

Talk Toilets feedback

Cllr Tom Harvey makes a good point in his District report this month regarding the Talk Toilets Consultation that was undertaken over 12 weeks earlier this year. The consultation apparently cost SLDC £25,000 and residents, visitors and businesses, town and parish councils, Local Area Partnerships from across the district were invited to have their say.

Out of these 682 returned questionnaires were received, 277 visitors to the area were interviewed and over 250 attended the exhibitions. It doesn't take a mathematical genius to work out that each returned questionnaire cost us (as Council Tax payers) £36.65 per household which works out more expensive than the toilets! The 39 public toilets operated by SLDC cost £790,000 to run, which equates to £16 per household.

The reply percentage being so low the actual data received is meaningless but a large majority

of the few responding residents (72%) support a pay-to-use scheme. Another large majority (70%) support the handover of public toilets to *willing* (our italics) town and parish councils. Over half of responding residents (54%) support the involvement of private companies and 61% support the idea of community schemes. Visitors were generally in support of all the various options. Keeping public conveniences open by any means was perhaps of more importance to them and a large majority supported pay-to-use.

The District Council says it receives no funding from Government to keep toilets cleaned, maintained and open for use in one of Britain's most visited tourist areas, which significantly increases the cost of this loss-making service. A report of the results of the consultations will be prepared for the SLDC Cabinet meeting on 9th September when councillors will decide the next steps in deciding the future of public toilets in South Lakeland.

Mayhem at junction

Grange Now has been made aware of two incidents at the Main Street/Grange Fell Road/Kents Bank Road/Pig Lane junction. A very busy turning point as those who use it can testify – not helped by those who park indiscriminately on the junction with Kents Bank Road, or by delivery vehicles, often blocking the view of approaching traffic. Probably not a week goes by without a driver attempting to drive up Main Street the wrong way. Grange Now has reported on this before – as an accident waiting to happen.

Our correspondent details two recent incidents – a car outside the Spar was parked facing the wrong way and its driver, realising the error began attempting to reverse onto the junction. A car at the same time was approaching DOWN Pig Lane – equally in error. Both drivers explained they had missed the No Entry signs (and also the road markings). Fortunately they missed each other

and other vehicles or pedestrians.

The second incident involved a vehicle coming down Grange Fell Road and assumed it could drive straight across and up Main Street (obviously missing the No Entry sign). The driver nearly collided with a vehicle signalling it was turning right onto Pig Lane, as the errant driver was only looking for approaching vehicles on Kents Bank Road, not realising Main Street was one way, with two lanes of traffic exiting.

Far too many drivers assume they can drive UP Main Street's One Way so something must be wrong somewhere. It is driver error but are the signs clear enough? One would think so, what else is NO ENTRY – but as it happens all too often, maybe not. Grange Now recommends a large sign on Grange Fell Road 200 yards before the junction directing left and right with NO ENTRY red-signed straight ahead and a further 100 yard reminder stating NO ENTRY AHEAD.

It is hoped Cumbria Highways address this issue before a serious accident occurs.

No sign of Bridge yet

Although we have been told all is in place to return Clare House Lane Bridge, the hold-up is apparently with Network Rail who seems to be delaying giving permission for the track to be closed for this to be carried out. Tim Farron MP is helping to put pressure on them for action to get the bridge back, as he states in his column.

Hopefully he will be successful and the bridge will be re-installed before the end of the year. SLDC has now taken ownership of the bridge back again to put further pressure on Network Rail. So if all goes to plan we should have the bridge back in time for the 2011 season, fingers crossed. It has been a long wait but better late than never.

Grange in Bloom

Wednesday 4th August saw Grange celebrating the Bloom Awards 2010. With over 50 entries competition was intense in all categories. The Civic Society's Bloom Group thanks everybody who entered for working so hard to provide such superb results.

The entries reflect the whole of Grange from the pre-school children, through the working population and businesses to those with time to explore new interests and expand old ones.

Mention must also be made of the volunteers in the Town, who may not be involved in the gardening but litter pick, close toilets, clear-up untidy spaces, to mention just a few activities and lastly people who come and stay to be able volunteer.

Grange in Bloom is more than just gardening, it is a whole town working together to present a vibrant community. **Kate Gaskin**

Walkers cross

Morecambe Bay for Grange TIC

More than 200 walkers helped raise over £1,300 for Grange Tourist Information Centre on the 1st August, led by Sands Guide Cedric Robinson. One person made a special journey from London, other walkers came from as far away as Spain and Japan.

Grange Town Council took over the running of the TIC when it was threatened by closure a year ago. Over thirty volunteers keep it open and offer a warm welcome to visitors to the town.

Fun Afternoon

What a lovely afternoon was spent by the children who attended the URC Activity Afternoon for under eevens. It was organised by the ladies of the Junior Church and open to all, free of charge, with a super tea at the end.

Over a dozen children aged 4 to 10 thoroughly enjoyed face painting, skittles, cake making, glass painting, gift label making, games, and joining in singing and a story. Many thanks to the ladies for making the afternoon so much fun for them all.

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A Notice from: Wendy at Flookburgh Post Office

I would like to say a great big thank you to my wonderful customers for their support and friendship over the past 15½ years.

I will be retiring at the end of September but I will continue to choose the cards for the shop and Len will be working full time for me.

Neil is also retiring from Rolls Royce so we are planning to make the most of our retirement

and spend more time with

our grandchildren

amongst other things.

Thank you once again, Wendy



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