

# LAKES NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

## Summary of meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at Langdale Village Hall

Following Councillor Brian Barton's readmission to hospital, Leslie Johnson kindly took the chair and asked for the Forum's best wishes to be sent to Brian. Leslie welcomed everyone to the Forum; took apologies and asked people to introduce themselves.

### CUMBRIA FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE IN THE LAKES

Mike Smith, Group Manager with Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service highlighted the huge changes which have taken place in the Service over recent years and the emphasis now on preventing and protecting. He mentioned the success of the home safety check scheme and how the Service deals with flooding, road traffic and new dimension (urban search and rescue) threats.

Mike listed the 14 draft proposals in the Integrated Risk Management Plan for 2009/10 which are out for consultation until the 25<sup>th</sup> November:-

- > Reduce the number of false alarms call outs.
- > Introduce phased alerting procedures to ensure the number of personnel alerted is appropriate to the incident
- > Provide better medical training to provide enhanced pre hospital care.
- > Review services delivered from Penrith Fire Station to determine whether they are adequate for future need.
- > Minimise the Service's carbon footprint from routine activities.
- > Review the scope of the Home Safety Check service.
- > Review the Service's water rescue capabilities.
- > Review operational staff roles.
- > Develop a Service Charter setting out what can be expected from the Service.
- > Initiate a flexible approach to crewing fire appliances.
- > Implement IT solutions for risk assessments.
- > Replace more of the County's Fire Stations
- > Implement an Equality and Diversity strategy
- > Encourage the fitting (and supply) of domestic sprinklers in the homes of those most at risk

Concerns were expressed over the rapid spread of the recent fire in Ambleside and lack of pressure in the fire hydrants. Mike confirmed a report would be completed on how the fire spread and the likely cause. For large scale loss or loss of life, a full fire investigation with the police is undertaken, possibly leading to prosecution. He confirmed the County has aerial ladder platforms at Carlisle and Barrow and a bulk water carrier based at Penrith which can be mobilised to any significant incident in the County. He also confirmed that if parked vehicles prevent appliances reaching their destination, they would be 'bumped' out of the way, and provided additional information on sprinkler systems. Mike said the Service would be grateful for responses to the consultation by the 25<sup>th</sup> November.

### OTHER ISSUES

- > Sewage works at Clappersgate due to last 24 weeks.
- > Speed restrictions on A591 between Ambleside and Brockhole explained.

### GRASMERE SCHOOL & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Reverend Cameron Butland provided a history of Grasmere School, founded in the reign of James 1, to the present day Victorian building.

Reverend Butland confirmed there are plans afoot to redevelop the school as a community hub, open from 8am – 6pm. Governors have met with both the Diocese and County and have agreed it would be preferable to build a new school. In looking to build a school fit for the purpose of education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the Governors have had to look at schooling in a radically different way. They have consulted with the parish and are delighted that other organisations – the Post Office, Health Centre and Chiropody Clinic - wish to join them in this venture. Other organisations – the Police and Children's Centre – are also likely to use the three community rooms planned for the building. It is envisaged that the new school will incorporate a large glassed play area for rainy days! and will have completely secure external boundaries.

Working with Mitre Housing, the old school will be converted into six affordable housing units for rent.

Reverend Butland confirmed time scales depend upon money and neither Diocese nor County are providing any funding. The school has to raise the money itself and whilst a lot of people are interested in supporting the venture they are not prepared to fund until definite plans are in place, but money is needed for surveys, planning etc. to put the plans in place! The school, however, is optimistic and hopes to submit a planning application in 2009.

### OTHER ISSUES

- > Donald Cook reported the turbine house behind the New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel is totally wrecked.
- > Michael Johnson reported that repair/replacement of the vandalised sign at Elterwater is in hand.
- > Proposed cycle track alongside the Lake is being looked at again.



### DIARY DATE

**The next Lakes Neighbourhood Forum – to include grant applications – will be held at the Kelsick Centre, Ambleside, 7pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009. All welcome**

## FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND UPDATES ON LOCAL PROJECTS

### National Park update

Steve Gaskell, Park Ranger, mentioned:-

- > A report on the Local Development Framework consultation will be published early next year and responses should be on the website in the near future.
- > The LDNPA publication 'Lakes Messenger' should be delivered to all homes in the Lakes. Copies also available at the Forum.
- > The LDNPA is sponsoring the Kendal Mountain Film Festival – budding film directors may be spotted in Langdale!

Steve confirmed repairs to the bridleway between Elterwater and Skelwith Bridge were now complete, and explained the position regarding the permitted path between Skelwith and Halfway House. He suggested the route is a safety issue and, as such, comments should be directed to the County Council's Area Engineer at County Offices, Kendal. He also confirmed landowners are responsible for walls bordering the highway, unless the wall is below the highway in which case it is the County Council's responsibility. He confirmed the National Trust was aware of this situation.

### Affordable Housing meeting

Lakes Parish Councillor Vivienne Rees provided feedback on a meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November. As many people do not understand the affordable housing process, there are plans to produce some information about this and how people can help. Vivienne mentioned Langdale is the only ward not represented on this Parish Plan group and urged someone to take on the role. She explained the group acts as a liaison between housing organisations, social landlords and people looking for affordable housing, mentioning there are currently 150+ households identified as being in need of affordable housing in the Lakes area.

### Town Centre Manager report

Paul Holdsworth mentioned the District Council is undertaking a detailed analysis of all the suggestions made for the Waterhead area. He acknowledged the mini roundabout at Windermere continues to raise concerns and in response to these, the County Council is looking at alternatives. Five alternatives are on public display from today at the Cook House, Threshers, Windermere Library and the County and District Council websites.

If the Area Engineer decides anything needs to change, it will be put before Local Committee in December and implemented next year. Paul was asked for information on the pedestrian lights which have not yet been used. He explained the situation and stressed that the lights will be permanently green unless someone wants to cross the road. He also responded to concerns about the island and white lines and said all the small 'snagging' issues should be sorted by Christmas. In response to the view that people had not been listened to, Debbie Binch assured people that amendments had certainly been made in response to people's views.

### Flood issues on Under Loughrigg

Capita have 'jetted' the drains and are monitoring the situation.

### Langdale Valley Association

Deanna Cousins explained that, following a public meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> September, the Association has been revived. Its' initial purpose is to fund raise for a stone bus shelter at Chapel Stile, as the one supplied did not meet public approval. Michael Johnson explained the financial implications and timescales involved.

### Langdale Valley News

Douglas Worrall explained the history of the publication which started in 1986 as a 3 page leaflet, but now has 12 pages of quality printing and a print run of 200-350 copies. Douglas plans to retire after 10 years as Chair and stressed an editor is urgently needed to continue the publication. He gave a brief overview of what the post entails and pledged the full support of the committee. Anyone interested please contact Douglas on 015394 37444 Leslie Johnson thanked Douglas for the sterling work he had put in over many years.

### Ambleside Christmas Lights

Richard Attenborough explained how, with a grant from the Lakes Neighbourhood Forum, Ambleside elves have been busy constructing and decorating a sleigh for the Christmas Lights parade.



Sleigh designed and built by SleightsRus, a part of the National Elf Service!

### Lakes Parish Council

Leslie Johnson provided an update on Parish Plan task groups and current planning applications. He mentioned that Chapel Stile did very well in the Parish in Bloom competition and reported that the Lakes Parish is very happy with both its' Highway Steward and Parish Handyman. The Area Engineer attended a recent Parish Council meeting to look at highway issues.

### Go Green in Ambeside

John Payne explained that the Ambleside Climate Change Group had re-launched the previous day and highlighted the change in Government policy since the groups' original inception. The group will meet again in a couple of week to decide their priorities. More information from John at [ajpayne2@talk21.com](mailto:ajpayne2@talk21.com)