

The minutes of a General Members Meeting held on the 9th September 2008 at the Burnside Hotel, Kendal Road, Bowness-on-Windermere, commencing at 6:30pm.

Present:

Barry Butler (Chair).	Butler Thompson Assoc.	Bill Johnson	Honorary Member
Adrian Faulkner (Sec)	AGF Business Services	Pam & Ian Plumb	Plumbtrees
Robert Fowler	Robert Fowler Assoc.	Penny Seeds	Manuka
Leith Hallatsch	WTC Rep	Steve Marston	The Cook House
Dave Howarth	Renoirs	Bill Smith	SLDT

Apologies:

Eve Blatchley	Honorary Member	Anthony Dean	Threshers
Tony Benton	Lazy Daisies	Simon Everett	Simon Everett Opticians
Liz & Tony Blaney	The Fairfield Guest House	Tim Farron MP	
Naomi Darbishire	W McClures Ltd	Jo Harris	Windermere Wine Stores Ltd
		Mike Nicholson	Seafarers

Opening Remarks:

Barry Butler (Chair) welcomed the assembled members, Leith Hallatsch (new Town Council Representative) and introduced Bill Smith, Chief Executive of the South Lakes Development Trust (SLDT).

Presentation by Bill Smith:

Bill opened by outlining SLDT's *'raison d'être'* commenting that it was a "Social Enterprise" governed by an independent board of directors. As from April 2008 SLDT was 'standing on its own two feet' with funding coming from a number of businesses and organisations. Since April 2008, SLDT has been consolidating its position with projects already in hand together with challenging decisions of public sector bodies.

SLDT is the 'first line of contact', via the telephone, for 8 local businesses and can offer:

1. limited book-keeping facilities,
2. administration,
3. start-up incubator units,
4. IT expertise,

It also compiles and distributes "The Hub."

SLDT is working, on projects, with the Cheshire County Council and Cumbria County Council. It is also delivering the "Welcome Host" program, following up the Post Office closures and through the Town Centre Manager, delivering Town Centre Services to identify local opportunities.

Comment was made by Bill as to the "working" of the roundabout outside the Queens Hotel, Windermere. He then went onto state that SLDT were involved in the proposals for the Water Front Project which extended from Waterhead to Lakeside. It was pointed out that it was 'easier' to attract large sums of funding rather than smaller ones i.e. £2m as opposed to, say, £50k.

SLDT were always keen to pursue sensible projects in Windermere, i.e. Ellerthwaite Square and the Library Gardens. It was pointed out that SLDT had instigated the proposals for the Library Gardens. More work to be done on Main Road. Also challenging how the public toilets are being managed by SLDC and re-investigating the TIC's in the area.

There then followed a Q&A session:

- Q. There is an under utilisation of the Glebe.
 A. There is a large project being undertaken, namely the Windermere Water Front Project. Watch this space!
- Q. The Town centre Manager too involved in projects not in publishing the area?
 A. SLDT funds the projects which have attracted the funding. SLDT will with pro-active retailers NOT lead it.
- Q. What is happening to WOW next year?
 A. Nothing to report as it is in the hands of Kendal Arts International.
- Q. Could a TIC be sited in the Broad Street Car Park or coupled with the Library?
 A. No!
- Q. What is the purpose of the "Welcome Host" program?
 A. This is a program to improve the quality of 'customer services' within the area. There would have to be around 15 people taking part to make it viable. For further information please contact SLDT direct.
- Q. Has the 'Shop Front Enhancement Scheme' finished?
 A. Yes! There was a budget of £40k with match funding. Around 30 businesses took part in the scheme.
- Q. What was the outcome on the 'Parking needs Survey'?
 A. It was found that *collectively* there was enough, but not in Windermere. Birthwaite Fold being the one to use.

At the end of the Q&A, Barry thanked Bill for his presentation and answering the questions.

Minutes:

The Minutes of the meeting on the 3rd June 2008 were accepted as being correct with one minor correction as to the spelling of Manuka.

Matters Arising not covered by the Agenda:

The Secretary reported on the Windermere In Bloom competition awards evening and gave the good news the Windermere had won the Cumbria In bloom 2008 "Best Town." He also reported that the Chamber had "to hand back" the boat they had been allocated for the Lions Boat Parade because of lack of interest. He pointed out that it had been a 'missed opportunity' for free advertising and putting the Chamber to the fore within the local community.

Correspondence:

The Secretary made the meeting aware of a substantial document he had received from the Lake District National Park Authority regarding why they had lost the appeal on the Old England Hotel. He pointed out that it could be put onto the Chambers website if required.

The Secretary read out an email he had received from a concerned business in Bowness regarding the lack of signage to Lowside. It was agreed by those present that the Secretary should write/phone the LDNPA Conservation Officer and the Secretary of the local Civic Society regarding this matter.

The Secretary reported he had had a reply from Cumbria County Council, under the Freedom of Information Act 2006 regarding the placement of the order for United Utilities to carry out the work in Crescent Road which resulted in the newly laid pavement being dug up and the loss of mains electric. He also reported the United Utilities had refused to supply this information as they were not legally obliged to.

Reports:

Bill Johnson (the Chambers representative) gave a full report on the latest meeting of the Windermere Community Safety Partnership. This report can be found on the website along with these minutes.

Ian Plumb reported on a meeting of the Windermere & Bowness Winter Lights Group coupled with a proposal that the business community follow up the "Blue Day" of this year with a "Green Day/Daffodil Day." It was suggested that the Chamber should try to encourage its members and other businesses to promote the use of small Christmas Trees and lights on the shop fronts in Windermere and Bowness. This was agreed to.

Grant:

Following on from the above, the Secretary reported that he had received a letter from the Windermere & Bowness Winter Lights Group requesting financial help with this year's lights. It was proposed, seconded and agreed, by those present, that a grant of £600 be made.

Any Other Business:

The Secretary asked the meeting for authority to alter the Bank Mandate regarding the amount payable for the 'hosting' of the website. This was agreed to.

Barry Butler reported that there had been 17 Appeals against the rating assessment for those businesses on Crescent Road due to the Enhancement work.

Steve Marston outlined the problems being encountered by the roundabout in Windermere and asked if the Chamber could the Chamber write to those concerned. This was agreed to.

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Dates of Future Meetings:

2008

October 7th – Guest Speaker: Mike Clark, Director of the Lake District World Heritage Project

November 4th

December 9th – **AGM & Christmas “Get Together”**

2009

January 6th

February 3rd

March 3rd

April 7th

Adrian G Faulkner - Secretary, Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade.
DMS. FCMI., CLP.