

Eden Locality Board 16.10.24

Report by Michael Hanley

1. Public Participation

Jonathan Davies (JD, Clifton Community Council): Asked about flower-planters and trees for Clifton.

Clifton has never received help for this from WAFC. The verges have not been looked after. We have been looking into employing a lengthsman. The report makes out that WAFC has been doing a lot but this is not happening.

J Murray (JM, Chair, LD): WAFC is aware of the ambitions of a number of councils. There is a project to help improve this. We are midway through the engagement process.

P Bell (PB, LD): I can guarantee that things are happening.

2. Westmorland and Furness Youth Parliament

Four secondary school students gave a presentation. They talked about projects including rewilding, recycling and Barnardos mental health provision to schools to help with exam stress. There is a regular bulletin to schools from the Youth Parliament which includes topics such as young offenders and their victims, road safety for young people, 20 mph zones and neurodivergency among school students.

PB: It would be good to get more young people involved.

M Robinson (MR, I): Discussed Woman of the Year, Kate Bainbridge and her book "Every Life Matters". I will put her in contact with you (YP) and she could come and talk to your group.

3. Greening Eden Businesses

Corentin Cortiula-Phelipot (CCP, WAFC Officer): The Greening Eden Businesses was started by EDC in February 21. Grants of £1-50k were available. There were two main phases:

1. Free carbon assessment,
2. Applications for grants.

99 businesses applied, 63 were audited and 21 received grants (including Bells Bakery, Appleby Creamery, Bonds Foundry, Alston). Grant money was spent on solar panels, insulation, heat exchange pumps and robot processors. £1.3 million was spent, 3/4 to businesses, 1/4 to council schemes. 308 tonnes of CO2 was saved.

We need to keep the scheme alive because it was very successful.

Next step: The Greening Business Scheme.

M Hanley (MH, L): Asked whether there would be any funding for the High Mill project in Alston to get funding for solar panels?

CCP: Unfortunately the scheme closed two weeks ago. that's one of the reasons I am here is to get further funding.

V Taylor (VT, LD): Asked Giles Archibald about funding.

G Archibald (GA, Portfolio holder for Climate and Biodiversity, LD): We will have to pay back £900k for other schemes. I would love to be able to have this. Your locality board could ask for this.

VT: When you looked at the carbon saved in that scheme by businesses it was spectacular.

MR: Commented on the great benefits of this scheme.

GA: We have competing demands. Discussed peat reclamation.

MR: The millionaires own a lot of the peat, we need to get into partnership with them. We have a

vast carbon store in our peat. There is public money going in from various sources, there should be more going in from these rich people.

N Wright (NW, Manager Safe and Strong Communities): This sounds like a very good project.

4. Eden Speed Limit Traffic Regulation Order Review

Laura McClellan (LMC, WAFC Highways Officer): We received a vast amount of representation. We were concerned about speeding in some areas.

H Carrick (HC, C): What is the point of changing the speed limit but who is going to enforce it?

LMC: Discussed enforcement. We have been in consultation with the police. Surveys of speed are carried out to tailor certain areas to 20mph, 30mph or 40mph.

N McCall (NMC, LD): Asked about 20mph limits.

LMC: That is separate, the 20mph limits will come to the locality board in January 25.

C Atkinson (CA, C): Asked about Community Speedwatch.

LMC: We are trying set this up again. Discussed AutoSpeedWatch (solar powered self managing units). These are very effective. The information from Community Speedwatch is useful.

5 Waste and Environmental Services Report

GA: We have three objectives:

(a) Excellent service (not miss rounds, now giving an extra £500k to improve the service),

(b) Vision for a harmonised service. There will be a public consultation. By mid 2025 we will have a unified service.

(c) Our waste services will be exemplary.

Anna Smith (AS, Assistant Director, Waste and Environmental Services): Discussed the challenges, different methods of collection, vehicle breakdowns, staff sickness. Our frontline team meet a lot of criticism when they are working. We are doing trial of different collection methods (See Romaquip Kerb-Sort video. This is a waste collection lorry with 7 compartments for different types of refuse which is sorted by staff at the kerbside). We are using an external consultant to look at different delivery models: in-house (council run), out sourced (private company), etc.

Likely to be fortnightly collections.

MH: Discussed the need to make the public more aware that this councils recycles plastics locally and does not burn them (as some other councils do) or ship them off to Turkey. A group in Alston has offered to make a film about this.

MR: Asked about food waste.

AS: We might bring this in in the future.

GA: That will probably be in the second phase.

AS: Probably anaerobic (digester). We don't collect commercial waste but we may look at this.

GA: There has been no decision about charging for green (garden) waste.

VT: Our blue bags are a problem causing mess, particularly in seagull areas.

AS: Blue bags are unusual. For our crews wheely bins are the best from a handling point of view.

CA: Discussed the inadequate garden waste service, some villages only get one skip every few months.

GA: Have you asked me or Anna about this?

CA: No.

Sue Castle-Clarke (SCC, Ousby PC): We didn't even have a skip in my parish. 6-7 communities in Eden have absolutely nothing.

6. Safe and Strong Communities

NW: Discussed the recent inaugural meetings of the Place Action Groups.
Asked for a councillor to replace Phil Dew (who recently resigned) on the Climate and Diversity Working Group and the Highways Working Group. MH volunteered for the Climate and Diversity Group.

NW: Thanked SCC for being on the board (for one year) and proposed that the appointment should continue. SCC was voted back on.