

LAKES NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Summary of meeting held on 9th June 2008 at the Kelsick Centre, Ambleside.

Prior to the Forum, Bill Smith, South Lakes Development Trust and Paul Holdsworth, Town Centres Manager, were available to discuss and respond to questions on the Waterhead Feasibility Study. Bill also explained how people could get involved in the South Lakes Development Trust and influence outcomes.

FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND UPDATES ON LOCAL PROJECTS

Grasmere Parking Restrictions – A referral was taken forward from the March Forum asking South Lakeland Local Committee to review the seasonal parking restrictions in Grasmere. The issue will be addressed in this financial year, as will parking restrictions on Pye Lane.

Speed Limit in Rydal – Rydal residents had requested a 30mph speed limit through the village, but traffic monitoring suggested this would not be justified. A 40mph speed restriction has been proposed.

Ambleside Cycle Route – this issue has been under discussion for some time. A meeting was held with the school and County Council Portfolio holder on 23 May and a public meeting is planned, though the date is not yet fixed.

Police update – Sergeant John Stephens explained current police initiatives – Operation Trice targeting car theft and theft from motor vehicles and Operation Respect targeting anti social behaviour, youth disorder and criminal damage. He said the area enjoys a relatively low level of crime and though problems associated with anti social behaviour have decreased over the year, this issue is still a priority for the police in Ambleside. Priorities for other areas include speeding and drugs.

Sergeant Stephens was asked for the legal position regarding parking at Clappersgate where cycle lanes have recently been marked on the road. Councillor Barton acknowledged this was confusing and information on this issue will be brought to the next Forum. Concerns were also raised over the speed of cyclists, shared routes, lack of bells and cyclists riding the wrong way on one-way streets. Sergeant Stephens suggested these were national issues and it was the behaviour of a minority of cyclists which gave cause for concern, adding that some drivers also need educating in considerate road usage. He undertook to pass these concerns on to local staff and suggested this message should go out to local cycle retailers and cycle hire facilities. Debbie suggested that a future Forum should include cycling issues and will arrange for representatives from Highways and Sustrans to attend.

Town Centres Manager update – Paul Holdsworth reminded the meeting that the Waterhead Feasibility Study is still on display at Ambleside Library and he is available at the Library one day a week. Details from the Library on 015394 32507. Paul provided information on other current projects including the Windermere Enhancement Scheme, (and the reasons for the grey slate bollards outside Barclays

Bank) and forthcoming WOW events.

Lakes Parish Council report – Clerk to the Council, Michael Johnson, explained his background and how he became Clerk. He explained the breakdown of Council Tax and how local ratepayers subsidise the local public toilets, though their contribution has now been 'capped'. A survey has shown that local people fully support keeping the toilets open and South Lakes Development Trust may become involved in the issue. The parish handyman is doing a good job 'reaching the parts other authorities don't reach'!

Michael explained that the Parish Council would make a saving of over £2,000 in rent following its move to the police station. He felt the Parish Council/Police partnership is working well and mentioned that the Parish Council office is open Mondays, Wednesdays and one other unspecified day each week. Michael also mentioned other current issues in the Lakes, including the cycle track; pavement tables; Waterhead; the University of Cumbria and Highway Stewards. He explained the different remit of the parish handyman, Highway Steward and Highways Hotline and said he will act as a conduit for the Parish Council to liaise with the Highways Steward.

National Trust update – Kelly Sproston introduced herself as the Community Learning officer (replacing Gareth Thomas) covering education and events in National Trust settings, and mentioned the close working partnership with Ambleside Primary School. Kelly provided information on the Footprint building at St. Catherine's and on National Trust events through the summer and up to Christmas. For further information contact Kelly on 015394 35599.

Rydal Valley Protection Group

On behalf of the above group, Maureen Colquhoun appealed for people to support and sign the petition for the playing fields to be returned to the people of Ambleside not sold for development.

DIARY DATES



The next Lakes Neighbourhood Forum will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th September 2008 at Troutbeck Institute. All welcome.

