



WINDERMERE TOWN COUNCIL

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF WINDERMERE TOWN COUNCIL 2012/13

Windermere Town Council has 20 seats representing 4 wards, Applethwaite, Bowness North, Bowness South and Windermere Town. It serves approximately 6500 residents over 4500 households.

The current Councillors are:

		<u>Ordinary meetings attended</u>
Mr Allan Winrow (Mayor)	Bowness South Ward	18
Miss Kathleen Atkinson (Deputy Mayor)	Bowness South Ward	18
Mrs Joan Stocker	Applethwaite Ward	17
Mrs Jennifer Borer	Applethwaite Ward	17
Mr Colin Jones	Windermere Town Ward	1 (co-opted 25 Mar 2013)
Mrs Lisa Greasley	Windermere Town Ward	15
Mr Leith Hallatsch	Bowness South Ward	17
Mrs Penny Henderson	Windermere Town Ward	12
Mrs Jennifer Jewell	Bowness North Ward	21
Mr Adrian Legge	Bowness North Ward	16
Ms Sandra Lilley	Bowness South Ward	14
Mr Alan Marsh	Windermere Town Ward	15 (co-opted 25 June 2012)
Mr Bill Smith	Applethwaite Ward	17
Mr Mike Stafford	Windermere Town Ward	19
Mr John Saunders	Bowness North Ward	14 (co-opted 23 Jul 2012)
Mr Jo Stephenson	Applethwaite Ward	5 (3 x Full meetings, 2 x Part)
Dr Robert Judson	Applethwaite Ward	17
Ms Susan K Wales	Bowness North	5 (co-opted 28 Jan 2013)

During the course of the year two councillors resigned – Councillors Hilary Stephenson and Sandra Britton.

We currently have 2 vacancies on Bowness South ward. The Town Council is non political and would welcome applications from people interested in making a difference and contributing to their community. Application forms are available from the Town Clerk (details below) or via the website.

The council meets every second Wednesday and every fourth Monday in The Council Chamber, Broad Street, Windermere at 7pm with public participation being welcomed at all meetings.

This year the council has seen the end of the Community Support Person's contract but we retain the valued services of our Town Steward, Gary Hancox.

The council seeks to represent to the best of its ability the interests of the communities of Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge.

The work of the council

Twenty one ordinary meetings and one extraordinary council meeting were held in 2012/13. The twice monthly meetings have been only part of the councils work. There are many advisory group meetings that take place. In addition to these regular meetings (details of which are listed under 'Representation on other bodies'), councillors have been instrumental in:

- Implementing the Orrest Drive Allotments. These are now completed and we have 14 plot holders growing their own vegetables.
- Installation of a new robust viewfinder on Orrest Head, a joint project with The Wainwright Society.
- We continue to provide public conveniences at 8 locations, in conjunction with Bowness and Windermere Community Care Trust. Town Council took on the lease for the toilets as South Lakeland District Council were due to close many of them. It is recognised this has had an impact on our budget and precept, however, we are pleased to report that the requirement on precept for the forthcoming year has reduced by £10,000.
- Work with the Lake District National Park in supporting and co-ordinating the Winderclean event in May each year.
- The Windermere in Bloom Advisory Group are steering us through a second entry into Britain in Bloom after our successful silver award this year.
- The Elleray Woods and Orrest Head Advisory Group, with help from our Town Steward, have implemented the first phase of a long term woodland management plan. One compartment of Elleray Wood has had tree felling and pruning to promote healthy tree growth and to assist tree saplings and wildflowers to flourish for future re-generation of the wood. We have also had some major road repairs carried out.
- Implementation of our own website. www.windermere-tc.gov.uk.
- Looking at installing bus shelters. One has currently been approved for Goodly Dale (by the Sheriff's Walk entrance) and another survey is being carried out for near The Royalty Cinema, Bowness.
- Attempts were made to bring together a winter gritting team with assistance from local residents. However, there was no response from our advertising. We have promoted the Cumbria County Council winter gritting campaign locally as an alternative.
- We are working with the Countryside Rangers from Cumbria County Council to have the footpath surface at Sheriff's Walk attended to. This is due to happen this forthcoming financial year all being well.
- To help us keep abreast of local developments and issues, we have invited many speakers to our regular meetings including Windermere Reflections, the newly appointed Police Commissioner, The Light Bus organisers, Cumbria in Bloom, The Lake District National Park Authority, Another Space (Calgarth Estate vision), Cumbria Rural Housing Trust and Age UK amongst others.
- During the course of the year we have formed The Windermere Aviation Heritage Group and members are currently exploring how best to recognise this as an important part of our history and realise a tourist attraction from it.

The council's work continues to be reported in The Hub and our new website is now active. It is still in its infancy and items are being added. Application Forms for co-option to council, grant requests, agenda and minutes are currently available.

Representation on other bodies

The Town Council has been represented on the following bodies:-

The Lake Administration Committee
 Windermere Ferry Advisory Panel
 Policy and Finance Advisory Group
 Windermere & Britain in Bloom
 Winder Clean
 Orrest Head and Elleray Woods Advisory Group
 Windermere Community Plan Working Party
 Central Lakes Local Area Partnership
 Cumbria Association of Local Councils
 Lakes Line Action Group
 Windermere Youth Project
 Ladyholme Community Centre

Cumbria Rural Citizens Advice Bureau
Bowness and Windermere Community Care Trust
Bowness and Windermere Chamber of Trade
Langrigge Play Area Advisory Group
The Marchesi Centre
The Fairtrade Committee
The Hub
Windermere Endowed Schools Foundation
Windermere Community Safety Partnership
Goodly Dale Cottage Homes
Allotments Group
Lakes Line Community Rail Partnership
St Mary's Surgery Patient Group
Windermere Marine Aviation Heritage Group

Council finance

In 2011/12, it cost £452,229.32 to run the Town Council. Audited accounts are available for inspection by appointment with the Town Clerk. This figure appears much higher than previous years due to the refurbishments to 4 of the toilet facilities we now lease (for which we received funding).

Attached to this Annual Report is a summary of the council's financial activities for the current year. These are un-audited figures completing the financial year to 31 March 2013.

Funding Secured for Windermere Town Council

During the course of the year, we received the following funding:-

Big Lottery Fund for allotments £3800.00
Sponsorship of hanging baskets by local businesses £600.00
United Utilities Grants for allotments and benches £1000.00
The Lions for allotments £500.00
The Rotary for Britain in Bloom £200.00
The Wainwright Society for noticeboard at Elleray Wood £500.00
The Wainwright Society donation for viewfinder at Orrest Head £340.00
Police fund for benches £300.00
Cumberland Building Society for benches £500.00
Local Area Partnership for bus shelter £3120.00
SLDC Toilet Grant £36,000

Total £46,860.00

Grants to local bodies

The following organisations were awarded grants in 2012/13:-

North West Air Ambulance £500.00
Cumbria Playing Fields Association £50.00
Upfront Theatre (a police event teaching local teenagers driving skills/road safety) £250.00
Cumbria County Council (Bus Service 541) £200.00
Kendal Concert Band £100.00
The Blasergruppe Band £100.00
The Hub £523.00
Cumbria Rural Citizens Advice Bureau £2500.00
Windermere Diessen Twinning Association £500.00
Windermere Youth Project £2500.00

Great North Air Ambulance £500.00
Towards a Community Transition (TACT) £350.00
The Marchesi Centre £450.00

Community Plan

The Community Plan has been updated this year and work continues to be done on trying to address issues highlighted by our electors.

Planning

In the year 2012/13 the council made comments on 125 planning applications and attended site visits for applications which went to planning committee.

Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting will take place in The Council Chamber on Wednesday 8 May 2013 at 7pm where the Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall be appointed for the next 12 months.

Tracy Fletcher

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15 April 2013