

CENTRAL LAKES NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Summary of the meeting held at the Rayrigg Rooms, Bowness on 16th November, 2010

Councillor Jim Bland welcomed everyone to the meeting and took apologies before introducing the first speaker.

Update on Windermere Waterfront Regeneration Projects and other projects from the Lake District National Park Partnership Plan

Stephen Ratcliffe, Director of Planning & Partnerships at the National Park explained the importance of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy in delivering the vision for National Park. In recognition that the Park is not one homogenous area, it has been split into 5 distinct areas, with the Central and South East area, which includes Windermere, being recognised as having more significant visitor pressures than other areas. Stephen outlined the Windermere Waterfront Programme identifying places for regeneration on the eastern shore of Windermere, including Waterhead, Low Wood, Brockhole, Bowness Bay and the Glebe. He provided an update on developments at Brockhole and identified Bowness Bay and the Glebe as a strategic regeneration location - it frequently providing a visitor's initial, and sometimes only, impression of the area. He explained the complexities of setting boundaries for this strategic development location and urged people to attend the next planned consultation event (Tourist Information Centre, 4 - 7pm on 12th January) to give their views.

Stephen also highlighted the Lake District National Park Partnership Plan put together by 22 individual organisations to provide a concerted plan with 84 identified actions, adding that if partners do not fulfil their obligations, they will be held to account. He mentioned the new GoNowLakes card, suggesting that with tighter funding, the need for organisations to work together becomes increasingly important.

Stephen responded to questions regarding the consultation on the boundary of the strategic regeneration location of Bowness Bay, stressing 'no change' is not an option. He suggested Bowness Bay is in decline and private redevelopment could fund public realm improvements through 'planning gain'. He acknowledged this is a 'hot potato' and that the private

sector will only redevelop if there is money to be made. He explained the Park's policy for housing and stressed net additional retail would not be an acceptable due to its impact on the town centre. The Park is open to suggestions and wants a long term future for Bowness and the Glebe. Stephen gave an assurance that Cockshott Point would remain an open area, adding it is up to the private sector to take the initiative if they feel a hotel development is commercially viable. Stephen responded to questions on the level of 'planning gain'. He explained any 'gain' would be ring fenced for improvements to Bowness Bay/The Glebe and would need to be time limited, adding that the Park Authority would set a scale of charges. The value of the Glebe as an open space for both residents and visitors was highlighted and he confirmed if any development took place on the TIC/tennis court/crazy golf site, compensatory facilities would be provided. He stressed there is no intention to build on any part of the green space. Plans for the Courtyard development were queried and Stephen confirmed retail development could only replace, not increase, existing retail provision. For more detail, please contact Stephen on 01539 724555.

Community Noticeboard

2nd December 10 – 12noon. Windermere & Bowness Fairtrade Coffee Morning at the Hydro Hotel.

7th Dec - Brockhole consultation event. Call 40261

9th December – Towards a Community Transition in Windermere meeting/film at the Ladyholme, 7pm
18 - 23 January – Lakes Players Pantomime at the Lakes School.

Lake District National Park Authority

Government review starting on whether the LDNPA should be more locally accountable. LDNPA In discussion with the owners of the Prince of Wales Hotel at Grasmere.

Get in Touch

Debbie Binch, Neighbourhood Development Officer, 01539 713180
debbie.binch@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Adult Social Care 'Re-ablement' scheme

Peter Woodhouse explained that Re-ablement is a new service being developed by the County Council's Adult Social Care Service, working with people aged 18 and over who are at risk of losing their independence following a period of illness or onset of disability. It will help people gain or regain daily living skills and enable people to live as independently as possible and gain confidence in their own abilities. The service will be provided free of charge for short period of time (usually up to six weeks). People with longer term needs after re-ablement will be assessed for a long term care.

The aim is to make re-ablement quick and easy to access – hopefully within 48 hours of referral. The scheme, which does not involve the Health Authority, will be delivered through a Cumbria Care re-ablement supervisor with access to Social Workers and Occupational Therapists. A personal plan will be put in place and reviewed on a weekly basis and carers will encourage people to do as much as possible for themselves. The scheme will not involve additional care hours or additional funding – existing care hours will be recycled to make better use of resources.

The scheme starts in the Grange-over-Sands area on 1st December and will be rolled out through the rest of Cumbria from June 2011. Contact Peter on 07966 641372 or at peter.woodhouse@cumbriacc.gov.uk

No need to lose the loos!

Bill Smith, South Lakes Development Trust, mentioned the complexities in trying to maintain and improve the loos as a social enterprise project! He explained plans to charge for some toilet facilities and subsidise others from the revenue raised, and the need to deal simultaneously with South Lakeland District Council and a number of voluntary organisations. The Trust hopes to develop a proposal to include architectural and legal issues, to put to the District Council before the end of December deadline.

Joan Stocker suggested the Forum put forward a referral to CCC/SLDC to the effect that the community wants to retain the toilets and supports the social enterprise

plan to achieve this. This suggestion was formally proposed and unanimously agreed.

South Lakes Development Trust is currently working

- on:
- > Identifying space for allotments
 - > Pedestrian surveys
 - > Garden share schemes
 - > The Hub (next 4 issues in jeopardy due to a £1.5K shortfall in funding)
 - > Delivering retail advice.

Central Lakes Local Area Partnership (LAP)

Leslie Johnson explained that at the last LAP meeting representatives from Keswick talked about the emergency plan they have put in place; £8K has been allocated to remove chewing gum from the streets and funding may be allocated to purchase small gritting machines for pavement use (2 for Windermere and 2 for the Lakes Parish). Concerns were raised about overhanging vegetation on the A591 and the state of the highway outside the Lakes School.

Skelwith Permissive path – now cleared and OK.

Grasmere Crucible project – Melissa Harwood explained the aim of the project is to ensure Grasmere remains sustainable for future generations. Following a public meeting it's first aim is to identify possible allotment sites. Email hardy.harwood@btinternet.com for more information.

Nurture Lakeland – Amy McLoughlin explained the background to Nurture Lakeland which works with accommodation providers to encourage visitors to get the most out of their visit to the Lakes without using their car. Call Amy on 01539 822622 for more information on this free service.

Police – PC Paul Burke, Community Officer based at Ambleside, explained the implications of budget cuts. (larger area covered, less officers to cover). Concerns (and compliments) were raised about police accessibility and visibility, and plans to extend the Special Constabulary mentioned.

