

# CENTRAL LAKES

## NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

### A summary of the meeting held at the Kelsick Centre on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012

Parish Cllr Elwyn Bradshaw welcomed everyone to the meeting; County Cllr David Earnshaw was introduced. Apologies were received from Cllr Jim Bland, Cllr Jo Stephenson and Cllr Claire Salisbury.

#### **WINDERMERE REFLECTIONS**

An update was given by Debbie Binch, Project Officer for Windermere Reflections. Debbie explained that this is a relatively new project that will run for 3 years over the whole of the landscape within the Windermere Catchment, which is 235km squared. The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and has also received financial support from other partners such as the Environment Agency, Lake District National Park Authority, National Trust and The University of Cumbria. There are 3 main issues one being Phosphate Overload which includes septic tank overflows resulting from what we are putting down the sink/dishwasher and animal salvage. All of this affects animals that live in the lake and causes blue/ green algae which caused the Great North Swim to be cancelled a few years back. Sediment Overload is another issue where soil is going into the lake i.e. coming from overloaded footpaths amongst other things. Another issue is invasive and non-native species such as Japanese Knot weed, some of these species are easier to tackle than others.

The programme is underpinned by the involvement of local people and Windermere Reflections are looking for volunteers across a range of projects. There are 19 projects which range from Restore and Shore i.e. research, experimentations and survey work, River Corridor Enhancement, Choices for a Greener Future, Celebrating Landscape & Heritage, "Romans by the River" - a project in Ambleside, and Reflections on History identifying sights within our woodlands to name a few. The project at Ambleside Fort has been successful with lots of volunteer input.

Debbie works Wednesday-Friday and can be contacted on 01539 434401 or email [Debbie.binch@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Debbie.binch@environment-agency.gov.uk).

#### **LAKES YOUTH PARISH COUNCIL**

The Lakes Youth Parish Council consists of students within the Parish who want to enhance the lives of young people today and create a youth friendly environment, this involves encouraging businesses to open up more opportunities and employment for young people. Often young people who move away to study do not come back to the area as there is a lack of affordable housing. The group was formed a few months ago with members

from Ambleside, Rydal, Grasmere and the surrounding areas. A Facebook page has been set up and a twitter page will be available shortly and the group plans to put agendas and achievements on the page. A 'Beach Clean Up' at Waterhead has been arranged. This is the first Youth Parish Council in Cumbria and the members would like to prove it works and inspire other people to set similar groups up. They have received funding from the Parish Council and will be applying to other organisations when they have new ideas, the group will come back and update at a future meeting.

#### **LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP**

Bill Smith spoke on behalf of the Central Lakes Local Area Partnership, this is a partnership between Lakes, Windermere and Skelwith Parish Councils and the District and County Council. It is about sharing more information at a local level and having a better understanding of community needs. The priorities in the past year have concentrated on Youth, Older people and Health & Wellbeing. The LAP has funded a pilot 'Youth Internet' Café in Ambleside and contributed towards a village agent. Members of the Forum were asked to contribute their ideas and suggestions. Feedback will be provided at the next Forum meeting.

#### **POLICING PRIORITIES**

Inspector Spedding introduced himself and colleagues Sergeant Ken Jewell and PCSO Laura Jackson. Violent crime, burglaries, criminal damage and anti social behaviour are all down within the force. Within the past 3 months violent crime has increased slightly in Windermere/Bowness, 2 of the cases were domestic and the other few cases were related to alcohol. The year to date violent crime and burglary are down due to people locking their premises. Criminal damage has increased but this is due to the 51 cars that were damaged in one night a few months ago. Anti Social behaviour has also reduced. The overall crime figure is up by 31 but again this is due to the damage of the cars in one night.

The police are currently engaged with many activities including street safe events, drugs warrants, anti-social behaviour cases, and metal and fuel thefts.

A Sport for All event is being held on 05/04/12 and involves police and partners at Queens Park between

10am-3pm giving young people the opportunity to try out new sports.

PCSO Laura Jackson is working with Tony from Age UK to set up a group of young people to assist vulnerable people by providing help with tasks such as clearing snow off their drives.

The 3 priorities for consideration at the Forum included; 1) Litter, noise and underage drinking at Queens Park, Windermere, this was voted the highest priority at the last Forum, the police have since made 90 visits to the Park on patrol. 2) Late night noise and disturbance on Friday and Saturday nights in Ambleside - police patrol the area and work with the people who own the pubs and club. 3) Fuel thefts from domestic heating tanks, Langdale. During Jan/Feb 4 people in Langdale had 200-300 litres of fuel pumped from their tanks, the police are actively working to put media messages out, giving crime prevention advice to victims and stopping and checking vehicles that are able to carry a load of that size. Speeding on the Lake Road and north bound just past the police station was also raised as an issue.

Late night noise in Ambleside on Friday and Saturday night was voted the highest priority with 25 votes, next was speeding with 21 votes and the remaining two priorities received 16 votes each.

### **GRASMERE SPORTS TALES**

George Gale became involved in Grasmere Sports 5 years ago and was appointed manager 2 years later. Grasmere Sports is preparing a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding later this year, the project aims to provide learning for everyone across the spectrum ages both primary school and older. The project will focus upon identifying stories by collecting photos and memorabilia, training people to be interviewers and to record the information. It is hoped to involve students of secondary school age from the local area. The project is looking for Heritage Lottery Funding of approximately £50-60,000 and this will go towards paying for a local co-ordinator. The bid is due to be submitted in April and will take roughly 10 weeks for a decision; if successful the project will run for 18 months and a steering group will be formed.

### **AGE UK**

Tony McMichael was appointed as Village agent for the Ambleside and Grasmere District in June last year. Tony visits people in their own homes and attends lunch clubs;

the aim of a village agent is to help people stay in their own homes safely for as long as possible. A handbook produced with useful telephone numbers contains everything from the gas board to the vets. Tony started in the Windermere/Bowness area on 17<sup>th</sup> Jan, and since 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 7 client home visits have been made and include discussions on care home fees and benefits advice.

### **LAKES SCHOOL ACCESS ROAD**

Concerns regarding maintenance were referred to Cumbria County Council and it was requested that the road be maintained as a CCC road, the result is that the road will be added to the list of roads looked after by CCC.

### **HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES**

Elwyn Bradshaw spoke about the concerns raised by the local community and the subsequent meeting arranged by the parish councils which attracted 200 people. A letter was sent to the Leader of the Council expressing the parish councils concerns and a copy of the response can be obtained from Lakes Parish council. A decision will be made at the Councils Cabinet meeting in March. The Forum had a vote and 0 members voted in favour of the centre closing.

### **COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April the Ambleside Daffodil and Spring Flower Show will take place at the Kelsick centre 12 -5 pm on Saturday and 10 -4 pm on Sunday.

The Day Care services in Windermere currently provided on a Monday & Friday has gone out to tender, a decision is due at the end of May.

Windermere Reflections are holding some discovery days – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March at Bowness jetty, aboard the teal 11am-4pm and Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March at Ambleside Parish Centre 11am-4pm.

### **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

Ambleside Allotments Association – Awarded £900

Queens Park Bowling Club – Awarded £1000

Little Pips Mother & Toddler Group – Awarded £700

Grasmere Diamond Jubilee – Awarded £1000

### **NEXT MEETING**

The date for the next meeting is still to be confirmed but details will be circulated as soon as possible. To get in touch, please call 01539 713447 or e-mail: [kelly.alty@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:kelly.alty@cumbria.gov.uk).