

## Extended Summary Report for Motions

### Motion: Proposed Plans

Strong objections were raised at the E&K public meeting of 14th April to Forestry England's lack of consultation on a range of issues and their general practice of using web based Citizen Space as their main means of consultation. Forestry England's manager Kevin May agreed to take these reservations on board and come back to the Parish Council with their proposals for the beaver consultation for discussion and agreement.

A follow up letter was sent to Kevin May by the Parish Council Chairman on 5<sup>th</sup> May (Refer) asking him to confirm his commitment but this received no response.

Forestry England's Kevin May has subsequently stated in an email to the Clerk dated 22<sup>nd</sup> July (Refer) that their consultation process for their proposed introduction of beavers into Ennerdale will be by the use of their Citizen Space website process alone with a paper based equivalent for those without the internet. There is no indication in communications to date that Forestry England are prepared to discuss and agree the engagement process with the community, contrary to what Kevin May said at the public meeting. Citizen Space may not be the appropriate method to properly consult the community on this local issue.

At the Parish Council of 27<sup>th</sup> September a recommendation was put before the council by the Clerk (Refer) to accept Forestry England's proposal but this was deferred as there was an EGM proposed for this topic to enable more detailed consideration.

Wild Ennerdale's have declared that their strategy of releasing the beavers into a partial enclosure in the Ennerdale Valley then they will carry out a full consultation for 3-5 years afterwards before releasing them wild into the catchment.

There is the potential for direct and indirect consequences of releasing beavers into Ennerdale and then into the whole of West Cumbria which need to be properly understood and thoroughly consulted on before any beavers are released. There may also be also potential benefits of this release.

Forestry England have a toolbox of consultation methods at their disposal which is in the public domain and should be considered as part of the discussion to be held.

### [Public engagement in forestry toolbox and guidance - Forest Research](#)

*This toolbox provides information and ideas to forest and woodland managers on ways to engage individuals, communities and organisations in the decision-making process, design and management of forestry projects and activities. This includes developing and maintaining equal access to the many public benefits forestry can provide for all members of society.*

Part a) (a) of Motion 6 is therefore for the Parish Council to decide to **either**:

1. Send a letter to Forestry England accepting the proposed use of Citizen Space with paper copies **or**:
2. Send a letter to Forestry Commission reflecting objections to the proposed use of Citizen Space and asking them to put the consultation on hold whilst a different process is agreed.

Part a) (b) of Motion 6 is for the Parish Council to agree the wording of the letter.

Part b) of Motion 6 is for the Parish Council to publish to the community the Forestry England Letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> July and the Parish Councils response.

### **Motion: Valley Strategy**

The Ennerdale and Kinniside Community Led Plan 2018-2023 (pp23) states:

[Ennerdale and Kinniside Community Led Plan 2017 to 2022 \(cumbriaaction.org.uk\)](http://cumbriaaction.org.uk)

#### **Issue 1.1.**

Quiet, unspoilt nature of Ennerdale is at risk if any inappropriate development/ management takes place. Most highly valued features were the lake, rivers and surrounding fells (99% valued these highly), and the village and scattered houses (88% valued these highly). Other features were mostly divided between high and medium importance, reflecting individual standpoints

#### **Aim**

To challenge proposals that threaten the qualities that contribute to the special character of Ennerdale and Kinniside and support proposals that enhance the same.

#### **And..**

#### **Parish Council's ongoing actions and responses (pp12):**

- Ensure that any planning decision will be taken with a view to supporting the long term health, function and resilience of the natural environment.
- Actively lobby any company, public body, or individual undertaking activity which is detrimental to the natural environment.
- Interface with landowners such as the Forestry Commission, the National Trust, Natural England and United Utilities via the Wild Ennerdale Partnership forum to ensure the above aims are actively maintained.
- When reviewing development proposals, look to maintain the current character of the village.
- Continue to engage with the Forestry Commission to ensure that all new planting proposals are commensurate with the character of the valley.
- Support the farming community in their role as employers, local food producers and landscape custodians.

#### **Explanation of Motion:**

The Ennerdale and Kinniside Community Led Plan recognises that the quiet, unspoilt nature of Ennerdale is highly valued by the community but is at risk if any inappropriate development/ management takes place. The Council accepted actions with the aim of challenging proposals that

threaten the qualities that contribute to the special character of Ennerdale and Kinniside and support proposals that enhance the same.

When there are potential developments identified in and around Ennerdale that are of concern to the community there can be a tendency to wait until firm proposals emerge (eg planning submissions) before any investigation is done, by which time it can be too late to meaningfully respond.

Part a) of Motion 7 is a reminder and a reaffirmation of the Parish Councils commitment to deliver on the actions in the Ennerdale and Kinniside Plan.

Parts b) & d) are commitments by the Parish Council to act proactively in investigating any potential plans or concerns that are identified.

Part c) is a commitment to proactively & regularly press the major landowners to bring forward their outline plans and proposals at an early stage for engagement and consultation with the community.

Cllr Young