



# WINDERMERE & BOWNESS TOWN COUNCIL

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

## Notes of Site Visit and Meeting held at Elleray Woods and Orrest Head on woods on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 3pm

**Present:** Deputy Mayor Lisa Greasley (Lead), Cllr Adrian Legge, Gary Hancox (Town Steward), Sally Parkyn (Town Clerk) & Marian Jones, LDNPA

**Apologies:** None.

### 1. Items Outstanding from the previous meeting in September 23:

These are all included in the notes below.

### 2. Update from Marian Jones (LDNPA)

- a. There are changes ahead at the LDNPA Ranger service. Marian is moving to Cumbria Wildlife Trust so will arrange a handover with the clerk and her temporary replacement Matt Croney. The Ambleside depot is merging with the depot at Haverthwaite. There is an unused Orrest Head track sign in the Ambleside depot that they will pass on to the Town Council to use when appropriate.
- b. There were questions regarding how LDNPA manages liability issues in the woodlands they own and Marian will report back on their policy.

### 3. Collection Box Update:

A spare LDNPA collection post has been located in Coniston which can be used. Marian will request a picture of the post. Marian to chase the Lake District Foundation about the costs associated with installation and a time frame for action.

### 4. Any issues regarding the summit:

While there are some areas of mud beyond the gravelled area it was felt that these would dry up once the weather improved. Any expansion of gravelling on the summit would not be in keeping with the natural setting.

### 5. Update on required tree work:

This is all now complete. The next tree survey will be due in 2025. Despite the significant number of named storms the lack of trees falling across the footpaths is testament to the responsible, proactive management of the woods.

### 6. Update on work in new compartment:

This is now close to completion with the log edged paths, fencing and steps mainly in place. Gary has created a new entrance on to the site. There remains some further tasks such as additional fencing and footpath surfacing still to complete but it is anticipated that the section will be open to the public by the end of May. The benches and sculptures will be added after the opening of the footpath.

The trail camera kindly donated to the Bowness and Windermere Community Care Trust by the Lamplighter will be put up near a suitable nest box by the end of April.

The Elleray Woods and Orrest head Advisory Group would like to publicly thank Will Hicks for the generous donation of approximately fifty tonnes of bark chippings to surface the new paths.

### 7. Update on general issues from Town Steward:

- a. Coppicing has been done around the millennium yews to increase light.

- b. The cold set tarmac work planned to be carried out by the Town Steward towards the top of the access road in the Autumn of 2023 was delayed due to weather and this will be carried out this summer to ensure public safety and prevent further deterioration.
- c. The native bulb planting carried out by local school children has resulted in a lowly display of native daffodils this month. It is hoped the bluebells will also do well. Thanks go to the Civic Society whose winding up funds were used to purchase the bulbs.

**8. Any other business**

The Ellera Wood and Orrest Head Advisory Group on behalf of the Town Council would like to thank our LDNPA Ranger Marian Jones for her many years of support to the Town Council in their stewardship of Orrest Head particularly over the access track project. We wish her every success in the future.

**9. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024**