



# Annual Report 2014-15

## Windermere Town Council

### Highlights of the year

**This Annual Report provides a snapshot of the work of the Town Council during the past year and sets out some of the future challenges we are facing in Windermere & Bowness.**

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These are the priorities the Council has worked on this year:

Continuing to support and keep open 8 public toilets, in conjunction with the Bowness and Windermere Community Care Trust.

Funding and organizing Windermere in Bloom, including the provision of hanging baskets and flower tubs throughout the towns of Windermere & Bowness.

The Town Steward and Advisory Group manage and care for Orrest Head and Elleray Woods. In the past year, the cutting back of vegetation and opening up of views has continued and the woodland floor is starting to grow back.

The access road has recently been repaired and the Town Steward has removed litter and debris on a regular basis. The most significant future project will be working with partners to re-instate the Vic-

torian Carriage Drive, which will improve access to this beautiful site.

Purchasing & installing the new bus shelter at Goodley Dale.

Stepping in to save and subsidise the 597 bus service through the winter, when the County Council ceased to provide funding. The 597 bus now has its own group of "friends" and has managed to identify permanent funding.

Providing much needed grant funding for a number of local community groups, including the Winter Lights, Lakes Players, South Lakes CAB and the newly formed Oral History Group.

Development and expansion of Council website, [www.windermere-tc.gov.uk](http://www.windermere-tc.gov.uk). Agendas and minutes, the Community Plan, application forms for co-option to council, grant application forms and information are all currently available to view or download.



Managing and maintaining the Orrest Drive Allotment site. There are 14 allotments under cultivation and the Council is always keen to identify new allotment sites.

Responding to a large number of consultations and representing the views of residents in Windermere & Bowness. This includes making recommendations on every planning application that is submitted to the national park.

Supporting the town twinning of Windermere with Diessen, which has included exchange visits and a very enjoyable performance of the Diessen Blassergruppe at the bandstand on the Glebe.

Supporting the successful campaign which resulted in the County Council deciding to withdraw plans for on-street car parking charges in Windermere & Bowness.

Continuing our work to improve the War Memorial. This year, thanks go to the Windermere Air Cadets, whose hard work resulted in the Memorial looking really smart in time for Remembrance Sunday and commemoration of the first world war.



## Langstone House



Langstone House, Broad Street

Langstone House was purpose built in the Edwardian Era as a building to service the community, by the then Urban District Council. The Town Council has occupancy rights to continue to hold its meetings in the Council chamber in perpetuity.

SLDC own the building and have used it for their parking and housing services over the years, but have recently declared it surplus to requirements.

The Town Council believes that this building should continue to serve as a community hub

and attempted to register it as a community asset, but the application was turned down.

A business case is currently being prepared by the Town Council to retain the building for use by community organisations and is actively seeking partners to share occupation.

The building has excellent office space, and disabled access. There is also a large basement, which could be used for projects like "Men in Sheds."

There is quite a lot of garden space, at the front, side and rear, which could be converted into allotments and raised beds for growing space.

These are just our ideas and we are open to suggestions from the community, so let us know if you have ideas of your own.

One way or another, the future of this building will be decided in 2015.....

## The Glebe & Glebe Road

*"A place of great beauty"*

Cumbria County Council have recently launched a consultation on proposed highways improvements to Glebe Road and have secured £2m of funding for this project and 2 others in South Lakeland.

This place of great beauty has been neglected for too long and the Town Council are determined to ensure that the scheme that is finally approved is one that will benefit our community in the long term.

We will also be aiming to protect the "Green Glebe" and make sure that there is no encroachment of tarmac and street furniture.

Along with the highways scheme, SLDC are contributing £200k to improving the Glebe foreshore and the public space there.

The Town Council is very supportive of the aims to improve this area. It will be working to

try and ensure that the money is spent well and that local concerns and ideas are taken on board by the District Council.

Finally, the Glebe bandstand is an under-utilized asset that could make a great contribution to the area. We will be working next year to try to reduce the red tape and make it easier for local bands and schools to play there.

## Managing our Resources



Keeping our community clean and tidy

There is only so much money to go around. The County and District Councils and Cumbria Police have had to make vast cutbacks to their spending this year.

It puts more pressure on us as Town Council to make sure that some of the smaller things in our community are not neglected.

The Town Council holds funds to repair benches in the area and will continue to encourage groups to do this.

Our Town Steward has recently cleaned all the main highways and street signs in Windermere & Bowness. It has made a great difference and will now be done twice a year.

There will be cutbacks in the

planting and floral displays this year and the Town Council will support community groups and help with applying for grant funding. This will become ever more important. Recently, grant funding has been secured for the friends of Birthwaite Gardens and the Millerground project.

## Council Spending and Income in 2014/15

EXPENDITURE (Net of VAT)	2014/15 Budget	2014/15 Actual	Variance	
Salaries	23,000	17,602	-	5,398
Employers NI Contribution/Pension	7,000	6,084	-	916
Mayor's Allowance	1,100	0	-	1,100
Insurances & Subscriptions	6,900	4,157	-	2,743
Audit Fee	2,000	1,125	-	875
War Memorial	1,500	688	-	812
Baddeley Clock	750	813		63
Office Rent, Administration & Website	6,100	3,554	-	2,546
Councillors' Training & Travelling Expenses	500	38	-	463
Orrest Head and Elleray Woods	5,000	1,050	-	3,950
Footway Light and Enhancement	15,000	14,544	-	456
Town Steward (Labour and materials)	8,000	5,079	-	2,921
Grants (including Youth Grants)	9,000	8,139	-	861
Langrigge Playground	2,500	1,860	-	640
Public Conveniences	25,000	25,000	-	0
Allotments	2,000	627	-	1,373
Winter Lights	2,700	2,128	-	572
Windermere in Bloom	7,000	5,784	-	1,216
The Hub	4,000	3,809	-	191
Contingency/Maintenance	5,000	0	-	5,000
Goodly Dale Bus Shelter	4,000	3,420	-	580
597 Bus Subsidy (Dec, Jan & Feb)	0	1,693		1,693
Bench Project	1,092	1,092	-	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>139,142</b>	<b>108,286</b>		
<b>INCOME</b>				
Precept	113,882	113,882	-	0
Precept Grant	8,362	8,362	-	0
Rents - War Memorial, Elleray Wood, Allotmts	935	785	-	150
Windermere in Bloom Sponsorship	500	550		50
Contribution from reserves	18,092	18,092		
Bank Interest	10	31		21
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>141,781</b>	<b>141,702</b>	-	79
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>2,639</b>	<b>33,416</b>		



# WINDERMERE TOWN COUNCIL

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

## Clerk to the Council:

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**Windermere Town Council has 20 seats representing 4 wards, Applethwaite, Bowness North, Bowness South and Windermere Town. It serves approximately 8360 residents over 3730 households.**

The following Councillors stood down during the year and are thanked for their service to the Town Council.

Miss Amanda Davies

Mrs Joan Stocker

Mr Colin Jones

Mrs Penny Henderson

The council meets every fortnight on a Wednesday in The Council Chamber, Broad Street, Windermere at 7pm, with public participation being welcomed at all meetings. The Police, District Councillors and County Councillors are also invited to speak at meetings.

## Current Town Councillors

Mr Allan Winrow (Mayor)

Miss Kathleen Atkinson

Mrs Jennifer Borer

Mrs Lisa Greasley

Mr Leith Hallatsch (Deputy Mayor)

Mrs Jennifer Jewell

Dr Robert Judson

Mr Adrian Legge

Ms Sandra Lilley

Mr Alan Marsh

Ms Grania Nicholson (wef 11/2/15)

Mr John Saunders

Mr Bill Smith

Mr Mike Stafford

Mr Ian Telford (wef 11/2/15)

Ms Susan K Wales

Bowness South Ward

Bowness South Ward  
Applethwaite Ward

Windermere Town Ward

Bowness South Ward

Bowness North Ward

Applethwaite Ward

Bowness North Ward

Bowness South Ward

Windermere Town Ward

Windermere Town Ward

Bowness North Ward

Applethwaite Ward

Windermere Town Ward

Windermere Town Ward

Bowness North Ward

The entire Council will be standing down and elections will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May.