

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL**

Windermere Town Council has twenty seats representing four wards. The Council meets twice a month with public participation being welcomed at all meetings. The Council has Working Groups dealing with Policy and Finance, Orrest Head and Elleray Woods, Windermere In Bloom and the Annual Litter Pick. The Langrigge Lions Playground in Bowness is managed by the Parish Council direct and not through an Advisory Group, but the Council receives comments and suggestions from a committee of interested local residents.

In the year 2008, the Council was consulted on 121 planning applications, compared to 138 in 2007 and 156 in 2006.

The Council is directly responsible for Orrest Head and Elleray Wood, the War Memorial and Baddeley Clock as well as the Langrigge Lions Playground in Bowness. A Management Plan covers maintenance and improvement works at Elleray Wood and Orrest Head and the Council maintains and improves the Langrigge Lions Play Area. The Council is required to undertake an Annual Risk Assessment in connection with all its activities and all the properties that it manages or owns. During 2008 the Council received by way of gift, an additional parcel of woodland adjoining Elleray Wood.

The Council provides Hanging Baskets throughout the summer months and funds the Windermere in Bloom Competition as well as providing funds to assist with the winter lights.

During the year, the Council has made grants totaling approximately £20,000 to the South Lakes Development Trust, the Hub, Great North Air Ambulance, Windermere and Diessen Twinning Association and Windermere Youth Project, Bowness and Windermere Community Care Trust, Windermere Air Show, Windermere First Responders and Cumbria Rural Citizens Advice Bureau. Other smaller donations have been made.

Councillors have represented the Council and the community on a large number of Groups and Committees.

The Council is consulted by the Lake District National Park Authority on planning applications. The Council is also consulted by the County Council and the District Council and all other agencies on various matters. The Council adopts the principles of Best Value so far as they can be applied to the Council's activities.

The Council has commenced a revision of the Windermere Community Plan which will outline matters within its area that need addressing and how best they could be resolved. A Working Party is now discussing how the issues raised in the Plan could be dealt with. The Council continues to match fund public conveniences to keep them open.

The Council has decided to advertise for a Parish Steward and a Deputy Clerk.

The Council has heard from a number of speakers representing other authorities, organizations and members of the public. The Council seeks to represent to the best of its ability, the interests of the communities of Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge.

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Brian G Whittaker  
Clerk to the Council

March 2009