

CENTRAL LAKES NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Summary of the meeting held at Skelwith Community Centre on 29th September 2010

Councillor Claire Salisbury welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed thanks for the large attendance.

Police Report

The meeting opened with reports from PCSO Kayleigh Lague. Increase in thefts from cars in remote car parks; a successful multi-agency Streetsafe operation has taken place in Millans Park, Ambleside.

For the location of the Safer Stronger Communities ballot boxes go to www.cumbria.police.uk and type 'ballot' into the Keywords box.

Local View

Alastair Boston of Skelwith welcomed everyone to one of the smallest parishes in the district. It has only 125 houses but one of the highest percentages of 2nd and holiday homes in the area at around 50%. A recent meeting with the LDNPA's Planning officer has led to hope that the parish's views on applications will be more carefully considered in future.

Although parking is an issue, the hall provides a great focus for community activities including BBQ's, and French lessons and other village events.

National Trust - Houses for local people

Nick Hill from the Trust outlined several areas where the trust is working to improve communication and services for its tenants.

A new newsletter has been started, covering the whole region (Lakes down to Cheshire). This gives an opportunity for tenants to contribute and suggest future articles. A detailed tenant information folder is also being worked on which will provide individuals not only with key service providers and emergency contact numbers, but also more specific information about the history of the property they are living in. Energy saving measures and keeping costs down are also a high priority for tenants; all properties in the area will soon have benefited from a project to ensure adequate roof insulation and other measures to reduce energy waste. An improved building repair service is being set up to provide 24/7 assistance and speedier response times to all

maintenance issues. Condition surveys will be completed on each property by the end of the year which will further help by enabling a planned programme of repairs to optimise available resources. Although the Trust does not qualify as a social landlord it's policy is to favour local people as tenants wherever possible and as a significant landowner it is very interested in working locally on sites for affordable housing. Mr Hill was invited to attend the Lakes Parish Affordable Housing Task Group.

Windermere Reflections

The environment and landscape heritage of the Lakes catchment is under threat from a range of impacts; declining water quality, fell-side erosion, damaged and shrinking habitats, invasive alien plant and animal species, as well as the potential effects of global climate change.

Windermere Reflections will be a delivery mechanism for some of the objectives of the Windermere Catchment Restoration Programme, which is led by the Environment Agency as part of the Lake District Still Waters Partnership. Other key partners supporting the bid for £1m of funding are the National Trust, the Lake District National Park Authority, South Lakeland District Council and the University of Cumbria, but the aim is to involve as many organisations and individuals as possible within the Windermere catchment area. To receive further details e-mail dave.muir@environment-agency.gov.uk

Better Highways

Cllr Salisbury outlined the aims of this project which are to have repair teams based permanently in certain areas so that they know the area. Teams will work on a "find and fix" approach, tackling all repair and maintenance tasks in an area, rather than using the current "ticket" system which refers to a specific job but ignores other repairs nearby which have not been reported.



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Quickfire Updates

Ambleside Allotments:

The group now has a constitution, subscribers, a website and 58 people on waiting lists in Ambleside and Grasmere but no land as yet – all offers of sites gratefully received!

National Park Authority:

Volunteers are now working with the Forestry Commission on patrols in Grizedale Forest.

Funding is now in place to secure flood recovery and repair work through to 2012/13.

The NPA has had discussions with a high street supermarket chain about the possibility of locating in Ambleside. However, the NPA does not have any current planning application.

Central Lakes Local Area Partnership:

Cllr Fiona Sparrow reported that the CLLAP is focusing on two priority areas: Emergency Planning and Public Realm improvements. Grasmere will produce a pilot community plan and this will help in the development of plans in other areas.

Grasmere Flood Group

Cllr Vivienne Rees said that advice from the National Flood Forum and Environment Agency has helped the group to become fully constituted and carry out an assessment of the needs of the whole valley. Initial activity has secured a supply of sandbags and the necessary storage. A snowball” communication system is also being set up.

Local Housing in Langdale:

Julia Wilson is exploring setting up a Community Land Trust to provide homes for local people. Initial expressions of support have been made by the LDNPA and SLDC. A meeting with Cumbria Rural Housing Trust is proposed and Julia is keen to hear from anyone who might be interested in working on the project with her. For further details please contact Julia on 015394 37173.

Windermere Lake Users Forum:

It was reported that the new 5 year plan is currently

being drafted and will be presented to the first

Forum after it is completed. For further details go to:

www.windermereuserforum.org.uk

Grant Applications

Lakes Players: Awarded £800

The Armit Library and Museum: Awarded £900

Community Noticeboard & Soapbox Slot

- **Every Friday in October** Windermere Lake Cruises and other local attractions are offering discounts for all local pensioners. Full details at www.windermere-lakecruises.co.uk
- On **18th November** at the Lanternhouse in Ulverston CVS will be holding a Funding Fair for organisations seeking information on help with finding grants etc. Call 01539 742627 for details.
- Cllr Salisbury promised to pursue the clearing of a culvert likely to cause damage to the road and path alongside Bog Lane near Skelwith Fold.

Post Meeting Note:

Bill Smith of South Lakes Development Trust is developing a proposal requesting South Lakeland District Council to reconsider proposed public convenience closures and to encourage it to actively investigate the opportunity to deliver the service en bloc through a community-led social enterprise, working in partnership with SLDC. Bill strongly feels this to be a realisable alternative option able to retain and improve facilities. Please contact Bill on 015394 40020 to offer your support.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Central Lakes Neighbourhood Forum will be on **Tuesday 16th November in the Rayrigg Rooms, Bowness**

Get in Touch:

To contact Debbie Binch, Neighbourhood Development Officer, please telephone 01539 713180 or email:

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