

Windermere Community Plan

Covering Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge

Windermere Town Council



Picture by courtesy of Joshua Ayrton, St Cuthbert's RC Primary School

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Introduction

Windermere is an area of outstanding natural beauty situated in the heart of the Lake District National Park. It can be found roughly at the midpoint of the east side of England's longest lake (10.5miles/17Km). Windermere Town is situated about one mile above and from the Lake while Bowness on Windermere is the main tourist centre on the Lake.



The town takes its name from the Lake because it provided the name for the railway station, which was built in 1847. The railway was to go further into the Lakes but stopped at Windermere. With the railway the town developed rapidly with, dwellings, hotels, shops and B&B's.

The three areas, which make up Windermere Town are Bowness, Troutbeck Bridge and Windermere which are under the care of Windermere Town Council. The Windermere Electric Co.,

the first in the country, started with waterpower in the nineteenth century; it is now a slate monumental mason works. Windermere excels with lovely walks on public footpaths across the fells. Orrest Head is an outstanding viewpoint giving views to Morecambe Bay, the Pennines and a range of Lake District Fells. It was the first "summit" visited in 1930 by A Wainwright, author of the famous guidebooks.

We have a full range of infants, junior and senior schools catering for all pupils' needs. The Lakes School is now a sports college.

The population of Windermere fluctuates because of the seasonal workers who come into the area to support the Tourist industry and visitors but is, according to the 2001 census, 8245.

There is a definite Victorian influence on the architecture which can be seen in the magnificent buildings, some of which have been converted into hotels. The Belsfield Hotel was once the home of Henry Schneider, chairman of the Barrow Steel works. Each morning he would travel down the lake on his steamboat whilst taking breakfast to catch the train using his private carriage. His steamboat is now housed in the Windermere Steamboat Museum built on a former gravel wharf.

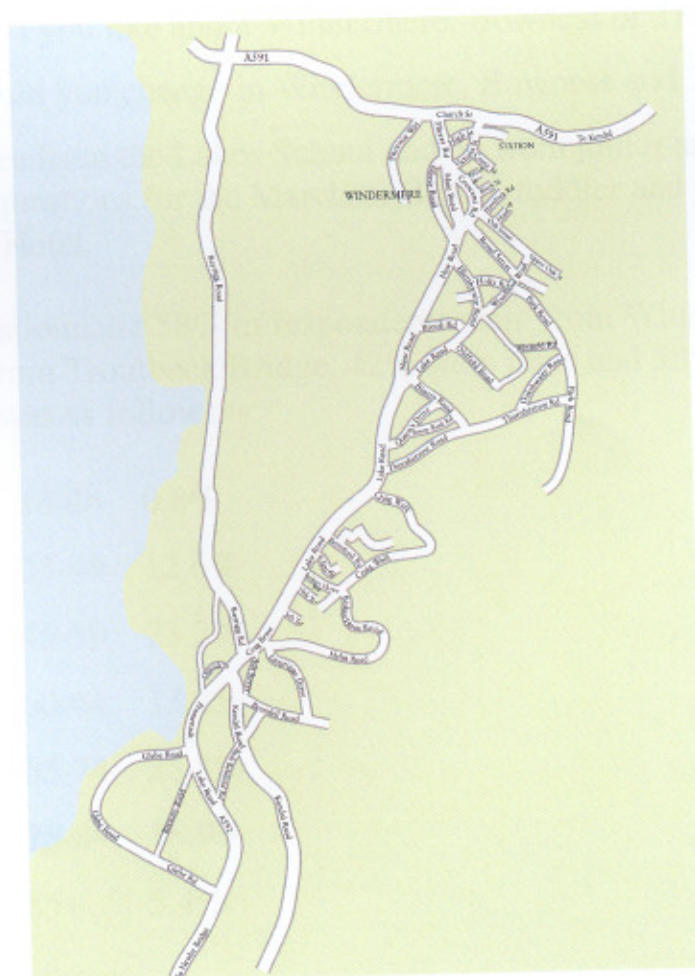
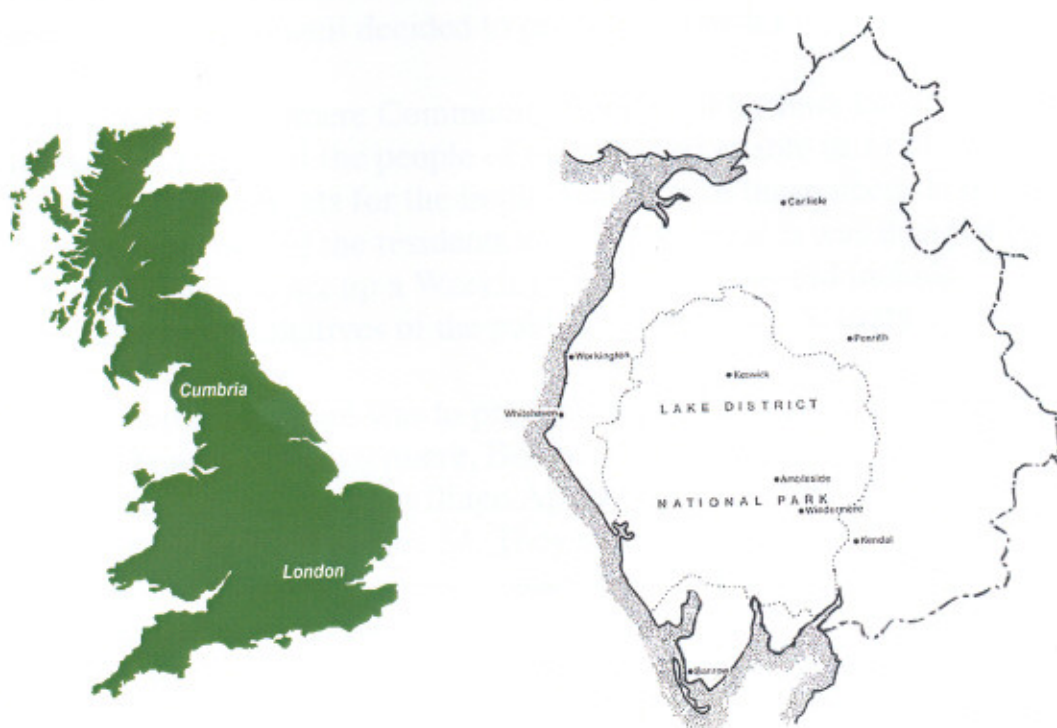


We have a wide variety of clubs and societies for both the young and the mature. Queen's Park was bought by public subscription for Queen Victoria's Jubilee. Millerground was similarly bought in 1904, and Jubilee Fields in 1935 for the Jubilee of George Vth. by the people of Windermere. The family of Arthur Henry Heywood gave Orrest Head to us. Grimble Groves of Holehird gave us Ellerthwaite and the estate for a public library. His son Leigh Groves, a wealthy man with no children and after 25 years on the Windermere Urban District Council, provided money so that the Council could purchase the bed of the lake for the benefit of the people of Windermere in 1938. Goodly Dale and Sheriff's Wood were given by members of the Pattinson family.

We have several public halls, which are well used by clubs and societies and can be hired for public or private functions.

The Glebe in Bowness with its new bandstand is the focal point for big events like the RAF weekend when the Rotary ask the Red Arrows to come. We have a good range of pubs, restaurants and cafes; post offices in Windermere and Bowness, several large car parks and a police station. There is also a wide range of churches, serving the community.

Where are we?



The Process

As part of the Governments initiative from the White Paper – *Our Countryside: the Future* Windermere Town Council decided to produce a Town Plan.

The hope was that the “Windermere Community Plan” as it became known would identify the needs and desires of the people of the area and enable us to produce a “working document” to set targets for the implementation of those needs and desires. To ensure that a cross section of the residents were represented it was decided by Windermere Town Council to set up a Working Group. This would include councillors as well as representatives of the public and the Civic Society.

The first task of the working group was to produce a questionnaire that could be circulated to all the houses in Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge. This was done using Gloucester University’s “Village Appraisals” software. From an initial list of 324 questions we decided on just 34. They were printed locally and sent to 5686 households. We received 650 questionnaires back, which were to be processed into the village appraisal programme.

In addition to this consultation we sent out 42 business questionnaires of which we had 18 returned. The local schools were also consulted by using the three questions below: -

- a) What do you like about Windermere, Bowness or Troutbeck Bridge?
- b) What don’t you like about Windermere, Bowness or Troutbeck Bridge?
- c) What would you change in Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge?

We had 62 responses from the Lakes School and 60 from junior and infants schools. We used the same questions for the Marchesi Centre, toddler and playgroups and the staff of Storrs Hall Hotel.

From the main questionnaire 58% of respondents were from Windermere, 37% from Bowness and 5% from Troutbeck Bridge, 42% were male and 58% were female. The split in age ranges was as follows: -

- 18-24 0.8%
- 25-44 12.6%
- 45-59 23.2%
- 60-64 13.2%
- 65-74 25.8%
- 75-84 18.9%
- 85+ 5.4%

From the data received a Summary of the results was written which was available at various locations in Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge.

A draft Action Plan was produced and circulated to the following partner organisations: -

- Cumbria County Council
- South Lakeland District Council
- The Lake District National Park Authority
- Cumbria Association of Local Councils
- Cumbria Tourist Board
- South Lakes Development Trust
- Troutbeck Swimming Pool Trust
- The Lakes School
- Cumbria Rural Housing Trust
- The Police
- Help the Aged
- The Windermere & Bowness Community Safety Partnership
- Age Concern
- The Chamber of Trade
- Stagecoach Ltd

From this a final Community Plan was written, which included the Action plan and a Community Plan Action Group will be formed to monitor progress.

The Action Plan – The Process

The Issue	How it will be tackled	Partners	Time Scale
The requirement to form a Community Plan Action Group	WTC to contact all groups in the community for possible representatives. The new group to plan a schedule of meetings to take the plan forward.	Neighbourhood Forum, Chamber of trade	Dec-06

Key: WTC – Windermere Town Council

Local Authority Costs

The only specific question that was asked in the questionnaire that related to local authority costs was to ask if people would be prepared to pay extra for implementing improvements that might be identified in the survey. 38% of respondents replied to this question. 24% of respondents to this question would be prepared to contribute £1.00 per month extra, 33% would be prepared to contribute £2.00 extra and 20% would be prepared to contribute £4.00 a month extra.

However 11% of households commented on their belief that Council Tax was too high for the services received and they felt that better management of resources was required together with cost cutting of inefficient areas of local administration. Some people would pay more Council Tax if there was clear evidence of the intention to make definable improvements (for example more efficient litter collection) others felt that the amount that was paid now should be enough to provide all the services required.

The main feeling was that "value for money" should be the overriding principle rather than increasing Council Tax on an already hard-pressed population.

Increases of between 25% and 200% were suggested for Council Tax on second homes as a means of discouraging unoccupied property and hopefully releasing it for local occupancy. There was a suggestion that banding on all properties should be re-assessed with second homes paying the full amount.

One Holiday home owner complained that they were now paying double Council Tax since their 50% rebate was abolished even though they only used the property for 6-8 weeks of the year and for the rest of the time it remained empty.

Some people pointed out that although the Council Tax increases the service decreases and generally the area is neglected. One or two people said that the questionnaire was a waste of money and if the Council could come to any conclusions then they were more out of touch than Central Government, however this was not the main view.

Some felt that Council Tax was too high for pensioners (one pensioner was now paying 13% of his income as compared with 3% when he retired, Another said that elastic stretches but his pension doesn't and that

Council Tax needed to be related to income. Some suggested that a change to a "Local Income Tax" would be the answer. One suggested that there were too many public authorities in the area, which employ too many people.

Another suggested that rather than seeking to spend more money on projects perhaps we should ask for suggestions on how to save money.

The Action Plan – Local Authority Costs

The Issue	How it will be tackled	Partners	Time Scale
Council Tax	Lobby the Government to make holiday homes a separate council tax class to increase revenues to local authorities.	SLDC, CCC	June-07

Key: SLDC – South Lakeland District Council, CCC – Cumbria County Council

Housing

When asked if there was a need for certain types of accommodation in the area 84% of households who responded to the questionnaire answered the question. The results outlined below in the graph shows that local only housing was supported by 72% followed by Low Cost Housing at 59%.

A Nursing Home was supported by 50% of the respondents. Sheltered Housing and residential provision for the people with disabilities were also well supported.



74% of respondents felt that development should be small groups of houses or individual houses as infill rather than large estates.

The need for housing for people on low income was seen as essential, especially for those who could not get very far on the council housing lists. However some felt that commercial premises should not be used for conversion into housing.

Some people would not want any more development unless it was infill and definitely not on green field sites. Any new developments need to be at reasonable cost so that the low paid could get into the housing market.

When housing is built and is sold as low cost it usually takes on the market value when it is sold on, one suggestion is that prices on these properties should be capped when for resale. Some felt that low cost housing should be run by the Council and not by Housing Associations. There was a strong feeling that Council Houses should not be sold off as this reduces the housing stock available for rent, which represented a

real need in the community. There was also a feeling that housing should be made available for locals rather than allowing houses to be sold to second/holiday home buyers. Restrictions on hotels buying property for staff accommodation was also suggested. One person felt that fewer Council houses should be given to single mothers and more monitoring of the condition of the Council housing stock should be made.

When older people are “down sizing” properties should be available at lower cost. Several people commented on the recent “Mountain Ash” development, which was meant as “affordable” housing for local occupancy but was clearly not!

The Lake District National Park Authority now require a housing needs survey to be carried out prior to planning permission being considered. Although a question on this was included in the questionnaire, most people missed out the first part of the question (Do you or your family have a need for housing in this area?) and consequently the answers to the second part of the question (What type of housing do you think is needed?) became unreliable.

The Action Plan – Housing

The Issue	How it will be tackled	Partners	Time Scale
The lack of availability of low cost housing	Work with partners to provide for local housing needs, LDNPA to enforce local occupancy clauses	LDNPA, SLDC, Cumbria Rural Housing Trust	June-09

Key: SLDC – South Lakeland District Council, LDNPA – Lake District National Park Authority

Parking

Parking, its provision, control and cost is an issue of major concern but with conflicting views on possible solutions. 64% of respondents felt that lack of parking contributed to the traffic problems in Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge.

There is a demand for more on street parking. There is also concern about parking on streets and roads around the Windermere's built up areas causing congestion and danger in preventing emergency vehicles carrying out their duties i.e. the Ambulances, Fire Engines and Police.

Some support (22%) for a Park and Ride scheme at suitable sites; suggestions for sites at Orrest Head Farm and consideration to be given to using the field adjacent to the Steamboat Museum, Rayrigg Road.

Braithwaite Fold car park already offers Park and Ride although some felt the road train to be "tacky". Some felt that this system would only drive visitors away from the area because of the cost of parking and the added cost of the shuttle bus, others said that any shuttle bus service should be provided free of charge.

Better signing to Braithwaite Fold car park would help to keep some cars out of the town.

Some people pointed out that car parks are underused some of the time. Some people suggested consideration of more flexible pricing on car parks to help regular users. Some felt that free parking should be offered to residents and to people who work in the area, perhaps using a local "sticker" or token for the windscreen. Disc parking for residents or resident only parking were other ideas.

There was concern over "bad" parking both on the corners of roads, which restricted visibility, and also parking on pavements, especially in Windermere.

Kerbs should be lowered for residents free of charge to enable them to park off-road in front gardens.

Some felt multi-storey or underground car parks on the edge of the town should be given careful consideration. Any form of pedestrianisation would cost car parking spaces.

Some felt that a hazardous situation has been created by allowing parking on the left hand side of Birthwaite Road in Windermere restricting movement at the town end of the road.

52% of respondents felt that parking facilities in the Windermere and Bowness were poor whereas 40% felt that they were reasonable

The Action Plan - Parking

The Issue	How it will be tackled	Partners	Time Scale
Lack of availability and the high cost	Seek additional spaces, introduction of a disc zone, press for concessions for local residents and traders	LDNPA, SLDC ,CCC, Chamber of Trade	Jun-08
Clearer signage for parking	Improve the signage to car parks	LDNPA, SLDC ,CCC, Chamber of Trade	June-08

Key: SLDC – South Lakeland District Council, CCC – Cumbria County Council, LDNPA – Lake District National Park Authority

Traffic Concerns

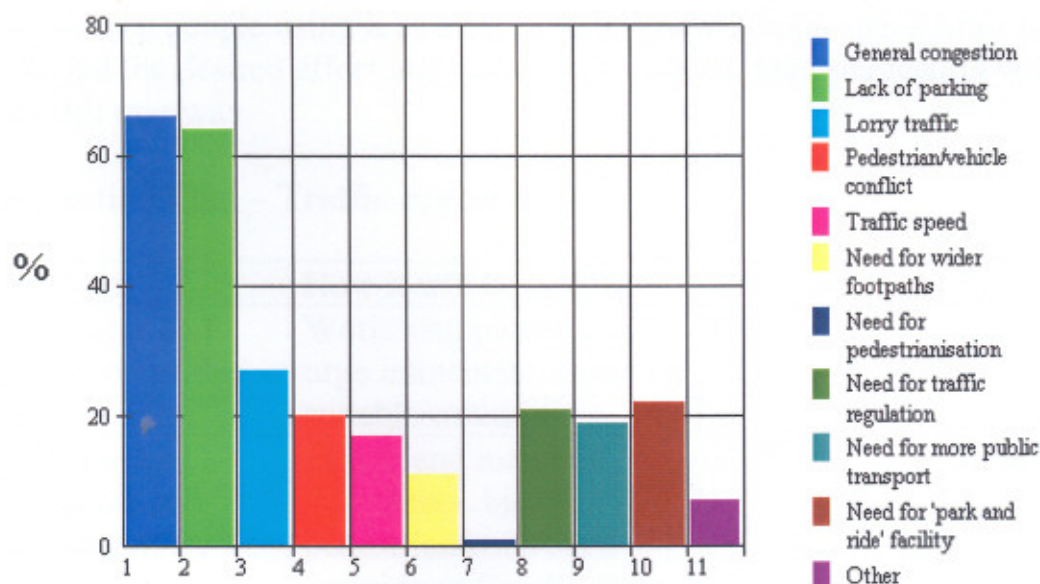
The main problem, identified by far the largest number of people (66%) concerning the road system was the traffic flow at the top of Windermere on to the A591. Most wanted this treated as an urgent priority, whether it would be solved with a roundabout, traffic lights or some scheme to re-direct traffic. The junction at the High Street and A591 is a very busy area with many conflicting interests to be considered.

Some felt that traffic coming out of Booths should be allowed to turn right up to the main A591, which would help traffic in Windermere.

66% said that general congestion was the main reason we had traffic problems, followed by a lack of parking at 64%. Lorry traffic was thought by many to also contribute to our problems, especially where lorries parked in Windermere or Bowness, which made traffic flow difficult. Some felt lorry loading and unloading times should be restricted.



Traffic Concerns



It is felt that the pedestrian crossing at Goodly Dale requires urgent attention. We understand that this is to be addressed later this year. Again many people felt that there is a need for pedestrian crossings in Bowness but no agreement where.

Some concern about the state of repair and maintenance of the roads and footpaths was shown with suggestions for quieter road surfaces.

Some felt that traffic for Bowness should be directed along the B5284, the Crook Road, to avoid Windermere town centre. Likewise direct more traffic for Bowness via Cooks House Corner and Rayrigg Road.

Concern was also shown over the traffic situation in Bowness at the mini roundabout which could cause hold ups especially during Bank Holidays.

One or two people said that things should be left the way they are on the grounds that not all change is for the better.

There was some support for a blanket 20mph speed limit throughout Windermere and Bowness particularly on residential roads, this should be coupled with traffic calming but not everyone was in favour of this. There is also support for a rationalisation of the speed limits on the A591 between Windermere and Ambleside.

Some thought that Glebe Road should be two-way and that some traffic calming should be put in however one thought this a bad idea.

Pedestrianisation coupled with gateway parking was thought by some to benefit the area and would reduce traffic problems, however there were some that did not want any pedestrianisation anywhere in the Windermere and Bowness.

Sun Hill Lane in Troutbeck Bridge needs to be restricted to residents and access only to stop people using it as a shortcut; the new 20mph speed limit has not achieved the desired effect and should be enforced. One suggestion was to make Sun Hill one-way

The Action Plan – Traffic concerns

The Issue	How it will be tackled	Partners	Time Scale
The danger and congestion of the A591 junction	Work with partners to urge immediate action on suitable solution	CCC	June-08
Condition of pavements and requirement for more pedestrian crossings	Repair and maintain pavements, install pedestrian controlled crossing at Goodly Dale, create new crossing(s) in Bowness	CCC	June-08

Key: CCC – Cumbria County Council

Environment

There is a general perception of untidy, neglected streets and footpaths needing repairs and regular, frequent maintenance. 47% of respondents commented on the amount of litter and dog fouling. Some suggested that dog and litter wardens should be employed to control dog fouling and litter and to enforce the law. When asked how Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge could be kept clean and tidy, 52% said that a road sweeper should be employed, 42% said a litter warden should be employed. Only 24% supported a "Spring Clean Day" twice a year when 18% said that once a year would be enough. One person suggested that urban and suburban footpaths should be cleaned and maintained on a monthly basis and that footpaths needed to be illuminated. The general look of both Windermere and Bowness was felt to be tired and in need of some smartening up. This should include cleaner streets and less litter. Education was seen as a vital part in the reduction of litter. A charge for clearing takeaway restaurant litter was suggested. Road signs were singled out as needing to be cleaned regularly.

When asked what could be done with the roads, lanes and paths to make the countryside more attractive 46% said that the removal of litter was very important and 33% supported the maintenance of roadside verges. The stopping of vehicle damage to verges, signposts for paths and bridleways and the removal of all unnecessary signposts were also considered important. Some places need the trees thinning out to re-establish scenic views, which have been lost because of the height of trees.

The supply of main water, gas, electricity and refuse collection was felt to be of a good standard by 63-66% of respondents. Street lighting, roadside care and street cleaning, the winter weather service (snow clearance) was thought to be reasonable (40-46%). However 55% of people said that the condition of public toilets was poor. From comments received, the availability and cleanliness of public toilets were of major concern. Some suggested that money should be diverted from other things in order to provide this vital service. It was pointed out that there were no public toilets at Troutbeck Bridge.

Some pointed out that we should recognise the relationship between the economy and the environment; a healthy economy can best support a healthy environment.

Some commented on the need for more and better planting in Windermere and Bowness along with new street furniture and property enhancement. The tidying of overhanging vegetation on pavements and footpaths was seen to be something that could enhance the environment. More work was needed on the existing green areas such as Ellerthwaite Gardens in Windermere.

Some were keen on having various sculptural features on an art trail installed between Windermere and Bowness.

The Action Plan - Environment

The Issue	How it will be tackled	Partners	Time Scale
Litter and general cleanliness of the streets	SLDC to consider employing a lengthman or road sweeper	SLDC	June'07
Obstructions to pavements	Contact businesses and individuals to take more responsibility	WBCS, The Police, CCC Chamber of Trade, SLDC LDNPA	June'07
Improve the Town Appearance	CTB recommendations as in the Masterplan	CTB, CCC, WBCS	June'11
The Closure of public toilets	Work with SLDC to keep Public Toilets open and investigate other sources of funding	SLDC, WTC	Dec'07

Key: SLDC – South Lakeland District Council, WBCS – Windermere & Bowness Civic Society, CTB – Cumbria Tourist Board, CCC – Cumbria County Council, LDNPA – Lake District National Park Authority, WTC – Windermere Town Council

Action Plan - Communication

How it will be tackled

Communication

When asked how well people thought Windermere Town Council communicated its decisions and activities 45% said that they did a reasonable job, however a further 39% said that they did badly.

On the questionnaire itself, some thought that it was a waste of time and money and was badly constructed, and that some questions were irrelevant to the over 65's. They felt it showed that the Town Council publicises its decisions badly - otherwise there would be no need for the questionnaire in the first place. However, there was some support for the efforts made by the Town Council.

Others felt that the Town Council should be more open in its meetings and should include local businesses in discussions.

Another respondent encouraged the Town Council to take bold decisions in order to keep the young people here.

Some people did not want the South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) office on Broad Street to close.

There was support for encouraging younger people to get involved in the Town Council, although five people wanted to get rid of the Town Council altogether!

The Action Plan – Communication

The Issue	How it will be tackled	Partners	Time Scale
WTC Communicates badly	Improve the use of notice boards; increase the frequency and circulation of the Hub. Create a web page and possibly email a newsletter	WTC	May-08

Key: WTC – Windermere Town Council

Public Transport

The results from the questionnaire showed that people were concerned with reducing the cost and increasing the efficiency of our public transport system. Some want an improved winter service, with more frequent buses at all times.

19% of respondents felt that a need for more public transport was related to traffic problems in the area.

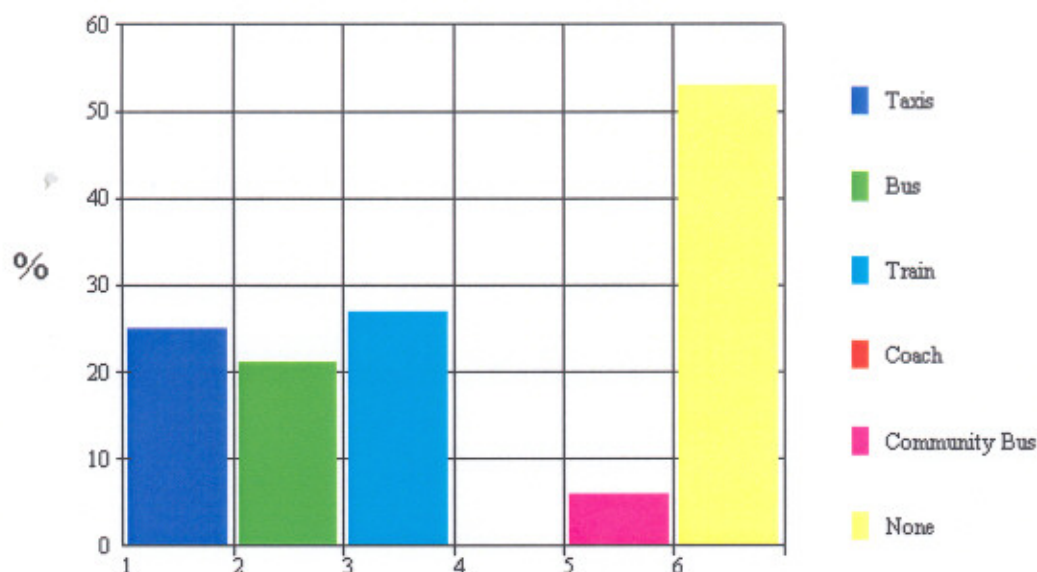
Lower fares for locals was thought to be of benefit, perhaps a subsidised system could be introduced. One person pointed out that reducing the fares might well increase the number of passengers. Vouchers for pensioners in order for them to use taxis when they are unable to climb on to a bus were also suggested. Some people would prefer to revert back to having tokens for taxis instead of half price travel on buses.

(Ed note: The Government has since brought in a new arrangement for pensioners and disabled people to enjoy free travel on the buses from 9-30am)

The Shuttle bus experiment, which ran between Windermere and Bowness over the last three years, had both its supporters and those who were against it.

As the chart below shows only 21% of respondents said that they used buses whereas 25% used taxis and 26% used trains.

Which of the following services do you use?



A general improvement to the rail links to Kendal and beyond was thought to be desirable. One person pointed out that the cost of a return fare is almost the same as a single fare to Kendal. He would cycle to Kendal and train back if the single fare was genuinely half price.

The general feeling was that train fares were too high and that if they could be reduced and a more comprehensive "joined up system" could be introduced then more people would use it.

The road train used as a 'park and ride' system was not really liked although a 'park and ride' system did have support.

The Action Plan – Public Transport

The Issue	How it will be tackled	Partners	Time Scale
High cost, availability and infrequency of public transport	Consider promoting and improving community transport	SLDC, CCC Bus and Taxi companies , Community Transport South Lakeland.	June-08

Key: SLDC – South Lakeland District Council, CCC – Cumbria County Council

Crime and Policing

Some people said that Windermere is a peaceful, safe and friendly place to live.

Generally the police coverage was thought to be reasonable (51%) although 28% felt that it was poor and only 15% felt that it was good. Some respondents felt that there was a lack of police presence on the streets and that they were hard pressed and undermanned. The locked door at the Police Station is a concern.

Foot patrols or "beat" police were thought to be the most effective. Some felt that there was a lack of police presence on Friday and Saturday nights when the nightclubs finish between 12 and 2.30 in the morning.

Several people mentioned the "boy racers" that race around the Glebe in the early hours of the morning at weekends and asked what action was being taken by the police.

There was also concern over cyclists who use the pavements instead of the roads where no cycle track has been provided.

69% of respondents were concerned about vandalism, 58% were concerned about drunkenness and 32% were concerned about theft. Other crimes such as mugging and drug abuse were mentioned but were not thought to be of major concern to the majority of people.

When asked if there were any area's in Windermere, Bowness or Troutbeck Bridge that they felt unsafe in 33% of respondents thought that Bowness was an unsafe area late in the evening especially on the Glebe and at weekends. 12.5% of people said that the Library Gardens, Ellerthwaite Square and Birthwaite Gardens Windermere were unsafe at night. Amongst other areas mentioned as being unsafe at night in Windermere were Queens Park, Sheriffs Walk, Salisbury Place, the railway station, and the footpath that goes between Park Road and Oldfield Court. In Bowness it was Rayrigg Road, the centre of Bowness, Helm Close, and Langrigge Drive.

40% of respondents said that they would join a neighbourhood watch scheme and 29% said that they would not.

The Action Plan – Crime and Policing

The Issue	How it will be tackled	Partners	Time Scale
Lack of Police presence	Request more policing	Police, CCC, Community Safety Partnership	June-08
Safety on pavements and cycle routes	Define and enforce cycle/pedestrian priorities	Police, CCC, Community Safety Partnership	June-08

Key: CCC – Cumbria County Council

Shops

In the questionnaire it was identified that there is a definite need for shops selling goods that are useful, practical and relevant to the local population. It was suggested that there are too many chains and tourist shops. High rents and rates were felt to make the cost of retail space prohibitive to independents, however independent shops give a town character. This needs to be built on, as it was in Ulverston for example which has turned a corner in the last two years. This was down to the intervention of the Town Manager amongst others.

When asked what could be done to improve the shopping streets on Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge, 54% of people said that removal of "clutter" from the pavements would help and 39% said that more plants and flowers could be used, also pedestrian friendly areas could be introduced. 33% said that traffic calming would have an effect.

Some people felt that we had a good variety of shops now so why change them? There was opposition to any fast food chains or larger stores coming to Windermere, others felt that we had enough charity shops already and did not want any more.

In order to save the local services that are already provided a suggestion was made for a promotional scheme to encourage local people to shop locally. Maybe a leaflet could be produced such as the 'passport' to promote retail offers or discounts to locals. Since the survey informal talks have revealed that South Lakes Development Trust would be happy to take the lead with an initiative of this nature.

In order to develop a diversity of retail, one idea suggests placing planning restrictions on shops moving into the area where something similar already exists, much in the same way as new housing requires a percentage of low cost local housing to be built. New businesses that 'fill the gap' or provide goods for local needs should be encouraged. This could be addressed by rate or rental reductions. Assistance from South Lakeland District Council would be required for this.

To support the survival of new and existing shops some felt that more localised parking will be required because even local people drive to Windermere and Bowness and if they can't stop they don't shop. Parking for disabled or elderly residents could be promoted and may encourage them to shop as well.

Improving shop signage was also mentioned in the survey together with improvements in their general appearance. One shop manager suggested more support for trade and shops. The Chamber of Trade could perhaps look at ways of addressing this type of comment.

Business difficulties envisaged include;

- customers (locals and tourists alike) using supermarkets rather than local independent shops
- retail chains having more financial backing and therefore 'staying power'
- tourist shops often being more viable and financially attractive
- encouraging more service type shops
- privately-owned leases prohibiting rent or rate reduction

Action Plan - Shops

The Issue	How it will be tackled	Partners	Time Scale
Improve the range of local shops	SLDT to encourage a diverse range of shops and persuade people to shop locally	SLDT, CTB Masterplan	Dec-08

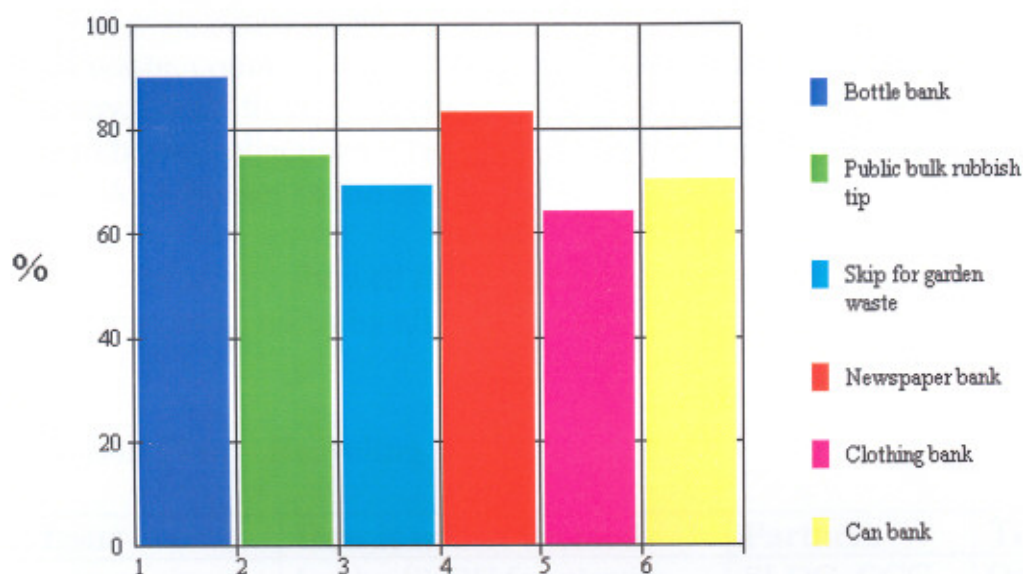
Key: CTB – Cumbria Tourist Board, SLDT – South Lakes Development Trust

Recycling

More centres for recycling are needed in the area. There were many comments about the lack of facilities for plastic recycling. There are now three places which have this facility (Ambleside, Kendal and Morrison's – Booths can recycle plastic bags). This amenity, it was mentioned, still requires much better sign posting.

The chart below shows the very strong support for all forms of recycling.

Would you use the following?



Gill Cranwell (SLDC) commented that "...we also need better signage at ALL sites to show (e.g.) that the paper banks can take more than just 'newspapers and magazines'. There used to be signs that listed exactly what could be put in them, but (in Windermere) they have not been re-positioned/replaced since the banks were repositioned."

Maybe the Town Council could promote a recycling initiative.

Could the town take a challenge to be the most successful at recycling both residential and commercial waste in the Lakes?



A local business manager asked for more facilities for recycling commercial waste such as cardboard and plastic. His request from SLDC has not yet had a response. The public needs to know that SLDC are working with the residents and business people to encourage the amount currently being recycled. There should be more and clearer information regarding what can and cannot be recycled.

Could the Westmorland Gazette be asked to run a few features on individuals, businesses and group's achievements in recycling?

There should be more pressure put on the shops and supermarkets to reduce their packaging in the first instance, and to take more of the responsibility for on site recycling. Often the recycling containers are full. There should also be facilities to dispose of the boxes and bags in which the cans and bottles have been brought next to the recycling containers.

Garden waste, community composting and biodegradable issues were mentioned in the survey. Could there be another compost bin 'give-away' from the Council? House to house collections also showed as a popular request along with recycling boxes to ALL houses in the area.

Generally the survey showed that the respondents require more information and more interest to be taken by all key bodies.

The Action Plan – Recycling

The Issue	How it will be tackled	Partners	Time Scale
The community requires better and more facilities for the whole range of recyclable materials	Lobby SLDC for plastic recycling and completion of kerbside recycling for all households. More and clearer education made available regarding recycling	SLDC, CCC, Schools	Dec-08

Key: SLDC – South Lakeland District Council, CCC – Cumbria County Council

Leisure Activities

There is felt to be a wide range of leisure activities available to residents, ranging from the greatly appreciated Queens Park Recreation Ground in Windermere through various sports clubs to water-based pursuits at Troutbeck Bridge Swimming Pool and on the lake. Tennis, crazy golf and pitch and putt are seasonally available on the Glebe. Many indoor activities such as sports, games, meetings and lectures take place at the Marchesi and Ladyholme Centres. The Phoenix Centre offers youth activities and a further education programme is provided in local schools. There is a multi-screen cinema and a variety of pubs and clubs.

There is a demand for more and better facilities at the Troutbeck Bridge Swimming Pool and the pool manager and the Lakes School are working hard to achieve this through the creation of a co-ordinated leisure centre taking in the pool, gym, sports hall, synthetic sports pitch and tennis courts. Greater usage would generate much-needed income for the project and, with the complex being "out of town"; affordable public/community transport would also help.

After many years of costly and detailed debate and a five year adjustment and adaptation period, the 10mph speed limit on the lake has now been operative for over a year and, whilst some may regret the loss of a favourite sport, others appreciate the chance to pursue their own pastimes in a more peaceful and safer environment. An assessment of the impact of the speed limit on both business and personal interests could now be undertaken.

TV reception was considered to be below standard with 40% saying it was poor and 31% saying it was reasonable. Several people felt that it was not right to have to pay for a set top box once the analogue signal switched to digital.

On Queens Park two valuable facilities have been provided and up-graded through local initiatives and fund-raising with the co-operation and support of SLDC. The skate park and the toddlers playground, whilst adjacent, are separately fenced and cater for two quite different, but equally important, groups of young people. Some people wanted the Skate Park relocated away from the playground. In consultation with partner organisations it became evident that re-locating either facility would be impractical and uneconomic and, should differences of opinion arise, the user groups, their supporters and neighbours must be encouraged to sort them out amicably.

Other subjects that were mentioned in the survey was a need for adult education classes to be held during the day and a cycle rack for securing bicycles to be installed in Windermere.

The Action Plan – Leisure Activities

The Issue	How it will be tackled	Partners	Time Scale
The skate park and children's play area neighbour conflict, in Queens park	Seek dialogue between user groups and ways of improving the area, perhaps tree planting in between the area's	Phoenix Youth Project, Children's Playground Committee, SLDC	Mar-07
Requirement for an updated leisure centre and swimming pool.	Support the Lakes School and Troutbeck Bridge Swimming Pool in any future development and improve the transport links	Troutbeck Swimming Pool, The Lakes School, CCC	Dec-08
Objections to the 10mph Speed limit	Ask a question in the Hub on the effects after one year	LDNPA	Mar-07

Key: CCC – Cumbria County Council, LDNPA – Lake District National Park Authority, SLDC – South Lakeland District Council

Energy Saving

This is a national and international issue and various initiatives have been undertaken on both levels. 31% of respondents said that Energy Saving could help to protect the environment.

Locally, street lighting and shop window illumination is perceived as areas where economies could be made. Illuminated shop windows complement street lighting in providing added safety and security to both pedestrians and shopkeepers and their property. The trend towards a 24hr.lifestyle will encourage even greater use of lighting of all kinds. Tighter controls on security lighting could also reduce light pollution.

Some people suggested the use of modern renewable technology for generating power such as solar panels and wind turbines. Also by allowing planning permission free of charge or for a nominal sum when renewable technology is being used for new buildings and for extensions

One other suggestion was to ensure that the young are educated into energy saving both in the home and at school. One suggestion was that talks could be held in the Library on Energy Saving. New buildings could employ “green technology” (for example – small scale wind generators) right from the start.

Another person suggested that energy saving could only be done as a nation-wide TV campaign.

The Action Plan – Energy Saving

The Issue	How it will be tackled	Partners	Timescale
Reduce energy consumption	Encourage the use of low energy street lighting. More information for homes and businesses as to how to reduce energy consumption	SLDC, CCC, Chamber of trade	May-08

Key: SLDC – South Lakeland District Council, CCC – Cumbria County Council

The Business Response

42 questionnaires were sent to local businesses of which 18 were returned. The businesses employed from 1 to 199 people locally, mainly in the construction, manufacturing and transport sectors. 11 were located in Windermere and 7 in Bowness. 3 businesses anticipated that they would increase in size over the next 12 months and 15 would remain the same. 8 had no problems filling vacancies over the last 12 months whereas 6 did have problems. The main reason for this was applicants did not have the right skills or qualifications or there was a lack of suitable candidates with basic ability.

Most vacancies were filled through the job centre, local press or by word of mouth.

9 of the businesses would find advice on finding a suitable premises and help with Government regulations useful. Other help such as finance marketing and employing people would also be helpful.

Strong support for tourism and attractions; small business development; small-scale industrial workshops; and more jobs for the area was found.

13 of the businesses called for more local business premises such as start-up units or small industrial workshops. Better transport links were also mentioned, together with the suggestion that business rates should be reduced.

The lack of affordable premises was the main problem facing new businesses. The planning authority (Lake District National Park Authority) was also criticised over the difficulty in getting planning consent for development

There was support for light industrial units to be sited at Troutbeck Bridge, also for retail and technology based businesses. A leisure complex was another idea that was suggested to be suitable economic development.

It is felt that as business resources are scarce it would make sense to focus resources on new business start up and support the early life of the business buying in any consultancy services required. Parking was also an issue that influenced business.

There was support from some of the business respondents for a lifting of the 10mph speed limit on the Lake but with better policing and heavy fines for speeding outside designated zones.

The Youth Response

Schools in the area were asked three questions:

- 1) What do you like about Windermere, Bowness or Troutbeck Bridge?
- 2) What don't you like about Windermere, Bowness or Troutbeck Bridge?
- 3) What would you change or like to see happen in Windermere, Bowness or Troutbeck Bridge?



By courtesy of Charlie Maguire, St Cuthberts RC Primary School

We had 60 responses from the junior and infants schools and 62 responses from The Lakes School. The responses from the junior and infants schools were mainly drawings of things they would like to see for example a “mega swimming pool”, “a water park”, “a roller coaster”, “a mx track” and an “indoor ice skating rink”. However they were also concerned about dog fouling, safety on the Goodly Dale crossing and the environment. Some of the older children wrote about their concerns over parking, litter and traffic and the need for better transport and more parking spaces. Some children wrote that they liked the wildlife on the lake because it is peaceful and quiet.

The Lakes School gave comprehensive answers to the three questions posed. They liked the area for a wide variety of reasons including the opportunity for sport and the leisure facilities that were available such as the cinema and as a peaceful, quiet and friendly place to live. They liked Queens Park where they could ‘hang out’ with their friends and go on the skate-park.

The things they least liked were the lack of pedestrian crossings, the size and makeup of the local shops, the number of cars and public transport being too expensive. Some were for the skate-park and others against it. Litter was again something that concerned the children.

The children suggested various things to improve the area which included cutting the cost of the cinema and better facilities for the youth indoors such as an improved swimming pool and leisure complex. Other ideas were making the cost of public transport cheaper, more and better shops, putting a grit box at the bottom of Mill Rise/Mill Brow and a climbing wall.

Windermere Community Plan

covering Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge

Action Plan

Area of Concern	Issues	How It Will Be Tackled	Possible Partners	Timescale
The Action Plan	The requirement to form a Community Plan Action Group.	WTC to contact all groups in the community for possible representatives. The new group to plan a schedule of meetings to take the plan forward.	Neighbourhood Forum, Chamber of Trade	Dec-06
Environment	Litter and general cleanliness of the streets.	SLDC to consider employing a lengthman or road sweeper.	SLDC	Jun-07
	Obstruction to pavements	Contact businesses and individuals to take more responsibility.	WBCS, the police, LDNPA, CCC Chamber of Trade, SLDC	Jun-07
	Improve the town appearance.	CTB recommendations as in the Masterplan.	CTB, CCC, WBCS	Jun-11
	The closure of public toilets.	Work with SLDC to keep the toilets open and investigate other sources of funding.	SLDC, WTC	Dec-07
Shops	Improve the range of local shops	SLDT to encourage a diverse range of shops and persuade people to shop locally.	SLDT, CTB Masterplan	Dec-08
Recycling	The community requires better and more facilities for the whole range of recyclable materials.	Lobby SLDC for plastic recycling and completion of kerbside recycling for all households. More and clearer education made available regarding recycling.	SLDC, CCC, Schools	Dec-08
Energy Saving	Reduce energy consumption.	Encourage the use of low energy street lighting. More information for homes and businesses as to how reduce energy consumption.	SLDC, CCC, Chamber of Trade	May-08
Communication	WTC communicates badly.	Improve the use of notice boards, increase the frequency and circulation of The Hub. Create a web page and possibly email a newsletter.	WTC	May-08
Local authority costs	Council tax.	Lobby the government to make holiday homes a separate council tax class to increase revenues to local authorities	SLDC, CCC	Jun-07
Housing	The lack of availability of low cost housing.	Work with partners to provide for local housing needs, LDNPA to enforce local occupancy clauses.	LDNPA, SLDC, Cumbria Rural Housing Trust	Jun-09
Public Transport	High cost and availability/infrequency of Public Transport	Consider promoting and improving community transport .	SLDC, CCC ,Bus & Taxi companies, Community Transport South Lakeland	Jun-08
Crime & Policing	Lack of police presence.	Request more policing.	Police, CCC, Community	Jun-08
	Safety on pavements and cycle routes.	Define and enforce cycle/pedestrian priorities.	Safety Partnership	

Windermere Community Plan

covering Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge

Action Plan

Traffic Concerns	The danger and congestion of the A591 junction.	Work with partners to urge immediate action on suitable solution	CCC	Jun-08
	Condition of pavements and requirement for more pedestrian crossings.	Repair and maintain pavements, install pedestrian controlled crossing at Goodley Dale, create new crossing(s) in Bowness.	CCC	Jun-08
Parking	Lack of availability and the high cost.	Seek additional spaces, introduction of a disc zone.	LDNPA, SLDC, CCC	Jun-08
		Press for concessions for local residents and traders.	Chamber of Trade	
	Clearer signage for parking.	Improve the signage to car parks.		
Employment	Requirement of a local job vacancy notice board.	Request a job vacancy board to be put up in the library	CCC Library Service, Job Centre	Mar-07
Leisure Activities	The skate park and children's play area neighbour conflict in Queens Park	Seek dialogue between user groups and ways of improving the area, perhaps tree planting in between the area's	Phoenix Youth Project Childrens Playground Committee SLDC	Mar-07
	Requirement for an updated leisure centre and swimming pool.	Support the Lakes School and Troutbeck Swimming Pool in any future development and improve the transport links.	Troutbeck Swimming Pool The Lakes School, SLDC CCC	Dec-08
	Objections to the 10mph speed limit.	Ask a question in The Hub on the effects after one year.	LDNPA	Mar-07

Key

SLDT
CCC
SLDC
LDNPA
WBSC
CTB
WTC

South Lakes Development Trust
Cumbria County Council
South Lakeland District Council
Lake District National Park Authority
Windermere and Bowness Civic Society
Cumbria Tourist Board
Windermere Town Council