

## Alston and Fellside Place Action Group 19.9.24

Report by Michael Hanley

1. The PAG was addressed by three local VIPs: Markus Campbell-Savours (MCS, new MP), Dave Allen (DA, new Police and Crime Commissioner) and Christopher Holmes (CH, High Sheriff of Cumbria). They each gave ten minute speeches.

MCS: Talked about his valuable experience as a local authority councillor for Cumberland Council and how important local government is. He said he will investigate what will happen to various grants and funding for projects in the area that were promised by the previous government.

DA: Discussed investing in rural policing and crime teams. The people in this area get hammered from the east, they get raided across the border. Discussed ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) at the roadside. This system is installed on police vehicles and automatically recognises stolen vehicles and those without tax or insurance. Cumbria Constabulary (CC) is also investing in drones.

CC is performing incredibly well and is the best police force in the UK.

CH: Discussed the importance of local people becoming involved and helping their local communities.

Questions:

A Martin (AM, Alston Moor PC): Both cash points in Alston have been raided and put out of action. Both companies concerned have refused to reinstall them. The lack of a cash point makes a big difference to our town. Please could you do something about this?

DA: I am aware of this. I will do my best.

MCS: I will look into it.

Louise (Didn't catch her surname): Asked about funding in the Fellside area.

MCS: It should come out with the budget. I am hopeful for good news. I want to make a single presentation with all the schemes in my area.

Laura Seaton (LS, Nenthead, Miners Arms Committee to re-open pub for the community): Asked about the match funding promised by the previous government.

MCS: It should come out with the budget. I am hopeful for good news. I want to make a single presentation with all the schemes in my area.

LS: Asked does this include the Miners Arms.

MCS: There are words from your group in the representation.

Sue Castle-Clarke (SCC, Ousby PC): Asked MCS about the progress of the "Local Electricity Bill" through Parliament. This would enable renewable electricity generators (hydro, wind, solar and anaerobic digester sources) to become local electricity suppliers to their communities.

MCS: Said he knew of this private members bill and would look into it. He mentioned the hydro-electric scheme proposed for communities along Thirlmere that has stalled due to lack of supportive legislation.

## 2. Presentation by Kate Clement

There are 8 PAGs in the Eden Locality. Discussed the WAFC plan and the services that will be covered:

Adult Social Care (care homes, residential homes, occupational therapy, safeguarding, mental health and well being support),

Children's Services (Child and Family Support, Early Help, Fostering and Adoption etc),

Enabler Services (Customer services, Democratic and Legal services),  
Thriving Communities ( Public Health, Community Infrastructure, Housing),  
Thriving Places ( Climate and Natural Environment, Green Growth, Sustainable Transport and Highways, Waste and Environmental Services).

It is sometimes not easy to contact the right person in the council. The IT system was inherited. How will the PAGs work? They will meet quarterly. There will be closer working between the council and the community represented by the parish councils and various community groups. They will drive economic development, housing etc. Funding will continue through the current streams:

- (a) 0-19 Youth Fund: applications up to £5000.
- (b) Community Grants: Applications up to £5000
- (c) PAG Fund: Total fund is £6000.

Examples of previous PAG and fore-runner Area Planning Group funding: Alston Warm Hub, Appleby Playground, Appleby Heritage Trail, Miners Arms (Nenthead), Shap: Audit of path network with regard to repairs.

### 3. Breakout Session.

About 5 groups were formed to discuss: what do like about your area, local projects, challenges and what do you want to improve. Each table gave feedback.

Themes of importance: public transport, housing, employment.

Next Steps: Various groups in the Alston Moor area completed the Place Standard Tool. Should other areas in AFPAG do this ?

Next Meeting: November.