

Newsletter

Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade

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Date of Next Meeting:

Monday, 12 December,
6:00pm, Burnside Hotel
Bowness –on-Windermere

Secretary's Corner

Welcome to this the third issue of the Chambers Newsletter.

As you are no doubt aware through previous e-mails, the Chambers website has been published: www.wbcoft.org.uk

The site is being updated at regular intervals with new articles; items of information so if you have not yet had a chance to look at it, please do so as we value your comments.

The problem with the feedback page has now been overcome and you can now use it to send your comments etc.

The Chambers AGM was held on the 7 November and was attended by a number of members. The guest speaker was Bill Smith, Chief Executive of the South Lakes Development trust. A full report of Bill's observations can be

found later in this edition.

If you wish to continue receiving these newsletters on a regular basis and are not a member, please consider becoming one and complete the application form which can be found on our website and return to the Membership Secretary.

Contact:

adrian.g.faulkner@tiscali.co.uk

AGM – 7th November 2005.

The AGM was held on Monday 7th November 2005 at the Burnside Hotel. The following is a precise of the main items that took place. The Minutes of the meeting will be issued prior to next years AGM.

Election of Officers

The following officers were elected for the forthcoming year:

Chairman – to be elected at each meeting.

Vice Chair - vacant

Treasurer – AG Faulkner

Secretary – AG Faulkner

Membership Secretary – in the event of not receiving the current incumbent's resignation it was taken that they would wish to continue in office – Helen Gent & Steve Walsh.

Lakes Market Towns Partnership Representative – Bill Johnson.

Windermere Community Partnership Representative – Dave Howarth.

The Treasurer reported that the Chamber was in a healthy financial position

and that there would no need for an increase in subscriptions for the forthcoming year. These are to remain at £25 per year.

Delivering Lakes Market Towns Renaissance

*“Development Trust,
owned by the
Community to deliver
to the Community.”*

Barry Butler – acting Chair introduced Bill Smith, Chief Executive of the South Lakes Development Trust to the meeting.

Bill began by explaining the reasoning behind the name change from the Lakes Market Towns Partnership to its present title. This was in order to form a *Company Limited by Guarantee* to generate and implement projects within the Windermere and Lakes Parish boundary's. The Trust has charitable status. He pointed out that the Trust was *“owned by the Community to deliver to the Community.”* He also pointed out that he had resigned the Chief Executive's position with the Lakes Hospitality Association to take up this new post.

Bill then went on to explain that it was a vision of the Trust to establish a Business Resource Centre for small 'embryonic' businesses together with full support services:- bookkeeping, secretary/administration. There would be initially 4 incubator units for young people to start up their own businesses. This project is likely to go under the name of '*Lakes Future.*' Bill hoped that this initiative would create

employment opportunities for 40/50 people together with cost effective rents.

Bill went on to announce that they had received part funding for a Town Centre Manager and that the Trust was looking to form 'partnerships' within the local communities in order to finance the shortfall. This position would be advertised in the near future. The Trust is also looking to fill 5 new positions. These positions are not Council posts. The Directors of the trust are drawn from the local community and businesses.

The Trust is looking to develop a portal website in the form of a 'virtual village' to promote a raft of E-Commerce businesses.

Bill went on to state that we have got to fight to get the people to come back to the area after all the recent adverse publicity and to spend in the local economy, and also encourage the youth to stay in the area.

The website would be partly funded with Rural Development Agency funding.

In conclusion, Bill went on to explain that a future project would be a *Windermere Event* during

2006. This would take the form of a water theme. There is to be a meeting in the near future to which the Chamber had received an invite and would be attending.

Please refer to the next page for a detailed report.

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.wbcoft.org.uk

Windermere & Staveley District Neighbourhood Forum

There is to be a meeting of the above on Tuesday 29th November 2005 at the Lakes School, Troutbeck Bridge, commencing at 7:30pm.

Items on the Agenda:

1. Troutbeck Bridge Speed Management Scheme.
2. Windermere Community Safety Partnership – What has it achieved in the last 5 years?
3. Forging Partnerships – the Lakes School and Troutbeck Bridge Swimming Pool are working together to develop an excellent and innovative service.

If you would like to take part in a swift guided tour of the facilities at the Pool and School. Please meet at the Pool at 6:50pm.

Kendal Bus Service Issue

As you may have heard, the bus operator Stagecoach has decided to stop providing a service on the majority of their routes in Kendal as of the 22nd January 2006. The County Council is consulting the public to find out what alternative arrangement would serve the public well.

If you have any comments to make or concerns to express, please make them to Mark Hodgkiss on 01228 606723.

This may have, at a future date, an impact to our area.

Windermere Event Meeting

Barry Butler, acting Chair and Adrian Faulkner attended an open meeting at the Windermere Hydro regarding the need for an event to attract visitors and involve local people outside the main summer season. The event idea has come about through the Lake Windermere Strategy Plan.

Numerous businesses, focus groups, public bodies and organisations were represented. The aim of the meeting was to establish if there was a level of interest and commitment to take the idea forward. After a long discussion it was agreed by those present that such an event was wanted and the weekend of the **24/25 June 2006** was agreed upon.

The event would be based around Lake Windermere, including the villages and visitor attractions around the shoreline and stretching up to include Windermere. It would take the form of a celebration of the lake, its history and future and will have a 'water' theme. This could include anything and everything related to water.

Windermere Event

continued:

This could include, literature, ecology, local industrial history and water sports.

The RWY Club indicated that it was prepared to re-schedule one of its race meetings to coincide with the event. OLT had offered assistance with the performing arts side. Taffy Thomas had offered his services.

It was pointed out by Bill Smith that there was an urgent need to find financing and that an application for part funding would had to be in by lunch time on November 25th 2005. Bill also pointed out that this event was *to "work as well as and not in conflict with the Windermere Festival."*

The Chamber would like a volunteer to sit on the forthcoming organising committee to ensure the Chambers involvement with this event is continued. Anybody interested please contact the Secretary at:

adrian_g_faulkner@tiscali.co.uk

The views of members are sought as to the possibility of the Chamber presenting a 'perpetual' trophy, similar to the one presented at the Windermere In Bloom, as a prize to the winner of the junior sailing race.

Comments, again, to:

adrian_g_faulkner@tiscali.co.uk

"Possible Trophy to be presented by the Chamber."