

## Abbeytown Library

At a meeting in Abbeytown Jim Grisenthwaite (Head of Culture, Cumbria County Council) explained how he wanted to discuss options to improve performance at Abbeytown Library. He emphasised that this is not a programme of library closure, it's about library improvements.

Why Abbeytown Library? In 2004 the Audit Commission inspected Cumbria Library Service and concluded that overall the service was good, however it made recommendations to review the county's libraries and to look at the pattern of service provision in relation to need.

Since then changes have already been seen such as:  
Sunday Opening and Christmas Holiday opening in 6 main libraries  
Library Link in the local community.  
As part of this review process the library service has looked at the 20 smallest libraries in the county to confirm that the service being delivered is being used, this was done using the following performance criteria:  
Visits and Visits trends (over 4 years)  
Loans and Loan trends (over 4 years)  
Stock usage.

And the following community criteria:  
Opening hours  
Population  
Distance to larger library  
Public transport

Each library was scored against the above criteria and out of 32 libraries there were 6 scoring less than 15, Abbeytown was one of these six – implying that the service is not efficiently meeting the need of the local population. As a result, there is the need to develop the library service in order to meet the needs of the community.

Alan Welton (Cumbria Library Services Manager) illustrated the outcome of the library survey including number of loans and visits at Abbeytown Library

LOANS down by 30% over 4 years

VISITS down by 19% over 4 years

STOCK ISSUED Less than once per year

TOTAL LOANS 2005/2006 2,723

There was then a short film to illustrate the alternative option of Library Link and residents were also invited to look round the mobile library bus.

Comments made during the discussion:

Opening Hours

The opening hours have changed since it was moved to the school, and

now many people are unsure of the times.

Fewer days but longer hours may suit more people.

People don't come into the library before 4pm because 3-4pm is a busy time at the school with parents collecting their children etc.

Location

A large population live at the bottom end of the village, and there are car parking issues at the school, which may have led to a decrease in use.

Is there a perception that due its location at the school it is seen as a school library only?

Moving the library is not an option due to capital costs.

Mobile Library Service:

It is proposed to review the mobile library service to make it more community led.

In order to make it feasible in Abbeytown you would need a couple of long stops each week.

The mobile library service refresh their stock more regularly, compared to a static library.

We want to see more children in the library, we need to encourage a younger element because they are the future users. The school is part of the solution.

This was followed by a session to establish the community's views on Abbeytown Library.

## Civil Wedding Ceremony

On Saturday 1st July The Skinburness Leisure Hotel at Skinburness held it's first Civil Ceremony.

Margaret Ferguson and Edward Porter, both from Glasgow, travelled down with a coach of friends and family for this very special day.

Margaret and Eddie, frequent visitors to the hotel, elected to hold their wedding in the garden Gazebo, one of five areas within the hotel licensed for civil partnerships. "Everyone here at The Skinburness was thrilled and honoured that Margaret and Eddie chose us for such an important day in their lives" said Vanessa Moore at the hotel. "It was also hot and sunny that weekend, which was a real bonus"

After sipping Champagne on the patio guests strolled into the light and airy ballroom for a sit down meal of roast beef with all the trimmings, poached breast of chicken infused with leeks and blue Stilton cheese wrapped in bacon, or baked Trout Almondine. Nicki B provided the music and dancing.

"We consider all of our guests to be special, but this civil wedding was unique in many ways. All the hard working staff took Margaret and Eddie into their hearts and pulled out all the stops for them. They are a wonderful couple and we wish them every happiness for their future together" commented Adrian Moore.

## STAG

Items discussed at the Silloth Tourism Action Group general meeting on 17th July, 2006

- Funding has been received to enable STAG to begin the development of a website to encourage tourist to the town of Silloth. Designers are being approached.

- Funding for a Silloth Town Leaflet is still being sought.

- The report for the Vintage Rally was successful and 350 entries had attended, the weather however had spoilt the event somewhat.

- The report that the tall ship visiting the town was a great success.

- The ongoing organisation of the Solway Food and Drink Festival.

The next meeting will be at The Golf Hotel, Silloth on August 14th at 5:15pm all are welcome.

## Neighbourhood Forum

### Solway Coast Neighbourhood Forum

Subjects covered at the next meeting include:

**Fostering  
Allerdale Borough Council  
Community Grants**

Please come along on:  
Tuesday 26th September at 7pm in  
Holme St. Cuthbert's Parish Rooms

Refreshments served from 6:45pm

For more information please contact:  
Pat Ackred, Neighbourhood Development Officer  
Tel: 01900 325013  
Email: pat.ackred@cumbriacc.gov.uk

## Community Bus

Silloth & District Community Transport by Eddie Blackburn

The committee of Silloth and District Community Transport wish to apologise to all groups for any inconvenience caused due to the community bus being temporarily unavailable.

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