

WINDERMERE & BOWNESS CHAMBER OF TRADE

The minutes of a meeting held on the 6th March 2006 at the Burnside Hotel, Bowness - on - Windermere, commencing at 6:00pm.

Present:

M Ainsworth	S Everett	J Robinson
E Blatchley	C & B Johnson	P Seeds
B Butler	G Micklethwaite	B Sutcliffe (LDNPA)
N Chazaud	JR Richardson	

Apologies:

L & T Blaney	T Farron MP	H & J Rimmer
G Bowness (WTC)	D Howarth	I Stephens
N Bowness	P Liddell	N Wilkinson
L Chamberlain		

Election of 'Acting Chair' for the meeting:

It was agreed by those present that B Butler should chair the meeting. The Chair welcomed new members to the meeting together with those who had not attended for sometime.

He then went onto introduce the nights guest speaker, Bob Sutcliffe from the LDNPA whose topic was "Working with the National Park."

Working with the National Park – Bob Sutcliffe, Policy and Strategy.

Bob started by stating that the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) were trying to change for the better. These changes have been occurring over the last 18 months.

He went onto say that there had been a vision with key organisations in the Management Plan. These organisations being:

- Cumbria Vision,
- Regional Cumbria,
- Councils,
- North West Development Agency,
- Government Office North West.

The LDNPA had talked to them regarding the aspirations and major revitalisation of the economy. He stated the LDNPA had a 'huge mountain' to climb in getting change accepted.

One of the proposed changes is the Planning System which used to called the 'Local Plan.' The new document will known as the 'Development Plan.' Consultation over this document will be over the next 12 months. It is hoped that businesses will get involved with consultation process through their representative bodies as well as individuals. The Government would like all parties concerned to make comments – the process could take up to 3 years.

First Year: This would entail the collection of ideas and suggested options from interested parties.

Second/Third Years: The first year's ideas, issues and options would go out to public consultation. Any alterations would go to further public consultation. Then all the agreed proposals would then go to an Independent Inspector, it go to a "public enquiry". What is decided by the Inspector would be binding.

There are to be 8 frameworks covering:

- the Joint Structure Plan, Regional Strategy, Regional & Central Government,
- Local documents: - core strategy, Mineral/Waste Management, Development of Central policies, site specific and the Area Action Plan.

Through these measures, hopefully the LDNPA will become more flexible and approachable.

Bob asked the question of the Chamber: - How can his team work better with local businesses? It was agreed by those present that the Chamber should form an alliance with the LDNPA to get the message across to the Chamber membership by means of the Chambers website. It was agreed that there should be a devoted page on the website to act as a conduit between the two parties. **Secretary's Note:** This has now been set up.

Barry thanked Bob for a very interesting and stimulating talk and requested, on behalf of the Chamber that we be part of the consultation process and kept up to date with developments. This Bob agreed to do.

Minutes:

As the last meeting was informal, no Minutes were taken.

Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:

There were no matters arising for the reasons given above.

Correspondence:

1. A letter from the Windermere Town Council regarding its "Town Plan" – see below.
2. An email from Jack Jones – SLDC – on why they failed in the consultation process over the Non-Domestic Rates 2006/07 budget. It was agreed that no further response to the email should be entered into.

Windermere Town Council – Action Plan:

Following the reading out of the letter from the WTC, the Secretary handed out copies of the proposals. The meeting went through this proposal and suggested a number of changes and amendments. These were to be forwarded to Councillor Chris Tewkesbury.

Windermere Event – WoW

The members present were updated on the progress made thus far in organizing the event for the weekend of the 24th and 25th June 2006. It was suggested that local business may like to enter into the spirit of the weekend by decorating their shop windows and dressing in appropriate apparel. It was pointed out that Manchester International Arts would be putting on "something spectacular."

Website Update:

The Secretary reported to the meeting that during the month of February the website had cover 320 'hits.' This had been encouraging. He went onto report that new pages and updates were constantly being added to the site.

AOB:

Bill Johnson thanked the Secretary for all the work gone in to provide a very successful 'breakfast meeting' with Tim Farron MP the previous month.

Eve Blatchley reported that there was possibility of another Bavarian Christmas Market this year. Plans were at an early stage.

Barry noted that the area needed to be sold more in order to attract more visitors.

Dates of Future Meetings - 2006.

3 rd April	at 6pm
8 th May	at 6pm
3 rd July	at 7pm
4 th September	at 7pm
6 th November	at 6pm – Annual General Meeting.
18 th December	at 6pm – Provisional.