

CENTRAL LAKES NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Summary of the meeting held at the Marchesi Centre, Windermere on 28th July 2010

Councillor Jo Stephenson welcomed everyone to the first Windermere meeting of the new Central Lakes Neighbourhood Forum and thanked Mr. and Mrs. Bland for arranging the room and providing refreshments.

The Marchesi Centre

Tom Bland provided a brief history of the Marchesi, built with funds raised by the Round Table and opened as a charitable trust in 1971. Additional facilities have since been added and the Centre provides the venue for a range of activities for the over 50's in Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge. The Centre, which is managed by a voluntary committee, has two paid employees and a membership of around 300 people. Councillor Stephenson thanked Tom and added that the Marchesi committee does a fantastic job.

Windermere, a living lake and a lake for life

John Pinder, Environment Agency, explained water quality in Windermere had been declining for many years when a number of concerned organisations formed the Windermere Catchment Restoration Programme Partnership to restore the Lake to its previous high quality. The area contains the rivers Rothay, Brathay and Troutbeck as well as tarns and lakes including Grasmere, Rydal Water, Esthwaite and Elterwater and land draining into these lakes and rivers. The vision of the Partnership is to create 'A healthy Windermere catchment, for now, for ever'. John stressed the importance of balancing the needs of the community, economy and environment, adding there is no 'quick fix' but a need for a cultural shift and recognition that the Lake is at the heart of the community. The Partnership is looking at complex factors affecting the Lake including nutrient reduction, storm sewage, vegetation, sediment, fish populations, oil pollution, climate change etc. The Partnership now has a business plan for this year and an outline plan for the next five years. Working groups will include – Windermere Reflections (bidding for Heritage Lottery funding); Land Management and Farming; science; river corridor and invasive species. In response to queries, John confirmed information

will be available online shortly (www.windermere-lakes.co.uk); that there is no evidence to show fuel derivatives from speedboats affect water quality and that he was optimistic about the future of the Lake.

TACT (Towards a Community Transition) in

Windermere – Joan Stocker explained this initiative came out of the Windermere Community Plan. A steering group aims to raise the profile of sustainability and a series of weekly challenges (buy no plastic; shop local/Fairtrade; eat what you have grown/foraged) is planned, culminating in the 'Big Green Event' on 19th September at the Ladyholme/Goodly Dale Field. Contact Joan on 015394 44403 for more information.

Windermere Area First Responders

Christine and Sharon explained how the First Responder scheme works, the area covered and the medical conditions they are called out to. Since the team went 'live' in October 2009 it has had 284 call outs. A new training programme starts in September and anyone interested should contact Mark Jones on 07736 677307 for more information.

Grants

Cumbria Rural Citizens Advice Bureau - £750
Windermere & Bowness Winter Lights - £750 (earmarked)
TACT (towards a community transition) - £200

Community Noticeboard

Contact Debbie for information on supported lodgings for care leavers; restorative justice opportunities and Connexions programme. Cleabarrow footpath reinstated. 16th August – Swminarayan Temple Procession. Contact the Highways Hotline (0845 6096609) for concerns over saplings sprouting on the A591.

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Bowness Bay and the Glebe Masterplan

Ben Long, Lake District National Park Authority, explained the aim for Bowness Bay and the Glebe has always been to improve the quality of the buildings and public spaces in that area. Public consultations have been held and the opinions of people who live, work and visit the area, sought. Ben acknowledged problems with traffic on the Glebe, suggesting it may be beneficial to change the surfacing to create a pedestrian priority space, possibly closed to traffic at certain times of the day/year. He explained that in order to effect improvements to the public space, some development is necessary to help pay for it – possibilities include a hotel development on the Aquatic site, opening up the lake shore to public access, and a Courtyard development on the existing toilet/TIC/tennis court site. Braithwaite Fold could provide additional parking by creating two layers in places and the green area currently home to the pitch and putt course would become more accessible. Whilst the Shepherds site has been identified as a possible location for a nationally significant art gallery, at the present time it is likely the LDNPA will work with the current owner to provide a ‘face lift’ for the building.

Ben explained that the next stage is for the plans to go out for public consultation, stressing that all relevant authorities will work together to bring forward the various projects. He responded to concerns regarding the proposed hotel development and its’ position, stressing anything delivered must enhance the space. Concerns were also expressed over the proposed Courtyard development and the loss of existing leisure facilities. Ben explained that the Courtyard development would be leisure driven, with retail and catering secondary, adding that any lost leisure facilities must be replaced. More details from Ben on 01539 724555.

Windermere Town Council

Re-elected Mayor, Bill Smith, suggested though there is now full representation on the Council, it

would be marvellous if all seats were contested at next year’s elections. The Town Council aims to move towards Quality Status recognition in 2011. As part of the Community Plan, the Town Council is looking at green areas, land trusts, affordable housing and provision of business premises.

Lake District National Park Authority

Ben Long mentioned that the information centre at Bowness has re-opened and Lake Rangers are now dealing with law enforcement on the lake – call 0842 252922. He provided information on the Great North Swim (4th/5th September); Brockhole redevelopment; Orrest Drive community allotments and an unlimited 3 day travel card to be launched in October.

Neighbourhood Watch in St. Mary’s Park

The Reverend Brian Streeter explained the background to the scheme in St. Mary’s Park. He mentioned support, signage and information packs are provided by the police, but stressed that overall, Windermere is a very safe place to live.

Local Area Partnership

Leith Hallatsch explained the background to Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) and the organisations involved. He explained that the LAPs priorities are improvements to the A591/A593 and developing an emergency plan.

South Lakes Development Trust (SLDT)

Bill Smith explained SLDT is a not for profit social enterprise now based in offices on Broad Street. An increasing part of the Trust’s funding comes from selling the services it offers and funding from NWDA is to be cut by 25%. Bill provided an update on issues in which SLDT is involved, including the Tourist Information Centre, public toilets, Bowness & Windermere Community Care Trust, community land trusts, allotment sites and The Hub.

Get in Touch

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