



Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade

The minutes of a General Members Meeting held on the 2nd February 2010 at the Burnside Hotel, Kendal Road, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 6:30pm.

Present:

Tony & Liz Blaney (Fairfield Guest House)
Eve Blatchley (Hon Member)
Carol Bullock (Edinburgh Woollen Mill)
Simon Everett (Simon Everett Opticians)
Adrian G Faulkner (AGF Business Services Ltd)
Sue Fixter (Edinburg Woollen Mill)
Hannah & Kay Forsgardh (Hutton's Chocolates)

Rob fowler (Rob Fowler Associates)
Paul Frain (Helen's Chocolates)
Mike Graham (Hackney & Leigh)
David Howarth (Renoirs)
Paul Holdsworth (SLDT)
Bill Johnson (Hon Member)

Guests:

Terry Belshaw Community Policing)
Peter Boyd (SLBAC)
Leith Hallatsch (WTC)
Wendy Ingham (BAC)

Robin Love (PO, Ambleside)
PSCO Scott Livett
Gareth McKeever (PPC)
Erica & Neil Wood (Erica's Hair Salon)

Apologies:

Barry Butler (Butler Thompson Assoc)
Claytons Butchers
Anthony Dean (Threshers)
Tim Farron MP
Chris Gabbott (The Coppice)

Steve Holcroft (Steve Holcroft Photography)
Paul Liddell (Lakelovers)
Mike Roberts (Millbeck)
Richard Rogers (The Old Pump House)
Penny Seeds (Manuka)

Opening Remarks:

In the absence of Barry Butler (Chair), Simon Everett (Vice Chair) welcomed the assembled members and guests and introduced Peter Boyd, Terry Belshaw and Wendy Ingham. Simon then went onto present certificates for the Chambers "Best Dressed Christmas Window" competition to Hutton's Chocolates of Bowness and Erica's Hair Salon of Windermere as joint winners. (Secretary's Note: Photos of the presentations can be found on the Chambers website under "Community Participation.")

Shop Watch Scheme Presentation:

Simon introduced Peter Boyd from the South Lakes Business Against Crime Partnership who in turn introduced Wendy Ingham and Terry Belshaw. Peter pointed out that it was non-profit making and there to help businesses fight crime and then outlined the purpose of the organisation which was primarily to make sure known criminals, by way of photographs, operating in the area, were banned from entering business premises. He then went say that the Magistrates were taking into account the "Shop Watch" scheme when sentencing.

Peter then went onto say that those who joined the scheme would be given a window sticker stating they were members and a folder with the photos in. This folder was for staff members only and would be updated quite quickly once a person had been banned. Also access to Wendy whose job it is, to process the intelligence given by the police for the benefit of the members.

The cost of joining the scheme was dependant on employee size:

Under 5 - £55 per year,
6 to 11 - £120 per year,
Over 12 - £175 per year.

All tax deductible as a legitimate business expense.

The scheme was approved by the Home Office by recognition of the “Safer Business Award.”

The local scheme would be run by its own local committee of business members who would have the final say as to whom would be banned from business premises.

Secretary’s Note: There is a full list of benefits of the BAC (Shop Watch Scheme) on the website under “Community Policing.”

After a Q&A session, Simon thanked those concerned for their attendance.

Minutes:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd November 2009 were accepted as being a true record.

Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:

There were no matters under this heading.

Report from the Committee Meeting:

The Secretary reported to the meeting that the first meeting of the Chamber’s Committee had taken place prior to the main meeting and that it had discussed the possibility of a ‘business map/guide.’ It was pointed out that this was in the embryonic stand a further update would be reported to the main meeting in the near future.

Correspondence:

The Secretary read out to assembled members the following correspondence:

1. Belated Christmas greetings from;
 - a. Rural Services Network & SPARSE Rural,
 - b. Cumbria Chamber of Commerce,
 - c. The Chartered Management Institute, and
 - d. Federation of Small Businesses.
2. A letter from SLDC regarding “Consultation with Non-domestic Ratepayers – 2010/11 Budget. This letter can be found on the Chambers website under “Consultation.” Also in conjunction with this letter an email from Barry Butler outlining the questions the Chamber of Trade should be asking SLDC.

Reports:

- a. **Police**

PCSO Scott Livett gave the meeting an update on what the Community Policing Team had been doing since the last meeting. He also brought to the meetings attention that crime, as a whole, was on the decline within the area, that dog fouling was becoming a major local issue/concern in Windermere. Scott handed the Secretary a “Shop Watch Survey” form which is to put onto the Chambers website under “Community Policing.” He asked that the membership fill out and return to him at the email address show at the top of the form.
- b. **Treasurer:**

The Treasurer reported that the 4 members whose subscriptions where due in January had all paid.
- c. **Membership Secretaries**

Rob Fowler reported that he had asked his staff, when talking to clients, to mention the Chamber of Trade. He also stated that he had an initiative to increase membership which he would present at the next meeting.
- d. **Community Safety Partnership**

Bill Johnson gave a brief outline of what the partnership does and creates an awareness of Neighbourhood Watch throughout the area.
- e. **Business Improvement District:**

Tony Blaney outlined the purpose of the BiD’s for the benefit of those assembled. He went onto to point out that BiDs should be business led. This was endorsed by Paul Holdsworth – Towns Centre Manager.

Tony went onto point out that in order for BiDs to become possible there needed to be an agreement of 50% of business rate payers, together with 50% of the rateable value. A quick calculation would suggest that approx. £100k could be generated for local projects.

Paul Frain outlined his objections to BiDs as he has first hand experience through the Keswick BiD.

Tony stated that the next stage forward would be to undertake a feasibility study by independent consultants.

- f. **Windermere & Bowness Winter Lights Group:**
David Howarth outlined the future plans for this group and stated that over 4,000 people had attended the Fire Work display at Queens Park as the finale of the switching on of the Winter Lights. He went onto state that this event had been funded by 'rattling' buckets. Last years monetary contributions had come by 28% from Bowness businesses and 33% from Windermere businesses.
- g. **Windermere Town Twinning Association:**
Eve Blatchley handed the Secretary a "Thank you" card on the occasion of her retirement as the Chamber's representative. The Secretary informed the meeting that Eve had represented the Chamber for some considerable time and that, on behalf of the Chamber, she had been sent a bouquet of flowers. Eve pointed out that Hans (Diessen Town Twinning Association) would be coming over in March. Tony Blaney was now the Chambers representative.
- h. **Windermere Catchment Restoration Programme:**
Simon Everett gave a brief outline to the project for the benefit of the meeting.
- i. **Windermere Waterfront Project:**
Simon read out a written report from Barry Butler.
- j. **Windermere Air Show/Glebe Trading:** - Report from Barry Butler read out.
It was pointed out by a member that the Windermere Town Council had approved the selling of food on the Glebe during this event. The Secretary made the meeting aware that the Chamber had written to the Town Council objecting to this. There appears to have been some misunderstanding between Rotary and the traders on the Glebe in the fact that they were against any trading on the Glebe, whether by caterers or others. However, Rotary at the meeting agreed that there would be no trading on the Glebe, but they would pursue outside caterers for the pitch and putt area. Rotary have now sorted out what caterers they require on the pitch and putt and are to put out tender documents.
- k. **On Street Car Parking Charges:**
A report received from Barry Butler was read out to the meeting by the Secretary. It was brought to the attention of the meeting that this had been passed back to full cabinet of SLDC for further consideration. The Secretary made the meeting aware of a letter he had received from SLDC stating that car parking tickets where transferable within SLDC car parks within the allotted time paid for. He pointed out that this letter was on the website under "Fairer Car Parking Charges."
- l. **Snow/Gritting:**
It was reported that Barry had been in contact with SLDC over the problem of shop keepers clearing pathways in front of their businesses.
- m. **Tourist Information Centers:**
It was reported that Barry had been in touch with SLDC over this matter. A further report would be made at the March meeting.
- n. **United Utilities Storage Tank:**
It was noted that the Civic Society had lost their application for "Village Green" status of the Glebe. Barry had been in discussions over this project.
- o. **Business Maps/Guides for Windermere and Bowness:**
See "Report from Committee Meeting" above.
- p. **Local Development Framework:**
No report, however the Secretary made the meeting aware that the LDNPA were sending through Planning Application on a regular basis and these were being uploaded onto the website.
- q. **Windermere Community Action Plan:**
Leith Hallatsch reported to the meeting that he had only just received his copy of the plan and as such had not had the time to make a report. He stated that he would do so for the next meeting.
- r. **Cumbria In Bloom:**
Adrian Faulkner, in his capacity as an Executive Committee Member of Cumbria In Bloom reported that this year was the 25th Anniversary of Cumbria In Bloom and that various celebratory functions would be happening throughout the county. He went onto explain what Cumbria In Bloom was all about and how Windermere In Bloom fitted in.
- s. **Public Toilets:**
Nothing to report.
- t. **Street Signs:**
Nothing to report.

Business in Adjoining Parishes

The Secretary made a formal introduction of Robin Love from Ambleside and welcomed him to the meeting. The Secretary went on to point out that Robin was encouraging businesses in Ambleside to join the Chamber and that the Chamber had had a number of enquiries.

Website Statistics:

The Secretary, in his capacity of webmaster of the Chambers website, informed the meeting that for the month of January 2010 there had been over 28,000 world wide 'hits' on the site.

AOB:

- Gareth McKeever was introduced to the meeting as a Prospective Parliamentary Candidate. He thanked the Officers for the invite to attend and listen to what was happening within the local business world. He stated that he was committed to a vibrant community and commented on the safety of businesses.
- Tony Blaney, on behalf of the Lakes Hospitality Association (LHA) informed the meeting of the initiatives the LHA were undertaking to try and increase visitor numbers. These included "Stay for Five" and a TV advert during the ITV series "The Lakes" with the message "We Are Open!"

----- + ----- + ----- + ----- + ----- + ----- + ----- + ----- + ----- + -----

Dates of Future Meetings:

2010
 2nd Mar
 6th Apl
 4th May

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