

LOCALISM IN ACTION

for rural and urban Carlisle

Issue 15 – March 2016

Find out the latest on Carlisle's new Local Plan and an update on the progress of the Carlisle Ambassadors. There are also detail of the LEADER funding programme.

If you have an news item or for any further information, please contact Zoe Sutton, Investment and Policy Team, 01228 817312 or zoe.sutton@carlisle.gov.uk

Planning Carlisle's Future

The Local Plan has now completed its Examination in Public. The examination was postponed due to the December floods, but was reconvened in January. The Inspector has now cleared the Council to consult on its proposed modifications to the plan, which have arisen from the examination process. This consultation will commence in the week beginning 14 March, lasting six weeks until the 25 April. Comments are welcome, but it must be noted that it is only the proposed modifications that are being consulted upon and not the content of the Plan itself. More information can be found here.

<http://www.carlisle.gov.uk/planning-policy/Local-Plan-Examination/Carlisle-District-Local-Plan-2015-2030-Examination>

Carlisle Ambassadors

The first meeting of 2016 was held on 4 February at the Halston, Carlisle. Over 250 people attended to review what has been achieved over the last 12 months. Following the devastating floods in December, the meeting had a slightly more community focused slant, with a range of speakers from across Carlisle, talking about their recovery and plans for the future.

The leader of Carlisle City Council welcomed everyone to the meeting, and expressed his delight at the continued support for Carlisle Ambassadors. He reflected on the positive achievements throughout the year, how the highlight of Give a Day to the City Pilot had inspired so many to get involved in 2015, and how developments such as bringing the **World Health Innovation Summit** to Carlisle would showcase the area to a wider audience.

He also reflected on the awful aftermath of the floods, and the damage this had caused across Cumbria. Giving profound thanks to all who had stepped in to assist recovery so quickly, he also acknowledged the positive effect of the Ambassador network and membership in bringing immediate hands on help, skills and resources to where they were most needed in those first critical weeks. Looking forward, he encouraged the audience

with a positive view of how continued public and private sector collaboration will make a difference to the future of the area.

Kate Wilson provided an update on Carlisle Ambassadors 2015, with a whistle-stop tour of some of the key moments highlighting the importance of Carlisle Ambassador (CA) collaboration. Such is the fabulous collaborative nature of this business and community based group, in December, the Halston hosted **#SpiritofCarlisle event**, giving a party for 300 people so seriously affected by the floods. This was done hand in hand with many other members of CA, and put a smile on the faces of many who were (and are still) going through very tough times.

Carlisle Ambassadors now has 120+ members, and when talking to people about why they have joined, the reasons were varied but with common threads. There is a lack of hierarchy – everyone gets to meet on an equal basis from both large and smaller business. Also, many have developed business between members, benefiting not only their company, but also keeping business local to Cumbria. There is a desire for smaller businesses to become better known, and as Matt Bond of CITO cleaning said “Ambassadors raises your profile”.

Looking forward, there are many projects on the cards, and to make these a success Ambassadors will need to continue to collaborate, share experience, skills and resources in order to make a difference here in Carlisle! Carlisle Ambassadors are making a positive difference to the city, demonstrating an incredible generosity and willingness to provide support to projects such as Give a Day. Looking forward, Give a Day 2016 between June 6th – 12th will be an opportunity to get involved with putting Carlisle firmly back on its feet after the floods. Ambassadors were urged to ‘get involved’. The **#GiveaDayCarlisle website** will be the hub over coming months!

Jane Meek of Carlisle City Council, instrumental in the direction of Carlisle Ambassadors, gave an overview of economic development and direction for 2016 and beyond. Despite the challenges that the area faces with flood recovery, there is much in progress. There is a focus on fundamental transport links with major investment in Carlisle Station roof, and further development of Carlisle airport plans. Botchergate will be improved by the opening of County Council offices, and this will encourage further regeneration of the area. Investment in University of Cumbria STEM labs demonstrates commitment to these vital areas. Last but not least, the many benefits of recent confirmation of Enterprise Zone status at Kingmoor Park brings benefits to business, and is forecast to create thousands of jobs in coming years.

In closing, Simon Harrison (the Halston) reminded us all that coming to these events is the easy part, and that what will really drive the city and county forward is active participation, collaboration and drive. As we watched everyone chatting about potential for the Ambassadors in future years, we feel excited about all those who are committed to working together to make Carlisle and wider Cumbria a better place to live, work, invest and visit! **#togetherweinspire**

To find out more, **join us at the next meeting at Carlisle Racecourse on 14th April** when we will be focusing on building and retaining skills in Carlisle and wider Cumbria. We have an excellent line up of speakers, and will be circulating agenda shortly. As Colin Glover, leader of City Council, said recently “Carlisle is open for business and every effort is being made to respond to meet the needs and demands of our growing economy....We need to

work alongside partners to ensure that Carlisle is a great place to work, live and visit.” To book a place visit - <http://carlisleambassadors.co.uk/>

Up Front neighbourhood planning e-bulletin

Up Front is a free e-bulletin for anyone interested in Neighbourhood Planning. The e-bulletin includes important neighbourhood planning news, information, resources, events, top tips and key questions. To view past editions and sign up follow:

<http://www.ourneighbourhoodplanning.org.uk/resources/links/31>

FUNDING

Launch of Solway, Border and Eden and Cumbria Fells and Dales LEADER Programmes 2014-2020: Grants available

Applications for LEADER funding to support projects are invited, with an initial focus on tourism development, farm diversification and micro and small business development. Details of the specifics of each funding call along with guidance notes and information on how to apply are available on our website: www.sbeleader.org.uk

Grants are available for:

- Rural businesses and communities seeking to invest in recreational and small scale rural tourism projects, such as new and existing visitor attractions and accommodation, innovative technology, events and festivals and small scale infrastructure.
- Micro and small rural enterprises, to support investments that establish and grow rural enterprises, support improvements in productivity and efficiency, including support for community and social enterprises.
- Farm diversification - new and expansion of existing diversifications into non-standard farming, adding value to the farm produce and into non-farming activity.

Funding will be available directly to businesses and to organisations with innovative and collaborative ideas to improve their economy. Each project will be assessed and funding will be awarded go to those that make the greatest contribution to the local strategic objectives and offer best value for money by creating new jobs and helping the rural economy to grow.

If you have a project idea that you would like to discuss with a LAG Development Officer, please contact us on either sbeleader@cumbria.gov.uk or fellsanddales@cumbria.gov.uk. Telephone contacts: 01900 706029 or 01900 706028.

The Farming Recovery Fund

The Farming Recovery Fund provides money in emergency situations to help farmers whose agricultural land has been affected by flooding. The money will go towards the costs of restoring their land to productivity as quickly as possible.

All farmers in Cumbria, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Durham or Northumberland who have suffered losses as a result of flooding caused by Storm Desmond or Storm Eva can apply for support grants of up to £20,000.

Flood affected farmers are urged to submit applications as soon as possible before the 1 April deadline.

More information and how to apply for the Farming Recovery Fund can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-farming-recovery-fund>

Countryside Stewardship

The new Countryside Stewardship **hedgerows and boundaries capital grant** opened for applications on 1 February, and closes on 30 April 2016. It offers up to £5,000 for farmers who want to restore boundary features, such as hedges and stone walls, to protect their local wildlife or landscape.

The Forestry Commission's **woodland creation grant** also opened from 16 February to 31 March 2016 for initial applications and offers farmers and other land managers up to £6,800 per hectare to plant, weed, and protect young trees.

The second round of the **Facilitation Fund** opened on 18 January (closing on 18 March) and is available to help bring farmers, foresters, and other land managers together to improve the local natural environment at a landscape scale and coordinate their potential contribution, building on the principles of partnership working to deliver environmental benefits.

Countryside Stewardship will commit around £900 million to benefitting the environment between now and 2020, through activities such as:

- conserving and restoring wildlife habitats
- flood risk management
- woodland creation and management
- reducing widespread water pollution from agriculture
- preserving the rural landscape
- encouraging educational access

The new hedgerows and boundaries grant comes as we're bringing in a whole raft of improvements – such as providing better guidance material, lengthening application windows, and reviewing and improving the Higher Tier Expression Of Interest and conversion process – to Countryside Stewardship this year to ensure it continues to bring much-needed benefits to our natural environment in 2016 and beyond.

The Mid and Higher Tier elements of the scheme will open for applications in mid-March.

The Countryside Stewardship homepage has more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-get-paid-for-environmental-land-management>

CONSULTATION

Rural Planning Review: call for evidence – Department for Communities & Local Government consultation

The rural productivity plan committed the government to review the planning constraints on rural businesses and to review the use of agricultural buildings for residential purposes. The rural planning review aims to take forward these commitments. The call for evidence intends to provide the opportunity for those with an interest in rural areas, especially farmers and other businesses operating in rural areas, to tell the government how the planning system is working in rural areas and how it could be improved.

This consultation closes on 21 April 2016.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/rural-planning-review-call-for-evidence>