

Cumbria Choice Based Lettings

Cumbria Choice is a sub regional scheme for letting most of the social rented housing which is being introduced across the county and will go live April 2011. In Cumbria it is a partnership between the 6 local districts and 8 social housing providers.

- The scheme operates through a web based computer system and a paper based system.
- To be part of the scheme customers need to apply to the common Housing Register. There is only one application form and customers will be placed on the register if they meet the eligibility criteria.
- Priority for housing is awarded through a "Banding" system that places people in one of four bands according to their housing needs.
- The majority of properties are advertised and customers are able to exercise choice by registering an interest in the property, known as "bidding".
- At the end of the "bidding" process a shortlist is compiled, taking into account; the band of the customer, the "effective" date of the application, and any local connection. Usual practice is that customers at the top of the shortlist are offered the property. A number of Local Authorities and Housing Associations in the country already operate choice based letting schemes.

Advantages of the scheme are:

- Applicant has more choice in where they live and is more involved in the process;
- Leads to more stable communities and more tenant satisfaction;
- A fairer more transparent system;
- One application form;
- One allocation policy;
- Can improve void re-let times and refusal rates;
- Efficiency savings;
- Housing need is more clearly identified in Cumbria.

Homestays Project is a Cumbria County Council's Supported Lodgings Scheme, established in 2007, available to all young people who have or still are in the Care of the Local Authority. The aim of the project is to offer young people between the ages of 16-25 supported accommodation to assist them in making a positive transition to living independently. Homestays recruits people in the community who are able to offer a young person a room in their home and support the young person to develop independent living skills. The Homestays Provider will receive support through training, support groups, regular contact with Homestays Advisers and a weekly allowance of £165.00 to cover the cost of rent and support.

**For more information please contact:
Nicki Pennington Homestays Adviser
Tel: 01900 325291**

Email: nicki.pennington@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Dog Fouling Petition at Bransty Primary School – Inspired by news of a young child who became blind through contact with dog fouling, members of the school council put together ideas to raise this issue and seek a solution, they came up with a Petition. Jacob Chair of School Council and Olivia told how they had been invited to a meeting at the Copeland Centre with councillors to present their petition which was well received. This has resulted in Copeland BC providing three bins to be placed in Bransty, the school and councillors are consulting on where the bins should be located. It was accepted that this issue will continue to run but so far a positive outcome had been achieved by the School council.

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Community Play Area in Bransty – A meeting has taken place with the School and the Parks Department CBC unfortunately there are not many places to develop a site, one possibility is at the bottom of the school site. The school is putting in a bid for access for school use and for the community and the children have been consulted.

Bleach Green – Bransty Councillors have discussed with the Parks Department how to improve this play area; one suggestion is to set up a community group to work with the Parks Dept. If anyone is interested please contact Cllr Chris Whiteside or write to Pat Graham, at The Copeland Centre.

Review of Polling Stations if anyone has any issues as to where the polling stations are please let the Copeland BC Councillors have your views.

Following on from the Whitehaven Town Centre Residents Parking Meeting held in September Karl Melville, Area Engineer, Cumbria Highways attended the forum to report that:

1. Funding has been secured to carry out survey work to identify how many on street parking spaces are in the town centre, the type of parking and what type of vehicle or resident is using it, looking at actual permits to see what is being used and where. This will take place for a two day period resulting in an Analysis and Report;
2. Concern had been raised about the speed of traffic on Wellington Row – a Speed survey has been carried out which showed an average speed in one direction of 22 mph and in the opposite direction of 27 mph.

Get in touch

Suzanne Cooper Community Involvement Worker
Cleator Moor Council Centre, The Square, CA25 5AP
suzanne.cooper@cumbriacc.gov.uk 01946 505019

Cumbria Highways Improving your roads

Hotline 0845 609 6609

www.cumbria.gov.uk

contact@cumbriahighways.co.uk

Copeland Borough Council – Customer Relations

If you have any comments, compliments or complaints about Copeland Borough Council services, please contact Marissa Joyce on 01946 598 525 or email

customer.relations@copeland.gov.uk

Grants Awarded

Whitehaven Judo Club was awarded **£700**; **Lowca ARLFC Youth Section** was awarded **£1,000** and; **New Music North Limited** was deferred to the next forum.

£ There is currently **£4,599.36 in the Grants Budget and £248.54 in the Youth Budget** to be awarded at this forum, if you know of any community groups who are looking for funding please ask them to contact this office as soon as possible; alternatively see our website to download an application form.

Grant applications for the next forum should be received in the office by Tuesday 4th January 2011.

A full set of notes is available upon request. Please contact the office on the number below; alternatively visit the Bransty & Harbour Neighbourhood Forum online at www.cumbria.gov.uk/sayit

**Date of next meeting
Tuesday 18th January 2011**



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