



**Border, Fellside
and North Carlisle
Community Panel**

Date: Thursday 25 July 2024

Time: 6.00 pm

Location: Cathedral Room - Civic Centre, Carlisle

Present: Cllr R Dobson (Chair), Cllr Dr H Davison, Cllr G Mitchell, Cllr M Mitchelson and Cllr T Pickstone

In Attendance Area Planning Manager
Community Development Officer
Highways Network Manager
Democratic Services Manager

1/24 Election of Chair

RESOLVED – That Councillor Dobson be appointed Chair of the Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel for the ensuing year.

Councillor Dobson thereupon took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2/24 Election of Vice Chair

RESOLVED – That Councillor Mallinson be appointed Vice Chair of the Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel for the ensuing year.

3/24 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mallinson and Councillor Wernham.

4/24 Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct the following declarations of interest were submitted in respect of Agenda Item 7. Representatives on Outside Bodies:

Councillor Dr Davison declared an interest as she was the Council's representative for Belah Community Centre Management Committee.

Councillor Dobson declared an interest as he was the Council's representative for Downagate Community Centre.

Councillor Mitchelson declared an interest as he was the Council's representative on Brampton and Beyond Community Trust.

Councillor Pickstone declared an interest as he was the Council's representative for Longtown Memorial Hall Community Centre.

5/24 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED – That the agenda be agreed as circulated.

6/24 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel held on 27 March 2024 were submitted for agreement.

The Chair requested, and the Panel agreed, that the last line of Minute 39 Highway Matters (iv) Other matters be amended from:

“A further detailed briefing would be provided to relevant Ward Members out with the meeting.”

to:

“That the lawyer would write to the Chair regarding the matter”.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Minutes of the Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel held on 27 March 2024 be agreed with the following amendment:

the last line of Minute 39 Highway Matters (iv) Other matters be amended from:

“A further detailed briefing would be provided to relevant Ward Members out with the meeting.”

to:

“That the lawyer would write to the Chair regarding the matter”.

7/24 Representatives on Outside Bodies

Nominations were sought for appointments to the following outside bodies which had been delegated to the Community Panel:

- Belah Community Centre Management Committee
- Brampton and Beyond Community Trust
- Downagate Community Centre
- Longtown Memorial Hall Community Centre
- Stanwix Community Association

The Area Planning Manager informed the Panel that clarity was being sought regarding the length of the appointment. It was unclear if it was one year or the Councillor term of office. An update would be provided at the next meeting.

The Panel agreed that the relevant Ward Members be appointed as the Council’s representatives.

RESOLVED: That the following appointments be agreed to outside bodies as delegated to the Panel by the Executive:

Councillor Dr Davison to Belah Community Centre Management Committee
Councillor Mitchelson to Brampton and Beyond Community Trust
Councillor Dobson to Downagate Community Centre
Councillor Pickstone to Longtown Memorial Hall Community Centre
Councillor Wernham to Stanwix Community Association

8/24 Investing in our Neighbourhood

The Community Development Officer (CDO) submitted a report which set out the current position of the Neighbourhood Investment Fund allocation to the Community Panel as agreed by the Cumberland Council Executive. The report also presented the Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Neighbourhood Investment Plan.

The CDO reminded the Panel that the Neighbourhood Investment Fund budget allocation to the Panel was £106,872.

The report set out the investment applications received for 2024/25 along with an overview of 2023/24 Panel investments.

The Panel considered and discussed each of the applications contained in the report. In discussing the application from North Cumbria Response and Rescue, the Panel noted that applications had been submitted to other Panels with mixed result. It was suggested that applications going to more than one Community Panel should be subject to informal discussions across the Panels to reach a unified response.

A Member highlighted the Panel's Highways priorities and felt that the 'improving roads and pavements' may be a difficult and resource heavy priority for the Panel. Members discussed the matter at length and agreed the priority should remain as the Panel were able to support a variety of local actions to help improve footpaths and some roads.

The Highways Network Manager detailed a previous Cumbria County Council Working Together scheme which enabled community groups / parishes etc to undertake low risk low impact work on highways and paths with the support of the Council. The scheme provided safety equipment so groups could litter pick, clean signs etc in areas where it was safe to do so. This could be an option for the future.

The Highways Network Manager also suggested that the Community Panel engage with community payback groups to highlight areas which would benefit from their input. She also reminded the Panel that additional funding would be available to the Council through the HS2 monies and the Panel could provide suggestion into how some of that funding could be used.

The Area Planning Manager highlighted the recent 'Operation Respect' initiative that had take place in other Panel areas and suggested the Panel consider if this was something they would like in their area.

The Panel had previously indicated that they would like to give Community Centres at least six months' notice for any changes in funding, Members raised concerns that the review work had not yet started, and the six months' notice would not be achievable. The Panel wanted to consider the options available to them, along with the risks and the implications.

The Area Planning Manager reported that the funding for Community Centres was unique to the three Carlisle Community Panels.

The Panel felt that applications from the Centres was not suitable as other community centres / parish halls etc could apply and it did not provide sustainable funding for the Community Centres.

The Panel requested that the Area Planning Manager provide a list of all community centres owned by Cumberland Council in their area along with an update on the informal session which had taken place regarding Community Centres.

RESOLVED – That the Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel:

- 1.1 Noted the contents of the report.
- 1.2 Agreed that each member shall be allocated £5,000 for their ward from the Neighbourhood Investment Plan budget (£106,872) for their preferred investment applications which they could recommend to the Panel for approval.

- 1.3 Agreed that investments not exceeding £1,500 continued to be authorised outwith the Community Panel by the Chair, local Member and Senior Manager – Community Services.
- 1.4 Reviewed the Neighbourhood Investment Plan including discussion about the priorities.
- 1.5 Agreed the following investments:
 - (CGA/2072-24) Longtown Memorial Hall Community Centre £27,200 towards the running of the Community Centre;
 - (CGA/2085-24) Brampton and Beyond Community Trust £21,400 towards the running of the Community Centre;
 - (CGA/2095-24) Belah Community Centre £11,100 towards the running of the Community Centre;
 - (CGA/2073-24) North Cumbria Response and Rescue £1,333 towards new equipment including a gazebo, branded jackets and vehicle livery;
 - (CGA/2092-24) Scotby Village Hall £5,000 towards a new roof and solar panels. This included a £2,500 contribution from the local member for Wetheral's allocation;
 - (CGA/2108-24) £500 from the Wetheral ward allocation to Wetheral Village Community Hall towards the purchase of a sound system to enable the booking of bands and musicians to perform in the area;
 - (CGA/2113-24) £500 from the Houghton and Irthington Ward allocation to Walton Young Farmers Club towards the purchase of footwear, which are a requirement, to enable the Group to advance in Tug of War competitions
- 1.6 Noted an investment (CGA/2098-24) of £480 from Belah Ward allocation to Anti Racism Cumbria to be used to pay for the costs of a series of facilitated community events which would bring together the Black and Brown community, and also engage them with the wider public services.
- 1.7 That the Area Planning Manager provide a list of all community centres owned by Cumberland Council in their area along with an update on the informal session which had taken place regarding Community Centres.

9/24 Highways and Transport Strategic Board

The minutes of the Highways and Transport Strategic Board held on 22 April 2024 were circulated for information.

The Chair had attended the meeting, he highlighted the proposed installation of a signalised pedestrian crossing on Kingstown Road and asked for an update on the feasibility study for a pedestrian phase on the Windsor Way junction. The Highways Network Manager agreed to provide the Panel with an update at the next meeting.

The Chair reported that the 20mph Speed Limits and Zones Policy had been agreed. The Panel discussed the review timescales and the Highways Network Manager advised that the Panel had a one year window to submit all applications for the Traffic Regulation Order review for their area. Any submissions already received would be included along with all new submissions made. The Highways Network Manager agreed to provide Members with details of all submissions already received on a ward by ward basis.

The Panel asked that a Traffic Officer attend the next Panel meeting.

A Member reported that three separate flooding events had occurred within his Ward. He asked what was in place for the Council to respond to flood events, what was the Council's medium term position for flooding and what mitigation was in place for the future.

The Highways Network Manager responded that the flooding events had highlighted some inconsistencies for the authority. Flood response had previously been a district council function, the recent events showed that the Council had not been in a position to provide sandbags. The Council

needed to address how and where members of the public could get sandbags and how they should be supplied. The matter would be taken to the Flood Recovery Response Group and Local Level Flood Recovery Group.

The Panel discussed the Highways and Transport Strategic Board meeting which had met on 18 July 2024 (after the agenda for this meeting had been published). Members noted that the updated Winter Gritting routes had been updated to include the Wetheral area, they were disappointed that that parish councils had not been consulted on the routes prior to Wetheral being removed.

Members raised the ongoing significant issues with regard to bus services and noted that work was being undertaken to procure new routes. The Panel would consider the matter at an informal session.

RESOLVED – That the Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel:

- i) requested that a Traffic Officer attend the next meeting;
- ii) requested that the Highways Network Manager provide the Panel
 - with an update on the feasibility study for a pedestrian phase on the Windsor Way junction
 - details of all requests already submitted, on a ward by ward basis, for the Traffic Regulation order review within the Panels area

10/24 Community Panel Update

The Area Planning Manager submitted an update on recent activity by Cumberland Council within the Community Panel area.

The Area Planning Manager reminded the Panel that they had previously requested a Public Participation Scheme, a draft Scheme had been attached to the report for the Panel's consideration.

In discussing the Scheme the Panel felt that it was too restrictive and requested that it be amended to allow members of the public to attend and ask questions of the Panel without notification in advance.

The Panel agreed that there should be some criteria and asked officers to draft a new criterion to include 30 minute maximum for all questions, one question per person / organisation, that the Panel may not be able to provide an answer and written response would be provided. The Panel asked officers to provide an amended draft to their informal meeting for agreement and that public participation be added to the next meeting.

The Climate and Nature Strategy had been adopted by the Executive on 23 July 2024. A Member informed the Panel that the Executive had commented that they wanted to engage with Community Panels in a meaningful way. It was critical that the Panel's engaged with the Strategy and Members were encouraged to join the Climate and Nature Advisory Group.

The Panel agreed that it would be beneficial to have an informal Member Briefing on the Climate and Nature Strategy. The Panel also agreed to invite a representative of Westmorland and Furness Council, as responsible authority, to attend the next Panel meeting to discuss the role the Panel has in delivering the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

RESOLVED – That the Border, Fellside and North Carlisle Community Panel:

- i) noted the contents of the Community Panel Update report
- ii) approved a Public Participation Scheme for the Panel with the criteria to be agreed prior to the September meeting. Public Participation would be added to the September meeting agenda.
- iii) requested an Informal Briefing session on the Climate and Nature Strategy.
- iv) requested that a representative of Westmorland and Furness Council, as responsible authority, attend the next Panel meeting to discuss the role the Panel has in delivering the Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The meeting finished at 8.03 pm

