

# LAKES NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Summary of meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at the Kelsick Centre, Ambleside.

Donald Cook welcomed everyone to the meeting. A minute's silence was observed to mark the death of Elizabeth Braithwaite, a long standing member of Lakes Parish Council

## GAS EMERGENCY

Paul Clarke, Incident Controller for National Grid attended the meeting to update residents on the situation following the ingress of water into the gas main in Ambleside. He thanked the people of Ambleside for their co-operation, patience and especially for their generous supplies of cakes and refreshments! Fiona Sparrow and David Earnshaw both offered their thanks in return on behalf of the parish and people of Ambleside for the way all the National Grid staff had dealt with the situation so efficiently.

## WATERHEAD – CONCEPT DESIGN AGREED

An outline plan and artist's impressions of the concept plan were circulated to the meeting. Jayne Kendall thanked all the people who had taken the trouble to make their views known during the consultation period which concluded Phase 1 of the project. The next step is Phase 2 which will comprise production of a detailed design and plans, full costings for the project and submission of a planning application. This phase will cost approximately £200k to complete. An application has been made to the NWDA for funding to support this. The third and final phase will see delivery of the scheme, which is likely to cost around £3m. As many local materials and people as possible will be used but all elements of the scheme will be put out to tender to ensure best value.

New jetties at Borrans Park are intended to be "short stay" facilities to enable as many boat owners as possible to use them. The park itself will also benefit from redeveloped entrances and upgraded paths. Although current car parks will change from their existing layout there will be an increase in the total number of parking spaces available. Discussions are underway to work with Waterhead Hotel to maintain the rebuilt public toilets and changing area – a small charge will be introduced to use these facilities. The Youth Hostel is scheduled for improvements with landscaped gardens running down to a promenade and the lake. The promenade as planned will run all the way along to the Wateredge Inn. Unfortunately no agreement has as yet been reached with the owners of this property to enable it to carry on right along the lake frontage to Borrans Park. Slight adjustments will be made to the road alignment to provide increased pedestrian and recreation space in front of the lake. Jayne was also pleased to confirm that the existing launch slipway would be maintained along with suitable parking spaces for trailers. It will have lockable bollards in place for security and concerns about how the upkeep will be funded are being addressed.

The overall aim of the project is to provide a sensitive and pragmatic scheme which will bring more visitors to the Waterhead area, encourage them to stay longer and spend more in the local businesses and also provide a fitting gateway to Ambleside. Further information and plans can be seen on South Lakeland District Council's website: [www.southlakeland.gov.uk](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk) (Ambleside Enhancement). Alternatively contact Jayne Kendall on 01229 588499 or via [j.kendall@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:j.kendall@southlakeland.gov.uk).

## QUICK FIRE UPDATES AND LOCAL NEWS

**POLICE UPDATE:** The public counter at Ambleside Police Station is open again, manned by volunteers recruited through the Community Volunteer scheme. Safer and Stronger Communities scheme meetings will be held on 10<sup>th</sup> February in Windermere and 10<sup>th</sup> March in Ambleside, at 6.00 pm, where the community can raise concerns and decide their priorities for police focus. In the last three months of 2009, incidents of crime in Ambleside were substantially down compared to 2008.

**THE ALLOTMENT GROUP:** The group now has 24 people on its waiting list. All they need now is a site (or sites!) If anyone has or knows of any potentially productive land that is available, then Jane Durrant would love to hear from you on 015394 32222.

**HIGHWAYS:** Some resurfacing works will be done on the A593 near Skelwith Bridge before the end of March. For details of other Highways work scheduled for Lakes Parish, please contact Debbie Binch on 01539 713180

## QUICK FIRE UPDATES AND LOCAL NEWS

**TOWN CENTRES:** Paul Holdsworth reported on 5 initiatives he has been working on recently:

- improving awareness and understanding of the benefits of the connection to Rydal Road car park past the Glass House restaurant
- working with Jane Durrant and the Windermere and Bowness Allotment group towards securing a suitable site(s)
- Publicising the SLDC consultation on public toilet facilities. Have your say at [www.southlakeland.gov.uk](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk)
- Gauging the potential value of setting up a BID (Business Improvement District) area for Windermere and Bowness. Find out more about BIDs in general at [www.ukbids.org](http://www.ukbids.org)
- Co-ordinating distribution of additional supplies of grit direct to the parish during the recent bad weather

**LAKES PARISH COUNCIL:** Fiona Sparrow also paid further tribute to Elizabeth Braithwaite.

- Plans are progressing for signage to discourage sat- nav followers from using Red Bank
- On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at the Parish Centre from 3.00 pm – 6.30pm there will be an opportunity to express views about continuing provision of public toilet facilities.
- Three new seats have been installed in Ambleside, one of which has been provided by the family in memory of John Williamson
- Concerns over the future of the Ambleside campus continue to be vigorously expressed on behalf of the community

### NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

- 20 potential sites for housing and general economic development had been suggested in the recent consultation on the Local Development Framework .
- Planning surgeries: an opportunity to talk to a National Park Planning officer at the Marchesi Centre on the following dates: 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of March.
- The Ambleside Conservation area is due for appraisal during April this year. Queries should be addressed to David James on 01539 724555
- Flood Damage: the overall cost of repairs to all damaged bridges, paths, gates and stiles has been estimated at £1.5m.
- For details about the LDNPA's Business Administration Apprenticeship, contact Katie Eastham, HR Officer on 01539 792703 or via [www.lakedistrict.gov.uk](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk)

**NATIONAL TRUST:** Further improvement and restoration work has been carried out both at Galava Fort and Town End, where some interesting discoveries were made while a new security system was being installed. A representative of the Civic Trust remarked that it was a pity that such an important site as Galava was missed by so many people. He asked if the National Trust could ensure that it was better signposted and could this be linked with the proposed information signage being installed in Borrans Park for the Waterhead scheme. A new property manager, Jeremy Barlow, has recently been appointed. For full details of local events go to [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

**PARISH PATHS INITIATIVE:** The County Council's Countryside Access Team will again run the Parish Paths initiative (PPI) during 2010/11. Parishes and community groups can register an interest in Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and apply for a small grant to help improve local paths. To learn more, there will be a free workshop on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March. For information or to book a workshop place, contact Andrea Bonacker on 01228 226605.

### AND FINALLY.....

- ❖ Two new signs, directing visitors to Charlotte Mason's grave, have been erected in the churchyard
- ❖ Cumbria Vision: consultation on community-owned renewable energy projects. More details at [www.cumbriavision.co.uk](http://www.cumbriavision.co.uk) under Renewable Energy section. Deadline for responses is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010
- ❖ CADAS – Cumbria Alcohol and Drug Advisory Service. – free confidential support for those affected by someone else's alcohol or drug use. Contact Julie Oram on 01539 742615 or 07515329131
- ❖ Cumbria County Council Minerals and Waste Development Framework consultation ends Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2010

### GRANTS

**Windermere First Responders:** Awarded £1000

**Ambleside Natural History Society:** Awarded £750



### DIARY DATE

**The next Lakes Neighbourhood Forum will be held at Langdale Village Hall, 7pm on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010. All welcome**

### COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**12<sup>th</sup> February** Grasmere Players –production meeting for Midsummer Night's Dream

**20<sup>th</sup> February** Ambleside Natural History Society, at the Parish Rooms, 7.00 pm: "How Man First Made Use of Fibres – Clothing the Naked Ape"

**National Trust:** Bird Box event **17<sup>th</sup> February** and Easter Cookery **31<sup>st</sup> March**. Contact Gill Fayers on 015394 46027.

**Easter:** Ambleside Players will be staging "Light Relief". If you would like to "do a turn" contact Judith at Shinglers on 015394 33433.