

Longtown Market Town Initiative (MTI) update

By Melvyn Redgers, Chair of the Longtown & District Enterprise Trust

There have been a number of changes and developments involving the MTI across the range of its initiatives and partnerships.

The Longtown and District Enterprise Trust (L&DET) is the MTI's managing partnership and has been focusing a great deal of effort recently on trying to gain approval from the North West Development Agency (NWDA) for an economic programme for the area. The very good news is that approval for up to £1million of NWDA money has been received for a range of economic projects continuing until 2008.

Amongst the other recent highlights is the Esk riverside project in Longtown itself which will provide environmental and informal recreation improvements along the riverbank. Progress on this partnership scheme with Arthuret Parish Council has been good and the first phase should be finished, or close to being finished, as you read this (see right).

Stress in rural areas

A new project has been set up in Cumbria to raise awareness of stress in rural areas and organisations who can help rural people in need.

The Rural Stress Information Network (RSIN) can help an organisation or group to recognise factors that cause distress in rural areas through team meetings, training events and workshops.

Helen Ovens, RSIN Northern Project Officer, said: "With rural areas facing unprecedented

The MTI's work in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency continues and it aims to demonstrate, through a number of innovative projects, that individuals or groups of households and businesses can see a real difference to their energy costs whilst helping the environment at the same time.

The MTI website is up and running although not yet fully operational and you can visit it at www.longtown.org

Finally, there are some staff changes at the L&DET. Pat Jefferson has left her post as Regeneration Officer and the recruitment process for her replacement is currently underway.

Funding for two posts has also been secured to provide administrative support to the initiative and a dedicated officer to work with businesses and individuals on business support, grant applications and training.

levels of change, supporting rural folk who find accessing services a challenge, is as important as ever. We can look at the consequences of the Common Agricultural Policy reform process, provide resource material and explain what help the rural support charities/ organisations can provide."

The free workshops/sessions will be available until the end of January 2006. For more information, contact Helen Ovens on (01609) 767416 or e-mail heleno@rsin.org.uk



Welcome

This edition looks at a whole range of issues from parishes supporting young people with a youth shelter and a youth club to organisations offering grants to renovate community buildings, as well as contacts if people are suffering from stress or need advice on health care issues.

If you have comments on the content or format of the newsletter, or wish to submit an article for a future edition, contact Claire Rankin, Rural Community Support Officer, on (01228) 817355 or e-mail clairer@carlisle.gov.uk. Deadline for copy is Friday 11 November 2005.

Photographs courtesy of Charlie Hedley and Carlisle City Council

Parish Housing Need Surveys



Brief details of the first findings from two housing needs surveys carried out in Carllatton & Cumrew and Dalston parish councils, in conjunction with Carlisle City Council, were published in March's Rural Voice and more details of the surveys' results are now available.

The Carllatton & Cumrew survey, completed in March 2005, identified a small amount of need for affordable housing for local people. An affordable unit has been negotiated as a result of the research at a development in Cumrew village.

The Dalston survey, completed in May, identified the need for up to 15 new affordable housing units in the parish. 'Affordable' does not just refer to rented accommodation through Housing Associations, there are other tenure options. The parish council is considering the report and the

full document is available on their website at www.dalston.org.uk.

New affordable housing schemes in rural villages and parishes give priority to people with a local connection.

Jeremy Hewitson, Carlisle City Council's Housing Enabling and Development Officer, said: "The City Council has also helped five of the eight parishes making up the Brampton and Area Parish Plan with their own surveys over the last nine months, working through the Cumbria Rural Housing Trust.

"The last of these reports has just been completed and these surveys, along with others we have worked on for the rest of the parishes involved in the joint plan, will enable us to build up a detailed picture of the need for affordable housing in the area, as housing demand obviously does not stop at parish boundaries."

For further information, please contact Jeremy Hewitson, Housing Enabling and Development Officer on (01228) 817443 or e-mail jeremyh@carlisle.gov.uk.

Great Orton Youth Shelter

Young people have their own place to meet up in Great Orton with the opening, in August, of a £7,000 youth shelter (see right).

Orton Parish Council, residents and young people worked together to get the project underway. It is on the parish council owned village play area where the youngsters like to go.

Local minister Rev Jill Hart noticed that young people were gathering around the church at night as it provided a place to meet up.

The parish council discussed this with the community police officer who suggested that young people should have their own meeting place.

The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) contributed £1,000 towards the cost of the shelter from its small projects funds.

For more information about CDRP funding, contact Steven O'Keefe on (01228) 817011 or e-mail info@carlisleandedendcrp.org.uk.

Cumbria County Libraries launches Library Links

The Links is part of Cumbria County Council's continuing efforts to improve library services in rural areas and support existing local services.

People in Hallbankgate can use the library with a click of a mouse when they pop into their local shop.



Library Links brings services closer to home for people living in rural parts of the county. Computers are installed in local shops and sub-post offices alongside a store of books which is updated weekly. The self service computers provide a direct link to the library service and its full catalogue. Local people can borrow books in the shop, order books from the main catalogue and renew existing loans. There is also access to the County Council website services.

To find out more about Library Links visit www.cumbria.gov.uk.



Landfill Tax Grants



Grants are available to community groups and organisations that have projects which protect, maintain and conserve the environment for either land or buildings that are within 10 miles of a landfill site.

In October 1997, the Government introduced the Landfill Tax for companies that operate land fill sites. The money raised from this tax is used to deliver long lasting environmental and community benefits to offset the impact of landfill sites.

The Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust (CWMET) set up by Cumbria Waste Management and Lakeland Waste Management can offer grants which are normally 50% of the project costs or up to a maximum amount of £10,000.

Some village halls and community building projects have already benefitted, including: The Watson Hall, Castle Carrock, Rockcliffe Village Hall and Hallbankgate Hall.

For more information contact Gillian Pickford, Cumbria Waste Management Environment Trust on (01786) 242140, e-mail cwmet@dial.pipex.com or visit www.cwmet.org.uk.

Funding Fair 2006

Voluntary, charitable and community organisations facing the crucial issue of funding will have the opportunity to discuss their project ideas with representatives from funders in their area of work at the 2006 Funding Fair.

The **free** event will be on Thursday 26 January 2006, from 9.30am to 2.45pm (including lunch) at the Solway Business Centre, Kingstown.

Part of the day's programme includes:

- An introduction to the new Cumbria Rural Infrastructure Support Programme; and
- A discussion group for funding improvements to Community Buildings.

There will also be a mix of presentations, discussion forums and workshops.

The Funding Fair is jointly organised and supported by Carlisle City and Cumbria County Councils, Carlisle CVS and Voluntary Action Cumbria.

This event is very popular so book early to secure a place.

For further information and a booking form, please contact Sylvia Hayhoe at Carlisle CVS on (01228) 512513 or e-mail sylviah@carlislecvs.org.uk.



Brampton Youth Project



A new youth project in Brampton will provide activities and a place for young people to go to during the week.

During the summer, Carlisle City Council youth workers were out on Brampton's streets, three times a week, building relationships with young people. The workers were finding out what young people need and what they want.

A drop-in style youth club opens this month at Brampton Community Centre. It will run each Wednesday and Friday, for youngsters aged from 13 to 19.

Carlisle City Council's Senior Youth Worker, Fiona Meyer, said: "Young people can come and hang out with friends and have fun in a safe and supervised environment.

"We are hoping to look at issues such as alcohol and drug abuse and have information on hand for the young people to take away, if needed, to help with their decisions in life.

"The current project is primarily based in Brampton but there might be scope to work with and support other youth clubs in surrounding areas."

If you would like to get involved or want more information, contact Fiona Meyer on (016977) 45023 or e-mail fioname@carlisle.gov.uk.

Neighbourhood Forums

Residents in rural areas have an opportunity to meet County, District and Parish councillors and discuss issues which are a concern to them.

Neighbourhood Forum meetings are informal public meetings which are held in the community at least four times a year and bring together representatives from a variety of organisations.

There are four rural Neighbourhood Forums – Brampton, Dalston &

Cummersdale, Longtown & Bewcastle and Wetheral & Stanwix Rural covering 35 parishes.

To find out which neighbourhood forum is the right one for your parish visit www.cumbria.gov.uk/neighbourhoodforums.

For more information, contact Judith Gardner or Sheila O'Donnell, Neighbourhood Development Officers on (01228) 606730.

NHS information



The Patient Advice and Liaison Service, PALS, gives advice on health care issues. This NHS information service helps patients, carers and their families to access help when they need advice, have concerns or don't know where to turn to.

PALS can help:

- Sort out problems on people's behalf
- Listen to concerns, suggestions and queries
- Provide information on NHS services
- Advise and support patients, their families and carers

For more information on PALS, phone (01228) 603537, e-mail pals.pct@ncumbria.nhs.uk or alternatively, write to PALS, 4 Wavell Drive, Rosehill, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA1 2SE.



Let Go! is launched

A new project in Rural Carlisle and Eden is setting the trend in developing innovative ideas to tackling national issues of domestic violence in a rural setting.

The Let Go! Project has £1.6million funding for five years from the Northern Rock Foundation and will cover the rural wards of Carlisle and Eden.

Penny Scott, Lets Go! Project Manager, said: "The project will build on good practice from

elsewhere in the county, tailoring the approach to suit the needs of rural victims.

"We have two workers who will provide an immediate intervention service on a 24-hour basis. There will be follow up and outreach work and, for the first time, the project will introduce a Perpetrator Programme to challenge attitudes to domestic violence."

For more information about this project contact Penny Scott on (01768) 861657.

How Voluntary Organisations Can Access Funding

Carlisle Council for Voluntary Service is holding two events, which will show organisations in the voluntary sector how to access funding.

- **How to apply to Awards4all** – Wednesday 21 September, 10am to 12noon, at Low Hesket Village Hall. Awards4all is a lottery grants scheme aimed at local communities to fund projects such as improving access to community buildings or putting on a community event.

- **Sustainable Funding Event** – Tuesday 11 October, 10am to 4pm, at the Shepherd's Inn, Carlisle. This event will give an insight into how to make an organisation more sustainable by taking a fresh look at funding opportunities.

For more information contact Carlisle CVS on (01228) 512513, e-mail enquiries@volunteeringcarlisle.org.uk