

Underbarrow Parish Council – February 2025

The bridge is reopening on Friday 14th Feb at 4pm – 3 tonne limit but hoping this can be raised at least to 7.5 tonnes, though still little help for farmers. Thanks to Peter & Sally for coming along to the meeting yesterday; I need back up on how important this limit is.

Bridge replacement: Discussions with the roads minister (Lilian Greenwood) have been started by both Highways officers and Tim Farron. Quite a lot of people I've asked seem keener on a roundabout - though those on the scar road are not keen. This would not be a quicker sat-nav route to Bowness (except if other roads are blocked!) and road signs could make it clear that this is only for the Underbarrow & Crosthwaite.

I'm continuing to look for improvements on the diversion route – more widening hopefully happening on the road to Crook Brow too.

Chases include the Broom Lane flooding as well as the debris still up on the scar road, and a number of drains. A5074 lots of potholes reported. Have asked for some urgent patching - there are signs of spray paint but no dates yet.

Lynster Farmers Group project to get the River Winster flowing again is currently waiting on a licence from the Marine Management Organisation. This is open to consultation until 18th February and I encourage anybody who supports the plan to respond on their website. Ref MLA/2024/00438 – speak to me if you need help, it's not an easy website to use, (I'm also pushing to help secure their £1.5m grant for an aerobic digester plant which will generate electricity for farms.)

The government seems very keen to introduce a mayor of Cumbria to take on transport, adult education and economic development. W&F cabinet has agreed to investigate this but it will depend on what the "deal" is and will need to be approved by the council in the autumn. I'd be interested to know your thoughts on another layer of local government.

Yours,
Steve Bavin