

## CUMBRIA TIMBER TRANSPORT GROUP

4 March 2015 – BSW Timber, Cargo, Carlisle

### ACTION

#### 1 Introductions

##### 1.1 In attendance:

Richard Scott, BSW (Chair)  
George Bruce, George Bruce Associates  
Mark Hartnett, Euroforest  
Guy Muir, Iggesund  
John Miller, John Miller Associates  
Emma Miller, John Miller Associates  
James England, South of Scotland TTO  
Mark Herbertson, Forestry Commission  
Roland Stiven, Timber Transport Forum Project Officer  
Douglas Howieson, Forestry Commission  
Andrew Harper, Cumbria CC  
Allan McNicoll, Cumbria CC

Richard introduced Allan McNicoll from Cumbria County Council to the group. Allan is taking over the CCC representation on the Timber Transport Group as Andrew is leaving CCC at the end of March.

Allan's contact details are as follows:

Email: [allan.mcnicoll@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:allan.mcnicoll@cumbria.gov.uk)  
Tel: 07990774021

#### 2 Operational Issues and Work Programmes

**Tree Road Brampton** – there have been several reports of speeding vehicles travelling along Tree Road in Brampton. These have been addressed by identifying the haulier and contacting them directly to explain the complaint and ask for speed management. It is important that the group continues to respond to such complaints in a positive manner and where possible encourage drivers to avoid travelling through Brampton if alternative suitable routes exist.

**Catlowdy** – There have been repeated complaints concerning speeding and operating during dark hours through Catlowdy. Forestry Commission, Euroforest, Tillhill and S&D Smith have all assisted by encouraging hauliers to take measures to alleviate this problem, particularly by modifying working times to avoid early am and by ensuring speed is kept to an appropriate level. The situation continues to be monitored by the local Councillor who has offered to inform the group as and when issues arise.

**A596 Issues** – The increase in timber traffic on the A596 resulting from the Iggesund development has been well covered by local media and has resulted in involvement of Elected Members and Local MP's. CCC have been clear that the A596 remains a strategic County road but that it is important for all drivers to

exercise caution and consideration when driving through the towns and villages along the route.

CCC and Iggesund have worked together to respond to complaints of timber debris on local roads and a programme of local sweeping by both Iggesund and Allerdale Borough Council is in place.

**BSW Site Access** – CCC has received ongoing complaints from Rockcliffe residents concerning BSW access and use of CNDR to avoid Rockcliffe. Richard confirmed that a new weighbridge is being installed on the BSW site which should be operational in the next month or so. When this is in place all vehicles will be able to use the CNDR bypass to access and exit the site.

**Cowgill** – UPM Tillhill have advised that harvesting is to in mid-March through to October, lifting approximately 11,000t. This is a very sensitive area with a history of road damage and public concern. Conditions were applied last year, including use of vehicles able to navigate the narrow bridge, and avoiding bus and train times. CCC has carried out road repairs and will actively monitor the road condition.

**The Flatt** – CCC Highways Team have worked with Tommy Millburn at Euroforest to respond to public concerns over volumes of traffic and road damage at The Flatt near Bewcastle. We agreed some workable operating rules, and were able to schedule some patching works for a time when Euroforest were not working. Contact is being maintained with the Parish Council to help address issues as they arise.

**Future felling/haulage plans** – A number of future harvesting plans have been brought to the attention of CCC and this helps to plan road maintenance work and to be aware of increases in timber traffic. Such information is welcome and the initial contact should be Allan McNicoll at CCC.

### **3 Agreed Routes Maps**

#### **Changes and Updates**

There have been no changes required to the maps since we last met. James England offered to manage the data for Cumbria's maps in the future. Any changes must be agreed by the group. James will also coordinate the sharing of Cumbria data with the national website.

#### **Website**

Roland reported that the commission to host the website has been extended for a further 12 months at a cost of £3,500. Each of the groups has been asked to contribute £350 towards this. Richard will look into the potential for sharing the cost as has been done previously.

**Roland/  
Richard**

### **4 Phytophthora Ramorum**

Douglas reported that the spread of the disease in 2014 was not as bad as had been feared due to the favourable conditions.

Fly over assessments of forests will take place in Spring and this will provide an indication of the likely need for mandatory felling in 2015. Douglas will contact the group with information as soon as it is available.

**Douglas**

**5. North East Timber Transport Group Update**

James reported that the North East group has made good progress and that an Agreed Routes Map is now available. Cross boundary issues have been checked for consistency.

**6 Update from Timber Transport Forum**

Roland provided an update which will be circulated as a written update. The group were asked to check the Cumbria pages of the Forum website and provide any comments to either Roland or Allan.

**7. Major Future Developments and potential for transport disruption**

A number of major developments are expected to happen in Cumbria in the coming years which have the potential to cause disruption on the transport networks. These include new nuclear build at Moorside (adjacent to Sellafield), major new construction at Sellafield and the National Grid upgrading, all of which will generate significant HGV movements.

United Utilities are planning a new pipeline between Thirlmere and West Cumbria which will necessitate some minor road closures to allow for pipes to be laid. The project could take several years and is likely to start in 2017. Details of local impacts will be made available on the United Utilities website as their plans emerge.

**8. Any Other Business**

John suggested that we could improve on the way we deal with 'soft' improvement measures such as drainage, verges and sightlines, which can make a real difference to safety and reduce problems for other road users. Cases will vary depending on responsibility, land ownership etc but it is agreed that a collaborative approach to such things would be useful.

**9. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

6 monthly meetings dates will be circulated shortly.