



Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade

Promoting the trading and commercial interests of Bowness, Windermere and the immediate area.

The minutes of a General Members Meeting held on the 17th April 2012 at the Burnside Hotel, Kendal Road, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 6:30pm.

Members Present:

Tony & Liz Blaney - Fairfield House	Erica Hargreaves-Wood - Erica's Hair Salon
Eve Blatchley – Hon Member	Bill Johnson – Hon Member
Barry Butler – Butler Thompson Assoc	Jonty Mayo - Musgraves
Simon Everett – Simon Everett Opticians	Christopher Rishton – Lakes Architects
Adrian Faulkner – AGF Business Services Ltd	Sue Tasker – Oakthorpe Hotel
Robert Fowler - Robert Fowler Associates	Enid Thompson - Welcome Guides

Guests:

Sgt. Ken Jewell – Cumbria Police	Laura Short – CREA (Speaker)
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Apologies:

Tony Benton – Lazy Daisy's Restaurant	David & Gill Howarth - Renoirs
Cllr. Ben Berry – SLDC	Paul Liddell - Lakelovers
Sue Bloy – Lakes Accountancy	Robin Love – Ambleside PO
David Carter – David Carter Chemists	John Richardson – Richard's Butchers
Clayton Butchers	Penny Seeds - Manuka
Tim Farron, MP	Adam Slatter - Booths
Sue Fixter – Pitlochry	Tim Swaine – NatWest Bank
Paul Frain – Helens Chocolates	Ruth Thompson – Welcome Guide
Chris & Barbara Gabbott – The Coppice	Amanda Took – Mystic Moon

Simon Everett, as chair, welcomed Laura Short - guest speaker, members and guests.

It was agreed by those present that the Police should give their report first as they may be called away.

Police Report:

Sgt Jewell outlined the current policing setup which had resulted from pressure on budgets. The local policing teams had been reduced from 21 to 10 and were now covering Ulverston and the Lakes. At this juncture, Simon Everett expressed the Chambers sincere thanks to Scott Livett for all he had done for the community and asked that this be passed onto Scott. Scott had left his position as a PCSO to become a full-time police officer. Sgt. Jewell then went onto to say that the Cumbria Police were 24 months into a 4 year cost reduction plan which would aim to bring the number of uniform officers in the county down to 1,150 from the current staffing level of 1,273. There had also been an announcement of a reduction in the police support staff of 56. At force level the priorities remained:

- Anti-social behaviour (ASB)
- Reduction in burglary
- Violent crime, and
- Drug supply

At the year end, crime and ASB were down across the county by about 3% with ASB down by approx. 20%.

In line with the county, overall crime in the Ulverston and Lakes area was lower than the same time last year with a decrease of 6% overall, down from 1,686 to 1,585.

Shoplifting continues to be one of the most frequently reported crimes. The **Shopwatch** meeting in March was poorly attended and as a consequence the banning process was not possible. Metal theft is on the increase with several thousands of pounds in value being stolen. Thefts from car park meters had taken place over

Easter. The Police contact number has now changed to **101**. This DOES NOT replace the 999 emergency number. Stay in touch with reports and trends at [twitter.com@ulvandlakescops](https://twitter.com/ulvandlakescops)

Presentation:

Simon Everett introduced Laura Short from the Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency (CREA) who gave a presentation on the work undertaken by CREA and how it can help businesses improve the environment and cut costs. Laura outlined the tourism related projects they provide together with Cumbria Business Environment Network (CBEN) criteria. It was pointed out that jointly £10.1m of savings had been made by businesses in Cumbria; 43,000 tonnes of CO₂e savings; 398 local jobs saved and 1,374 local businesses assisted. Laura then went onto outline CBEN's "Environmental Management System" criteria and the 'Green at Heart award scheme. Copies of both documents are on the Chambers website at: http://www.wbcoft.org.uk/ecofriendly_town.htm

There then followed a Q&A session at the end of which Simon thanked Laura for her interesting and informative presentation.

Minutes:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th March 2012 were accepted as being a true record.

Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:

The Secretary apologised for not reporting the following at the last meeting. He reminded the meeting that he had been asked to write to SLDC for clarification regarding 'A' boards in the area. He reported that as Windermere and Bowness were in the National Park this matter was out of SLDC's remit and would be for the LDNPA to enforce, if necessary.

Correspondence:

The Secretary reported on the following item of correspondence he had received:

1. An email from SLDC outlining the proposals for the "A Night to Shine: Olympic Torch Relay Evening Celebration" on the 21st June. There will be road closures with Glebe Road being closed to all traffic from **3:30pm on the 20th June until 11am on the 22nd June** from Braithwaite Fold onwards. However, Blue Badge holders will be able to access the section of Glebe Road from Braithwaite Fold to Rectory Road. Glebe Road car park will be **closed** during this time.
2. An email from the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce advertising a course on simple techniques of setting up and promoting businesses on Twitter. The cost of the course is £95 + VAT to include lunch. The course takes place at CREA, Redhills, Penrith on May 8th from 10am to 4pm. Further details on 0845 226 0040.
3. An email from SLDC regarding interested parties joining their Citizens Panel – Community Voice. To join, log onto www.craigforth.co.uk/CV
4. An informational email relating to the 3rd round of the Regional Growth Funding.
5. Extracts from the Windermere Town Council minutes:
 - a. Lake Admin Committee - report that SLDC had acted unlawfully by serving notices of increased fees too late and contrary to the annual encroachment agreement. Credit notes will be issued.
 - b. Bowness Bay toilets are averaging 700 visitors a day. 24,000 in 34 days. LDNPA have agreed to empty the coin boxes and bank the income, as a result they would be taking a percentage of the income. Taking all costs, logistics, security etc, this was a reasonable alternative.

Reports:

- a. **Police:**
See above
- b. **Membership Secretaries:**
No report.
- c. **Community Safety Partnership**
Bill Johnson asked that a member be able to take his place at the forthcoming meeting. This was agreed to and the Secretary was to email the membership.
- d. **Windermere & Bowness Winter Lights Group:**
Nothing to report.
- e. **Windermere Town Twinning Association:**
Tony Blaney reported that:
 - i. The Garden Party would be on June 16th

- ii. School exchange visits had started.
- iii. The annual "British" week in Diessen would be from the 22nd September to the 29th September.

f. **Windermere Catchment Restoration Programme:**

Nothing to report

g. **Windermere Waterfront Project:**

Nothing to report.

h. **Tourist Information Centers:**

Nothing to report.

i. **United Utilities:**

Nothing to report

j. **Business Maps/Guides for Windermere and Bowness:**

Enid Thompson reported that there had been a disappointing take up on advertising for this years map. She pointed out that it would require a further 15 adverts to make it a viable proposition and stated that there would be a further email going out to all potential advertisers. For further details, please contact Ruth at ruth@wel2.com.

It was suggested that the LDNPA, through its 'sustainability fund', might be willing to help with sponsorship.

k. **Windermere Community Action Plan:**

No report.

l. **Cumbria In Bloom:**

Adrian Faulkner, in his capacity as a Management Committee Member of Cumbria In Bloom and co-ordinator for Britain In Bloom entry reported that the April Newsletter had been published, circulated and put onto the Chambers website. He also pointed out that this year, due to rising costs, the hanging baskets would be £50 per lamppost. This still represented good value and an inexpensive form of advertising. Those who sponsored a basket last year will be considered to be doing the same this year unless Cllr. Lisa Greasley has been notified to the contrary. Her number is 015394 44465. Britain In Bloom judging will provisionally take place on August 2nd.

The Secretary proposed to the meeting that the Chamber of Trade continued to sponsor a hanging basket this year. This was accepted by those present.

Olympic/Diamond Jubilee window competition

It was agreed that the judging of this competition would take place during the week of the 4th June 2012. It was also agreed that A5 flyers be produced and distributed to all businesses within both areas.

Bus Drop-off Point

Nothing to report.

599 Bus Route Alterations:

The Secretary was requested to write to Stagecoach supporting the comments made by the Windermere Town Council and adding that any change would be detrimental to businesses in so much as those who relied on the bus going up Thornbarrow Road, Park Road and Ellerthwaite Road may have difficulty in getting to the shops etc.

Business In Adjoining Parishes:

No report.

Website Statistics:

The Secretary reported that for March 2012, over 55,000 world wide 'hits' had been made on the Chamber of Trade's website. These apart from the UK had come from the USA, China, Hong Kong and Russia amongst others. The Membership page had had the largest number of 'hits'.

A.O.B.

It was reported that Gail Escolme had accepted the invitation to address the membership at the May meeting.

Barry Butler asked if anybody had heard of the changes being introduced regarding the use of heart defibrillators on under 12's. The Secretary reported that he had heard nothing from the North West Ambulance Service nor the Olympic Medical Team. He stated he would investigate further.

A question was asked as to how the Lakes Hospitality Show (LHA) had gone. Tony Blaney, in his capacity as President of the LHA, reported that it had been a "good success" and that the exhibitors had a preference for the use of the marquee. He then asked for ideas as to how the cost of the marquee could be re-couped.

The Secretary asked those present to sanction the renewal of the Windermere-Diessen Twinning Association subscription (£10) on behalf of the Chamber of Trade. This was agreed to.

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Dates of Future Meetings:

2012

May 1st

Adrian G Faulkner - Secretary, Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade.
DMS. FCMI., CLP.