

CENTRAL LAKES NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

A summary of the meeting held at The Ladyholme Centre on Wednesday 28th November 2012

Cllr Jo Stephenson welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced County Cllr Jim Bland. Apologies were received from Vivienne Rees, Leslie Johnson and David Williams.

CUMBRIA FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Station Manager Steve Sharrock, from Kendal is also responsible for overseeing the stations in Windermere, Ambleside, Sedbergh and Arnside. Windermere has 14 retained fire-fighters to crew one appliance and a Landrover. This vehicle is used for wildfires and other less accessible incidents which the large appliance cannot get to. If back-up is required it can be called in from Ambleside or Staveley. In the year to date (since January) there have been 205 call outs in Windermere, including hoax calls but the majority to fires and road traffic collisions. The service in Cumbria performs very well overall and is ranked one of the top services in the country. The Service is working to raise awareness levels about free home fire safety inspections which include the fitting of a new smoke alarm if required. Working alarms are proven to save lives, especially in rural areas where it can take longer for the service to reach an incident. Two recent fire deaths in remote areas of Cumbria might have been prevented if there had been a working smoke alarm. To request a visit please call (freephone) **0800 358 4777**. The number of deaths in fires has dropped greatly over the last 10 years but the numbers killed and seriously injured in road traffic collisions remains steady; the biggest risk is 17 -24 year olds and road awareness training is done with this age group.

The Service is also currently working in partnership with the British Heart Foundation on the "Heartstart" programme which offers a 2-hour basic first aid and CPR training course to small workplace or community groups. This training can be vital in helping a casualty before emergency services arrive. For more details about Heartstart call: 01539 713663.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

Sergeant Rupert Johnston and his colleague PCSO Adrian Goldbourn, reported to the Forum that crime overall in Cumbria, South Cumbria and the Ulverston & Lakes area is down year on year apart from a slight rise in the number of burglaries. In the past three months in Windermere/Bowness there have been 20 burglaries; work is being undertaken to combat this and 2 people have recently been taken into custody.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING (cont'd)

In Ambleside during the same period 35 crimes have been logged of which 4 were burglaries and in Grasmere there have been 17 crimes, 2 being domestic burglaries; several of the others were theft from vehicles which had been left insecure or where valuables had been left in clear sight.

Patrols are being increased around shopping areas and town/village centres in the build up to the festive period to try to prevent shoplifting and disturbances related to excess alcohol consumption. During Road Safety Awareness week PCSO Goldbourn reported that pupils from local schools had manned speed traps with officers and 60 infant school pupils had been taught about crossing roads safely. At the previous meeting of the Forum the top policing priority was inconsiderate parking on Rayrigg Road; since then officers have worked with colleagues from the County Council Highways department on enforcement of parking restrictions and no complaints have since been received. Cars are still being ticketed and the situation will continue to be monitored. The following suggestions for a new priority have been made via town and parish councils and other engagement work:

- 1) Speeding between Glebe Road and Ferry Road;
- 2) Tackling the rising level of burglary in the area, and
- 3) Shoplifting in Bowness, Windermere, Ambleside and Grasmere. Two further suggestions were received from the Forum: 4) Criminal Damage to cars and other property and 5) the availability of drugs to juveniles and adolescents. Following a vote it was decided that the availability of drugs should be the prime focus for the police over the coming months, but they will monitor and take steps on all the suggestions made.

In response to a query about taxis parking on double yellow lines, on pavements and in disabled parking bays in Bowness, the advice was to get the taxi's licence number and to report them to SLDC, which is the licensing authority.

A further question was asked about Restorative justice and whether it works; in the opinion of the Police it does work and keeps many young people out of the criminal justice system.

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GRANT APPLICATIONS:

Applications for a grant from the Forum were heard from Windermere Youth Project and Langdale 1st Responders. Both applications were supported by the Forum and they were awarded £494 and £1,000 respectively.

LOCAL UPDATES

WINDERMERE REFLECTIONS

Restoration work at Galava Fort including new information boards and improvements to access will be carried out during the next year. Work by volunteers has improved access to the western shore of Windermere and opened up the path to Wray Castle. Field studies specialists have been working with school children in Hawkshead, Langdale and Windermere. Cartoonist Colin Shelbourn has been working with youth and school groups to develop characters for an animated film about the area.

Nurture Lakeland has developed a best practice toolkit for organisers of outdoor recreational challenge events, to raise awareness of the environmental impact an event can have. Nurture Lakeland also continues to promote the use of phosphate-free laundry and cleaning products to reduce water pollution and the occurrence of algal blooms in the lake. Installation of phosphate strippers at water treatment plants has also helped. For more information and news about activities and events contact Debbie.binch@windermere-reflections.org.uk

WINDERMERE SPORTS CLUB

The club is based in Queen's Park and was first dedicated by Dr Hamilton to the people of Windermere in 1898. Football and cricket have been played there continuously for over 100 years and the park also has bowls and tennis clubs and a play area. SLDC carries out maintenance of the facilities but the football pitch has had ongoing drainage problems and, as it is owned by the people of Windermere, fundraising will be starting in the New Year for a minimum of £50k to try and resolve those issues and bring the pitch up to league standards

WINDERMERE 1st RESPONDERS

This is a fairly new team, in operation since October 2009. However active members have dropped from 28 at the start to only 14 now. The group became a

WINDERMERE 1st RESPONDERS (cont'd)

registered charity in 2012 but is entirely self-funded. They respond to c. 50 calls per month and each member currently has their own kit bag. New members are desperately needed – contact Kate Ducksbury via kateducks963@btinternet.com

WINDERMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor Allan Winrow, reported to the Forum that the town had won a silver award in Britain in Bloom and, if asked, will try to go one better next year. The Town Council now has the lease for the public toilets which are managed by the Community Care Trust. The town's first allotments are also now up and running. Management of trees in Elleray Wood and on Orrest Head will be undertaken, with the priority of opening up and maintaining the views. New bus shelters are also planned for certain locations. To find out about everything that's going on at the Town Council and maybe apply to fill one of the 5 current vacancies for councillors, visit the new website:

www.windermere-tc.gov.uk

NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

The Proposed Submission Report on the Authority's Allocations of Land document will be published on 13th December and is out for consultation until 7th February. Copies will be available in libraries or at www.lakedistrict.gov.uk

TROUTBECK BRIDGE SWIMMING POOL

The owner's funding application to Sport England was not successful due to over-subscription but they have been encouraged to re-apply in January 2013. Local residents expressed concern that a planning application had not yet been submitted and they still did not know what the intentions are for the site.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

The Civic Society is looking for new members - £2.50 per year to attend meetings and events. Visit www.civicvoice.org.uk/society/windermere-and-bowness-civic-society

Volunteers are needed to help organise the next WinderClean project. Contact Debbie Binch (as before) The County Council's consultation on Draft Budget proposals is open until 31 Jan 2013 at www.cumbria.gov.uk

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place in February or early March 2013 - details will be circulated in due course. If you would like to suggest an agenda item or just need to get in touch then please call 01539 713447 or email: Kelly.alty@cumbria.gov.uk



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