

GRANGE & CARTMEL NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Summary of the meeting held at Lindale Village Hall, Tuesday 29th June 2010

Councillor Bill Wearing extended a warm welcome to everyone at the Forum and introduced fellow County Councillor Rod Wilson, representing the Cartmel Division, before explaining the change in Forum boundary areas (and subsequent reduction in grants funding available) to fit with the new Local Area Partnerships.

Lindale Recreation Ground

Paul Bond explained that the Parish Council was in the process of looking at refurbishing the village playground when it was condemned by South Lakeland District Council. This meant the process had to be speeded up and it is hoped to launch a dedicated playground committee at the Village Sports Day on 11th July. It is estimated that the new playground will cost £50 - £80K and fund raising is ongoing. Children and young people will be consulted on the kind of playground they would like, and updates on progress will be available on the website and in the parish newsletter.

Red Squirrel Conservation in South Lakeland

David Welch explained that grey squirrels were introduced to this country from the USA in the 1870's. They are classed as vermin in the UK - it is illegal to release grey squirrels back into the wild if caught; treat them if injured or keep them in captivity without a licence. They eat seven times more than the reds, cause £300million damage to forestry and take birds, fledglings and eggs. The Squirrel pox virus which is fatal to reds, is carried by 60% of greys, and unless action is taken, reds will be extinct in the UK within the next decade. Greys can produce three litters of 7 - 8 annually, but reds will not breed below a certain weight, and greys are taking most of the food. The only way to save the reds is to control the greys.

Dave explained that the Westmorland Red Squirrel Society is one of a number of organisations working to conserve our native red squirrels. People can help this work by volunteering, donating and reporting (both greys and reds). Anyone interested in getting involved or starting their own group should contact Dave at hengispod@live.co.uk

In response to queries Dave explained DEFRA's recommended methods of culling greys and confirmed a lot of indigenous birds are lost to greys - mentioning a recent incident when two grey squirrels were seen to kill and eat a cock pheasant! Residents suggested reds have not been seen in the Lindale area for many years and County Councillor Rod Wilson suggested red squirrel conservation could become an element of the Action Plans for new Local Area Partnerships.

Grant Applications

1st Grange & Cartmel Scout Group
Requested £1,000 Awarded £750

North West Junior Orienteering Squad
Requested £100 Awarded £90

Flookburgh Community Playgroup
Requested £500 Awarded £450

Lower Holker Bowling Club
Requested £1,000 Awarded £600

Allithwaite Playing Fields & Community Centre Association
Requested £586 Awarded £250

Community Noticeboard

Mr. Shapland thanked the Neighbourhood Forum for its contribution to the new crazy golf course at Grange which will open later this week. £5,800 was raised to create a nine hole course in the recreation area. The course will be run in conjunction with the bowling green and tennis courts, be staffed by volunteers and open from 10am - 8pm during the season. There will be a small charge for special golf balls and putters.

Get in Touch

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Castle Head Field Centre

Paul Bond, Centre Manager, explained Castle Head is not a stand alone Field Centre, but is part of the Field Studies Council which has been in existence for about sixty years and has devoted itself to learning outside the classroom. He provided a brief history of the Field Studies Council, an independent educational charity, which was set up in response to the needs of inner city children evacuated to the countryside in the 1940's and whose 'tag' line is 'bringing environmental understanding to all'. The Field Studies Council has 14 residential centres, 3 day centres, fieldwork and eco-adventure courses. It also runs the education centre at the Lake District National Park Authority resource at Brockhole. Whilst some Field Studies Council resources cater for individual adults and family groups, Castle Head caters for University, School and Youth groups.

Castle Head was built in the 1780's for John Wilkinson. An extension was built in Victorian times and another in the 1920's when the building served as a Catholic Seminary. The building was acquired by the Field Studies Council in 1997. Castle Head has 140 beds (mainly dormitories); dining rooms; common rooms; TV lounge; staff lounge; tuck shop; library; bar; workrooms; sports hall etc. With support from Astra Zeneca, one of the workrooms has recently been transformed into a high-tech science laboratory. The Field Centre has 40 acres of land, which includes the River Winster and offers rafting, low ropes, high ropes and obstacle courses etc. among its activities on site and canoeing, climbing, abseiling, low level traverse and ghyll scrambling off site. About 30 staff, mostly local, work at the Centre alongside freelance and GAP year students.

The Centre can provide a wide range of opportunities for informal environmental education as well as more formal curriculum based fieldwork and adventurous activities to a wide range of ages, abilities and social backgrounds. It takes children from Year 4 and above on a residential basis and has recently hosted groups of special needs, gifted and talented children and children from the 20 worst performing Local Authorities in the country, as well as groups from Spain and Russia. A group currently staying at Castle Head is on a leadership course funded by the Rotary.

Approximately 4,700 young people visit the Centre annually, mainly on three night residentials, and Paul explained a typical programme for the day. Young people assist with chores and make their own packed lunches. The Centre has good links with local youth organisations and over the last five years has run summer camps for young people organised by the YHA (Youth Hostel Association).

Paul suggested the ethos of the Field Centre could be summed up by a quote from one young person – “actually being able to see it, makes it much easier to understand.”

In response to a funding query, Paul acknowledged that the summer camps programme and the continuation of three other significant projects currently funded to the end of this year could be affected by funding cuts.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Grange & Cartmel Neighbourhood Forum (covering the parishes of Grange-over-Sands; Upper Allithwaite; Staveley-in-Cartmel; Cartmel Fell; Haverthwaite; Lower Holker; Lower Allithwaite and Broughton East) will take place on **Tuesday 21st September, 7.30pm at Haverthwaite Parish Hall.**



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