



Derwent 7 Community Led Planning Group– Update June 2011

This is just a brief update on the progress and work of the Derwent 7 up to June 2011. The Derwent 7 following the local elections seems to have reached a point where decisions need to be made about the group's future, and the directions in which members of the Derwent 7 would like to see the group progressing. It is hoped that this update & AGM will encourage new parish councillors and residents to get involved in the Derwent 7. It is a group that is set up to work for the communities, we need your help!

Having formed in October 2008 the Derwent 7 has an overall cluster group and 4 sub groups:

- Youth
- Housing
- Environment
- Transport

The Derwent 7 launched its website <http://derwent7.wordpress.com> this website has all the Derwent 7 archived documents on it, and is used as an information dissemination point. If any parish/parish member would like information to be included on the website please contact Becx Carter on info@rebecca-carter.com



Visit the Derwent 7 Website : <http://derwent7.wordpress.com>



Transport Sub Group

Over the past year the Derwent 7 Transport group has been involved in discussions with Cumbria County Council and Stagecoach on a number of issues including:

Concern over the type of coaches that are used on the main X4/X50 bus route from Workington to Penrith. Stagecoach have confirmed they are aware of this issue and would consider changing the vehicles on this route if they could find somewhere else in Stagecoach Northwest to deploy the coaches.

Stagecoach informed the Derwent 7 in March that whilst they were working on the above issue they would look to retro fit handrails and bells on the coaches on the X4/X50 route to make it more user friendly.

Following a Derwent 7 Transport meeting the parishes of Underskiddaw & Bassenthwaite were informed of a decision to remove the X4 service from April 2011. The local parishes successfully lobbied Stagecoach into keeping the service for the summer of 2011. The loss of this service to the residents would have been very detrimental as no other service passes through these areas.

The Transport Sub Group is continuing to work with Cumbria County Council & Stagecoach on the issue of marketing of bus services including the provision of timetables on bus stops. Stagecoach are currently undertaking a review of their marketing activities and are keeping the Derwent 7 informed

Stagecoach agreed at a meeting in March that if information was passed to them they would endeavour to respond to specific demand for particularly the X4/X50 service e.g. Saturdays during the Keswick Convention when there is a need to additional/ large vehicle on this service.



Housing Sub Group



The Derwent 7 Housing sub Group fully supports the work of the Keswick Community Housing Trust who are working on the development of 10 houses within Keswick which will be managed by the group. As a result the Housing Sub Group has been a relatively dormant group and has been looking at issues such as ways of identifying second homes and holiday lets within the Derwent 7 area, and working with the Lake District National Park Authority on the definition of 'local' for the purposes of local housing.



Youth Sub Group

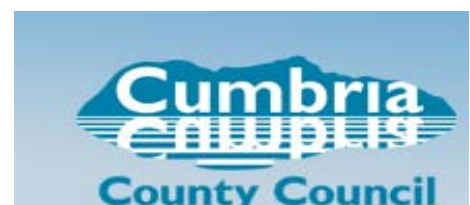
In the past year the Derwent 7 has held a key stakeholder meeting with people in the local area who work with or have an interest in working with young people. Out of this meeting the need and support was found to set up a youth forum for the Derwent 7 area. This youth forum would be run and led by young people and would deal with the issues that the young people felt were of concern to them.

At the first meeting of the Derwent 7 Youth Forum a number of issues were identified by young people as being things they would like to work on, broadly these issues included:

- Lack of Housing in the Derwent 7 area for school leavers/university returners
- Lack of Job Opportunities and employment education about the opportunities available in the local area e.g. apprenticeships, training schemes etc
- Cost and availability of Transport
- Lack of facilities for young people outside of school hours
- The young people felt they would like more of a voice within the town including a youth section to the Keswick Reminder.

It is hoped that in the coming year further youth forums can be held to work with young people on these issues. The Derwent 7 Youth Forum has also been asked to form part of the wider Cumbria County Council Youth Forum network.

Alongside the Youth Forum, Becx Carter & Jez Bond (chair of the youth sub group) have also been working on developing a relationship with the Young Voice of Hyde group, who are group of young people in Hyde in Cheshire who are running their own group dealing with their own concerns. The aim is to hold a residential between young people from the Derwent 7 area and the young people from Hyde to enable them to share their experiences and transfer knowledge.





Environment Sub Group

The most recent meeting of the Environment sub group was a single item meeting that was concerned with Community Emergency Planning and resilience in the aftermath of the 2009 floods. This meeting was well attended with representation from 5 of the Derwent 7 parishes. All those who attended recognised the need for emergency planning, and all seemed enthusiastic on continuing to work on emergency plans in their locality with support from the Derwent 7, Action with Communities in Cumbria and with Emily Thompson the Flood Recovery Manager in Keswick.

In Borrowdale a very successful project is nearing completion, which is the work on the Borrowdale Whole Valley Plan. This plan has been put together by a consultant who was lead by a working group of local farmers and partnership authorities and deals with the issues of management of the water courses and flooding in the valley. It is hoped that this idea of whole valley planning can in the future be rolled out to other valleys in Cumbria & the Derwent 7. The plan identifies hot spots on the water courses and provides suggestions of work that would help prevent/reduce flooding and subsequent damage from flood related events. If anyone wants to view the current draft of the plan it is available on the Derwent 7 website.

How Can you Help?

How you can help?

The Derwent 7 is keen to have representation from all the parishes on each sub group, so if there is anyone in your parish that has a particular interest in any of the sub groups and would like to attend the meetings please pass my contact details on.

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