

Central Lakes Neighbourhood Forum

A summary of the meeting held at the Marchesi Centre on Tuesday 11 March 2014.

County Cllr Jo Stephenson welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced Cllr Heidi Halliday. Apologies were received from Cllr Jim Bland.

Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

Richard Rhodes is Cumbria's first Police and Crime Commissioner and he spoke to the Forum of his role and the current areas of work.

A Police Commissioner is elected every 4 years and Richard has been in post for 15 months. In Cumbria 16% voted to have a Policing Commissioner, this was the highest figure in the Country but seems low as communities failed to understand the role.

Richard has weekly meetings with the Chief Constable and also has control of the budget which is £125 million per annum but 85% of this is already taken with salaries. He also produces a Police & Crime plan which sets out what is needed in the County over the next 5 years.

A major issue people seem to be concerned about is Anti-Social Behaviour, there are different opinions on what this is and this can differ depending on the part of the County in which you live. Richard has looked at this issue in the big towns and by the end of the year there will be CCTV in each of the major centres; if this had not been done there would be no CCTV within the County as they are all being switched off for a variety of reasons.

Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault are huge in the County and are massively under reported. Cumbria is the only county in the Country that doesn't have a Sexual Assault Recovery Centre and at the moment victims have to travel to Preston.

Richard is determined to get one opened by this time next year.

Youth Justice is one of Richards's prime concerns. There are 85,000 people in prison and only 500 vacant places. 70% of people in prison have the reading and writing age of an 11 year old, 70% have at least 2 mental health disorders and 70% have spent time in Social Service care. It costs £40,000 a year to keep someone in prison and 60% will re-offend within 2 years. Money has to be spent earlier in order to prevent these things happening.

Richard is also hoping to persuade the constabulary to treat rural crime the same as business crime.

The Lakes School – New Head, New Vision

Mr Andy Cunningham joined The Lakes School on 6th January and told the Forum that this has been the most rewarding 8-9 weeks of his career so far. The biggest impact Mr Cunningham has had on the school is sending the message that everyone is part of the school family and to encourage students to develop a respect and pride for the school. It is a key priority to make the Lakes School the number one choice for families in the area. Students coming to the Lakes School are arriving already well accomplished from the partner primary schools.

The school is going to start giving the Students Options towards the end of Year 8

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enabling them to pick 3 subjects which they would like to focus upon.

The school council helps to feed ideas in from the students and as a result the students are even offering to do things over their lunch period!! Mr Cunningham has set a target that within the next 3-5 years the school will be outstanding in terms of Ofsted.

Litter, Smoking behind school premises and Speeding of cars away from the school was raised as an issue by a member of the forum audience. Andy highlighted that the school is a non smoking site and they are working internally with the students to enforce this; this is an ongoing process and the students need to understand the importance of changing their behaviour in order to do what is right. Mr Cunningham has met with residents who live close to the school about the speeding issue and this is being looked at further. Break and Lunch times are also being reviewed with consideration being given to where the children are allowed to go, and encouraging them to eat within the dining hall.

When asking the students for feedback on the Lakes School statements have included *"it is a school where we're listened to"*; *"a school where we matter"*; *"we are a family"*.

Neighbourhood Policing Priorities

Inspector Kevin Spedding and Sergeant Bill Nolan provided the Forum with crime statistics on incidents which had occurred over the past 3 months.

For the Windermere & Bowness Area: Anti-Social Behaviour 84; Crime 114; Burglaries 6 and Violent Crime 17.

Ambleside Area: Anti-Social-Behaviour 28; Crime 33; Burglaries 5 and Violent Crime 8.

Grasmere Area: Anti-Social Behaviour 4 and Crime 4.

The police are currently engaged with a number of projects including Operation Sombrero - theft from out buildings, Operation Trice – theft from motor vehicles, Operation Ambient – theft of stock and rural crime, Multi Agency Illegal off-roading patrols, Shop & Hotel watch, CCM Development, Targeted shop-lifting and night-time economy patrols.

The priority chosen at the previous Forum meeting was 'drug taking and supply in the area of Windermere & Ambleside'. The priorities to choose from at this Forum meeting were;

1. Road Safety – Speeding at Rydal within the 40 MPH limit
2. Drug misuse in Windermere/Ambleside areas
3. Crime-shoplifting-volume crime, Chamber of Trade and Shopwatch concern
4. Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) within the Queens Park area.

ASB within the Queens Park area was voted the main priority from this Forum meeting.

Windermere Reflections

This scheme is running locally and aims to address the water quality within Lake Windermere as this currently isn't as good as it should be. The 3 main issues are Phosphate, Sedimentation and Non-native invasive species. There are many volunteering and training opportunities which can be found at www.windermere-reflections.org.uk or contact Debbie.binch@environment-agency.co.uk.

School Knott Community Woodlands & Windermere Food Group

The woodland was planted 15 years ago and the trees are ageing and extremely tall. Cumbria Woodlands have produced a plan which is now going to the Forestry Commission for funding. The Fruity Windermere campaign focuses upon planting fruit in public spaces and the latest is in School Knott Woods. For further information please contact Debbie Binch.

Community Grant Applications

Westmorland Red Squirrel Society (www.westmorlandredsquirrels.org.uk) –

Awarded £606; **Langdale Village Hall** -

£350; **Windermere Area First Responders**

– Awarded £1,400; **The Lakes Players** –

Awarded £1,500; **Grasmere Village Hall**

Company Ltd – £1,000

Community Noticeboard

Windermere in Bloom is taking place this year, there is no need to apply, and people will be going round and looking for displays. Saturday 17 May – Windermere Cardboard Boat Race www.cardboardboatrace.co.uk