

14 May 2012 Parish Meeting
Notes on Highway Issues

Robert is the coordinator of the Upper Kent LAP's initiative to establish a more effective system of reporting and monitoring of highway defects and requests for improvements with Cumbria Highways South Lakeland Area. A productive meeting was held on 26 April 2012 between the LAP working team and Keith Masser, Area Highways and Transport Manager and Steve Gibson 'Better Highways' Manager; Stan Collins also attended. The UK LAP has subsequently produced a system which after the expected ratification by the LAP members on 23 May 2012 will be put to Cumbria Highways as a formal request for implementation. With luck it may produce better delivery of 'Better Highways'.

In the last month, Better Highways have tackled more potholes, drains and crumbly surfaces than in the previous two years. To what extent this has been due to the contacts made with Cumbria Highways remains unknown and the method of working remains unsatisfactory. Thus, even though complete lists of priorities have been sent (seven pages) it took Christine Hevey's telephone complaint to actually get one lot done.

For residents of the parish, the following is requested as the procedure for individual notification of problems:

Unless it is an 'emergency' problem, such as a fallen tree blocking the road or half the road has slipped away, if you have a complaint or suggestion about highways matters in Kentmere (including the Kentmere Road as far as Scroggs Bridge) please contact Robert Courtier first (821548). He will then suggest whether it is appropriate for you to ring Cumbria Highways direct, or not, depending on the current relationship with them and monitoring position.

If it is an 'emergency', you should call Cumbria Highways straight away on **0845 609 6609 Option 6** (our area - you will be asked on the line for this) in the usual way, reporting your problem with a careful description of where it is. Cumbria Highways will give you a reference number. It would be helpful to Robert's cause if you could then let him know the reference number given and report back what you have been told.

A question for the future is the possibility through the LAP of getting the (part time) services of a 'Lengthsman'. The electorate might like to think about the usefulness of that.