



Central
Lakes
Neighbourhood
Forum

A summary of the meeting held at Langdale Village Hall, Chapel Stile on Tuesday 15th July 2014.

County Cllr Heidi Halliday welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced Councillors Philip Thompson, Fiona Sparrow, Leslie Johnson and Jean Birkett, all from Lakes Parish Council. Apologies were received from County Cllr Jim Bland and District Cllr Vivienne Rees

The Kurt Schwitters Merz Barn Project
Ian Hunter from the Littoral Arts Trust, opened the meeting by speaking to the Forum about plans for the future of the Merz Barn in Elterwater.
Kurt Schwitters was a modern artist who fled persecution by the Nazi regime and came to England as a refugee in 1940. He lived in Ambleside and was allowed to work at the barn in Elterwater by Harry Pierce who owned the Cylinders estate. There he started his last important artwork using the inside of the barn as the basis for the project. Internationally renowned at the time, Schwitters received funding from the Museum of Modern Art in New York for this project and his work is still championed by MoMA and also the Tate group of galleries in Britain.
At present various low key study and research activities take place on the site. Currently 30 artists are staying at the local bunk barn or camping on the site and the bunk barn is already pre-booked for 3-4 weeks each year for the next three years, to allow similar groups to visit. Proposals for the future are based on the initial premise of whether there should be development on the site at all so the first option is simply to leave it as it is but keep the site tidy and use it just for community and educational projects.
A second option would be to raise funds and seek planning consent to rebuild the shippon for use as a visitor centre. Any planning application for change of use at the site would require provision of car parking. Finally, The Tate and the Arts Council have aspirations to build a museum on the site.
Mr Hunter was keen to emphasise that Littoral Arts Trust acknowledges that the views of local residents are very important and will be taken into account when any decisions are made. If the visitor centre option were to go ahead it would be available for community use and local young people would have opportunities to integrate and work with international visitors.

The Kurt Schwitters Merz Barn Project (cont'd)
The Chair of the local Primary School governors echoed the educational value already gained by children working with visiting artists and that it would be a pity to lose this resource.
Concerns were raised about the impact on the local environment of higher visitor numbers – with a lack of public transport into the valley the number of vehicles arriving is already increasing year on year (a recent survey in Elterwater counted 3,000 vehicles in one week) – and assurances were sought that a full environmental impact assessment would be undertaken.
In response to a question about whether the original mural from the end wall would be brought back to the site Mr Hunter advised that this would not be possible but that a replica might be made and installed in the barn. Finally, Mr Hunter urged local residents to lobby the Parish Council to vote against any further development if that was what they wanted and the wishes of the local community would be respected.

Troutbeck Bridge Swimming Pool
David Howell from Hazelwood Wellness Company provided the Forum with an update on the Swimming Pool facilities at Troutbeck Bridge by announcing that with the support of a £0.5m fund from Choices Health Clubs of Derby, work would commence over this summer to secure the building and pool facilities, with a scheduled re-opening date of February 2015. The pool will be open all day with a full programme of sessions for community and school use. Choices Health Clubs specialise in wild training fitness programmes so there will also be provision for outdoor circuit training type activities, which will bring in additional revenue.
Charges for using the pool will be kept as reasonable as possible to make them affordable and the new plans have widespread support from local stakeholders and Lakes school.

Neighbourhood Policing Priorities
Inspector Kevin Spedding and PCSOs
Laura Jackson and Debbie Ross
reported that over the past 3 months



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Neighbourhood Policing Priorities (cont'd) crimes and Anti Social Behaviour incidents were down in all three areas of Windermere & Bowness, Ambleside and Grasmere and there had been no burglaries at all in the Ambleside area. Residents and visitors alike seem to be heeding warnings to secure properties and belongings in vehicles, leading to fewer thefts. An operation to target illegal off-roading is being planned and PCSO Ross has been working with the Chamber of Trade on the introduction of Shop Watch to reduce shoplifting in Bowness.

PCSO Jackson is organising an end of term disco in Ambleside to hopefully reduce ASB associated with that time of year. She will also be working on activities with Ambleside Youth Club and attending Ambleside and Grasmere Sports. Work with young people has led to a decrease of around 70% in youth ASB over the last 5 years. It was advised that the Youth Club could provide transport for young people in Langdale to access activities.

The policing priority chosen at the previous Forum meeting was ASB in Queen's Park, Windermere. Regular patrols have been made since then and only 2 incidents have been reported. The priorities to choose from at this Forum meeting were;

1. Road Safety – Speeding at Rydal within the 40 MPH limit
2. ASB in Windermere – possible displacement from Queen's Park
3. Shoplifting, a Chamber of Trade and Shopwatch concern
4. Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) in the area of the University campus in Ambleside
5. Speeding outside the school in Chapel Stile.

The unanimous vote was for police to focus on Option 5, speeding in Chapel Stile but all the other issues will continue to be monitored.

In response to concerns raised about speeding and large quarry lorries in Elterwater, despite the new "20s plenty" signs, Insp Spedding advised that the police could take no action on vehicles exceeding the advisory 20mph limit as the legal limit remains 60mph. There was also anger from residents at the way organisers of the annual Keswick to Barrow walk close off the roads in Elterwater despite no official road closure being in place. Insp Spedding advised that a temporary Traffic Regulation Order should be required and he would be meeting with Cumbria Highways to discuss this further.

AGEUK Village Agent

Tony McMichael is the Age UK Village Agent for the Central Lakes area. He holds regular surgeries in Windermere and Ambleside libraries and will consider a further one in Langdale each month if there is a demand for it. His work varies widely but aims to ensure people have access to the help and benefits they need and are entitled to. Age UK will have a mobile shop at all the local shows this summer, starting with Grasmere. To contact Tony to arrange an

appointment call 01539 728180 or email helpline@ageuksouthlakeland.org.uk

Langdale Valley Association

The Association was set up 6 years to organise special events and campaigns for the benefit of those living in the Valley. On the 3rd August a service of remembrance in the church has been organised followed by tea in the village hall and an exhibition of memorabilia looking back to World War 1 and looking forward to the next 100 years. After the Parish Council provided funding to keep the public toilets open, the Association maintains them and volunteers ensure they are closed each night.

Lakes Parish Council (in Langdale)

In Langdale there are 2 campsites, a caravan park, 4 hotels, plus the Langdale timeshare apartments and lodges and a youth hostel. However, 75% and 85% of the properties in Chapel Stile and Elterwater respectively are 2nd homes. The general feeling is that the area comes very low down on the list of priorities for both the County and District Councils and it takes ages to get anything done. It was also perceived that even if the Parish Council objects to a planning application, the Planning authorities invariably approve it, taking no notice of local opinion.

Complaints were received about the standard of repairs to potholes which then rapidly deteriorate again. Overhanging vegetation is also an issue in places but it was suggested that residents are able to cut it themselves providing the cuttings are returned to the property they came from.

Community Grant Applications

St John Ambulance – Awarded £750
Friends of the Lake District - Awarded £1,000
Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade - Awarded £495

Community Noticeboard

A scholarship scheme has been run this year to enable 6 pupils from each of the three local schools to train and compete in the traditional wrestling at Ambleside Sports on 31st July.

There is currently a vacancy on Lakes Parish Council – anyone interested (particularly from the Langdale area) in becoming a councillor should contact the Parish Clerk, Michael Johnson via lakesparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk

County Council officers were asked to distribute information about forthcoming Forums much earlier. They will try to do this depending on other work commitments. Cllr Halliday thanked the two officers for their work not only on the Forum but also on many other local matters.

The next meeting will be held in late October/early November, probably in the Windermere & Bowness area. If you need to get in touch in the meantime or have a suggestion for an agenda item please contact Kelly Alty via kelly.alty@cumbria.gov.uk