Notes of Localism Meeting

January 10th 2019

Present: SLDC Cllr.’s Phil Dixon, Jonathan Brook, Giles Archibald

Town Cllr.’s: Chair, Dave Webster, also Bob Brown, Pat Jones, Pauline Halfpenny, Norman Bishop Rowe, Sharon Webster, Shirley Ann Wilson, Judy Pickthall, Colin Pickthall, Mark Wilson

PD thanked Ulverston Town Councillors for their work with their local community and invited councillors to suggest ways in which SLDC could work in partnership with the Town Council.

BB suggested that Car Parking policies at the moment were not meeting the needs of either the local shopping or the local trading communities. GA said he welcomed suggestions from the Town Council on how this could be improved taking into account that the income from the car parks ensured that the local rates could be kept down. How a strategy for creating a short term free parking facility in a town centre SLDC carpark could remove some of the impact of cars parking on local residential streets was discussed. **CP agreed that this and other suggestions would be compiled for SLDC to consider.**

The fate of the Knitware Factory on North Lonsdale Road was discussed and GA said that SLDC would welcome suggestions from councillors and the community at large for its future use. He also outlined the three sorts of grants which SLDC provided for developments in local communities. These included the small grants of £1,000 given annually for SLDC councillors to allocate; the Locally Important Project Grants, usually from £8 to £10 K, and finally the much larger grants such as those towards the new Ulverston Leisure Centre.

He also enquired about our project to develop a cycle track to Greenodd and was keen for SLDC to support this project where possible. **It was agreed that he and PD and JB should receive a copy of our action plan indicating where we hoped to work with SLDC.**

SW raised the issue of SLDC’s lack of support for Ulverston in Bloom’s entry to both Cumbria in Bloom and Britain in Bloom. JP raised her concern at the District Council’s level of care of several of their green spaces and the streets. **JB assured us that their new system of Customer Connect would enable them** **to respond more flexibly to requests from councillors concerned about green spaces and street cleaning.**

PH hoped that this system would be GDPR compliant. SAW said that she was finding it challenging not being able to forward what SLDC officers wrote in response to her constituents complaints. **JB agreed that District Councillors and Officers needed to resolve this issue**

MW asked GA what agreement had been reached with the County about regular weeding in the town. GA said that weeding would take place three times each year. That the company which had taken it on were very good and wished to be informed about any areas which councillors thought should be regularly weeded.

Two assets owned by SLDC and suffering from neglect were discussed. Councillors agreed to encourage the Civic Society to seek a grant from SLDC to improve the Pound. The Town Clock was also raised. **All three portfolio holders agreed that they must take action to see that the Town Clock was repaired, as it a vital part of the town’s heritage and very important to the** **people of the town.** They said they had not been aware that this important asset to the town had been out of order.

DW expressed concern about the state of Stead and Simpson and hoped that there was some way that the Town Council and SLDC could work in partnership to create affordable flats in the building. Other buildings which had been neglected were also mentioned, including the chapel on Soutergate, and the chapel on Union Street.

PH reminded the group how important it was to ensure that if any assets were taken over that a plan for their maintenance was set up from the beginning.

Concerns were expressed about the need for a polling station to be reinstated at the Scout Hut. This was included in the Town Council’s annual response to the placing of polling stations.

PJ complimented the work of Sue Scott in supporting the Community.

JP reported residents concern that a very large billboard on wheels had appeared on the corner of Well Street and Watery Lane on what she believed was SLDC land. This boulevard and green space had never had any advertising on it and she believed if it was not challenged the whole space would cease to be a well kept and valued green space in the Town**. Portfolio holders agreed to ensure that the planning department took the appropriate action to remove it.**

Finally GA reminded councillors how seriously we should be taking Climate Change and asked the Town Council to join the District in showing leadership on this issue. He had been discussing with the BID how Business might get involved and asked us to turn our minds to how we could encourage our community to live more sustainably. CP stressed the importance of re-cycling in this context.

Cllr.J.Pickthall