

## **A595 Action Group**

November 2014

We are currently focusing on finding £30,000 for a desktop study that will be a first step towards a solution to the 1/2 mile of continuous pinch points between Dove Ford and Grizebeck. So far we have talked to the County Council Local Committee for South Lakeland on 30 Sept. They were sympathetic and came to visit on 10 Oct but then refused to fund our proposed study.

We then presented to the County Council Local Committee for Barrow on 14 November about the strategic importance of the A595 as a connection between Barrow and the west coast. We told the councillors that it was crucial to plan a bypass scheme in preparation for the proposed new nuclear power plant at Moorside, which would add more pressure on the A595. In particular, we highlighted the issues at Dove Ford Farm, describing it as “half-mile of continuous bottle neck” and a scene of regular “traffic chaos” – with 10 points narrower than even a standard single carriageway.

The Barrow County Councillors were unanimously supportive of our presentation and will consider how to support our efforts by promoting this issue at a higher level. Councillor Barry Doughty urged the group to write to the Department for Transport for it be discussed by a select committee. He said: “I think it’s that strong a case.” Councillor Anne Burns urged the group to make the presentation to cabinet (of County Council) and to see if it could be pursued by the county’s Local Enterprise Partnership. She told the meeting in Barrow Town Hall: “It’s a nightmare road and it’s a very dangerous route. It’s our travel to work area and we’re isolated because it’s our only road into West Cumbria, along with the A590 (to the M6)”. Councillor Ernie Wilson said: “We’ve spoken about this road for years and we would love to change things. It’s true to say all our members are right behind this. We’ve been beavering away for years, but it’s a difficult one. Funding is very tight, but I think we’ll pull all the stops out to see what funding is available”.

We also await news from the County Council on the issue of speed control, a safe pedestrian crossing and a bus shelter.

We had planned a public meeting in January to update the community and will look at the timing of this once we know the new date of the Economic Summit planned by John Woodcock MP and Jamie Reed MP.

Robin Cornah