Some individual thoughts

**A Community Led Plan for Ennerdale and Kinniside Parish Council.**

*‘Community Led Planning is a step-by-step process that enables everyone to participate in, and contribute to, improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of their local area’.*

1. The community of Ennerdale and Kinniside have previously twice produced a Community LedPlan (CLP), the most recent was for the period 2018-2023. The area does not have a current CLP. It has previously been indicated that a new CLP should be prepared that can build on the work previously completed. The PC has a budget to support production of a CLP. An up-to-date CLP is a document that public bodies and local authorities are obliged to take account of when considering the decisions they make that affect a local area.
2. ACTion for Communities in Cumbria (ACT) have a wealth of advice available on the merits of producing a CLP and how best to go about it. They offer financial support and officer support (subject to approval) towards the work. Looking at their website includes the following.

***Community Led Planning has a number of important characteristics:***

*It is led, driven and resourced through grass roots action.*

*The people working on Community Plans are volunteers, usually a mix of parish councillors and other local people.*

*It involves extensive community participation and engagement using techniques such as questionnaires, meetings, discussions and events.*

*It results in a credible action plan based on in-depth consultation.*

*The action plan produced sets out how local problems and issues can be tackled. This will include actions which the community can undertake alone, and actions which they need to address in partnership with local authorities or other agencies.*

***What we provide:***

*Advice throughout the process by phone, email and in person (funding permitting).*

*Guidance sheets, case studies, questionnaire guidance, workshops.*

*Grant funding towards the cost of producing your plan.*

*Contact details for relevant Local Authority officers, councillors and other key agencies.*

*Consultation and Action Planning guidance.*

*Feedback on your consultation plans, draft questionnaire, and draft action plan.*

*Your finished Plan on the ACT website.*

*Signposting to information and funding for delivering actions in your plan.*

***What we need from you:***

*A named contact for your CLP and to be kept informed of your progress.*

*A plan and budget for the production of your CLP.*

*Contact relevant Local Authority officers, councillors and other key agencies at the start of the process.*

*Use at least three different ways of consulting people in your community.*

*Share your draft action plan with ACT and specific contacts at the district and county council, and any other relevant organisations.*

*A copy of your finished plan.*

*Feedback from you about delivery of your action plan; successes, challenges etc.*

*Some of the actions in Community Plans will need to be delivered in partnership with other organisations and we recommend building a relationship with your Local Authorities from the start of the process to make this easier.*

***Community Led Planning Grants***

*Community Led Planning groups can apply to ACT for a grant to support community consultation activity and production of the Plan. Contact us at ACT for more information and an application form.*

*Westmorland & Furness - South Lakeland locality: Up to £1,500*

*Westmorland & Furness - Eden locality: Up to £500*

*All other areas: Up to £500*

3.0 It is important that from the outset of this process to recognise that a plan is for the whole community of the Parish, it is not only for village residents, but also for all those who live in the parish, it is for the businesses and for the visitors that have an interest in the area. A challenge is finding the appropriate means to engage with all those who have a stake in what is considered.

4.0 EKPC if they wish to, need to start the process and

- Agree a named contact. This person is likely to become the person with a lead role in production of the CLP, it is not their role to write the document or decide what goes in it. The first step would be to initiate contact with ACT and other key contacts.

- Prepare a plan for and budget for the production of the plan.

- Initiate contact with others

5.0 In terms of a plan and budget. It is perhaps first necessary to establish a sub-committee to lead on the process. Is there a better name than a sub-committee? Whatever it is called it is important that there is the involvement of non-parish councillors. There should perhaps be a minimum of 3 parish councillors and at least 2 members of the community and a representative of at least one business.

6.0 The sub-committee will need to meet with a purpose of firming up a plan for consultation and production of the plan. A challenge associated with all of this is how to best communicate with everyone, there are websites, Contact magazine, and word of mouth etc.

7.0 There is the scope of the plan to be considered, this is largely to be led through community involvement.

 But what could be on the list?

- Village boundary, what is the limit of development or should there not be one?

- Highways, traffic volume, traffic speeds, parking, new pavements and off-road paths…

- visitor management

- Dark skies

- heritage and cultural buildings

- Trees , hedges and woodland

- parish land and common land

- biodiversity

- business needs

- nature conservation

- building design

- drainage and flooding

- events

- etc, etc

8.0 How do we go about meaningful consultation and the interpretation of feedback. Public meetings, drop-in sessions, use of social media. Questionnaires, online or paper. A village event such as a summer fete / BBQ (worked well previously). There is advice and guidance available. Engagement with public bodies, the National Park Authority and Cumberland Council. The Forest Enterprise, National Trust, United Utilities (Wild Ennerdale). Natural England, the Rivers Trust. The pubs/hotels and café, the small businesses and those offering overnight accommodation (including the Hostels), the farming community, the school, the church, there are probably others. These tasks are a big undertaking in themselves and would be likely to require another group of people just to focus on them. It seems likely that at least 2 public meetings would be required, one early on to kick start the process and a second one to look at draft proposals.

9.0 What format should the final document take, paper and electronic, is it only available online? Do you want an official launch?

10.0 Are you up for it?

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