



WINDERMERE & BOWNESS TOWN COUNCIL

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

Annual Report 2023/24

The Civic Year in brief

2023/24 has been a year of challenges and change as the Town Council continued to work on the issues that matter to residents.

There have been lots of new faces over the last twelve months. Cllr Caroline Kearney joined the Council at the May elections joining the twelve Councillors who agreed to serve for a new term. An impressive six new Councillors: Cllrs Beverley Cullen, Jackie Cooper, Kevin Heffernan, Fiona Poole, Kay Kennedy Hardy and Kendra Kenedy joined later in the year through co-option. There are still two vacancies should anyone else be interested in joining us.

On the 1st April 2023 Sally Parkyn took over as clerk. It was also vesting day for Westmorland and Furness Council. Our four new W&F Councillors Steve Bavin, Will Clark, Andrew Jarvis and Dyan Jones have been a great support to the Town Council this year.

Finally, there has been a sad farewell this year to our Mayor and long serving Councillor Leith Hallatsch who passed away in January. We hope to pay tribute to his many years of service with a memorial plaque later this year.

Planning Subcommittee: Lead Cllr Christine Cook

The Council's Planning Subcommittee continues to perform a vital role in making recommendations to the National Park on all planning applications for our area. They read huge volumes of documentation, carry out site visits and welcome the public to speak at their meeting in support or objection to the applications. In 2023/24, the sub-committee commented on over 200 planning and tree work applications. They have referred enforcement cases to the National Park which have resulted in enforcement action being carried out.

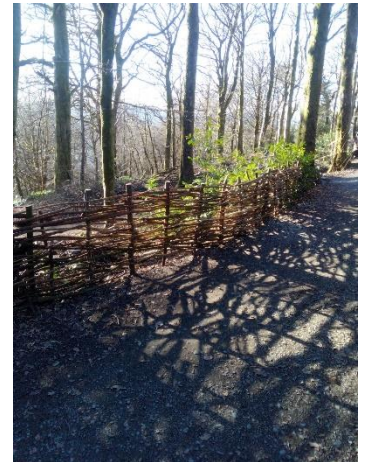
The Planning Subcommittee also comment on licensing applications. They are aware of the concerns about the rise

in antisocial behavior linked to the rise in licenced premises in central Bowness. A year ago, they submitted a report asking the Licensing Authority at Westmorland and Furness Council to consider taking action in the form of a Cumulative Impact Assessment. This resulted in a multi-agency meeting at Kendal Town Hall and funding from Westmorland and Furness Council to trial the use of street marshalls in Bowness over busy summer evenings.

Cllr Christine Cook is representing the Town Council at the upcoming public meeting about the Windermere Gateway Project to explain the role of the Town Council in the planning process.

Elleray Woods and Orrest Head Advisory Group: Lead Cllr Lisa Greasley

The Town Council's largest landholding is the Orrest Head summit and Elleray Woods. It is an enormously popular landmark with locals and visitors alike. Tarmac repairs to the main track were carried out with contributions from property owners living on the track and the Lake District National Park. The repairs make the miles without stiles track safe and accessible as well as enabling the Town Steward to get his equipment up to the woods. Through the many storms over the winter the Town Steward, Gary, has been working to maintain the track surfaces. He has been opening up a new woodland trail through a compartment which has previously been closed off. The Town Council is looking forward to opening it to the public by the end of May. The Council is hoping to install a trail of ten small wooden sculptures of native creatures to encourage visitors to learn more about the animals who make their homes in the woods.



Parks and Open Spaces with Windermere in Bloom

2024 will begin to see the benefits of the new planting scheme instituted in 2023 where 36 large planters, took the place of 108 hanging baskets. The perennials planted last year have survived the winter and are now well-established requiring reduced costs in plants and water as well as benefiting the environment.

Over the last year the Town Council renewed a lease to continue the management of Langrigge Play Area as well as replacing the rusty old basketball hoop there. Town Council have also started the public consultation process on plans to revitalize the play area on Longlands which will continue this year.

The Town Council has funded the electrification of the Baddeley Clock. While this was needed due to damage caused by vandalism the new mechanism should prove much more reliable and will no longer require winding up once a week.

After a summer of judging, October brought the annual Windermere in Bloom Awards recognizing the residents and businesses who had brightened up the Town with their floral displays this year.



Communications Advisory Group: Lead Cllr Marina Davis

The Town Council tries hard to be accessible to residents. All Full Council and Planning Subcommittee meetings are open to the public and have a public input section. We have a website, three notice boards and a vibrant Facebook Group.

In December, unexpectedly heavy snow led to the Town Council taking a unique decision to open up the Council Chamber at Langstone House so over thirty stranded

travelers could take shelter for the night. Our Facebook page became a vital source of information, and we appreciated the support of our Westmorland and Furness Councillors in keeping us updated.

In November we held our first community drop in evening where the Town Council and a wide range of community organisations came together to meet with residents to answer questions and share information about their work. It was a very successful evening despite the terrible weather and we plan to hold future events trying different times and venues.

Water Quality Advisory Group: Lead Cllr Peter Cook

The Water Quality Advisory Group was set up in 2023 due to the concerns shared by residents about the deterioration in the water quality of Lake Windermere. Group members have worked to educate themselves about the issues and looked for possible solutions making a public statement backing the Lake Ancey solution. Cllr Peter Cook, who leads the group, has been invited to represent parish councils and thus local residents on the board of Love Windermere. The W&BTC group has networked with other local organisations and was impressed with the data gathered by a citizen science project testing the water flowing into Windermere via the Rothay. Using simple aquarium testing equipment they were able to gather regular data and identify missed connections in the water network causing pollution to enter the river which they reported to the Environment Agency. There are similar concerns about some of the streams flowing through our parish. The Town Council has funded a set of testing equipment and a trial has been carried out indicating raised levels of phosphate and ammonia in some areas. The plan is to find a small group of volunteers to gather samples on a weekly basis through the Spring and Summer to the end of October.



This year all local government organisations were required to adopt a biodiversity policy showing how they carried out their duty to enhance biodiversity. Caring for the environment is something that the Town Council has done for many years through the management of Ellera

Woods. Other groups such as planning, parks and open spaces and now the Water Quality group will help the Town Council fulfil their biodiversity duty.

Roads and Parking Advisory Group: Lead Cllr John Saunders.

Issues with roads and parking continue to be a key concern to residents. The Town Council regularly report issues such as potholes and overgrown hedges to the highways authority.

The Town Council continues to press the responsible authorities for a solution to the parking issues faced by residents and have confirmed the National Trust will be operating the overflow Glebe parking at Rectory Field for the maximum days allowed.

A public consultation into possible 20mph zones was held. An application to consider the case for these in Windermere & Bowness has been made to Westmorland and Furness Council. However, the volume of applications is slowing the process. In the meantime, the Town Council is investigating the use of Speed Indicator Devices to improve speed awareness and safety on our roads.

The Town Council funds four high quality CCTV cameras in street locations across Windermere and Bowness which feed into the police network. Over the last year these have been used for prosecutions, safeguarding and crime prevention purposes.

Toilets and Allotments: Facilities Officer

The Council manages a small group of allotments in Windermere. They are currently all let but if you wish to go on the waiting list please contact the Facilities Officer.

The Town Council continues to manage 6 public toilets facilities on behalf of the community. These are entirely self-funded from the 50p entry fee. The Council aim to invest any surplus in improving the facilities but the aging buildings and damage caused by vandalism mean that this year simply keeping them operating in a safe and clean manner has been a great achievement when there have been over a quarter of a million users!

Working with the First Responders, a defibrillator has been installed outside the Rayrigg Meadow toilet block where it will be available to people using the Lake and recreation facilities.

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

Cllr Jackie Cooper

cllrjackieCooper@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Windermere Town Ward: 1 Vacancy

Cllr Beverley Cullen

cllrbeverleycullen@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Lisa Greasley

cllrlisagreasley@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Kevin Heffernan

cllrkevinheffernan@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Kay Kennedy-Hardy

cllrkaykennedy-hardy@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Kendra Kennedy

cllrkendrakenedys@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Bowness North Ward:

Cllr Peter Cook

cllrpetercook@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Christine Hallatsch

cllrchristinehallatsch@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Adrian Legge

cllradrianlegge@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Kate Tripp

cllrkatetripp@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Sandra Lilley

cllersandralilley@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Fiona Poole

cllrfionapoole@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Bowness South Ward: 1 Vacancy

Cllr Pete Hamilton

cllrpetehamilton@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Marina Davis

cllrmarinadavis@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Cllr Caroline Kearney

cllrcarolinekearney@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk:

Mrs Sally Parkyn clerk@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Facilities Officer:

Miss Beccy Pinder facilities@windermere-tc.gov.uk

Financial Statements 2023/24

Note: These financial statements are based on the unaudited accounts at 31/3/24. They are materially accurate but may differ slightly from the final published accounts, which are prepared after the financial year-end adjustments.

MAIN ACCOUNT INCOME	Budget	Actual	Variance
Precept	136,864	133,864	-3,000
Council Tax grant	7,000	6,768	-232
Rents	950	1,141	191
Grants Received	0	8230	8230
Bank Interest	1,000	3,880	2,880
Total Income	145,814	153,883	8,069
Net Surplus	15,314	43,299	27,985

MAIN COUNCIL ACCOUNT	Budget	Actual	Variance
EXPENDITURE (Net of VAT)			
Staff costs	54,400	57,666	-3,266
Town Steward (Labour and materials)	17,500	17,737	-237
Mayor's Allowance	2,000	427	1573
Insurances & Subscriptions	5000	5292	-292
CCTV Annual Costs (4 cameras)	7,000	0	7,000
Audit Fee	1,200	1,240	-40
War Memorial	2,000	2,556	-556
Baddeley Clock	500	322	178
Council Chamber Rent and Cleaning	2,500	670	1,830
Office Administration & Clerk's Expenses	4,000	3,417	583
Training & Travelling Expenses	500	592	-92
IT/Website	600	615	-15
Orrest Head and Elleray Woods	5,000	7,077	-2077
Lights, Town Centre enhancement	1800	0	1800
Langrigge Playground	2,700	710	1990
Allotments	300	565	-265
Windermere in Bloom	5,000	3,521	1479
Community Grants & Events	10,000	5,657	4343
Longlands Land Management	2500	2500	0
Contingency/Maintenance	6,000	0	6,000
Section 137 expenditure	0	20	-20
TOTAL EXPENDITURE MAIN COUNCIL	130,500	110,584	19,916



TOILETS FACILITIES (RINGFENCED)	Budget	Actual	Variation
INCOME	115,000	141,950	26,950
EXPENDITURE			
Cleaning & Maintenance Contract	92,000	90,196	1,084
Facilities Officer (50%)	6,800	6,489	311
Electricity	5,000	7,655	-2,655
Water	7,500	12,318	-4,818
Insurance (recharge from main council)	2000	2,000	2,000
Repairs	-5,000	10,384	-5,384
Credit charges (contactless)	5,200	5,769	-569
Total Expenditure	123,500	134,811	-11,311
Net Cost	-8,500	7,139	(15,639)