

Clerk's brief overview of events

A number of historic complaints had been received about timber transport and with the planned removal of the diseased larch, the council did not believe that adequate consideration had been given to the routes to be taken by the lorries. We did not believe that proper consultation had been carried out so a letter was sent requesting this to happen.

In the absence of a response, this was followed up with a formal complaint.

There was a further email exchange and we managed to agree with Forestry England a meeting date with Cumbria County Council to review the routes.

The meeting occurred on March 21st and Councillor Young has written a summary of the meeting, together with a number of supporting documents.

Forestry England responded to say that their staff reported that the meeting was tense, stressful and intimidating. (A complaint about the behaviour of two councillors has been investigated and upheld by an independent outside authority). They pointed out that they had not realised that the guidance they had been presented with, only applied to Scotland. Under the circumstances they said that they would not be following this guidance, but they made voluntary concessionary offers, above what is required in England.

On 26th May, the Cumbria and North East Timber Transport Group met and assessed the route. They concluded that the roads were suitable and consultation had been adequate so confirmed that it remained an agreed route.

As some councillors seemed to still be under the impression that there were no authorised routes, Forestry England and Cumbria County Council were asked for their views and statements were received from both confirming that the routes are agreed.