

Matterdale Community Association. Bulletin No 2

The Trustees of the Matterdale Community Association (MCA) met on 17 December 2015. This Bulletin is intended to let people in the valley know where we got to!

The new Trustees would very much like to encourage everyone in the valley to become members of MCA. Membership allows people to vote at the AGM of MCA (first one scheduled for the Royal Hotel at 6.00pm on 10 March 2016). Members are simply required to sign an agreement that they sign up to the aims and objectives of MCA. Members can get involved with MCA as much or as little as they like. The Trustees would welcome help from other members of the community for various tasks, and should anyone like to become a Trustee they would be very welcome too. **PLEASE CONTACT JANE NEWPORT** on janenewport7@gmail.com if you would like to become a member or Trustee.

The Parish Council had asked MCA to indicate an initial preference for either a refurbishment of the New School, or a new build village hall in time for the Parish Council meeting on 4 January 2016. Two significant meetings had taken place since the MCA Trustees met in November 2015.

- The MCA working party met with Rod Hughes from 2030 Architects who had drafted the refurbishment report for the New School in 2013. He has subsequently produced an updated report with new costings for both the refurbishment and for a new build village hall.
- The second meeting was with the Parish Council and the Lake District Planning Officer. The Planning Officer was very positive about Matterdale having a village hall, either through refurbishing the New School or a purpose built new build. He indicated that the preferred location would be within a cluster of other dwellings, either on land owned by the Parish Council on the New School site, or on land purchased by the Parish Council following the sale of the New School. He thought it very unlikely that permission would be given to locate a new village hall on the playing field owned by the Parish Council.

The Trustees felt unable to make a recommendation to the Parish Council on the information received to date. The 2030 Architect's Report raised too many questions to make a useful comparative evaluation without more information, and the decision is too important to be made on partial information. The MCA also felt it would be helpful if the Parish Council could clarify the criteria on which they will be making their decision. Further information is now being sought.

Other issues covered in the meeting:

- **modular quick-build halls:** this had been explored, but the life span of such buildings was thought to be too short by MCA to make it a viable option.
- **Village SOS and ACT:** MCA has applied to and been registered as a "Village SOS" project, which gives MCA access to up to five days free consultancy with ACT for help with funding applications and other issues related to establishing a village hall in Matterdale. (*ACTion with Communities in Cumbria is the community development organisation and Rural Community Council for Cumbria*).
- **Business Plan:** work will start on drawing together a Business Plan which will be applicable either for a refurbishment of the new School, or a new build.
- **Website:** help has been offered for MCA to create a website which will then be used for posting information and updates, as well as activities at the village hall when up and running.
- **'Virtual Village Hall':** we hope to plan a range of community activities during 2016 located at different venues in the valley to demonstrate the need for the hall, and the likely involvement of local people in activities provided. Any ideas or interest in organising a one-off or series of activities would be welcomed.
- **Communication:** we hope to expand the current email list to get the Bulletin to as many people as possible, as well as to explore the possibility of including the Bulletin with Together which has a wide circulation locally. If you know of anyone who is not currently receiving the Bulletins and who has an email to email janenewport7@gmail.com to ask to be put on the list.