

CENTRAL LAKES NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

A summary of the meeting held at Grasmere Village Hall on Tuesday 5th March 2013.

Cllr David Earnshaw welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Grasmere Village Society

This is a vibrant and exciting society which is currently very involved with projects run by the Windermere Reflections project. This set of programmes, led by the Environment Agency working in conjunction with many local and national bodies, is aimed at preserving and restoring the catchment area of Windermere which, of course, stretches far beyond the lake itself. Aims include cleaning up and preventing pollution of watercourses, preserving native species, discovering the history of the area through archaeology and work on the fells. There are also tree planting schemes, and river bank stabilisation works which reduce soil loss and help to lessen flood risk. To find out about all the events going on and also how to get involved as a volunteer go to www.windermere-reflections.org.uk.

Grasmere Sporting Tales

This is a wonderful intergenerational project aimed at celebrating Grasmere Sports through the memorabilia, stories and photos of those who have organised, competed, spectated and officiated at the Sports over more than 150 years. Ultimately a community website will be developed which will remain as an archive for all the information collected. Schools have been involved, learning interview techniques and filming people as they recount their memories. Keswick School has focused particularly on the Cumberland & Westmorland wrestling and students hope to present the information in such a way that it will encourage other young people to enjoy and continue this, and other traditional sports such as hound trailing. Grasmere School will be meeting the Age UK lunch club in May and Age UK will also be involved in creating reminiscence boxes. Anyone with an interest in local history or memories to share and who would like to volunteer and learn new skills can get in touch by contacting Emma on 07906937217 or grasmeresportingtales@outlook.com. The project finishes in October 2013 and there will be a small touring exhibition.

Grant Applications

The following groups were awarded a grant from the Forum: Ambleside Girl Guiding £1,000, Skelwith Community Website £750, Windermere Oral History Society £561, Grasmere Reading Rooms £1,000, St Mary's PTA £500, Langdale Village Hall £620.

The Wordsworth Trust

Part of the Lakeland Arts Trust, the Wordsworth Trust is an educational and historical organisation devoted to Wordsworth, and Stephen Miller, Community Outreach Officer, gives talks about Wordsworth to groups all over Cumbria. His role also involves work with local and family history societies, overseas as well as in the UK, and with the library service. In conjunction with Leonard Cheshire at Holehead he has helped develop a shared reading group which studies other authors as well as Wordsworth and has developed a similar focus with the County Council's Dementia Strategy team. As a way of bringing the community into what the Trust does, local residents have developed and staged an exhibition on the changes to upland farming between the 1940's and 1970's. On 25th April, at 7.30 pm at the Wordsworth Trust there will be a shared stories event, relating to life in Grasmere, aimed at helping a core of interested residents establish a regular group. To find out more go to: www.wordsworth.org.uk

Neighbourhood Policing

Inspector Kevin Spedding, Sergeant Rupert Johnston and PCSO Laura Jackson of the Ulverston and Lakes Neighbourhood Policing Team presented the Forum with a summary of the crime and anti social behaviour statistics. For the last twelve months incidents for both are down and local awareness of the "lock it or lose it" message is playing a big part in the reduction in crime. Specific Police operations continue to target, among other things, drug related matters, metal theft and illegal off-roading.

At the last meeting of the Forum those attending identified the supply and taking of drugs in our local neighbourhood forum Windermere and Ambleside as their priority for police to place a particular focus on.

Neighbourhood Policing (cont'd)

There has been a lot of intelligence gathering which has resulted in a number of arrests and also seizures of Class A and B drugs including a cannabis growing set-up. From engagement work with parishes, the public and the Forum audience the following suggestions were proposed for the new priority.

1. Road Safety – speeding in the 40mph zone in Rydal
2. Drug misuse in Windermere and Ambleside
3. Shoplifting (raised by Chamber of Trade and Shopwatch)
4. ASB in the Kirkstone Close area
5. Elterwater – a permanent reduction in the 60mph limit; this is not strictly a police matter although they can be involved in speed monitoring and report any concerns to the Highways dept.
6. ASB related to pubs and clubs. Regular patrols are carried out and also, if the police have concerns about a particular establishment they can have some influence when licences are renewed.

All of these areas of concern will be looked at by the Police at times when they are not dealing with calls for service; those attending the Forum voted to continue with attention to drug misuse and supply in Windermere and Ambleside.

Updates and Feedback on Local Projects

Lake District National Park: Steve Tatlock, Ranger for the Central and South East area, is heavily involved in the big litter pick happening round Windermere on 18th May between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm. Equipment is provided and volunteers are being encouraged to adopt their local patch and keep it tidy on a more regular basis. The project is also being rolled out to cover Ambleside, Grasmere and Rydal – contact Steve through the LDNPA office (01539.792698 ext 2733) for more details. Rangers are also involved in the Go Lakes travel scheme which aims to reduce carbon emissions and increase dwell time by helping visitors to leave their cars wherever they are staying and move around the Lakes area wherever possible using buses boats and bikes. Right of Way access is also being improved and there are plans to extend cycle routes north of Ambleside and along the west side of Windermere.

Windermere and Ambleside Foodbank: This is a new project being set up under the auspices of Churches Together, in response to an identified need in the local area. A shopkeeper in Windermere had started an unofficial foodbank and this is now to be put on a more formal footing with help from a Churches Together steering group and the Trussell Trust, a leading national charity. The Trust will provide start up and ongoing support but a fee of £1,500 is payable each year so funding is required as well as amassing a stock of around 2 tons of non-perishable food items. The service is likely to be based in rooms in the Methodist Church and it is only for people in crisis. Access is by referral from official bodies such as a GP or Social Services and it supplies food for 3 days on a maximum of three occasions in any six month period. It is very early days for this scheme but watch out for further news locally.

Health Developments: As well as the structure of services in the Morecambe Bay area currently undergoing massive scrutiny, national developments in how services are delivered come into force from 1st April. There will be greater accent on outreach and bringing care to people at home and GP-led commissioning boards will shape services according to local needs – look out for further consultation around mid-May.

Red Bank Road: At a meeting in 2009 to establish an Ambleside and Rydal Community Travel Plan safety issues were raised about Red Bank Road and a request made for it to become a “quiet lane”. Generally the road is not properly maintained, is prone to flooding and has no speed limit. A request was made for this to be a main agenda item at the next meeting of the Forum, with representatives from Highways, the Police and the LDNPA attending to outline what can be done.

Community Noticeboard:

18th May – Cardboard Boat Race at the Low Wood Hotel
 26th May Bank Holiday: Rotary Club organising a relay marathon in support of the Will Hutton appeal – teams of 5 are needed.

Are you aware that if you suffer a power cut lasting more than 12 hours you are entitled to claim compensation from your supplier.

Your local
neighbourhood
forum