



## **Fells and Solway Community Panel**

**Date:** Monday, 11 December 2023

**Time:** 2.00 pm

**Location:** Main Room, Silloth Community Hall, Peterill Street, CA7 4EA

**Present:** Cllr A Markley (Chair), Cllr E Lynch (Vice-Chair), Cllr T Allison and Cllr K Thurlow

**Also Present:** Youth Parliament MP for Cumberland  
Scheduled Bus Services Officer

**In Attendance** Community Development Officer, Lee Thorburn (Area Planning Manager),  
Senior Specialist - Democratic and Assistant Director - Highways and  
Transport

### **20 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Johnson and the Director of Resources.

### **21 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

### **22 Declarations of Interest**

7. Investing in our Neighbourhood Report.

Councillor Tony Markley, Non Pecuniary, Due to him being a member of Silloth Town Council and a member of Silloth Vintage Rally Ltd.

### **23 Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public not be excluded from the meeting for any item of business on the agenda.

### **24 Youth Parliament**

The Youth Parliament MP for Cumberland (YMP) attended the meeting and delivered a presentation to the Panel providing an overview on the Youth Parliament and what they do.

The YMP had attended the Fells and Solway Panel being a local resident and student in Silloth. They were elected on 1 March 2023 for a 1 year Term to be ...'an advocate for the young people locally, regionally and nationally and project the voices of young people to help them impact positive change in our communities'.

The presentation detailed a number of the YMP's campaigns including

- 'Food for Learning' which on a national scale, every MYP collaborated to deliver the motion into the UK parliament. The motion was calling for more support for parents in the cost-of-living crisis
- 'Dyslexia Awareness' a campaign to get more government funding into schools to train teachers in identifying children with signs of dyslexia and support to those with a diagnosis.

The Members thanked the YMP for a very confident and professional presentation and said they hoped to see them engaging with future Council events.

**RESOLVED**, that the presentation be noted.

## **25 Providing Public Transport in a Rural Area**

The Scheduled Bus Services Officer covering Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Council's provided a presentation on 'Providing Public Transport in Remote Rural Areas'.

There were currently six transport schemes the Council had involvement in those being: Bus Service, Community Bus Section 22, Community/Village Wheels, Voluntary Car Scheme, Rural Wheels and 'Rural Mobility' demand responsive transport.

An overview of each scheme was provided including the pros and cons of each and the current situation for each within the Fells and Solway area.

Members asked questions on management and responsibility for some of the schemes, the use of group taxis, the £2 fare scheme and the possible use of school transport.

The AD of Highways and Transport informed members that a piece of work was being undertaken looking at how best to utilise the Council's small fleet of minibus's more efficiently during school time rather than them being parked up not in use.

There was perhaps an opportunity for Community Panels to feed into that work and influence where there might be a need for a route in their area.

**RESOLVED**, that the presentation be noted.

## **26 Investing in our Neighbourhood Report**

Members received a report which set out the current position of the Neighbourhood Investment Fund allocation to the Fells and Solway Community Panel as agreed by the Cumberland Council Executive.

The Community Development Officer provided members with an overview of the six current investment applications which required approval by the Panel. Following consideration members unanimously agreed to the following:

1. that an amount of £10,000 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Silloth Town Council towards new play equipment for Eden Street play area. This amount included a £1,500 contribution from the local member for Silloth's allocation;

2. that an amount of £1,500 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Silloth Vintage Rally Ltd towards pedestrian barriers for use at community events. This amount included a £500 contribution from the local member for Silloth's allocation;
3. that an amount of £5,000 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Kingmoor Parish Council towards Cargo Cycleway scheme. This amount includes a £2,000 contribution from the local member for Dalston & Burgh's allocation;
4. that an amount of £8,000 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Beaumont Parish Hall towards building regulations approval. The £8,000 was to be transferred to the Fells and Solway Community Panel from the Flood Programme and ring-fenced for Beaumont Parish Hall;
5. that an amount of £7,000 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Wigton Theatre Club towards energy efficient heaters. This amount included a £1,000 contribution from the local member for Wigton's allocation;
6. that an amount of £2,161.75 be allocated from the Neighbourhood Investment Fund to Healthy Hopes towards employing an admin/ link worker. This amount included a £1,000 contribution from the local member for Wigton's allocation.

The report also set out for members information a summary of all approved investments not exceeding £1,500 authorised by the Senior Manager, Panel Chair and relevant Local Member and details on additional investment within the Panel area including the Winter Holiday Activity Food Programme.

**RESOLVED** – that,

- 1) The report be noted;
- 2) The investment applications detailed above be approved.

## **27 Community Panel Update**

Members received a detailed report which provided an update on recent activity within the Fells and Solway Community Panel area over the last quarter period.

The Area Planning Manager requested that recommendation 2.4 of the report be withdrawn, it was explained that the Councils Public Participation Scheme was currently under review and that work should be completed in the first instance.

The Area Planning Manager explained the process that had been undertaken for the development of the Community Panel priorities and associated engagement activity. The final priorities were to run alongside Cumberland Council's central aim of improving the health and wellbeing of residents.

Members were asked to note and agree the final three suggested priorities which were:

- Community Infrastructure
- Community Safety and Rural Crime
- Highways and Transport

Members asked whether it meant all future investment applications were required to meet the priorities once approved, it was confirmed that was the case.

It was noted that the first Fells and Solway Community Network event had taken place on 11 October 2023 in Wigton Market Hall.

The event was a workshop for representatives from parish and town councils and had been well attended.

On 3 October 2023 the Cumberland Executive had agreed a framework to be used by Community Panels for the recruitment of Co-opted members. Following that agreement the Panel members were asked to consider the framework, they discussed possible timescales for appointments to the Fells and Solway Panel and a suggested timetable as set out in the report was agreed.

From the Libraries Update contained within the report one member commented on the positive increased sign-up figure for the annual Summer Reading Challenge aimed at 4-12 year olds and the Panel had a discussion around possible reasons for that increase.

Members asked whether it was possible to report on activities that were working well in each of the members areas to be reported on for a future meeting. The Community Development Officer agreed to look in to that.

**RESOLVED** – that,

1. The report be noted;
2. The proposed three priorities as set out in paragraph 3 of the report be agreed;
3. It be agreed that up to three co-opted members be recruited as part of the agreed Co-opted members Scheme.

### **Presentation on Electric Charging Points**

The Assistant Director of Highways and Transport provided a brief presentation for members on electric charge points.

It was explained the Council had been required to bid for an allocated pot of funding to spend on delivering charging points across the authority area. This had been carried out before the deadline of 30 November 2023.

Each Community Panel was now being asked to think about what requirements they felt they had for their respective areas and to identify potential locations where they may be installed.

Members viewed a map of identified locations which had been plotted by officers as a starting point.

The AD explained the various complexities and restrictions associated with installation, for example charge points could not be installed on car parks, and stressed that this was an on street parking scheme only.

Members were encourage to discuss the topic with their communities and discuss at Parish and Town Councils.

A members briefing was also to be arranged in the near future.

**RESOLVED**, that the presentation be noted.

## **28 Highways and Transport Strategic Board Update**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Highways and Transport Strategic Board meeting held on 10 November 2023 be noted.

## **29 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The Chair highlighted that the next scheduled meeting date of the Fells and Solway Community Panel on 11 March 2024 conflicted with another committee meeting and requested that the date be moved if possible.

Members of the Panel were in agreement to the change in date and following discussion it was;

**RESOLVED** that the next meeting of the Fells and Solway Community Panel be held on Thursday 14 March 2024, 10am in Dalston, with venue to be confirmed by Democratic Services.

The meeting finished at 4.23 pm