): The Local Plan is okay but a lot relies on the national policy and developers. A developer will want to build 80% 5 bedroom houses to maximise his profit.

DH: We have to make sure that what we are asking for is viable, ie the development works financially. I know there are tensions around this. It is a requirement of national policy. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) stipulates what it will cost the developers but this is not the case with S106. The design code will be authority wide but will bring in development depending on the local geography.

G Simpkins (GS, LD): CIL sounds very interesting. Discussed the scenario of the developer coming back and saying the commitment (eg. affordable housing) is no longer viable (as has happened recently).

6. Twenty MPH Prioritisation

Victoria Upton (VU, Traffic Management Manager)

Paper: Prioritisation: depends on several factors: likeliness to improve road safety, improved safety for vulnerable people, ability to encourage and support greater active travel (walking, cycling), local support and deliverability.

Funding: £300k. £200k unspent at end of 2023/24, to be carried forward.

Eden successful applicants: Askham and Helton PC, Crosby Ravensworth PC, Dufton PC, Kings Meaburn PC, Melmerby PC, Nenthead Ward, Orton PC, Ousby PC, Patterdale PC, Ravenstobedale PC, Temple Sowerby PC.

VU: We began the process in December 23. Applications were to be in by mid February 24.

There was a huge response rate. 49 town and parish councils applied for 79 localities. 11 applications didn't meet the criteria. Applications were scored. The TOR (Traffic Order Regulation) needed to be achievable within a year.

PD: There is no guarantee that those not successful in the first round will be successful in the future.

VU: You are right.

M Hanley (MH, L): Pointed out the Nenthead is a ward of Alston Moor Parish Council and not a parish council (listed as Nenthead Parish Council in the paper). Also that it had been agreed at the February meeting of the AMPC that we should apply for a 20mph speed limit for Alston but this application was not listed in the paper. Asked whether it is too late to apply now.

VU: Said she would check whether AMPC had applied. AMPC could apply as soon as possible.

7. Penrith Parking Protocol

Laura McClellan (LMcC, Highways Manager): This project is to improve fairness and improve visitor access. For most residents there will be no change. Considerations are made for trades-people, visitors and carers. On-street parking is under stress and at capacity.

8. Eden Community Budget

N Wright (NW, Senior Manager, Community Services): There will be an additional £50k coming in which will be funding to help households support programme. This gives support of up to £5k. Also £6k will go to each PAG.

9. Safe and Strong Communities

NW: We are focussing on year end budgets and setting up the PAGs (Place Action Groups). There is also a new group to decide on festival grants and we need a councillor to represent the ELB.

MH volunteered and was voted on.

Sue Castle-Clarke: Asked whether it is possible to be flexible about Place Action Group boundaries m

NW: I think we can be flexible.

MR: Can we start to accelerate the work of PAGs? I had a visit from the High Sheriff. He wants to focus on Alston and Fellside. He wants to focus on rural communities.