

KENTMERE PARISH MEETING NEWSLETTER

February 2012

People in Kentmere

We are delighted to welcome David Capps and Susan Taylor who have moved into Low Yeat and we congratulate Bridget Foster and Jamie Blood on their engagement to be married.

The next meeting. There seems to be little need for a meeting this month – hence the Newsletter. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in May at a date to be announced soon.

Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:

Peter Lansberry has volunteered to look further into the scheme and see how it could be most effectively organised in Kentmere taking account of the scattered groups of houses and farms throughout the parish. Peter will be talking to PCSO Tom Howarth and getting more up-to-date information on the various ways it can operate and he will bring them along to the next meeting.

Highways:

The recent three monthly road repair period saw a small amount of work done by Amey, regrettably in the same haphazard way as in the past and in disregard of agreed priorities. Most of the work done was on the Hartrigg road. This is the last tranche of work before the re-organisation of the SLDC's Highways Dept takes effect in April.

Contact at working level with the Highways Dept has not produced results in spite of apparent mutual understandings of the problems (such as the hazards of flooding at Pool Scar, where the prediction of accidents in icy conditions, albeit minor on this occasion, has been vindicated, and not even warning signs placed).

Through the LAP and our District Councillor, strong representation is therefore being arranged for the coming months to develop a communication protocol with the new staff in the Highways Dept. We are trying, they are very trying!

Broadband in Kentmere - situation as at February 2012.

CCC project - Connecting Cumbria

This project is still grinding through the process to recruit a commercial organisation to work with CCC to upgrade the communications infrastructure so that more areas can benefit from superfast broadband. There are two companies still engaged in talks - BT and Fujitsu -but the decision to award the contract will not be taken until sometime in the summer. One of the reasons for the delay is that CCC are awaiting a decision on extra funding from the European Regional Development Fund. When the contract is awarded, work will then start to consider the options for delivery of services. Information on the project can be viewed at <http://www.connectingcumbria.org/>

Alternatives

1. A proposal has been received from a company called Kencomp who provide wireless broadband services in the South Lakes area. They require a substantial sum to carry out a survey before they can give any real figures for speeds and costs and they also need the majority of properties to sign up.
2. The only other viable alternative at present is a satellite system. Currently two households in the valley have paid for a satellite system, one with a link to another property and two more satellite systems are due to be installed soon. It is possible for properties to share satellites providing there is a line of sight between suitable buildings. The costs are not out of line with other comparable systems, but they are still more expensive than current land line costs. If anyone wants more information about satellite systems, please contact Jackie Bettess.

Possibilities for the future - 4G

The Government are in the process of negotiating the terms for the auction of licences for 4th generation mobile phone services (4G) and there is an on-going trial in Cornwall to assess the potential of 4G technology for broadband 'not-spots' in rural areas.

Ofcom has suggested that the terms of the licences should include 98% coverage (by population) though this proposal is not yet agreed. The auction will not happen before Q4 2012. This could improve things if Kentmere were to be covered by 4G but roll-out will not start before 2013 as it needs analogue TV to be switched off over the whole of the UK.

I have a document with the bullet points used in the discussions at the meetings on Monday 6th February. If anyone would like a copy or if you have any further queries, please contact me either by phone (01539 822977) or by email (jackie@bettess.co.uk)

Boundary Commission – proposed boundary changes to the Parliamentary Constituencies in Cumbria:

You will remember that one of the purposes was to reduce the number of MPs representing Cumbria.

After the discussion at the last Parish Meeting a very detailed response largely compiled by Jean Sturgis and Max Biden was sent on 19th November. The response was a very constructive alternative to the original proposal covering the whole of Cumbria and ironing out some of the anomalies including the seemingly ridiculous idea of creating a constituency which included both Whitehaven and Kentmere with the mountain ranges in between and another which reached from the outskirts of Carlisle down the east of the county as far as the Lancashire border.

A tremendous amount of work went into the response ensuring that each suggested constituency had some sort of cultural/historical/transport links within its bounds and yet kept within the numerical targets set by HMG. The reply received from the Commission indicates that they were appreciative of the effort which had been put into it.

The Kentmere Hydro Project went into abeyance a year ago when we had to withdraw our draft abstraction licence in the absence of landowner permissions. The planning permission still stands however, and interest still exists in several quarters. One of the potential cornerstones for the scheme was the Feed-in Tariff scheme which at the time contained a number of iniquities which went against our scheme. The Department for Energy and Climate Change has just produced a consultation document for the years beyond April 2012. and a number of the iniquities which we raised have been addressed, although others have been placed 'under consideration'. Some other aspects of the scheme have also changed, most significantly the undergrounding of the electricity 3-phase supply as far as The Nook, thus cutting a considerable portion of the expected costs as well as contingency estimates, and the hearsay that planning permission would be unlikely to be re-granted to a new application after the current one lapses in August of this year. The residual rump of KHT proposes to engage with DECC in the consultation period in order to ascertain what effect the new FITs might have if the scheme were to be resurrected.

Salt/grit bins

The salt bins, having been delivered and filled on 21 November, have proved very successful for those who have used them, although unfortunately the strong winds lifted the lid on the one by the church requiring it to be fitted with a clasp, alas not before rain had got in. A drain hole has also been provided. At least three need a degree of re-siting, the delivery body having ignored the 'agreed' markings.

Volunteers for working parties in the summer to move these bins will be welcome.

Please notify Robert if there are any problems. A further bin has been allocated out of the LAP budget and another earmarked for a future years budget.

Requests to refill the salt bins can be made by any parishioner using the hotline (0845 609 6609)

In addition, Better Highways have been requested to provide a bulk delivery of 3 tonnes of salt/grit to be deposited at Hollingsworth and Vose. The request has been acknowledged. We await results!

Upper Kent Local Area Partnership:

At a meeting on 8th February much of the discussion once again centred around highway issues. Members supported Robert Courtier's proposal to form a small group to meet with the County Councillor and Keith Masser (Highways) to see if a more co-operative approach to highway maintenance could be achieved. The problems which we experience are repeated across the parishes in the LAP and it is felt that a positive approach to the issues would be of benefit to all parties.

John Farmer (Longsleddale) was re-elected Chairman for a further six months but it was agreed that in future the chairmanship should be assumed in turn by the parishes represented in the LAP.

There was discussion of the progress in providing broadband in rural communities and also on the perceived overlap between the work of the LAP and the Neighbourhood Forum covering the same parishes. Members will return to that discussion at the next meeting in May.

The UK LAP has made a grant of £500 to the Kentmere Institute to purchase paint and other materials for external and internal redecoration of the premises

The Diamond Jubilee of H.M. The Queen:

Apart from the obvious idea of having a celebration party in the valley there have been some suggestions for a more lasting memorial including another seat possibly in the churchyard looking down the valley.

Please give the matter of a more substantial memorial some thought and either let Pete Bettess know <parishclerk@kentmere.org> or bring your ideas to the next meeting.

Planning applications:

Applications for development of premises at Low Fold and at Middle Holme have been approved by LDNPA.

If anybody is interested, the responses and conditions can be found on the National Park website <http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/planning/> and follow the links through 'planning application search', or you can see them at Pumple Syke.

Publications and Circulars:

The following publications and circulars have been received and you are welcome to look at them/borrow them whenever you wish.

Localism Bill (a plain English guide)

CPRE – How to respond to planning applications

Public Consultation Documents on

- Proposals for changes to Cumbria's household waste recycling centres.
- Cumbria County Council's draft budget.
- Geological disposal of radioactive waste in West Cumbria.
- Allocations of Land Development Plan Document

And various CALC and NALC reports.

The Kentmere Parish Team comprises the following people. Please feel free to contact them on any matter concerning the parish.

Iain Johnston (Parish Chairman) phone: 822571 email: parishchairman@kentmere.org

Peter Lansberry (Vice Chair and Finance Officer) phone: 821117 email: lansberry@btinternet.com

Pete Bettess (Parish Clerk) phone: 822977 email: parishclerk@kentmere.org

Jackie Bettess (Broadband) phone: 822977 email: jackie@bettess.co.uk

Robert Courtier (Highways) phone: 821548 email: courtiersatthegrove@tiscali.co.uk

Christine Hevey phone: 821689 email: c.hevey@btinternet.com