



## **WINDERMERE TOWN COUNCIL**

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

### **Notes of Site Visit and Meeting held in the woods on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Present:** Dr Helen Jones (Chair) Cllrs Adrian Legge & Lisa Greasley. Gary Hancox (Town Steward), Julie Hartley (Town Clerk)

**Apologies:** Cllr Mike Stafford

#### **1. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were reviewed. The following updates were made:

- The Clerk reported that the grant from CCC for £3,000 towards the access project had now been received and had been paid over to LDNPA.
- Cllr Greasley reported that the daffodils had a decent showing in the Spring and there was clear contrast between the wild daffodils and the other british species - the Tenby.
- It was agreed that, when the bench replacement is finalised as part of the open access project, consideration should be given to small plaques to commemorate the work done by Cllr Kath Atkinson and Fred Atkinson.

#### **2. Compartment 18: Thinning, Improvement and Bounday Fence:**

The Town Steward explained the work that had been done in this area. The felling work has been finalised by Will Hicks. It wasn't possible, in full bloom time, to appreciate the views that have been opened up and this will be easier to see in Autumn and Winter. There is a safety issue with the Quarry and there need to be improvements made to the fence that has been constructed. The Town Steward explained his proposal that a post and rail fence be erected at a diagonal further in from the current fence and that there needs to be some signage put in place to indicate it is a danger. This was agreed and Town Steward will erect the fence, the Town Clerk will commission signage.

#### **3. LDNPA Access Project & Summit Improvement:**

Cllr Legge will be attending a meeting with the LDNPA in early August and will report back on progress. The site visit identified the following issues that it was felt should be fed back to the LDNPA:

- Although it was appreciated that the access path needs to be improved and, in places, slightly widened to provide safety to pedestrians and mobility aids, there must be absolutely no encouragement to vehicle parking. Therefore, the path needs to be maintained at a certain width which will not allow for parking in passing places or on the path itself.
- Signage on the route was discussed and it was agreed that there needs to be balance between providing information and keeping signage to a minimum with easy to understand icons being used instead of lots of words. Colour coding of the paths was also supported.
- No member of the group was supportive of tramper hire.

- Maintenance of the new path and signs was discussed and the Clerk informed the group that she had written to the LDNPA to accept the responsibility for 5 years but only up to costs that fall within the Town Council's annual budget that is allocated to Elleray Woods.
- It was agreed that, if renovated, the Kissing Gate should be preserved intact in its current form as much as possible.
- Members took a close look at the new (old) route that will be used as the disabled access to the summit and all agreed that this was a much better option than some others that have been discussed.
- Cllr Legge explained that the tenders from local blacksmiths for the design of seating and summit were due in to the LDNPA shortly and that he would contact the group with the results when these had been received.

#### 4 **Any Other Business:**

- Helen Jones raised the issue of the revised leaflet and it was agreed that it should possibly be separate to the leaflet that the LDnPA are set to produce as the aims of both publications are different.
- Members visited the pond area and the Town Steward explained his proposals to deal with the drainage into Orrest Howe in a sensible way that will avoid draining into the property for the future.
- The Town Clerk reminded the group of her intention to explore the legal status and funding of maintenance of the Access Road, now that there were many more properties (and holiday) lets along the road than when Town Council had taken on full responsibility more than 10 years ago. This will be a medium-term project and possibly require a highways legal specialist to advise.

#### 5 **Next Meeting:**

The site visit will take place on 21 October 2020 at 3pm and the Administration meeting at 4.30pm on 11 November. There will be a mixture of Zoom and socially distanced attendance in the Council Chamber.