



WINDERMERE & BOWNESS TOWN COUNCIL

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

Annual Report 2021/22

The Civic Year in brief

2021 saw one of the busiest years for tourism in our area, as Covid restrictions eased and staycations became order of the day. The public infrastructure in Bowness & Windermere creaked at the seams, with unprecedented pressure on car parks, litter bins and public order. The Mayor intervened directly and wrote to all the key public sector leaders to ask for swift and effective action. That was forthcoming to some extent, but this experience has highlighted the need for real infrastructure investment in our community to help ease the burdens for those who live and work here.

An opportunity to take action is on the horizon, as Local Government in our area is being reformed and a new Unitary Council (Westmorland and Furness) will be established in April 2023. The Town Council's Local Government Reform group has worked hard this year to identify how it may be possible to ring-fence profits made from Windermere Lake to re-invest in local infrastructure. There is a long way to go to achieve this and, if it doesn't happen, it will not be due to a lack of effort in taking this once in a lifetime opportunity to reclaim rightful ownership of the lake by the people of Windermere.

It was heartwarming to see the transformation finally taking place at Queens Park this year, with much improved and exciting facilities for local young people:



A highlight of the year was the completion of the final phase of work to re-open the Victorian Carriage Drive route right up to Orrest Head summit, enabling access to the summit for those with pushchairs or mobility aids. The Town Council is proud of the contribution it has made to this National Park led project, as trustee of the land. Photographs below show before and after shots of the summit



and Councillors and Mayor Adrian Legge busy at the summit opening celebration.



The Town Council's planning sub-committee under the chairmanship of Cllr Jenny Borer, has gone from strength to strength this year, with councillors gaining valuable knowledge and experience to put forward strong and effective recommendations to the Lake District National Park (planning authority). It has also taken on the issue of the need for improved community engagement with premises licensing and is reviewing the need for a full re-appraisal of the number and type of premises licenses in Bowness in particular.

Perhaps the greatest direct challenge of the year was responding to the extensive damage that took place, in the wake of Storm Arwen, in the 30 acres of Elleray Woods that is cared for by the Town Council. Numerous trees had to be felled or removed and the pathways made safe. Thanks to our Town Steward, Gary Hancox, the footpaths were closed only for a short period and all key health and safety work was completed very quickly.



On the other hand, Town Council began its contribution to the Queen's Canopy early in May 2021, with trees planted at Birthwaite Gardens and the War Memorial. Here is Mayor Legge with Cllr Lisa Greasley, Lead Cllr for Parks & Open Spaces, positioning a lovely Amalanchier tree.



Finally, after taking responsibility for six public toilets facilities in 2020, this year has been important for making much needed improvements and securing a stable future for these crucial facilities. Thanks go to Assistant Clerk Beccy Pinder for all her hard work in this area. New contracts have been awarded for cleaning and maintenance and a funded programme of improvements works has been agreed, which will continue into 2022/23.

Looking forward to 2022/23

The Town Council will have an increasingly large 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. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will continue to represent Town Council on this project.

As the Shadow Unitary Council comes into being in May 2022, the Town Council will continue to lobby for effective local engagement and for control of key assets, particularly Windermere Lake.

The toilets improvements programme will show real results this year, particularly new facilities at Millerground and the planting of a garden behind Bowness Bay.

The District Council (SLDC) have confirmed that they will fund a capital project to convert the old depot building at the side of Windermere Library into a purpose built modern meeting room for Town Council. This will free up Langstone House for local housing.

It is hoped that the land at Longlands will finally be transferred into the trusteeship of the Town Council and that work can start to improve this area.

Finally, the Town Clerk will retire at the end of March 2023 and there will be a significant amount of work required to recruit and handover to a new clerk.

These projects will be delivered on top of the normal work carried out by Town Council, taking care of local assets like the War Memorial, Elleray Woods and Baddeley Clock, reviewing every planning application for our area and managing allotments, public toilets and play areas.

None of this would happen without the dedication of the 20 unpaid volunteers who give up their time to serve as Town Councillors. Their details are shown on the final page of this report.

Financial Statements 2021/22

| EXPENDITURE (Net of VAT) | Full Year Budget | Full Year Actual | Variance |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| MAIN COUNCIL ACCOUNT | | | |
| Salaries | 47,000 | 51,890 | 4,890 |
| Town Steward (Labour and materials) | 15,000 | 15,402 | 402 |
| Mayor's Allowance | 2,000 | 524 | -1,477 |
| Insurances & Subscriptions | 4,000 | 3,855 | -145 |
| CCTV Annual Costs (4 cameras) | 6,400 | 6,400 | 0 |
| Audit Fee | 750 | 850 | 100 |
| War Memorial | 1,500 | 2,159 | 659 |
| Baddeley Clock | 400 | 705 | 305 |
| Council Chamber Rent and Cleaning | 900 | 1,824 | 924 |
| Office Administration & Clerk's Expenses | 3,500 | 3,889 | 389 |
| Councillors' Training & Travelling Expenses | 500 | 142 | -358 |
| IT Contingency/Website | 600 | 339 | -261 |
| Orrest Head and Elleray Woods | 5,000 | 5,217 | 217 |
| Lights, Town Centre enhancement | 2,200 | 1,438 | -762 |
| Langrigge Playground | 2,700 | 368 | -2,332 |
| Allotments | 500 | 172 | -328 |
| Windermere in Bloom | 10,000 | 9,991 | -9 |
| Community Grants & Events | 14,000 | 5,677 | -8,323 |
| Longlands Land Management | 3,000 | 0 | -3,000 |
| Contingency/Maintenance | 5,000 | 4,000 | -1,000 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE MAIN COUNCIL | 124,950 | 114,842 | -10,108 |

Financial Statements 2021/22

| INCOME | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Precept | 129,280 | 129,280 | 0 |
| Council Tax grant | 7,000 | 7,067 | 67 |
| Rents | 950 | 958 | 8 |
| WiB Sponsorship | 825 | 400 | -425 |
| Grants Received | - | 440 | 440 |
| Bank Interest | 375 | 375 | 0 |
| Total Income | 138,430 | 138,520 | 90 |
| Net Surplus | 13,480 | 23,678 | 10,198 |

| TOILETS FACILITIES (RINGFENCED) | | | |
|--|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| INCOME | 110,000 | 131,140 | 21,140 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Cleaning | 48,000 | 48,343 | 343 |
| Maintenance Contracts | 11,000 | 13,200 | 2,200 |
| Electricity | 2,500 | 2,638 | 138 |
| Water | 7,000 | 12,649 | 5,649 |
| Business Rates | 15,000 | - | 15,000 |
| Consumables | 10,000 | 7,396 | 2,604 |
| Repairs | 10,000 | 5,336 | 4,664 |
| Credit charges (contactless) | 3,965 | 5,556 | 1,591 |
| Total Expenditure | 107,465 | 95,118 | 12,347 |
| Net Surplus | 2,535 | 36,022 | 33,487 |

Your Councillors:

Applethwaite Ward:

Cllr Jenny Borer

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Cllr Christine Cook

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Cllr Cath Musetti

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Cllr John Saunders

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Windermere Town Ward:

Cllr Marina Davis

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Cllr Lisa Greasley

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Cllr Leith Hallatsch

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Cllr Grania Nicholson

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Cllr Fiona Wilkinson

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One Vacancy

Bowness North Ward:

Cllr Peter Cook

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Cllr Christine Hallatsch

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Cllr Adrian Legge

mayor@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Kate Tripp

cllrkatetripp@windermere-tc.gov.uk

One Vacancy

Bowness South Ward:

Cllr Joanne Daley

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Cllr Magda Khan

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Cllr Pete Hamilton

cllrpetehamilton@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Alan Hands

cllralanhands@windermere-tc.gov.uk

One Vacancy

Town Clerk:

Mrs Julie Hartley

clerk@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Assistant Town Clerk:

Miss Beccy Pinder

asstclerk@windermere-tc.gov.uk