

Chairman's Report to Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade 20th December 2011

January 2011 saw the formation of the Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade Business Improvement District Steering Group. This has been the main activity throughout the year and as you will all know, it has at last ended with the implementation of the formal Ballot.

This has been hard work for the committee, Paul Frain, Jonty Mayo, Barry Butler, William Johnson myself and of course our indefatigable and indispensable secretary and treasurer, Adrian Faulkner. There has also been additional input from, amongst others, David Cooke and Craig Adamson.

January found us in Skipton with the secretary and chairman of the Skipton BID. This was the start in earnest of our bid for a BID!

February saw the visit to chamber of Lawrence Conway who we invited to tell us how the negotiations for the public conveniences for Windermere and Bowness were going or not! I am glad to say that after this the interested parties got together once more.

March found Steve Ratcliffe of the LDNPA, address the Chamber regarding the various Park issues. Bowness Bay & the Glebe being our particular interest.

April heralded Sergeant Ken Jewell as the latest NPT Community Sergeant for Ulverston & the Lakes.

May once again welcomed Gail Escolme, to give an interesting presentation on updated Employment Law. This is a really useful subject to members and I think has become a worthwhile yearly event.

The summer came & went so fast it seems, the major event being the Windermere Air Festival.

October had Bluestone Events giving the Chamber a report on the outcome of the Airshow. It would seem that not enough money had been made due in part to the historical charitable nature of the event being previously run by Rotary. We had also helped, by introductions etc., the development of a coach drop off point to be assessed at the top of Bowness. This should help traders on the hill to attract more custom we hope, as the passengers walk to the lake down the hill!

November brought Steve Ratcliffe back to update Chamber on the Bowness Bay & Glebe project.

All this time your BID Steering Group Committee has been working continuously to bring the BID into reality. Funding was negotiated with Cumbria Fells & Dales RDPE Local Action Group supported by the "European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development; Europe investing in rural areas" and was agreed to in early June. There seems much support, but we need more, if we are to be successful. There have been six public meetings around Windermere & Bowness, the first being attended by our MP Tim Farron who is greatly in favour of the BID. Generally the attendance for these meetings could have been better but those who did take the time to attend, found that a BID would be of benefit to the community as a whole.

We have a membership of about 80 and I feel we should be encouraging more people and businesses to join our ranks so that we can continue to increase our voice within our community. We are now a recognised body with opinions that carry weight with all the various bodies.

Simon Everett – Chairman