

CENTRAL LAKES NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

A summary of the meeting held at Troutbeck Institute on Tuesday 2nd July 2012

District Cllr Ben Berry welcomed everyone to the meeting; County Cllr David Earnshaw was introduced. Apologies were received from Cllr Jo Stephenson, Cllr Jim Bland, & Cllr Claire Salisbury.

GO LAKES TRAVEL PROGRAMME

Simon Boyd, Sustainability Officer for Cumbria County Council introduced himself and explained how he has been seconded to The Lake District National Park to give support on the Go Lakes Travel Programme. This is a new programme of transport measures aimed at transforming the travel behaviour of visitors to the central and southern Lake District. The project will run until March 2015 and has been funded by the Department of Transport. The project is being delivered in partnership by Cumbria County Council, Lake District National Park and Cumbria Tourism. The partnership made a bid at the back end of 2010/11 and was informed in July 2011 that it was successful; £4.89million can be claimed over 4 years.

Visitor travel accounts for three quarters of the total Lake District Carbon Emissions and an increase in visitors to the area by 1% could generate another 100 full time employment jobs and £7 million tourism revenue. There are 9 projects in total; Project 1 - 'Improving Passenger Transport' which includes bus services & routes, water transport services, hubs and smart information delivered by LDNPA; Project 2 - 'Improving Traffic Management' this involves developing a visitor parking management strategy, fixed signage and utilising smart technology which will be overseen by Cumbria County Council. Project 3 is a Car Hire network which promotes flexible low emission car hire aimed at visitors; Project 4 focuses upon Smart Ticketing to cover the whole GoLakes Travel programme area. Projects 5 and 6 are aimed at cyclists and are seeking to improve the Cycle Network through new & improved cycle routes, information and signing and mapping. Project 6 will promote a Cycle Hire Network providing options for visitors from accommodation, attractions and hubs. Project 7 considers transport information including destination guides & travel information points. Finally Projects 8 & 9 focus upon marketing travel around the Lake District including visitor focused branding, travel plans, industry training and communication.

The visitor campaign launches 22nd July with a Go Bike, Go Walk, Go Lakes festival, with a full week of activities and competitions. Stagecoach currently runs a Bike Bus (service 800) to Whinlatter and new services are being

launched (service X30/X33). The National Park has been trialling low emission vehicles for the Electric Car Hire and the Electric Bike Network is a new concept. Businesses are being encouraged to become a hire point where the bikes can also be charged. For more information or to get involved please contact Claire Maclaine at Claire.maclaine@lakedistrict.gov.uk or on 01539 792715. You can also visit the dedicated website at www.golakestravel.co.uk

THE FUTURE OF TROUTBECK SWIMMING POOL

David Howell, Director of the Hazelwood Wellness Company spoke about the company taking over Troutbeck Swimming Pool. Up until December last year 450 children were being taught to swim each week during the School term and the pool served 7 feeder Primary Schools as well as the Lakes School. The pool was built in 1974 and back in its day was a state of the art swimming pool but now 30 years later the fabric of the building is dated, however the structure of the building is sound.

There have been a series of challenges for the past few years with running the pool and South Lakeland District Council had provided support to keep it going but during the last term, September to December the pool lost £18,000. The board of Hazelwood Wellness are seeking to reorganise the internal layout and include a nursery/creche which will generate additional income. The aim is that this will not just be a swimming pool but that there will be a variety of activities for everyone and the building will become modern and sustainable sitting comfortably within the Lakes School.

The project will be beneficial to the school and the wider community as they will be able to use the hall during the evening and at weekends. 150 car parking spaces will be available and it is hoped to provide a children's play area within the outside area linked to a café. On the next level above the roof of the original changing rooms there will be a state of the art gym, the building will hopefully become an activity centre that will employ 25 full time staff as well as part time employees.

The company are aiming to submit plans to the development control committee at the LDNPA by September with the prediction that the centre will take

Your local
neighbourhood
forum

THE FUTURE OF TROUTBECK SWIMMING POOL (cont'd)

about 9 months to build, aiming to be open by Autumn 2013. An application for a £500,000 grant is to be submitted at the end of July and if successful this money will be spent specifically on the swimming pool and changing rooms. For further information David can be contacted at howell-david@sky.com

POLICING PRIORITIES

Inspector Kevin Spedding introduced his colleagues and explained to the Forum how overall crime has reduced this year, a big reason for this is what the communities are doing themselves to reduce becoming a victim. For the Windermere/Bowness area in the past 3 months there were 5 burglaries logged, 15 criminal damage crimes, 26 violent crimes and 10 shoplifting instances; in Ambleside during the same period 2 burglaries were logged, 8 criminal damage, 3 violent crimes, 6 shoplifting instances and 13 theft's. The past 3 months in Grasmere highlight 2 burglaries, 2 criminal damage, 0 violent crimes and 5 thefts and Langdale has experienced 3 thefts.

On 16th July there will be a live web chat and on the 24th July a 'Sports for All' event will be held in Ambleside, after previous successes in the Windermere area. At the previous forum meeting the top priority was late night noise and anti social behaviour in Ambleside. Since the meeting the police have attended bar watch meetings and barred people from pubs. Since the 29th February 16 Anti Social behaviour crimes have been reported, this compares to 176 from the Windermere area during the same period. Suggestions for the priorities at this meeting were: 1) Late night noise and anti social behaviour in Ambleside 2) Speeding along Lake Road Ambleside 3) Issues with parking and obstruction at Fell Foot 4) Anti Social behaviour problems at Skelwith Bridge. Members at the forum suggested that a priority was inconsiderate parking on Rayrigg Road, Bowness and this was subsequently voted the top priority.

AGE UK SOUTH LAKELAND

Tony McMichael is the local Village Agent who has covered the Ambleside area since June 2011 and the Bowness/Windermere area from February 1st this year. Village Agents work with communities to help problem solve. Over the past year Tony has worked with over 100 clients, attended 56 events with over 600 people involved, developed working partnerships with the local councils - County, District and Parish and continues to work with the Police Community Officers and Cumbria

Fire and Rescue. Future Developments include a happy and Healthy event in Windermere on November 9th and also developing walking football, men's groups, more seated exercise groups and the development of the village and agent volunteer support teams.

WINDERMERE REFLECTIONS

Shelby Halliday updated the forum on the 'Windermere Reflections' Ambassador Scheme. The role of the Ambassador is to inform people about the Lake, increase local knowledge and help people to understand the 3 main issues which are High Phosphate Levels, Alien Species and Sediment getting into the Lake. There is lots the community can do to help improve the quality of the Lake for example changing detergents. More information can be found at www.windermere-reflections.org.uk

LAKES PARISH COUNCIL

Elwyn Bradshaw, Chairman of the parish council updated the Forum on recent activity which includes the running of 7 of the community toilets and the refurbishment of 3 of them. The council are now also responsible for 'The White Platts' Recreational ground and have changed the contractor. Residents are kept updated on the work of the parish council through a local newsletter which goes out to every household; if you do not receive a copy of this the parish council would like to hear from you. There is also space available in the newsletter if any voluntary organisations would like to make an entry. Elwyn also reported on the work of the Central Lakes LAP and highlighted that this year the two main priorities are young people and the ageing, the LAP next meets on Tuesday 4th September, 7pm at the Marchesi Centre, Windermere.

GRANT APPLICATIONS

Leonard Cheshire Disability, Holehird – awarded £900

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

On 13th August Leonard Cheshire- Holehird will be holding a Bring and Buy sale in Windermere.

On 17th August Cllr Ben Berry will be hosting tea and scones at Troutbeck Institute between 2pm-4pm.

On 22nd August SLDC will be holding their clean streets consultation at Booths, Windermere 9am-3pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place in autumn and details will be circulated in due course. If you would like to get in touch beforehand or suggest an agenda item, please call 01539 713447 or email: Kelly.alty@cumbria.gov.uk

