

Windermere Waterfront – Progress May 2009

Overview

Welcome to the June 2009 Newsletter of the Windermere Waterfront Programme. This newsletter provides an overview of progress on the various elements of the waterfront programme for public distribution.

Please bear in mind that this is a fast moving piece of work and you do need to bear in mind that it is fluid. Undoubtedly by the time you have read this certain things will have been superseded, but we hope it helps!

Progress on Local Development Framework core strategy

You should have received feedback on the comments that you made to the preferred options consultation in summer 2008. The spatial plans team here have sought to take the points raised on board and have written draft policies for the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework. A policy for the Windermere Waterfront Programme is included in the area based policies.

We have carried out an extra, on-line consultation on the draft policies. This consultation ended on 5 June. We are now finalising the wording of policies taking comments received into account. We intend to publish the draft Core strategy for formal consultation in September/October 2009. This period of consultation allows people to comment on whether they consider the plan is 'sound' or not.

Ben Long is continuing to lead on this aspect of the work relating to tourism development and the Windermere Waterfront Programme. Please feel free to contact him if you would like any specific updates or advice. Ben's telephone number is 01539 792647.

Update on individual elements of the Windermere Waterfront Programme

Ambleside including Waterhead public realm enhancement, Ambleside

- Consultants TEP appointed by Steering Group lead by SLDC to consult and prepare fresh options for Waterhead, which will include a 'do minimum' option.
- Consultation and reporting expected to be completed in October 2009.
- A European Regional Development Fund bid has been declined.

Low Wood Conference Centre

- A technical commencement has been made on the planning permission for consolidation of conference centre.

- Informal pre-application discussions concerning new design for the centre.
- Likely start date for build programme put back to 2010/11.

Lake District National Park Visitor Centre at Brockhole

- Adam Thomas has been appointed as Lake District National Park Visitor Centre Project Director.
- Preliminary studies complete including, transport study including jetty and road access report, ecological studies, archaeological studies, landscape appraisal, legal and title reports and initial consultation.
- A preferred vision for the site has been proposed and consultation began March 2009-July2009.
- Procurement options are due to be agreed on 26 June.
- A Heritage Lottery Fund bid for £5.7m is being prepared for submission 31 August 2009.
- A prospectus for private sector partners prepared for launch later this summer.

Windermere Steamboat Museum

- Metaphor completed feasibility study for Lakeland Arts Trust.
- Preliminary discussions with partners including LDNPA have commenced.
- A grant from the Hedley Trust is allowing the Lakeland Arts Trust to recruit a restoration workshop manager for a period of three years.
- A substantial bid for Heritage lottery Funding is being prepared for consideration in September 2009.

Bowness Bay, including The Glebe

- BDP master planning exercise is well underway.
- The evidence gathering phase, including initial public and partner consultation, nearing completion.
- Work to develop options for the area commenced.
- Options consultation scheduled for early July.
- The policy in Local Development Framework core strategy will include allocation for Bowness Bay and The Glebe.

Lakeland Motor Museum and rail halt, Backbarrow

- Public investment bid to NWDA successful for motor museum and rail halt implementation, securing £330,000.
- Development of motor museum has formally commenced including “turning the first sod” ceremony 15 May 2009. [Insert photo]
- Anticipated opening of museum Easter 2010.
- The planning application for the rail halt is due to be considered by LDNPA in July 2009.
- Subject to planning permission, the halt is expected to be constructed during the winter 2009/10.

Southern node of Windermere

- Feasibility study for Transport Museum and Park and Ride on site south of A590 led by Kate Willard has reported. No site has been identified for this proposal in the Waterfront area.
- A brief for the master planning of the entire southern node of the Programme now being prepared. This is intended to include Lakeside/ Fell Foot, Newby Bridge and the whole length of Haverthwaite railway, including Haverthwaite rail stop to explore issues including access, parking, and transport interchange.

Sustainable transport programme

- The study into the needs and preferences of potential users of a waterbus transport service on the lake has now reported. The report will be available to view or download from our website. If you would like us to send you a hard copy please ask Ben Long.
- Conclusions are that the development of waterbus services on Windermere would be complementary to the aims and objectives of relevant policies for Windermere, that a high proportion of visitors would be interested in using waterbus services to access locations around the lake, and that key stakeholders demonstrated unanimous support for the concept of developing waterbus services, with a willingness to contribute in a variety of ways to the success of potential services.
- A cycle route feasibility study of three options between Bowness Bay and Ambleside now underway. This will form part of the Kendal to Keswick strategic cycleway. Possible candidate for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) grant. It is important that this route is a positive experience for users in itself, and not just a way of getting from one place to another. It will be considering both on road and off-road alignments, including the potential, in parts, for bridging options.

Other

- Cumbria Tourism and Northwest Development Agency commissioned consultants L&R consulting to carry out a feasibility study into a new visitor attraction themed around Waterbird. Waterbird was the first plane to successfully take off and land on water in Britain, an event that took place in 1911 on Windermere. The study has concluded that while there are options for the development of the archive, perhaps as an on-line resource, a free standing visitor attraction is not currently a viable business proposition. There may be potential for hosting an exhibition about Waterbird at other attractions such as the Windermere Steamboat Museum or Backbarrow Motor Museum. Building and flying a replica of Waterbird would deliver a quality experience, but is not a viable business proposition in its own right.

Communicating Windermere Waterfront Programme

There is considerable interest about the Programme, both within and outside the Park and we all play a role in informing others about the programme, whilst accepting that certain bits of information may be confidential.

We are more than happy to attend any groups who have an interest in or may be affected by the Windermere Waterfront Programme, if required, and please let us know if we can assist.