



WINDERMERE LAKE USER FORUM

MINUTES of a meeting of the Windermere Lake User Forum held at the YMCA, Lakeside, Ulverston, Cumbria at 6.30pm on the 26 September 2016

PRESENT:

Mrs C Shaw (Powered Craft) – Chairman	Mr J Woodburn (Transport providers)
Mr T Ball (Outdoor Providers)	Mr David Hall (Sailor)
Mr P Kelly (Swimming)	Mr P Hardman (Powered Craft) –Vice Chair

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr S Gaskell (LDNPA)	Mr J Maguire (SLDC)
Mr D Sykes (SLDC)	Mr F Flannigan (SLDC)
Mrs V Senior (LDNPA)	Cllr G Vincent (SLDC)
Mr J Holmes (LDNPA)	

Mr M Fernley (South Windermere Sailing Club)
Mr D Copley (South Windermere Sailing Club)

1 Apologies and welcome to new members

Apologies were received from Mr D Simister (Sailor), Mr J Dearden (Commercial Users) and Cllr Mrs S Sanderson (SLDC).

2 Approval of minutes and Matters arising

Minutes of the meeting on the 14 March 2016 were approved.

3 Matters arising from last minutes

Disabled Access

Mr Flannigan has not been able to progress, but would like to arrange a meeting with Mr Hall and Bendrigg Lodge to discuss the hoist, he would then like to have the hoist in place by the 17 April 2017.

Bowness and Glebe Development

Part 1 of the development, Glebe Road and parking around the back of the Glebe had to be suspended earlier in the year, work has now commenced again and it is planned to be completed by Easter 2017.

Part 2 Bowness Promenade – A further phase of works are being developed, led by CCC.

The LDNPA are reviewing the Local Plan over the next 8 -10 months, which will include the strategic regeneration area of Bowness Bay and the Glebe. SLDC would like to see the area around Ferry Nab included in the revised planning policy for the area.

Mrs Shaw asked what notice the public would be given for the workshops to discuss the plan. Attendance recent consultations and workshops has been quite low due to lack of communication prior to the meetings.

Action: Mr Gaskell to find out how the dates of the consultation will be communicated and forward notice of the dates to WLUF members.

There is a dedicated webpage for the Local Plan Review -

<http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/planning/local-plan-review>.

If anyone has any specific issues or comments you can raise them to localplan@lakedistrict.gov.uk.

Flooding

A meeting of the Flood Group is to take place in the next couple of weeks to establish what the financial cost to the lake has been.

Mr Sykes has spoken to Celia McNally (Environment Agency) Catchment Director for Kent and Eden and they are developing proposals around various catchments in the area, to improve water level management and mitigate against risk of flood.

Flood investigation reports have been produced by CCC and the Environment Agency. Links to the reports below:

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/floods2015/floodforums.asp>

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/eLibrary/Content/Internet/536/6181/42576134724.pdf>

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/eLibrary/Content/Internet/536/6181/4257215929.pdf>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cumbria-flood-action-plan>

Flood Reports have sought to capture information and experience of many stakeholders. If Forum Members have specific experience and knowledge which would add understanding to the Flood Reports, they can advise CCC and the Environment Agency. Photographs are especially helpful.

Members were asked to make people aware that detailed accounts of any future floods including photographs will be helpful to continue to the aid the development of flood investigation information.

UU Quality Improvement Proposals

Work will take place over the next 3 winters, the road from Newby Bridge to Windermere will be closed at various times for lengthy periods commencing in November 2016.

4 Windermere Byelaw Exemptions update

The second race day of the year took place on 24 September 2016 and was successfully managed by Windermere Motor Boat Racing Club.

The LDNPA have received one application this year from the Windermere Motor Boat Racing Club for racing events in 2017 and 2018. This application has been approved with conditions.

No further applications have been received and nothing further has been received from the Lakes Flying Company regarding Waterbird.

5 Boat Safety Promotional Campaign

The LDNPA decided not to adopt the Boat Safety Scheme but agreed to carry out a Boat Safety Promotional Campaign.

My Holmes (Lake Ranger) talked about the Life Jacket clinics that have been taking place in partnership with the RNLI and LDNPA staff. The clinics check Life Jackets and Buoyancy aids and advise on maintenance, clinics have been held at Ferry Nab, Ullswater YC, Derwent Marina and the Windermere Boat show at Ferry Nab. Lifejacket clinic dates have been put on the website.

At present there are no local companies who do lifejacket repairs so jackets have to be sent away.

RNLI had previously demonstrated life jacket lockers to the Forum. SLDC had indicated an interest in investigating the option of installing these at public jetties in Bowness and Waterhead as part of safety promotion.

Action: Lake Rangers to supply the contact details of the company used by them to check their life jackets – details here:

Marine Warehouse Limited, Unit 2 Fishmarket Quay, Swansea, SA1 1UP.
Website – www.lifejackets.co.uk. 01792 474300

Action: Mr Flannigan to look into life jacket locker provision.

The Water Safety Pages on the LDNPA website have been updated with videos promoting boat safety. The videos have been tweeted on the NP and the Lake Ranger team twitter sites.

Action: Links to the videos to be sent to all lake users when boat registration emails are sent out. WLUF representatives to make their users aware of the videos.

<http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/visiting/thingstodo/water/water-safety>

The LDNPA and SLDC have been selling carbon monoxide detectors from Ferry Nab.

Both the LDNPA and SLDC have been promoting tow floats, swimmers can buy the floats from Ferry Nab, Lake Rangers have tow floats on the patrol boats to give out and show swimmers.

The RNLI have trained Lake Rangers on the Advice on Board Programme, the Lake Rangers can now provide an advice service looking at equipment, emergency procedures and general safety aspects on board Lake User's boats. Further promotional work will take place in 2017.

Mrs Shaw asked what progress had been made on the recommendation to develop a top ten list of what to do and what not to do on the water to promote good practise on the lake. Mr Gaskell has discussed this proposal with the Authority's Solicitor. We would not want to produce another leaflet stating the do's and don'ts on the lake as the byelaws cannot be summarised to a shortened version. All byelaws need to be read to keep all users safe. There are water safety tips already presented in the Lake User Guide which serve the purpose of promoting general boat safety.

6 **Windermere Lake User Guide**

The draft 2017 Lake User Guide was distributed to all for comments.

Action: Mr Gaskell to check if public access is allowed on Rawlinson Nab lakeshore and to contact the Beech Hill, Water Edge, Swan Hotel and YMCA at Waterhead to see if they would like boaters welcome adding to the map.

Action: Mr Maguire to provide some different wording to go alongside the public jetties.

Mr Gaskell agreed to change the picture on the front of a young girl wearing an oversized lifejacket.

7 **Communications with lake users at Ferry Nab**

Ferry Nab now has a video screen – these is scope to promote the Windermere Lake User Forum on this as well as the reps on the forum.

Action: All members of the Forum to give Mrs Shaw a one page document stating who they are, who they represent and any interesting events in their field, a power point will then be produced.

8 **Ferry Nab toilets/shower facilities**

SLDC were granted permission for new wet rooms and toilet block at Ferry Nab, work is still ongoing to rectify some shortfalls. WLUF have received some complaints regarding the new facilities at Ferry Nab, Marina clients are not happy that the general public can use the facilities alongside themselves. SLDC have brought in some temporary facilities until the new facilities are rectified. SLDC will look at mixed use and management of the facilities once all the problems have been sorted.

The three Belfast dish washing sinks have been a great hit with lake users.

9 **Management of the lake/wash in mooring field and 6 mph area**

All received a copy of the powerboat reps report. With regard to the comment in the report Mr Gaskell informed the group that the LDNPA are not turning a 'blind eye' to users breaking the speed limit. The LDNPA are continually educating lake users and when necessary enforcing the byelaws.

Mr Hardman presented the report which highlighted a number of points including the wide support that has been found for an exemption under controlled conditions for water skiing up to 20kmph. It also identified that some activity is already taking place above the speed limit. Some of this activity appears to cause no disturbance to other lake users and some that does. The report also highlighted that there is concern among lake users regarding noise from some irresponsible lake users, another big concern of lake users is the wash that some boats are producing this is causing both a nuisance and damage to moored craft berthed around the lake shore. At the moment lake users feel the wash can be more of a problem than speed especially in the 6kmph areas.

Mrs Shaw proposed that the lake would benefit from a review of how the lake is managed and what activities are taking place on the lake. Members felt that they needed more information and time to investigate and understand these new concerns on wash.. So all were asked to consider how it should be taken forward and the discussion to be taken to the next meeting.

The report also referred to a proposal for a managed solution which would enable waterskiing at speeds of up to 20knph. The LDNPA advised that they had not received a written submission for an exemption. An informal meeting had taken place between S. Gaskell and those seeing the application but no further information has been received since the previous meeting of the Forum. In order to reach a position on the proposal it was suggested that the proposers prepare and submit an Exemption application. This would enable the LDNPA to formally respond.

10 **Fell Foot development proposal implications**

Representatives from South Windermere Sailing Club and the Rowing Club attended the meeting to ask the views of the forum regarding the proposed developments at Fell Foot, both clubs had concerns over the new sustainable transport jetty and the safety implications for their lake users.

Windermere Lake Cruises have operated a service from Lakeside to Fell Foot for the last 15 years, at the moment they are restricted on boat size and if the new jetty was installed they would be able to use a larger vessel. , It was estimated that between 4 and 6 swinging moorings would need to be moved to enable this to happen.

The club had asked to see a Navigational risk assessment and to understand the route planned for the new WLC boat and which mooring buoys would need removal. There was some confusion on these and no written documentation to assist them in assessing how this would impact on the water utilisation planned from the new Water Sports Centre.at this location.

The clubs were unsure who to approach for help, it was suggested they approach Ben Long, Planner at the LDNPA to ascertain what had received planning permission and what had not. They were also advised to raise their concerns with the National

Trust who was the applicant. As it is in their interest to keep all stakeholders happy with potentially further planning and encroachment applications.

SLDC are unable to comment further until they receive a formal encroachment application from the NT. It is expected that a safety assessment will be required. SLDC will then be able to assess how many moorings need moving with the applicant.

Action: The Chair of WLUF will write to the National Trust regarding the issues that have been raised and the implications the planning application will have on their tenants.

Letter attached

11 Update on the Windermere Strategy Review and links to LDNPA & SLDC Economy Review

A meeting of the Windermere Strategy Working Group took place in July. Mrs Shaw attended to represent the Forum. At that meeting Dan Hunt presented a review of the Strategy for discussion from issues raised by stakeholders. All forum members have been invited to attend a workshop session on Wednesday to discuss the seven key management issues identified, Access and Transport, Tourism Economy, Recreation Use of the Lake, Flooding and High Water, Drought and Low Water, Water Quality and Bio Diversity. Carole Shaw, Jason Dearden and John Woodburn are to attend. Other members have given apologies due to work commitments.

Members will receive a copy of the agenda and the report from Dan Hunt

Mrs Shaw asked how the outcomes and recommendations from the of the separate consultation to develop an Economic Strategy for Windermere and Bowness will be included in the new Lake Windermere Strategy Review. That consultation carried out by Douglas Wheeler Associates submitted its report at the end of 2014.

Cllr Vincent advised the Forum that a meeting has taken place to establish a local economic group in Windermere and Bowness to take forward the Douglas Wheeler report. A 2nd meeting will take place on the 3 October to look at actions and ambitions from the report.

12 Forum Membership and Chair

The forum currently has three vacancies, Angling, Paddle craft and General User/Youth. Carole Shaw' 4 year term comes to an end in March 2017 and she will therefore resign as Chair at the next meeting, if no replacement can be found and if all members approve she would be willing to carry on until a replacement could be found.

Once the review of the Windermere Strategy is complete the remit of the group would need to be reviewed, Mrs Shaw suggested that an item for discussion appears on the March agenda.

13 Date of next meeting

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Next meeting to take place on Monday 6 March at 6.00pm at Windermere Lake Cruises. At this meeting the forum will be presented with the work from the Windermere Management Strategy review.

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