

## **5 Rivers Partnership meeting 30 July 2008**

### **Notes:**

#### **Community Steward/Lengthsman:**

A meeting at Bootle had confirmed the appointment of a Steward for this area and contact details were available. Parish Councils are encouraged to report problems. **In order that we can assess the effectiveness of this scheme it is essential that we keep a record of work requested and the outcome.**

#### **Community Plan:**

We still don't have a Community Plan outlining the 5 Rivers Partnership's role and future priorities. Neil Robson and David Polhill have produced a draft composite plan from the individual Parish Plans that are in existence but it isn't clear how to proceed. A special meeting of the Partnership with CALC/VAC input will be arranged to try to complete the document.

#### **Locality Working:**

This is the proposal the local bodies like Parish Councils take on some of the responsibilities currently held centrally by Copeland or Cumbria CC. While it isn't likely that a Parish as small as Muncaster can take on very much, the Partnership might.

The Community Plan is seen as Bottom-up and the Locality Working scheme is Top-down. They should meet in the middle somewhere.

A point for Muncaster to consider. Are we getting Value for Money with grass-cutting? The Green, the LDNPA areas and the Playing Field are under separate operations. Is there any possibility of us taking on the management of the whole area?

#### **Phone Box Closures:**

All the Parishes have written expressing their concerns. The National Park have also registered opposition to the closure of any phone box in the Park because of the generally poor mobile phone reception.

It appears that boxes are being closed by stealth because they are so badly maintained. We should possibly have a regular check of our local boxes and report problems.

#### **Seascale Surgery Dispensary:**

There was a general feeling that maybe the surgery management is using the threat of closure of the dispensary as a bit of a smoke-screen. The threat is however real.

A meeting with Surgery Management and other key people is to be held at Bootle (location TBA. Capt. Shaw's or Village Hall) on 11 or 12 August. We should probably send representatives.

**Buses:**

Problems caused by change of timetables. Again a thought that maybe the service is being deliberately made less useable so that it can be closed.

**Managing Radioactive Waste Safely:**

This is the start of the process to locate a Geological Disposal Facility in the UK. A copy of the relevant White Paper is available. The Government is very keen that the process is seen to be open and transparent – they may have learned lessons from the NIREX fiasco at Gosforth.

The process starts by communities making a “without-commitment Expression of Interest.” There are however several definitions of “community” including the Host Community, the Local Community and the Community. Copeland has already expressed such an interest and, since a lot of the relevant waste is already at Sellafield, it seems not unreasonable that they should. Gosforth PC is concerned that it is, more than likely, regarded as a potential Host Community and is making strong representations to the various bodies questioning many of the assumptions made in the White Paper.

The same discussions are taking place with reference to Drigg where “the Community” seems to be being regarded as Copeland rather than the Village. The main reason this is important, apart from the technical issues, is that there is a potential pot-of-gold available to “the Community” (although a certain feeling of smoke-and-mirrors is evident).