

## County Matters

As most of you will be aware the County is at present going out to consultation regarding the potential closure of six rural Household Recycling Sites in the County.

In our case this is the site on Risedale Hill, Allithwaite Road not the one in Berners Close Car Park which is run by the District Council.

I have already written to the Cabinet Member objecting to this potential loss of service in our area. If this site were to close this would necessitate residents having a round trip to Ulverston or Kendal of at least 30 miles which I am sure would lead to more burning of rubbish, fly tipping and most importantly putting recyclable waste into normal waste collection.

This would have the two fold effect of causing more pollution by having to travel further and less recycling in addition to giving residents mixed messages about protecting our environment.

The consultation document can be found at the Library and at County Offices plus on line I would ask as many people as possible to please fill in the forms which will give County Members more chance to persuade the Cabinet to find savings by reducing all opening times across the county to help keep the rural sites open.

With this in mind I have already persuaded the South Lakes Local Committee, of the County which includes all County Members in South Lakeland, to write to the Cabinet to recommend that they find savings in other areas without closing any rural sites.

**Please complete the questions in the consultation document and post it back or fill it in online at [cumbria.gov.uk](http://cumbria.gov.uk) by February 19th.**

Provide feedback in writing: HWRC consultation, Freepost NWW6059A, The Courts, Carlisle, CA3 8BR Email your feedback to [yoursay@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:yoursay@cumbria.gov.uk) Follow us at [twitter@cumbriacc](https://twitter.com/cumbriacc)

Good news regarding the Council tax for next year the Conservative Group on the County Council voted to accept the Government funding of 2.5% to keep County Tax increase to Zero for this coming year. I am sure all other political groups on the County will follow ensuring this will be set in February as a Zero rate increase.

As you read this report the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will have met to hold the Morecambe Bay University Hospital Trust to account for its failings. Hopefully they will produce evidence to the committee that it is improving and providing safe and effective health care in South Cumbria.

I will report back to you on the outcome of the committee's findings in my next report. **Bill Wearing County Councillor Grange Division**

## T I C News

**Our winter opening hours are slightly altered for February, from Monday the 6th of February until the 19th of February we will be open 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm. We will be operating a 7 day service for Spring and Summer from the 5th of March.**

A date for your diary! The Wordsworth Singers will be performing Baltic Amber on Sunday the 5th of February in the Victoria Hall at 3.30pm. This is a programme of uplifting and evocative music from the rich choral tradition of countries around the Baltic Sea. Works by Gorecki, Part, Glinka, Vasiliauskaite and many more. Tickets are available from the Tourist Information Centre at a cost of £11 for adults if bought in advance, or £12.00 at the door. Under - 18s and Full Time Students free.

We have an interesting selection of DVD's on sale from Andrew Leitch that include, The Home Front, Cumbrian Railways and Cumbria's Lost Railway along with Morecambe Bay Our Heritage parts 1, 2 and 3 by Chris Abram. Watch out for our new expanded selection of our popular range of Art Angle cards.

We also have a large selection of second-hand books for sale, with prices starting at 50p.

As always we do need to keep bringing in your posters so we can help to publicise your events. New 2012 leaflets and brochures are now coming in so please pop in to see us and everyone here at the T.I.C. looks forward to being of assistance to you all during the coming year.

**Lynne Harrison-Speight  
T.I.C. Team Leader 015395 34026**

## Lost or Found

**Don't forget any items found can be handed in to the Tourist Information Centre at the Victoria Hall.**

Likewise if you have lost an item enquire at the T.I.C. if it has been handed in. Grange Now also publicises items lost or found, (no charge).

## District Report

**The allocations of Land Document has been adopted by SLDC. There is now a 6 week period of further consultation where members of the public can query its soundness. If it is deemed sound, this will result in upwards of 500 new homes in Grange which was why both of us were unable to support it and voted against it.**

We will continue to help residents to try and ensure that we get development, which we do need, that's suitable for our area as we are well aware that a mix of affordable, social and open market housing is desperately needed but this approach will just not achieve this and we call on Tim Farron MP to work with us and change his support for these plans to work towards a more effective solution.

The development of Berners by BVP has finally been confirmed as over. SLDC cabinet resolved to break off formal negotiations. It now means that all bar the health centre is back to square one. Although its primarily been behind the scenes, we along with other Councillors and officers have done all we can to try and enable BVP to proceed but it just reached a stage where the proposals have stalled and moved so far away from what was originally proposed that it is just not tenable to continue, a view that we have been pushing for some time now. Whilst it may appear disappointing we view this very much as an opportunity to involve all of Grange in saying what we actually want to see doing with the site, and this will be initially looked at with a working group of local Councillors, officers, portfolio holder and other key groups. Its important that we get it right with a development that is sustainable and deliverable but is very much centred on delivering what Grange wants, not what produces a fat profit for SLDC and developers.

We touched on the proposed evening parking charges last month and have achieved a partial victory. Instead of paying up to £4 a night there is to be a 12 month trial of charging £1 to park from 6pm-8pm in all SLDC car parks.

We still believe there is a strong argument that any evening charging will struggle to produce any net income after administration and more importantly enforcement is taken into consideration and that the inconvenience and cost passed onto residents is yet another form of taxation and a relatively low cost trial period will certainly be the thin end of the wedge and we have no doubt once the Lib Dem administration bring in evening parking charges, the only way the cost will go is up.

As we have stated before, low cost local permits, better use of technology such as automatic number plate recognition and more realistic charging throughout the day could increase the overall income by encouraging more people to use the car parks by charging a fair amount instead of these relentless rises - 1000 people buying a 50p ticket brings in more than a couple of hundred buying a £2 ticket as less is very often more.

As ever, please feel free to contact us on any issues that you require assistance with.

**Cllr. Andrew Gardiner, Grange North Ward [a.gardiner@southlake-land.gov.uk](mailto:a.gardiner@southlake-land.gov.uk) 07825768496**

**Cllr. Tom Harvey, Grange South Ward [tom.clocktower@gmail.com](mailto:tom.clocktower@gmail.com) 07769 705307**

**Your next  
grange  
now  
Deadline 23rd Feb**

## Tim Farron's Column

**Local hospitals have been taking up a lot of my time recently. We have passed our 8000th supporter for the campaign to get a radiotherapy unit at the Westmorland General Hospital. In fact we are heading towards our 9000th, which, if we managed to achieve, would be amazing.**

If you have not given your support yet then please, please do so, every extra name behind the campaign makes it more likely that cancer patients will no longer have to make the arduous journey down to Preston for treatment. We asked people to give us their stories of travelling the 60 odd miles to Preston when you are ill and many of the tales we have received back have convinced me, not that I ever doubted it, that this new treatment facility is desperately needed. To indicate your support go to my website ([www.timfarron.co.uk](http://www.timfarron.co.uk)) or simply accost me if you see me walking around I am almost certain to have a signature form fairly easily to hand. We are planning a march through Kendal on the 3rd March as a further element to the campaign so please ensure this is in your diary and that if possible you attend.

I have been extremely concerned by the growing number of reports into the poor service that Morecambe Bay Hospitals Trust is providing patients. They are currently facing their fourth investigation by the Care Quality Commission, the organisation charged with monitoring the quality of care provided to patients by hospitals. They are looking into the emergency service provided by the Trust. If you have been unfortunate to have needed emergency treatment at either Lancaster or Barrow over the past couple of years the CQC would like to hear about your experience.

Along with the other MPs with hospitals managed by the Trust in their constituency I had a meeting with the Health Minister, Simon Burns, members of his department and representatives of the CQC and MONITOR (the body responsible for the awarding and monitoring of foundation trust status in hospitals) to discuss the quality of care that the trust is providing. Whilst it was somewhat reassuring to see the Dept. of Health is taking the matter seriously to listen to our concerns, we have still to hear what these various groups believe the issues to be and most importantly what they plan to do about it. Personally, I believe that many of the problems stem from the concentration of services at hospitals which do not have the capacity to handle the increase in patient numbers. It will take a lot to convince me that the care issues can be solved without bringing many of the services back to the Westmorland General.

I was really surprised to hear of the County Council's plans to close the recycling facilities in Grange. It makes no sense in terms of helping create a better environment or financial terms (more landfill means more landfill tax to be paid by the council and therefore us). I am calling on them to change their minds.

I hope very much to see you on 3rd March and in the meantime if there is anything else I can help you with then write to me Tim Farron MP, at Acland House, Smokehouse Yard, Stricklandgate, Kendal LA9 4ND or email me at [tim@timfarron.co.uk](mailto:tim@timfarron.co.uk).

**Thanks for your support, Tim**