



WINDERMERE & STAVELEY DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Summary of meeting held on Monday 15th March 2010 at the Ladyholme Centre, Windermere.

County Councillor Jo Stephenson introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the Forum, before thanking the ladies who provided refreshments.

Lakeland Initiative Fitness Excellence and Wellbeing (LIFE)

David Howell, Director, explained the background to Troutbeck Bridge Swimming Pool, built in 1974, and his involvement from March '08 and on a day to day basis since July '09. He showed a series of slides, showing the building and pool as it currently is and plans for the future. He explained that although the swimming pool serves six local primary schools and the Lakes school, has a thriving swimming club and around 600 children using it weekly, the 25m x 10m four lane pool is coming to the end of its natural life.

Working alongside the Lakes School and making use of some of their sporting facilities outside school hours, the planned development at the Swimming Pool will echo the style of planned developments at the Lakes School. Plans for the new facility include an 8 lane pool with a 150 person spectator gallery; gym; catering space; climbing wall; wet/dry changing facilities; three studios for group exercise classes etc. and a plant room with heat recovery boiler which would offset running costs by feeding energy back into the National Grid. Car parking at the pool would also be better defined.

David said the project is moving forward step by step – the spring programme will, hopefully, encourage more people to try out the facilities. Staff are very friendly and helpful (and are fund raising for equipment for the pool) and everyone is very welcome. Troutbeck Bridge pool is hosting a junior triathlon event later in the year and David expressed the hope that Troutbeck Bridge could become a regional centre for similar events. It is also very involved with the Great North Swim.

In response to queries, David confirmed LIFE has consulted with residents of Troutbeck Bridge who are supportive of the plans for the future and confirmed there are definitely no plans to include housing on the Lakes School site. He suggested the work would probably be phased, hopefully starting in 2011 and completed by 2014. The new development would have a minimum of a 25 year life span. He confirmed that as there was no change of use for the site, LIFE did not foresee any planning objections to the development.

David confirmed as the new pool would be outside the footprint of the existing pool, there would be no closure – the present pool could possibly be maintained as a training tank. He also explained public swimming sessions and facilities for young children currently available at the pool and confirmed the population is such that a Pool should be sustainable. He also mentioned the possibility of running summer schools as one of the ways being considered to make the pool more viable than in the past. Sue Aitken, pool manager, added that the pool had recently regained its accredited centre status. The Forum requested its' appreciation of the swimming pool staff be recorded.

Windermere Lake User Forum – anyone with concerns about the Lake/use of the Lake, please contact Peter Truelove at jacpet@truelove4.wanadoo.co.uk

QUICKFIRE UPDATES

Staveley Station access

Malcolm Conway warned of replacement bus services on the Lakes Line on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and of reduced services on Easter Sunday. John Berry, vice-Chair of the Lakes Line Community Rail Partnership explained that the 40 steps to Staveley Station have been an issue for 20 years. Unfortunately at this time Network Rail has no plans to address the issue. John stressed the need to campaign via the County Council as this is the only body Network Rail will talk with. The steps are now in a state of disrepair, but the last thing the village wants is new steps!

Himalayan Balsam in Ings & Staveley

Janet Antrobus explained that Himalayan Balsam is one of several alien plants which are now rampant, threatening native species and eroding river banks. The National Park Authority and National Trust are tackling the problem and groups of people committed to eradicating the plant, which spreads via explosive seed pods and easy rooting abilities, have been formed at Rothay and Kendal. There are plans to start a group in Staveley/Ings and anyone interested was invited to meet at 6pm at the Eagle & Child on 25th March. Janet explained the Balsam is mapped, it just needs pulling out several times over the summer before it gets into the Kent. Contact Janet on 01539 727175.

National Park

Steve Tatlock provided information confirming the Staveley Bridge project is moving forward, and that Estate teams have identified drainage issues at Crook as a priority issue.

The Park Authority requested funding from national government to repair bridges, footpaths and bridleways damaged or lost in the November floods. Funding has been granted with a caveat that it must be used within a specified time on identified projects. Steve provided an update on footpath work at Kentmere, profile inversion on the High Fells and work on Garburn Pass where the National Trust has used traditional pitching on the worst sections. He stressed this work could not have been done without help from Limefitt Park, adding that by Easter people should be able to walk on a track rather than a gully. He also mentioned United Utilities work at Dubbs Road, saying there would be a significant improvement when the work is finished.

Steve explained that the National Park Authority is not renewing its contract with South Lakeland District Council to police the by-laws on Windermere this year. They will patrol the Lake themselves and extend the hours normally covered. He also provided information on a major Triathlon to be held on the lake on 4th July, and a brief update on the redevelopment of Brockhole.

Police

P.C. Becky Hunter explained how communities can become involved in setting police priorities. The next community meeting will be held at 6pm on 14th April in the Council Offices at Broad Street, Windermere. Speeding on Oldfield Road has been identified as an issue and a meeting will be held to explain what is being done to address this. P.C. Hunter explained plans to introduce more SID's (speed indicating devices) and work with schools on road safety issues. She provided information on youth diversion events aimed to reduce incidents of anti social behaviour; two recent burglaries at business premises; marine crime and drug issues. She urged people if suspicious, to note down registration numbers and ring the Police. Similarly, she asked that people ring the police if 'cold callers' target their premises. Contact number for the police is 0845 3300247

Age Concern

Jonathan Ingram provided information on the Macmillan & Age Concern project to support people over 50 affected by cancer. The new service will be introduced at the Marchesi Centre on Holly Road the first Thursday each month from 10.00 – 12.00. Contact Jonathan on 01539 728118 for more information, or if interested in becoming a volunteer.

Central Lakes Local Area Partnership (LAP)

County Councillor Jo Stephenson explained the background to LAPs, identifying the need for closer links between elected representatives and stakeholders. Representatives from Lakes, Windermere and Skelwith Bridge parishes together with County and District Councillors form the Central Lakes LAP. Although in its early stages, Councillor Stephenson added that the LAP will become an important and influential organisation and will be a mechanism residents can use to take up issues and concerns with County and District Councils.

Town Centres and Community Support

Paul Holdsworth, Town Centres Manager, reported:-

1. The allotment initiative now has a waiting list of over 80 people. It has recently been offered a small plot of land and is in discussion with local residents & Booths.
2. Garden Share Scheme – if anyone has a garden too big to manage, the scheme has lots of people willing to share the work and produce. If interested call Paul on 40021.
3. United Utilities work to deal with sewage issues at Bowness will start in autumn 2010. The pipe to Tower Woods is currently being surveyed by CCTV.

In Bill Smith's absence, Paul explained plans to create a Community Land Trust as part of the **Windermere Community Plan**. A public meeting regarding this will be held on 25th May. Another public meeting looking at green issues relating to the Community Plan will be held at 7.30pm, 30th March at the Phoenix Centre.

Staveley Green Transport Initiative

Following the successful pilot project last year, Ruth Jennings explained that the Sustainability & Energy Network Staveley intends to run another series of travel related events this year. Details on the website shortly.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Staveley Carnival – because of withdrawal of Arts Council funding, the Carnival has a £25,000 funding gap. The Forum supported a suggestion that the County Council support the Carnival from its Festival budget.

The Age of Stupid – climate change film showing at the Carrver Church at 6.30pm on 21st March (no charge) or at the Royalty Theatre, 8pm on 24th March. Admission £5/£4.

SLDC Talk Toilet Consultation extended to 11th April

CADAS – support and information for people who care for addicts. Call Julie Oram on 01539 742615 for more information.

For information on the Community Energy Trust contact Debbie on 01539 713181.

GRANTS

Sustainability & Energy Network Staveley

Requested £630 Awarded £400

Lakeland Initiative Fitness & Excellence at Troutbeck Bridge Swimming Pool

Requested £1,000 Awarded £1000

Bowness Bowling Club

Requested £1,000 Awarded £1000



DIARY DATE - The date of the next Windermere & Staveley District Neighbourhood Forum will be notified shortly.