

Newsletter Date: February 2006

Volume 2, Issue 2.

Newsletter

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Date of Next Meeting:

Monday, 6th March 2006,
At 6:00pm,
Burnside Hotel,
Bowness-on-Windermere

Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade

Secretary's Corner

Welcome to this the sixth issue of the Chambers Newsletter.

A very big 'thank you' to all those of you who turned up to the *Breakfast Meeting* with Tim Farron. There were 25 attendees.

I have had very positive feedback from a number of members regarding the meeting together with a 'thank you' letter from Tim Farron.

The Chamber was very 'loosely' consulted by SLDC on Non-Domestic Rates. Having written to SLDC over this and received a response which can only be described as an excuse the matter is going to be discussed at the March meeting.

The Windermere Town Council have written to the Chamber asking for feedback on their 'draft'

Town Action Plan. Again this will be discussed in greater detail at March's meeting.

The Chamber's website continues to be updated with Articles of a Business nature and News items. These can be found at:

www.wbcoft.org.uk

Secretary/Treasurer:

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Small Business Rate Relief

A reminder to members to apply for the Small Business Rate Relief

The 1st April is creeping up and the start of a new financial year.

It is time to apply to the Rating Authority for the Small Business Rate Relief which you must do each year in order to qualify and obtain the reduction in rates payable.

For those who have not received it for this financial year it is not to

late to apply.

The new rate in the pound for 2006/07 is 0.426 for those that qualify for Small Business Rate Relief and 0.433 for all other properties.

The Chamber's support is being requested to try and get amendments to the current legislation. The relevant information can be found on the Chamber's website under 'News → Articles → Small Business Rate Relief.'

Website Changes

The Chamber's website has been updated with following articles;

- NIC Changes - 2006/07.
- Car Benefits - Changes 2006/07
- Small Business Rate Relief.
- Work & Families Bill.
- Fire Safety Order.
- Neighbourhood Forum Agenda.
- Pensions.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wbcoft.org.uk

"The LDNPA wants to engage more with people – particularly businesses."

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Local Development Framework

Bob Sutcliffe, Community Development Manager for the LDNPA, has been invited to address the Chamber at the March meeting.

Bob will explain how the Chamber can get involved and listen to what you have to say.

The following is a synopsis of his address:

"The Lake District National Park Authority wants to change and improve. It wants to engage more with the people that are the life blood of the National Park – particularly businesses. A new range of policies for development in the National Park (the Local Development Framework) will be created over the next 18 months."

Windermere Town Plan

The Chamber has been asked to pass comments back to the Windermere Town Council regarding its 'Draft' Town Plan.

The following is taken from a letter received by the Chamber from the Town Council;

Dear Adrian

Over the last year we have consulted widely in the town by using a questionnaire which was circulated to every household in Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge. Also we consulted with businesses pre-school groups, primary schools, The Lakes School, Marchesi Centre and a local hotel.

The result of this work has been a Summary sheet, which will, again, be distributed to every household in the area.

Following on from the summary sheet we have produced a 'Draft' Action Plan of which I enclose a copy. This will form part of the full 'Town Plan.'

We would value any comments you may have

on any aspect of the Action Plan before the 17th March 2006.

Chris Tewkesbury
Town Councillor.

The Chamber will be discussing this at the meeting on the 6th March and would value any comments from non attendees.

Something for nothing!

If you or your organisation, business are holding an event, however large or small and would like some extra publicity, then please consider including it on the Chambers 'What's On' page on the website.

It will cost you nothing!!

We are experiencing, on average, over 300 first time hits a month since going *live*.