

**70 Victoria Road North
Windermere
Cumbria
LA23 2DS**

Mr K McGlasson
NTCP (Hons.) MRTPI
Building Design Partnership
11 Ducie Street
Piccadilly Basin
PO Box 85
Manchester
M60 3JA

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Dear Kieron

Windermere Waterfront Programme - Bowness Bay and The Glebe Master Plan

With reference to the meeting at The Old England Hotel on 21st May 2009, I found this very useful but was a little disappointed with the workshops.

It was very useful to see the comments received from the people in the consultation undertaken at Booths, but this did not seem to include the comments provided by other people, including myself, which have been provided previously.

It is presumed that all comments, whether obtained through the post, email, or through one to one conversation, will be taken into account.

In the workshop meeting we did not cover all the points and felt that the "options" referred to were inappropriate as a lot of them overlapped or would need to be done at the same time. It is important that this is a vision for 25 years and that some aspects could be achieved now and others at a later date.

The gentleman leading our consultation appeared to be more interested in complete redevelopment of the waterfront with hotels, restaurants, etc and that seemed to take up a greater part of the discussion time.

The redevelopment of the existing units and improvement or refurbishment of the buildings along the waterfront is needed. The scale of these properties needs to be reduced, especially with regard to Shepherd's, in order to improve the view and outlook from The Glebe and to open up the vista. Shepherd's could be reduced in height with a new basement restaurant below the Lake level.

Improved landscaping, especially between the piers and the Aquarius building and between the Pumphouse and the South Lakes Sailing Club, and this could include forming a new promenade area which could be built out into the Lake to improve seating areas for visitors providing there is not a large expanse of concrete.

A scheme needs to be discussed with the various landowners for their consent as they are likely to finance any developments with some government or local authority grants.

There is a need for further variety of attractions in the area, but these should not be located in the area of The Glebe as there is already a great influx of visitors causing pressure on car

parking. A gallery could be located at an extended Blackwell Arts or on a site adjacent to the Steam Boat Museum.

With regard to hotels, many of the existing hotels could be refurbished or extended or new hotels on the existing sites. There are a number of properties along the Lake shore which could be a site for an exclusive hotel with lake frontage facilities.

The buildings on The Glebe should be used to facilitate and serve the needs of lake users and visitors.

Braithwaite Fold needs to be improved as a car park, whether this is below ground or not, with improved facilities for visitors together with a visitor centre.

A link could be formed quite easily between the car park at Braithwaite Fold and the commercial centre of Bowness by a historic walk or information provided to take people from the car park around Cockshott Point, along The Glebe, into old Bowness and back out by the Belsfield Hotel and the cemetery and back to the car park.

Yours sincerely

Barry Butler
Chairman Windermere and Bowness Chamber of Trade