

Eden District Council – May 2019

Housing Survey should be out to all households – please encourage people to fill in – the information gathered will help to determine future housing on Alston Moor.

Met with residents from Park View Lane to discuss a number of issues, some concerns about the area looking worn – working with CCC officer and contacting Eden Housing Association regarding their areas of responsibility.

Methodist Chapel and the former HSBC building – ongoing issues

Supporting local resident with an ongoing planning issue.

Supporting a local resident with housing needs.

Visited Castle park in Penrith, to look at the working groups ideas to develop the area.

Visited Appleby Hub, to look at how they manage a Health and Wellbeing centre.

Contacted EDC officer regarding Nenthead recycling centre and Alston Moor Footpath and Conservation network work for the area.

Working with Cumbria Master Composter Project to develop some work with preschool in their new outdoor learning spaces. Linked to the Waste Prevention Officer from the Community Development Team (Carlisle & Eden) – they have given some compost bins to Pre School.

CYCLE AGAINST TORTURE 2019 ARRIVES IN ALSTON ON 18 JULY

Freedom from Torture (<https://www.freedomfromtorture.org>) is a UK charity that helps torture survivors rebuild their lives, providing medical and social care, psychological and physical therapy and medico-legal reports to support asylum appeals. It strives to ensure that the Government honours its international obligations towards survivors of torture, asylum seekers and refugees. It has treatment centres in Birmingham, Glasgow, London, Manchester and Newcastle and supporters groups throughout the UK.

Cycle against Torture 2019 is a sponsored 865-mile cycle ride by Freedom from Torture supporters that starts on 1 July in Hastings and ends on 31 July in Edinburgh. Its aim is to raise awareness about Freedom from Torture and obtain funding to help it continue its work. Cyclists will arrive in Alston from Kendal on the afternoon of 18 July and leave for Newcastle on the morning of 19 July.

If you live in the Alston area and would like to contribute in any way to the success of Cycle against Torture, there are various possibilities:

- To join all or part of the ride on 18 or 19 July (or a longer section of the ride over several days), email cyclefft2019@gmail.com or go to <https://edinburghfft.org/cycle2019/> to register.
- Organise sponsorship if you're participating; if not, sponsor a cyclist who is doing part or all of the ride (see website for details)
- Join a welcome party in Alston on 18 July or see the riders off on 19 July*
- Provide accommodation*
- Publicise the ride among friends/family/cyclists. Official flyers are available at Alston Whole Foods

*Please contact June Abbott at abbottjnc@yahoo.co.uk

Nenthead cycle shop has agreed to provide back-up on the day and Henderson's garage is providing overnight bike storage, but now it's a question of arranging some kind of welcome, and potentially some financial support for Freedom from Torture by sponsoring participating cyclists.

June is happy to coordinate the welcome and the meal, but she needs interested people to contact her so that she can get an idea of who is able to take part.

Annual Council meeting – 16th May – election of Chair and deputy chair, Leader and new executive, election of members to committees and scrutiny committees, election of representatives to outside bodies. Minutes available on www.eden.gov.uk

Myself and Michael are now a formal group within EDC as we have two members, allowing us to have full access to sit on scrutiny groups and committees.

The Liberal Democrats, Independents, The Green Party and the Labour Party have formed an alliance, meaning that this new group is in administration of Eden District Council. I have been appointed onto the Executive as the portfolio holder for Communities and elected to represent EDC on Alston Moor Partnership and be the Young Persons champion. Current responsibilities as the Portfolio holder for Communities– Neighbourhood planning, liaison with town and parish councils, the distribution of the Community Fund, community engagement and empowerment, community safety and crime & disorder, rural issues, sports & recreation, leisure, the arts and cultural services, children and young people, parks & open spaces, working with the third sector, older person services, armed forces covenant, service innovation board.

Executive meetings - I have to attend DACs (Draft Agenda Conference), informal executive meetings and portfolio holder meetings with officers every month before the official Executive meetings which are held on the first Tuesday of the month, these are open to the public. My first Executive meeting is on the 4th June. In the following days and weeks I will be working on policies that will be incorporated into the Council Plan.

The Cumberland and Westmorland Herald drop ins – Luke had a successful first drop in on the 17th May which was well received. His next drop in will be Friday the 7th June, I will also be available at that time if anyone wants to talk to me about any issues or concerns they may have.

Training – this month I have attended Scrutiny and Planning training.

AONB Annual Forum – reports on the current and future work of the AONB, great to see the work they have been doing in the last year. I can forward on information to anyone that is interested. I took part in a tour of the PEAT Life project – blanket peat bog restoration – this was extremely interesting to see how they are preserving and maintaining these environmentally important pieces of our landscape.