

## Windermere Waterfront Programme Steering Group meeting

11 March 2011  
Bowness Bay

### Attendance

There were representatives from:

Lake District National Park Authority – LDNPA

South Lakeland District Council – SLDC

Cumbria Tourism

Windermere Lake Cruises (WLC)

National Trust

Forestry Commission

Lakeland Arts Trust

Windermere and Bowness Civic Society

Windermere and Bowness Chamber of Trade

Lakeside Hotel

Impact

### Meeting note

Steve Ratcliffe (SR) introduced the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

### Jetty charges

There was an extensive discussion about SLDC's jetty charges and the recent change to the charging system for commercial operators. Charges are changing from being based on jetty length, to being based on jetty area. Some members of the group feel that the charges do not support development of a sustainable transport network around the lake.

Graham Vincent (SLDC councillor) explained that cabinet had given SLDC officers instructions to maximise income. Michael Keane (SLDC) considered that the new charges are on a fairer basis for everyone. He asked that people talk to SLDC if they have particular issues about their jetty charges.

Nigel Wilkinson (WLC) explained that commercial piers need to be robust enough for boats to moor alongside them, and that they need to be wider than 1 metre for this. Floating jetties are more flexible, and need to be even wider for stability. The change to the jetty charging structure will act as a disincentive for operators to install modern floating jetties.

Jenny Borer asked if it was possible for SLDC Lake Administration Committee to review the charging mechanism again.

The group talked about jetty development being part of an overall strategy, and that there is a strategic issue as to the viability of the overall Windermere Waterfront scheme if jetties become too expensive to operate. There is an expectation that charities will get a concession on any jetty charges.

**Action** – Michael Keane to ask the chair of Lake Administration Committee whether the Committee would review the jetty charging mechanism.

**Action** – LDNPA and SLDC to meet to discuss the Windermere Waterfront Programme and development of sustainable transport links around the lake. This should include a strategic view of where we envisage future jetty development around the lake, for both northern and southern basins.

**Action** – LDNPA to consider including a map of current and potential jetties for sustainable transport in the Windermere Management Strategy.

### **Updates from north to south**

**Ambleside – Waterhead project**

No progress on the wider project due to lack of funding. There is incremental private improvement, and still scope to make wider improvements and progress in the future.

**Low Wood**

Planning permission for a conference centre is scheduled for a decision at the LDNPA's Development Control Committee meeting in May.

**Lake District Visitor Centre at Brockhole**

The new jetty is due to be completed in June. The revamped house was opened on 10 March. Plans for the watersports centre are underway, and the planning application for the high ropes course application will be submitted in April. There will be an options appraisal completed for the whole site by late June.

**Steamboat Museum**

Heritage Lottery Fund is still assessing the Steamboat Museum bid until mid April. Lakeland Arts Trust is continuing conservation work on the site. They are also developing a private fundraising strategy. Lakeland Arts Trust is holding a competition to find an architect to design their new building, the process for that will start in late April. Restoration work on 'Osprey' is continuing, they hope to commission it this summer.

**Bowness Bay and The Glebe**

Ben Long advised that the LDNPA has received a planning application for the marina extension in Bowness Bay. It is a major application, and we need any comments by mid April. We will take all comments into account in making a recommendation to Development Management Committee. Lake navigation is likely to be the main issue, with the Windermere Lake User forum discussing the application on Monday night.

Carissa Lough explained that we are currently summarising comments from the Bowness Bay and The Glebe site allocation consultation. A summary report will be available on the LDNP website in April. The National Trust confirmed that they want their land to be included in the site boundary for Bowness Bay, as described in one of the options.

**Southern Node**

There are several landowners and operators based at the southern end of Windermere lake, with significant potential for visitor development being identified. Steve Ratcliffe explained that there is a willingness to work together.

**Western Shore**

Jeremy Barlow (National Trust) updated the group that progress on Wray Castle is on-going. There are no further developments currently along the Western Shore.

### **Next meeting**

The group agreed that the next meeting will be a breakfast meeting at Brockhole, including a short visit to the new jetty. It is likely to be in June, date to be advised.