

HMP Haverigg; yesterday, today & tomorrow

Martin Farquhar, Governor of HMP Haverigg, gave a presentation which outlined the history of HMP Haverigg; the prison today in 2010; how this fits with the community.

Martin – joined the prison service in 1988 and has worked in 10 posts in 8 prisons. He came into post at Haverigg in February 2009.

History – HMP Haverigg was originally a Ministry of Defence camp, built in 1941 as an RAF base. It housed the army between 1946-55 and was rented out to local farmers between 1962-68. In 1968 it was converted into a category C prison with 400 beds. There have been 10 Governors to date. Many of the challenges faced by the prison are the same as in 1968; i.e. the remote location and standard of buildings.

Location – HMP Haverigg is 1 of 135 prisons across the country and 1 of 16 in the North West. It is the most remotely located prison in the country. There is capacity for 644 men on site with the catchment area for prisoners being the North West down to Merseyside and Manchester.

Population profile – there are 130 foreign nationals, 70 low security category D, 60 serving a life sentence, the remainder are category C. 100 prisoners are from Cumbria. Category D prisoners can be let out to work in the community. Foreign nationals are prisoners who have legitimate right to work in the UK but don't hold a British Passport.

Staff – 400 people are employed at HMP Haverigg; 140 are uniformed staff, the rest vary from education staff to health staff. The prison brings around £10 million into the economy.

Finance – more will be known soon on the effect Government cuts may have on the prison service.

Drugs – tackling drugs has been a big part of the work carried out by Martin and his staff. The target for positive drug testing is 16%. When Martin joined the prison, the returning figure for HMP Haverigg was 33%. It is now down to 2%, sometimes 0%. The prison has worked closely with Cumbria Police who have targeted supplies of drugs coming into the county at Lancaster and Kendal, which has prevented them reaching Haverigg. The prison is now a different place with much fewer incidents of violence and assaults.

Community Payback – a future scheme is being put together in conjunction with Cumbria Probation Service.

Points raised during discussion:

- The football pitch and buildings adjacent to the prison will have to be vacated by 31st January 2011. The land will then be valued and put on the market.
- There is a need for training for people in the workplace where a category D prisoner is placed.



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- Work in the community has been suspended due to drugs being left outdoors for prisoners to pick up and take back.

Community Updates

Trudy Harrison, Locality Officer, Copeland Borough Council

Trudy is creating a Community Plan for Millom to highlight any crucial problems and find solutions. If anyone would like to get involved please get in touch with Trudy at Trudy.Harrison@copeland.gov.uk or call 01229 719 657. There will be a stall at the Christmas Market to collect ideas from the community. It is hoped the Plan will be ready by the new financial year.

Millom & Haverigg Economic Development Group

AGM will be held on 13th December at Millom Network Centre. New Directors are needed for the Group – two people have expressed an interest so far.

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

Get in touch

Maria Hewitt Community Involvement Worker
Cleator Moor Council Centre, The Square, Cleator Moor, CA25 5AP
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Plans are in motion for the **1st Millom and District Festival of Reading & Writing** to be held in November 2011. The main focus hopes to be events taking place in Millom schools, the Library and other suitable venues, with a large number of local and visiting authors and poets taking part. If anyone would like to get involved with making this event a success, a meeting will take place on Monday 13th December 2pm at the Town Council Chambers where the group will become formally constituted. For further details please get in touch with David Ward on 01229 77028 or email dmward62@hotmail.co.uk

Friends of Millom Park are consulting on plans to make improvements to the Park. For up to date information visit their website at www.friendsofmillompark.btck.co.uk

Grants Awarded

Life Education Caravan (Millom) were awarded £700
South Copeland Disability Group were awarded £225
Bootle & District Swimming Club were awarded £400
South Copeland Tourism Community Interest Company were awarded £500
Millom Network Centre were awarded £1,000

Date of next meeting:
Monday 7 February 2010



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