



WINDERMERE & BOWNESS TOWN COUNCIL

Representing the interests of the communities of Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge

Annual Report 2022/23

The Civic Year in brief

2022/23 has been another busy year, with numerous projects coming to fruition and volunteer councillors delivering some real improvements in our community.

The derelict area behind the Bowness Bay public toilets has been cleared and developed into a lovely sitting area, complete with planters and trees. It has been named the **Jubilee Garden** in honour of the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. There were a whole host of contributors locally to the project and there is a plaque in the garden which lists and thanks them. The photographs below show the area before and after its transformation.

Before:



After:



For the first time in many years, the **Bowness Promenade** was lit up for Christmas. The Town Council have organised and funded the installations, with generous help from Windermere Lake Cruises. It is hoped that the area will now be lit up every Winter season.



The Town Council continues to manage 6 public toilets facilities on behalf of the community. Currently, they are self-funded from the entry fee and the aim is to try to continue that. Where possible, the toilet facilities are improved using grant funding. This has been the case with the old and delapidated **Millerground toilets**, which this year, have been transformed into a Changing Rooms facility for disabled users and a new modern fit out for the toilets themselves.



October 2022 saw the transfer of the trusteeship of the land which currently houses the children's play area and the bowling club on **Longlands Road** from SLDC to the Town Council. The aim is to secure the future of this land as a public resource for the community for posterity. The Town Council would like to develop and improve the area where the children's play area is sited. It will listen to what local people have to say and a public consultation will take place next year.

The Council's **Planning sub-committee** continues to perform a very significant role in making recommendations to the National Park on all planning applications for our area. In 2022/23, the sub-committee commented on nearly 200 full planning applications and has regularly referred enforcement cases to the National Park and followed these up to ensure they are resolved. A key issue locally, especially in Bowness, is the growth of the number of premises licensed to sell alcohol and the consequent increase in anti-social behaviour. The planning sub-committee have researched this issue in some depth and taken testament from local people. A submission has been prepared to the Licensing Authority, asking them to consider taking action in the form of a Cumulative Impact Assessment.

Finally, there will be some **goodbyes** at the end of this civic year. Our Town Clerk, Julie Hartley retires on 31 March 2023 and will be replaced by Sally Parkyn. We wish Julie the best for her retirement and welcome Sally, who we are sure will carry on the good work in our community. Dr Helen Jones, who has headed up the Council's Elleray Woods and Orrest Head group, leaves us also on 31st March. She has been a leading light in the improvement of this community woodland, managed by the Council and we thank her for decades of service.

We will also say goodbye to the South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria County Council and welcome in a new era of the new Unitary Council, **Westmorland and Furness**. The Town Council is keen to work closely with the new Council, keep the focus as local as possible and lobby for excellent services to our community.

Looking forward to 2023/24

2023 will see the replacement of the 108 hanging baskets with **36 large planters**, in key locations around the towns. These will be deep planted with perennials, which require less water, live for many years and provide year-round habitat. This option is more environmentally responsible. The planting will be based on the lovely schemes already in place Ellerthwaite Square and Baddeley Clock.



The Town Council will have a part to play in what could become the most significant change to Windermere for decades – the **Windermere Gateway** project, with proposed improvements to traffic flow at entrances to Windermere and up to 160 new houses.

There will be **local elections** to the Town Council in May 2023 and we hope to see new candidates coming forward to represent their communities.

It is hoped that 2023 will see the development of a **new meeting room** for the Town Council, next to Windermere Library. The meeting room will be modest but functional. Importantly, it will release the large Langstone House building to be developed into **local affordable housing**.

There will be local consultation on how to develop and improve the land on **Longlands Road** that the Town Council now holds in trust. There are covenants on the land which limit options, but we are confident that the land can be used more effectively to serve the local community.

These projects will be delivered on top of the Town Council's normal work, taking care of local assets and community interests. None of this would happen without the dedication of the (up to) 20 unpaid volunteers who give up their time to serve as Town Councillors. Ultimate thanks must go to them....

Financial Statements 2022/23

EXPENDITURE (Net of VAT)	Full Year Budget	Full Year Actual	Variance
MAIN COUNCIL ACCOUNT			
Salaries	46,600	56,778	10,178
Town Steward (Labour and materials)	15,500	15,537	37
Mayor's Allowance	2,000	900	-1,100
Insurances & Subscriptions	4,000	4,781	781
CCTV Annual Costs (4 cameras)	7,000	14,009	7,009
Audit Fee	850	1,200	350
War Memorial	1,500	2,992	1,492
Baddeley Clock	400	140	-260
Council Chamber Rent and Cleaning	1,800	1,439	-361
Office Administration & Clerk's Expenses	4,000	4,073	73
Training & Travelling Expenses	500	523	23
IT/Website	600	365	-235
Orrest Head and Elleray Woods	5,000	3,003	-1,997
Lights, Town Centre enhancement	2,200	1,567	-633
Langrigge Playground	2,700	3,680	980
Allotments	500	533	33
Windermere in Bloom	10,000	9,589	-411
Community Grants & Events	14,000	10,423	-3,577
Longlands Land Management	5,000	5,000	
Contingency/Maintenance	5,000	0	-5,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE MAIN COUNCIL	129,150	136,532	7,382

Note: These financial statements are based on projections as at 15th March 2023. They are materially accurate but may differ slightly from the final published accounts, which are prepared after the financial year end adjustments.

Financial Statements 2022/23

INCOME			
Precept	131,600	131,600	0
Council Tax grant	7,000	7,023	23
Rents	920	1,008	88
WiB Sponsorship	500	0	-500
Grants Received	-	0	0
Bank Interest	375	1,042	667
Total Income	140,395	140,673	278
Net Surplus	11,245	4,141	7,104

TOILETS FACILITIES (RINGFENCED)			
INCOME	120,000	111,336	8,664
EXPENDITURE			
Cleaning & Maintenance Contract	98,500	86,852	(11,648)
Facilities Officer (50%)	6,100	7,005	905
Electricity	2,800	4,430	1,630
Water	7,500	17,040	9,540
Insurance (recharge from main council)	0	2,000	2,000
Repairs	5,000	4,082	(918)
Credit charges (contactless)	5,000	5,061	61
Total Expenditure	124,900	126,470	1,570
Net Cost	4,900	15,134	10,234

Your Councillors:

Applethwaite Ward:

Cllr Jenny Borer

cllrjennyborer@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Christine Cook

cllrchristinecook@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr John Saunders

cllrjohnsaunders@windermere-tc.gov.uk

One vacancy

Windermere Town Ward:

Cllr Marina Davis

cllrmarinadavis@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Lisa Greasley

cllrlisagreasley@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Leith Hallatsch

cllrleithhallatsch@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Three Vacancies

Bowness North Ward:

Cllr Peter Cook

cllrpetercook@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Christine Hallatsch

cllrchristinehallatsch@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Adrian Legge

mayor@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Kate Tripp

cllrkatetripp@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Sandra Lilley

cllersandralilley@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Bowness South Ward:

Cllr Pete Hamilton

cllrpetehamilton@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Four vacancies

Town Clerk:

Mrs Sally Parkyn

clerk@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Facilities Officer:

Miss Beccy Pinder

facilities@windermere-tc.gov.uk