

Cumbria Choice

A new system across the county giving more choice to tenants

Choice based lettings is a system of letting social rented housing that is being introduced across the county. Instead of each district council and housing association introducing a scheme individually, the 6 district councils and 7 housing associations in Cumbria have agreed to work in partnership to introduce a scheme that covers the whole of Cumbria.

The main principle of choice based lettings is that properties are advertised so that customers can see what properties are available for letting. Customers are then asked to express an interest (bid) for any properties they would like to be considered for. Lettings policies are used to prioritise the customers who bid for the properties.

Properties will be advertised on the Cumbria Choice website, there will be printed newsletters at housing offices and council offices and potentially other agencies and voluntary organisations. A list of places will be published once the scheme is ready to begin.

Those currently on the housing list have been transferred over to the new register system. To make a bid a form needs to be completed, which can be done in a housing office, by phone, through an automated phone number, by text or on the Cumbria Choice website. The successful bidder will be notified by letter –

any unsuccessful bidders will not be notified.

For more information please go to www.homegroup.org.uk/cumbriachoice

Points raised during discussion:

- No one will be disadvantaged by the new scheme; there are ways of getting help to bid for a property.
- The word 'bid' has been used throughout the country.
- If a lot of people bid for houses in Frizington, that will indicate that there is a need for social housing in the area. This could assist a bid for new build.

Environmental Enforcement

Everything that requires legal enforcement is the responsibility of the Enforcement Department at Copeland Borough Council. There are 5 full time Officers and one part time Officer who cover everything from premises issues, litter, trade waste, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, stray dogs and noise pollution.

The Department currently carries out a lot of educational work which involves going into every primary school in Copeland to talk to years 4 and 5. The Waste Management Department go into Secondary Schools.

The biggest problem in the Borough is dog fouling with Around 20-35 reports received every week.



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There have been 25 fines issued this year.

In the Frizington area fly tipping is a problem; out of 230 reports there have been 2 successful fines/prosecutions. It's difficult to catch fly tippers; follow up can only usually be carried out if the material dumped contains names and addresses.

There has been a recent consultation on a Dog Control Order which amongst other things allows the creation of exclusion zones where dogs are not allowed.

Any enforcement issues should be reported to Copeland Borough Council on 0845 054 8600.

Points raised during discussion:

- PCSO's have the same enforcement powers as Civil Enforcement Officers.
- The enforcement of on-street car parking will revert back to a County Council responsibility next year.
- If the enforcement team know the patterns and routines of dog owners who do not pick up after their dog, they can put the area under surveillance.

Community Updates Together We Can

Plans are progressing well for the Together We Can week planned for Frizington between 24-28 January 2011.

Get in touch

Maria Hewitt Community Involvement Worker
Cleator Moor Council Centre, The Square, Cleator Moor, CA25 5AP
maria.hewitt@cumbriacc.gov.uk 01946 505019

Activities already planned for the week include a Ward Walk, General Dance, Litter Picks, Fire Safe, clean up of Wildlife Area at Frizington Community School, Youth Forum, Frizington Library Story Time and Computer Taster Sessions, Consultations on Newtown Play Area, Street Sports, Health Walk, Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership Vehicle and a Drop In Session.

If anyone has any ideas of issues that could be tackled during the Together We Can week please get in touch with Maria (contact details below).

Copeland Borough Council – Customer Relations

If you have any comments, compliments or complaints about Copeland Borough Council services, please contact Marissa Joyce on 01946 598525 or email customer.relations@copeland.gov.uk

Grants Awarded

Frizington White Star were awarded £400
Lowca ARLFC – Youth Section were awarded £500
Frizington Bowling Club were awarded £1,000
Cumbria-Rungwe Community Link were awarded £300

Date of next meeting:
Monday 24 January 2011



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