



## Central Lakes Neighbourhood Forum

### **A summary of the meeting held at Ambleside Parish Centre on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013.**

Cllr Heidi Halliday welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were given for Cllr David Earnshaw and Cllr Jo Stephenson. Cllr Halliday expressed interest in Ambleside & District Girl Guides & Brownies and Windermere Reflections.

#### **Ambleside & District Girl Guides & Brownies**

Funding was provided by the Neighbourhood Forum at the beginning of the year and was used to purchase a Dehumidifier, Bake Wear, Hockey Sticks and Flood Proof Storage Boxes. The Dehumidifier has already been used greatly and in the future the group are looking at holding Baking and Hockey competitions.

#### **Rapid Response Catchments Project**

Flash Flooding is occurring more regularly with 2012 being the wettest year on record and nearly 500 properties in the North West flooding. Social risks involved include risks to life, health and vulnerable groups of people, Environmental risks occur where areas flood more regularly and infrastructure risks include buildings, roads and services being knocked out. These events have a short lead time, usually less than 6 hours from start to finish so alerts cannot come out quick enough and there are not always rain/river gages available and these items are delicate anyway so may be destroyed in a flood.

The aim is to make sure communities are aware of the risks and are prepared so

can respond accordingly. Signs to watch out for include heavy rain, severe weather reports, rising water levels and the build up of debris in rivers.

Everyone is at risk but most commonly people in single story accommodation, people on low ground or at the bottom of a hill, tourist commuters and elderly or infirm people. You should never walk or drive through flood water or stand on bridges that have the risk of washing away. A flood kit/grab bag is a sensible thing to always have at hand and should include important documents (insurance docs), a torch, portable radio, batteries, blankets or warm clothing, first aid kit, bottled water, tinned food, personal items and a whistle.

The Environment Agency are looking to develop a plan for these occurrences and need local knowledge to help, what resources are available in the community? A lot of calls are currently received from different individuals that might not always be a trusted source but if a group was in place within the community with a specific number it will be known to be trusted. Personal Flood Plans and more information can be found on the website [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk).



**Your local  
neighbourhood  
Forum**



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### Neighbourhood Policing Priorities

Bill Nolan introduced his colleague Sarah Blacow and spoke of activities the police are engaged with at present including MDA Warrants, Operation Amber (Metal theft), Multi Agency Illegal Off -Road Patrols and Shop and Hotel Watch. The festive period is already being planned and how Anti Social Behaviour is going to be policed. Communities had the opportunity to vote for a local priority at the previous Neighbourhood Forum, the priority voted as the main issue was Drug misuse in Windermere & Ambleside, the suggestions for priorities at this meeting were:

1. Road safety – Speeding at Rydal within the 40mph limit
  2. Drug misuse in Windermere/ Ambleside
  3. Crime – shoplifting, volume crime
  4. Anti Social Behaviour in Ambleside from the University of Cumbria.
- Again the issue with the highest number of votes was drug misuse in Windermere and Ambleside.

### Windermere Reflections

Shelby Halliday spoke to the Forum of the project and the 3 main issues which are too much Sediment, too much Phosphate and invasion of non native species. There are currently 19 ongoing projects which include encouraging people to buy phosphate free detergent. Many events

are scheduled to take place and can be found at [www.windermere reflections.org.uk](http://www.windermere reflections.org.uk).

### Age UK Village Agent

Tony McMichael is a local Age UK village agent who works 30 hours around the local area. The average age for beneficiaries is 73.9 months and 49% of people in the area live alone which is above the national average and are living with 2 or more medical conditions with a lot not having had a social visit in the past month. There are currently 13 village agents with 2 recently starting in Kendal and between them 2600 people were seen last year. Most Village Agents are part time and are supported mostly by lottery funding received 2 years ago which lasts to 2015, the Local Area Partnership is also going to partly fund.

### Community Noticeboard and Soapbox

Langdale Village Hall received a grant from a previous Forum and their projector is now in and working so available for meetings.

In Grasmere there is a serious threat of closure to the Post Office and as of next January it is possible it may be closed.

### Community Grants

There is currently funding available for grants for the Central Lakes area. If you would like more information please contact Jeff Twedde on 01539 713417 or at [jeff.twedde@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:jeff.twedde@cumbria.gov.uk)



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