

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. The Langrigge Lions Playground in Bowness is managed by the Town 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 2009, the Council made comments on 138 planning applications, compared to 151 in 2008 and 138 in 2007.

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. The Council is currently having prepared an updated Management Plan relating to maintenance and improvement works at Elleray Wood & Orrest Head. 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.

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 of approximately £15,000 to the Great North Air Ambulance, Troutbeck Bridge Swimming Pool, the Windermere and Diessen Twinning Association, Winter Lights, Windermere Allotments Group, Queens Park Bowling Club, Rotary in connection with the Air Show, Cumbria Rural Citizens Advice Bureau and the Phoenix Centre User Group. It purchased an alcohol awareness box that was presented to the Police in Windermere.

In April 2009, the Council put in post a self employed Town Steward, who is responsible for maintaining the Council's property.

In view of the impending retirement of the Clerk to the Council in April 2011, the Council will shortly be interviewing applicants for a Clerk Designate to take over from the existing Clerk. The Clerk Designate will be in post for twelve months before the Clerk's retirement.

The Council is in the process of producing a web-site.

The Windermere Community Plan has recently been updated and is in the course of being implemented.

The Council is working with the Lakes and Skelwith Parish Councils together with representatives from the District and County Councils in the Central Lakes Local Area Partnership. It is being consulted on the Bowness Bay and Glebe Masterplan and the latest round of consultation relating to possible toilet closures.

Councilors 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 and District Councils and many other agencies on various matters.

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.

Brian G Whittaker
Clerk to the Council
March 2010