

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

Homestays Supported Lodgings

Homestays is a supported lodgings project run by Cumbria Children's Services. It is a county wide scheme offering young people aged 16-25 who are leaving care, supported accommodation in the community.

Anyone who is interested in taking part in the scheme will be provided with support, training and payment. You will need to meet certain criteria, for example you will need to have a spare room in your house and ideally be close to transport links and local amenities.

If you express an interest you will be visited by a Homestays Adviser to find out more about you, your experiences and skills, and to find out whether this is an appropriate step for you to take. There will also be statutory checks regarding suitability.

Contact Nicki Pennington, Homestays Adviser on 01900 706 291.

Community Updates Neighbourhood Wardens Update

Keith provided further speed indicator results showing speeding problems on the Ginns to Kells Road, Red Lonning, St Bees Road/Greenbank and generally during school travel times.

The Wardens have been out to visit vulnerable residents who may need essential supplies



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during the cold weather, or help getting from place to place.

The Warden scheme has been confirmed for another year but their focus may be wider than the South Whitehaven area.

Points raised:

- Speeding figures are passed on to the Police who do go out with the speed gun on particularly dangerous roads.
- The Wardens will continue to be based at St Peter's Community Hall.

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.

West Cumbria MRWS Partnership

Discussion packs are available which include a 15 minute DVD, a paper booklet, background information and questions. You can request any number of packs by emailing your name and address to helenf@3kg.co.uk or by phoning 0800 048 8912 extension 1.

Get in touch

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

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

Keith Cartner complimented the good work carried out by CBC Waste Management during the weeks/days around Bonfire Night. The work of identifying and dismantling bonfires worked really well and was a success.

Grants Awarded

Lowca ARLFC – Youth Section were awarded £600
Cumbria-Rungwe Tanzania Link were awarded £600
Woodhouse Family Advice Centre were awarded £883
Woodhouse Community Action Group were awarded £1,500

The remaining grants budget for the financial year is £3,864.50. Grant applications for the next meeting should be returned to the office by 26 January 2011. Contact Maria for an application pack.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 16 February 2010



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