

# Kirkby Ireleth Parish Council

CHAIRMAN: Mr. H.R. Saunders, 'Hill Farm', Grizebeck, Kirkby-in-Furness. Cumbria.

## LOCALITY WORKING IN SOUTH LAKELAND

Water Yeat Village Hall Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008

The South Lakeland Local Area Partnerships as proposed by C.C. were presented. This showed a better grouping than had previously been suggested. Kirkby Ireleth is now placed with:

Broughton West

Lowick

Blawith

Satterthwaite

Claife

Hawkeshead

Skelwith

Torver

Dunnerdale

and the area would be known as High Furness LAP

Not all of the parishes were represented so a consensus of opinion as to the suitability of this group could not be ascertained. However, those present appeared on the surface to be satisfied with it.

The following points were made:

- The Government's White Papers of 2007 and 2008 emphasise a shifting of power from the top down. Local communities will be in control and have influence and responsibilities.
- There are potential benefits of working locally.
- Parishes have expressed potential areas of activity e.g. Planning, Local Services, Minor Highways maintenance, grass cutting etc.
- The current position suggests that there is already co-operation between areas and this could and should be built upon.
- The key principles of working together at this stage are:
  - a) Clearly understood geography
  - b) Partnership working and engagement
  - c) Decision making and accountability
  - d) Local co-ordination and management

During the discussions that took place emphasis was placed upon co-operation between somewhat diverse groups and their needs. It was emphasised that problems in one locality were not necessarily problems in another although it was strongly pointed out that many are shared.

Some of the Parish Representatives saw it as the Holy Grail and thus the way forward. Others though, perhaps having experienced the way local government works from

