

## **Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council, 9 March, 2022 : Item 6 Saving The Brow/Ruskin's View**

### **Installation of barriers along the footpath**

Two quotes were received for providing long term barriers at the closure points along the existing footpath. The lowest quote from J Mortimer Fabrications Ltd (£7,400, plus Vat of £1,480, totalling £8,800) has been accepted. The County Council has agreed to pay 50% of the costs. An update will be provided at the meeting as to when the barriers will be put in place.

### **Update on potential movement of The Brow**

As part of the Topographical Survey, measuring rods were placed at certain points in the slope along the Brow, together with markers along the footpath. These are inspected once a month and using GPS the consultants can determine if movement is taking place.

The last measurements were taken on Friday 25 February. The Chief Executive of Commendium advised the Council that.. 'We are finding that the surface material on the slope itself is moving downwards. However, as of yet, we can detect no change in level of the path. My guess, and it is only an informed guess, is when the ground dries out more, there will be a slight drop. As for the future - my guess is that when it fails, it will fail quickly. I am sure it will fail.'

### **Site visit by councillors on 3 March**

As agreed at the last Town Council meeting all councillors that were able to attend met with representatives of St Mary's Church and PCC to look at the possibility of erecting a viewing platform in the Old Graveyard, to enable visitors etc to achieve a partial view of Ruskin's View. The estimated cost of a viewing platform is in the order of £18,000.

Whilst on site there was also considerable discussion as to whether an alternative footpath was feasible or desirable, this could only be on private (ie Church) land, not Town Council land.

### **Chamber of Trade fundraising**

At the last Chamber of Trade meeting there was a discussion as to how the Chamber could assist with fundraising. It was agreed that fundraising cans would be placed in 30 shops in the Town. Further discussions are taking place with the Chamber but this is a good first start to our fundraising.

### **Meeting of Fundraising Group**

Councillors Muirhead, Bradshaw, Williams and Burchnall, together with Sam Millar met on 28 February. Arising from the Draft Fundraising Strategy a number of actions were agreed and are being pursued. A particular issue was how the fundraising campaign could be managed - the process will be complicated and involve significant administrative and accounting work. The Group

consider that the Town Council should advertise for and appoint an Appeal Co-ordinator, working approx. 2 days a week in the first instance but variable over the course of the fundraising.

### **Steering Group**

It is important that it is the Town as a whole that works to raise funds for the restoration of The Brow and the re-opening of the footpath. It is suggested that a Brow Steering Group be formed with one representative each from: the Town Council; the Community Interest Company; the Chamber of Trade; St Mary's; the Rugby Club; Underley Estates; the County Council and the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Meetings could take place every two months, or more regularly if needed, together with email communication within the Group between meetings.

### **Town Meeting**

At the last Town Council meeting it was agreed that a Town Meeting should be held, to update residents and to outline the strategy for raising funds. The Fundraising Group would suggest that this is in late May after the Annual meeting of the Council and that a date should be identified in order that this can be advertised in AKL and across the Town.

### **Issues the Council may wish to discuss and come to a view on**

1. Following the site visit on 3 March, does the Council wish to support a viewing platform within the old graveyard?
2. Is there a feasible and acceptable alternative footpath that the Council would wish to support whilst the Brow footpath is closed?
3. The Council might wish to thank the Chamber of Trade for their proposal to place collecting cans in shops and that other traders may also wish to join this initiative?
4. Does the Council support the appointment of an Appeal Co-ordinator and delegate this task to the Fundraising Group?
5. Does the Council agree to the setting up of a Brow Steering Group as set out in the report, and if it does who should represent the Town Council on this, together with an alternative?
6. Can the Town Council agree a date for the Town Meeting in May, after the Town Council Annual meeting on 18 May - the suggestion would be Wednesday 25 May when the Lunesdale Hall is fully available.

(Councillor Mike Burchnall)

