

New Initiatives for Cleator Moor

Cleator Moor Neighbourhood Management Initiative Pilot

Home are working with new and existing partners to deliver a Neighbourhood Management Initiative in Cleator Moor.

The aim is to provide resources to trigger activity in the town, attract other funding for projects and provide additional staff to develop resident participation. If the pilot is successful the Initiative could be around for five years.

The long term approach in Cleator Moor: long term plans and goals; sustained grass roots engagement; engage residents in political processes; improve residents linkages with, and input to, service providers.

Neighbourhood Management will work with residents to improve Health, Income, Housing, Education and rates of Crime.

Points raised:

- It would be good for Cleator Moor to have a Neighbourhood Warden scheme.
- There will be funding available for setting up groups like Residents Associations and Neighbourhood Watch.

Utilita

Utilita have teamed up with Home to provide an offer to their customers – they have a unique pre-payment SMART gas meter which is the cheapest pre-payment tariff in the UK. The initial launch will be in Cleator Moor.

The benefits are emergency and friendly credit, remote top ups, energy consumption data and competitive tariffs.

The scheme was launched on 1st November – Utilita wrote to all 800 Home Group customers at Cleator Moor. Each new customer will receive £5 of free credit when their meter is installed.

Sign up can be done online, freephone 0800 883 0146 or text Utilita to 84433 and a member of the registration team will contact you within 24 hours.

For more information go to www.utilita.co.uk email Steve Parker at SteveParker@utilita.co.uk or phone 01962 891180.

Points raised:

- Some people don't have bank cards for top ups over the phone or on the internet.
- Customers can leave Utilita if energy prices are increased, in which case 28 days notice should be given. Other clauses are if Utilita haven't met the terms of the contract or if a customer moves home.

Cumbria Choice

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



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and South Lakes Housing Arms Length Management Organisation 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, council offices and potentially at 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:

- There will be a launch date for the scheme in April 2011.
- Everyone who is currently on a housing waiting list will receive information on the new process.

- The scheme has been funded by a £100,000 grant from Government and each Local Authority has contributed £11,000.
- There is a one week window for bids – opening on Tuesday and closing the following Monday evening. Vulnerable people will receive help with making bids during this time.

Community Updates

Public consultation on council priorities and budget options

There will be a community event on Thursday 20th January, 7pm-9pm at Egremont Market Hall where you can hear about the council's proposals first hand, ask questions and provide feedback. The consultation document is available online at www.cumbria.gov.uk also paper copies in council centres and Local Links.

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

Lowca ARLFC were awarded £500
West Cumbria Combat Veterans Evening were awarded £350
Cumbria Rungwe Tanzania Link were awarded £500

There is **£2,591.27** remaining in the Cleator Moor Neighbourhood Forum grants budget. Please contact Maria Hewitt on the details below if you wish to apply.



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Date of next meeting
Thursday 3 February 2011

Get in touch

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