

5 Rivers Partnership Meeting

18 November 2009

Present:

Keith Hitchen	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council;	Chairman
Mike McKinley	Gosforth Parish Council	
John Meeks	Wasdale Parish Meeting	
David Killick	Wasdale Parish Meeting	
Iona Frost-Pennington	Muncaster Parish Council	
Adrian Dalton	Drigg & Carleton Parish Council	
Jeff Downham	ACT	
Neil Robson	Coordinator	

Simon Walker	Copeland BC
Sarah Mitchell	Copeland BC

Apologies for absence:

Eileen Eastwood	Seascale Parish Council
Dave Polhill	Gosforth Parish Council
Jonathan Stanley	Ponsonby Parish Council

Notes of the Previous Meeting:

The following was added to the notes of the AGM held 16th September 2009:

The subject of locality working [as per the presentation by Julie Betteridge] was discussed. It was agreed that 5-Rivers would continue to operate, as before, on the basis of the previously agreed, and now updated, Memorandum of Understanding.

Notes of the Meeting:

Chairman's Report:

Waberthwaite Parish Council had agreed to act as the Accountable Body for both the 5 Rivers and South-Copeland Partnerships and to open a bank account in their name.

Simon Walker agreed to look into and report on the availability of funds in the Worklessness Fund to support projects.

Report on Progress with Copeland BC:

Highways Steward:

The Highways Steward scheme had been in operation for more than 12 months and a review of its effectiveness would be a good idea. CALC liked the Steward scheme but not the management fees imposed by Amey. The contract still has some time to go. In some areas the Highways Steward worked alongside a Lengthsman part funded by the parishes.

It was clear that County intended to continue with the Stewards.

Simon and Sarah agreed to provide information regarding the respective costs.

It was agreed that the 5 Rivers Partnership was prepared to participate in any discussions regarding the Highways Steward and Lengthsman schemes.

Service Delivery:

Simon and Sarah were working on a comprehensive list of contacts within Copeland BC. There was discussion of the benefits of having contact at the parish or partnership level. While the partnership could probably work more efficiently when there were common issues this did not preclude individual parishes working with Copeland if appropriate.

The role of the Service Delivery Board and West Cumbria Strategic Partnership, where both 5 Rivers and South-Copeland Partnerships have seats and wish to retain them was discussed.

It was agreed that the Partnership Coordinator would continue to work with Simon and Sarah.

Election Costs:

Work continues to define costs and charging mechanisms.

Local Development Framework:

This was at an early stage and formal consultation would take place in the New Year. The comments by partnership members on early drafts was appreciated.

Copeland would shortly be sending two papers to parish councils, one on the Principles and Objectives of Working with Local Partnerships in Copeland and one the Community Led Planning Process. Comments from parishes, either directly or through the Partnership would be welcome.

Sustainability Workbook:

Jeff Downhm described the Sustainability Workbook produced by ACT . This helps guide communities through a process of assessing their sustainability and to set actions to promote it. It has yet to be tried elsewhere.

Jeff would send a copy to the coordinator for distribution to members of the partnership. If agreed, a small group would be set up to try out the process.

Communities that Work Strategy:

£400k was available to fund projects through the Cumbria Communities Foundation. Subject to various restrictions and allocated to areas not funded by other means.

Western Valleys Twinning Association – WEVA:

David Killick described the work of the association and, in particular, the fact that it applied to the whole of the 5 River area not only Eskdale and Wasdale. He hoped to raise the profile of the association that already had ties with a community in France. In France the community has a single, substantial, town, St. Martin d'Auxigny, at its centre whereas we have a more diffuse collection of villages and hamlets. Also, the French mayoral system allows centralised decision making in rural communities easier to manage.

WEVA would be grateful if each individual Parish in the Five Rivers partnership would think and talk about the twinning as "OUR twinning", in just the same way that our friends in St. Martin do. Keith Hitchen agreed to arrange an entry in the Copeland Dispatches Newsletter and Neil Robson would ask Muncaster Parish Council's permission to include it in the Ravenglass Village website www.RavenglassVillage.co.uk.

Next Meeting:

20 January 2010 at Drigg & Carleton Parish Hall.

Neil Robson, Coordinator.