

**Patterdale Water Meeting, Barn End Bar Sykeside Campsite
3rd March 2010**

Present

Jeremy Barlow – National Trust
Colin Jongman – Sykeside Campsite
Paul Phillips – United Utilities
Jimmy Hodgson – Hartsop Hall Farm
(for first part of meeting)
Eric Wear – Howe Green Farm
Veronica McGloin – Patterdale
Parish Council
Mike Taylforth – Side Farm
John Pring – National Trust
Mel Kilner – Hartsop Society
Christian Grammer – Ullswater
Steamers
Mike Harrison – Environment
Agency

Maggie Robinson – Natural England
Suzy Grindley – Lake District
National Park Authority
Carl Scrivens – Glenridding resident
Ian Metcalfe – Sykeside Campsite
Heather Jackson – Noran Bank
Farm
John Malley – National Trust
Alan Metcalfe – Sykeside Campsite
Steve Sykes – Glenridding Sailing
Centre
Ruth Williams – National Trust

Apologies

Rob Lawley – Cumbria Highways

Jeremy Barlow, the new General Manager for the National Trust in the Central and Eastern Lakes, had been asked to chair this meeting.

Jeremy welcomed everyone to the meeting and set out some of the key issues which led to this meeting:

- Policy context – planning on a valley scale growing in importance and is highlighted in the Lake District National Park Plan. This area is seen as a pilot for valley planning, giving us the opportunity to try out and shape this new approach.
- Local context – at the last meetings in the valley there was a demand to get everyone together to look at the complex and interrelated issues of water in the valley.

Concerns were raised by several people that it seemed that nothing has been done on existing breakouts since the last meeting. Frustrations were voiced that this process was supposed to be looking at the long term issues in the valley alongside resolving some of the immediate concerns, but people felt that little had been done to deal with the immediate issues – especially the breach between Horseman and Cow bridges, which is seen by the community representatives as their top priority.

Several people highlighted that livelihoods in the valley are at stake, with the ‘fabric of the community under threat’, and that there was frustration at more discussions without decisions or actions.

Jeremy stated that livelihoods in the valley, the landscape, nature conservation and the livelihoods of National Trust tenants are very important to the Trust too. But, Jeremy is also responsible for running the business of the Trust in this area, and funds are limited. Substantial funds would be

needed to fix the breach between Horseman and Cow bridges, which would mean less funds available to spend elsewhere in the catchment.

Concerns were raised about the legal implications if breaches were left and there were impact on other businesses and the potential impact on the wider tourism appeal of the valley.

Frustrations were expressed at not understanding what the hold ups and constraints are in the decision making process.

Maggie Robinson from Natural England summarised research that had been planned for the valley – a piece by Nick Haycock (geomorphologist) to look at the potential impact of the Hayswater Gill breach on the land above Brotherswater that had not been commissioned, and a piece by Jacobs for Natural England which looked at potential river management in the long term which was an aspiration for Natural England.

Veronica McGloin highlighted that the Environment Agency had said that a geomorphology report would be needed to look at the Horseman Bridge area and that it was down to the applicant of any work to get this report.

Maggie highlighted the need for a gravel plan for the valley which would help identify the most effective places for gravel removal for the whole valley. This would be needed ready for June when it became possible to start removing gravel from the river (because of fish). But this is likely to need extra funding.

Alan Metcalfe requested that the Nick Haycock report was commissioned.

There was some discussion of what the vision for the valley might be and what we are all aiming for in terms of managing the valley. The need for a shared 'picture' was identified.

However, concerns were raised that people from the community are not interested in the long term vision until the immediate problem of what is happening between Horseman and Cow bridges is resolved.

John Pring from the National Trust provided an update on practical pieces of work that had been carried out in the valley prior to the November 09 floods, including:

Repairs to Kirkstone Beck upstream of Hartsop Hall – completed and held during the flood.

Site visit with the Environment Agency to look at the northern end of the beck above Brothers Water.

Repair to the breach at Beckstones however the floods removed most of this repair.

Following the November 09 floods the National trust is planning to carry out work to repair the bank levees on the north bank of Hayeswater Gill to protect the field next to the road.

The National Trust had been looking at commissioning Nick Haycock to design a banked levee to increase protection for the southern bank down from Horseman Bridge to the right hand bend in the beck. But there were problems of resources and not having a clear vision of what work was most needed throughout the wider valley.

The National Trust was asked to provide a letter within 14 days to say whether or not the breach between the bridges would be fixed.

To bring the meeting to a close and decide on next steps, everyone in the room agreed that there is a need for a long term vision and plan for the valley. However, the community representatives stated that they can not wait for this long term plan to decide on the Horseman to Cow bridges breach. There was also widespread support for a gravel plan for the valley.

Agreed next steps

- Jeremy agreed to come back to those at the meeting with a decision from the National Trust on the Horseman to Cow bridges breach within 14 days.
- The group agreed to develop a gravel management plan ready for the next period when gravel removal is allowed in the summer (June-September 2010). Jeremy agreed to co-ordinate this and will identify what needs to be done to achieve this. He will report back his findings when he reports back on the decision above.
- The group agreed to set up a meeting to begin looking at the long term plan. Everyone from today's meeting will be invited and this will be held after Easter. Ruth Williams from the National Trust will co-ordinate.
- Notes from today's meeting will be drawn up by the National Trust, and circulated to everyone who took part (Veronica to supply email addresses where possible). Veronica will feed back to the Parish Council and put the notes on the Patterdale Today website.