

Summary of meeting held at Kendal Town Hall on Tuesday 14th September 2010.

Jason Yates, Neighbourhood Development Officer for Cumbria County Council introduced Rob Boden, South Lakeland District Councillor, and chairman for the evening, before giving apologies for those unable to attend.

Councillor Boden then welcomed everyone to the Forum.

Updates on Local Projects

Kendal Town Council - Liz Richardson, Town Clerk, reported on work at Gillinggate Park, undertaken as part of the Kirkland Redevelopment Scheme. She also reported Kendal was runner-up in the large town category of Cumbria in Bloom and Kent Court was runner-up in the best residential home category.

The Christmas lights switch on takes place on Sunday 21st November. A reindeer procession leaves K Village at 3.30pm with the switch on at Market Place at 4.45pm.

Dean Blackhurst, principal landscape architect with Woolerton Dodwell Associates explained the plans for Abbott Hall Park under the Town Council's three year Parks and Public Spaces Programme. He listed the national standards for parks, suggesting Abbott Hall already has a lot of strengths and is well used. Weaknesses are mainly a lack of street furniture, the poor condition of some planting and the hedge which cuts off the view of the river. An overall plan for the park, including improved planting, improved access, relocating the play area, opening up the river frontage and creating a performance area has been designed but as the Town Council has a limited budget, the scheme will be phased. Work this year will include new planting (perennial to reduce maintenance) and seating. Dean listed ways the community could become involved in raising additional funding and responded to queries. Points raised regarding consultation and the inclusion of exercise facilities for older people will be passed on to Councillor Tom Clare.

Local Area Partnership (LAP) – Jason Yates explained the background to the LAP which plans to develop a community led plan by consulting with local people to see what peoples needs are and how they see the future for Kendal.

Trading Standards – Justine Duxbury, Senior Enforcement Officer for Trading Standards, explained the range of services monitored by Trading Standards and the legislation they work to. She explained that a current focus for their work is doorstep crime and stressed customers now have the right to cancel within 7 days on any doorstep sales. Linked to this, Trading Standards have set up 'No cold calling' zones where residents have requested this. A rapid response team enforces this scheme and several prosecutions have resulted.

Justine listed some current scams – 'security' firms offering to install alarms free of charge, but hiding a substantial service charge; the offer of a free holiday for the cost of an administration fee, but no holiday exists; emails appearing to come from HMCR in connection with current tax rebates, asking for confirmation of bank details. These are not from HMCR and Justine stressed that bank details should never be given - once they have it is very difficult to stop money being taken out of an account. For more information contact Trading Standards on 01539 713573 or Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06

Grants

Kendal Millennium Playing Fields

Requested £893 Awarded £893

Kendal Badminton Club

Requested £1,000 Awarded £1,000

Kendal Windows on Art

Requested £1,000 Awarded £1,000

Beck Community Pre-School

Requested £1,000 Awarded £1,000

Kendal Sea Cadets

Requested £1,000 Awarded £1,000

Workbase

Requested £1,000 Awarded £1,000

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Car Parks in South Lakeland

District Councillor David Evans explained how SLDC is undertaking a review of car parking throughout South Lakeland to find out people's views as a whole. The District Council operates approx. 50 car parks – the largest being the Westmorland Shopping Centre and the smallest, 4 disabled spaces at Flookburgh. Car park charges in the central lakes are £1.40 per hour, (90% of money coming in from tourists comes through car parks) and £1.10 in outer areas. Car parks provide a net income of approx. £2 million per year for the District Council and David explained the implications of changes in charges. He urged everyone to complete and return the car park questionnaire, stressing that the District Council is totally open to any suggestions.

David responded to queries on current charges; the photo recognition scheme; car park maintenance; the size of car park spaces and lack of lighting in the multi storey car park and consultation with blue badge holders. He explained he was part of the Scrutiny Committee looking at car parks from an external viewpoint and stressed all comments on the survey forms will be passed back to the District Council.

Homestays Project in Cumbria – Nicki Pennington and Sue Ridgway explained Homestays is Cumbria County Council's county wide project offering young people leaving care supported accommodation in the community to assist them to make a positive transition to independent living. They explained how leaving care is a challenging time for many young people – most leave without formal qualifications and homelessness, pregnancy and unemployment are all above the national average. The average age for children leaving the family home is 24, whereas many young people leave care at 16.

The Homestay Project is looking to recruit providers who are able to offer young people a place to live, teach practical and financial skills, develop their self esteem and establish positive relationships. No formal qualifications are needed, just a spare bedroom, empathy, flexibility, a respect for others and a sense of humour! Nicki and Sue explained the assessment

process for providers; how providers are matched with young people and how the weekly allowance of £165 is made up. They added that there is no upper age limit for providers and explained that young people placed would usually be in education, training or employment. Contact Nicki on 01900 325291 or Sue on 01228 221567 for more information.

Supporting People – Duncan Larkin Jones explained the background to the Supporting People project, suggesting the County Council was failing in its statutory duty to provide fair access to care for people assessed to have moderate or low needs, resulting in some people 'falling through gaps' in the care system. He suggested some of these people have very complex needs and need more than a 'signposting' service.

Duncan, who can be contacted on 01228 226132/ Duncan.larkin-jones@cumbriacc.gov.uk explained Supporting People is a preventative rather than 'fire fighting' service and anyone can refer to local area co-ordination. He suggested finding out what a person's issues are, can help that person lead a more fulfilled life. Supporting People works by invitation, does not track people and never closes a case.

Community Noticeboard

- > County Councillors have agreed a grant underspend of £100 awarded to Kirkbarrow Residents' Association can be put to general playground funds.
- > KADBUS coffee morning at the Town Hall on Friday 5th November, 9.30am – 12 noon.
- > Cumbria County Council will be consulting local people and key stakeholders on the Council's priorities for 2011 – 2014. See the attached flyer for more information on how you can contribute to this consultation.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 14th Dec.
7pm at Kendal Town Hall.

Get in Touch – Jason Yates,
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