

Windermere Waterfront – Progress December 2009

Overview

Welcome to the fourth Newsletter for the Windermere Waterfront Steering Group.

It is important that we continue to keep each other informed of progress on the various elements of the Programme, remembering that the programme will deliver far more if we work as a broad partnership, rather than individual parts.

Please bear in mind that this is a fast moving piece of work and you do need to bear in mind that it is fluid. Undoubtedly by the time you have read this certain things will have been superseded, but we hope it helps!

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Windermere Waterfront Steering Group will be on **Tuesday 13 January at 10 am** to be held in the **Theatre at The Lake District Visitor centre at Brockhole**. Please make a note in your diaries and let Catherine know if you are able to attend -
Catherine.courtney@lake-district.gov.uk or phone 01539 792631.

Progress on Local Development Framework Core Strategy

We published the draft Core Strategy for formal consultation in September/October.

Thank you to everyone who made comments or offered support to the policy for the Windermere Waterfront Programme. We are adding a labelled point for Fell Foot Park and an arrow linking to Hill Top to the accompanying figure to ensure consistency with the text.

We are nearing the point when we can submit our Core Strategy document to the Planning Inspectorate who will then arrange the necessary Hearing in May. We hope to be in a position to adopt the Core Strategy in September/October 2010.

Ben Long is continuing to lead on this aspect of the work. Please feel free to contact him if you would like any specific updates or advice. Ben's telephone number is 01539 792647.

We included the following policy wording:

Policy CS08: Windermere Waterfront Programme

We will support proposals for sustainable tourism development to deliver a cohesive world class visitor destination at the key sites comprising the Windermere Waterfront Programme where it would:

- **incorporate the highest quality of sustainable, locally distinctive design appropriate to the character of the area, and**
- **incorporate measures to celebrate proximity to water and to protect and enhance water quality where appropriate, and**
- **incorporate improvements to the public realm, where appropriate, and**
- **incorporate [improvements to accessibility](#) by sustainable forms of transport.**

Where appropriate, we will seek developer contributions and management agreements to meet transport and infrastructure requirements, including investment in the public realm.

We will work with partners to develop and improve sustainable transport connections on and around the lake.

We will retain and enhance the character of the more tranquil areas around the lake while strengthening the opportunities for passive enjoyment, including for walking and cycling.

We have identified land at Bowness Bay and The Glebe, Bowness-on-Windermere as a strategic regeneration location for development to transform the visitor experience, in accordance with the above principles. We will define this further in a Supplementary Planning Document.

Update on individual elements of the Windermere Waterfront Programme

Ambleside including Waterhead public realm enhancement

- Consultants TEP guided by the Steering Group lead by SLDC prepared fresh options for Waterhead.
- Consultation on three options took place in September/October 2009. A preferred option has been identified and was on display at Ambleside public library from 20 November 2009.
- The next stage is to work detailed design of the proposals prior to bringing funding together to deliver the enhancement.

Low Wood Conference Centre

- Extant planning permission for consolidation of conference centre
- A new application for a new design for the centre has been submitted to LDNPA
- Consultation and decision likely by March 2010

Lake District National Park Visitor Centre at Brockhole

- Adam Thomas appointed as Lake District National Park Visitor Centre Project Director

Windermere Steamboat Museum

- Lakeland Arts Trust did not apply to Heritage Lottery Fund this September
- With the help of grants received from the Headley Trust and other private Foundations, LAT have appointed a Conservation Workshop Manager for the Windermere Steamboat Project. Adrian Stone, who used to run his own yacht services business on the Isle of Wight, will be joining the Windermere Steamboat Project Team in February 2010.
- One of Adrian's first tasks will be to establish and equip a workshop in the former Windermere Building, the funding for which has also been secured from private Trusts and Foundations. Additional funding is currently being sought to appoint an assistant boat builder to work alongside Adrian.

Bowness Bay, including The Glebe

- BDP master planning nearing completion
- Four options were presented to partners and public in October/November 2009.
- Work to develop a preferred option is now underway
- Upon completion of Masterplan LDNPA need to prepare Supplementary Planning Document to take it forward as a formal document for the future planning of the area

Lakeland Motor Museum and rail halt, Backbarrow

- Opening anticipated for Spring 2010
- Rail halt at Backbarrow given planning permission (16 September 2009)

Southern node of Windermere

We are continuing to have discussions with NWDA about the possibility of a master planning exercise for the entire southern node of the Programme, including Lakeside/ Fell Foot, Newby Bridge and the whole length of Haverthwaite railway, including Haverthwaite rail stop. Capacity to deliver this element of the programme will mean it is a lower priority

Communicating Windermere Waterfront Programme

There remains considerable interest about the Programme, both within and outside the Park and we all play a role in informing others about the programme, whilst accepting that certain bits of information may be confidential. For our part we have given briefings to the following over the last few months:

- Eden and South Lakeland Delivery Board (tour including presentations)

In addition we have the following planned:

- Tour and presentations to the North West Design Review Panel
- Visit by the new Chairman of NWDA in February

We are more than happy to attend any other groups if required and please let us know if we can assist.

Sustainable transport for Windermere Waterfront

Waterbus

Windermere Lake Cruises operated a trial waterbus service during the summer school holidays, with mixed results. The experience was positive at Brockhole and Lowwood Hotel, but the service faced difficulties which prevented it operating from White Cross Bay Caravan Park. WLC were however sufficiently encouraged to have the confidence to start planning waterbus services for next year's summer season.

We have submitted an ERDF bid for funding for new jetties at Brockhole, Waterhead, possibly Steamboat Museum and at Bark Barn on the western shore to improve the infrastructure to serve Waterbus services and transport for events. And the bid will include improvements to the cycle infrastructure on the western shore.

Bowness to Ambleside Cycleway

The feasibility study for the Bowness to Ambleside section of the Kendal to Keswick strategic cycleway is being completed and should be signed off before the end of the year. The route includes the potential, in parts, for bridging options. An illustration of an option for one section (between Lowwood Hotel and Jenkin's Field) was included in Richard Leafe's recent Podium slot in the Westmorland Gazette. The next stage of this project will be to engage communities in the various options, prior to agreeing a preferred route.