

BROUGHTON AND CONISTON . DISTRICT COUNCILLORS UPDATE

MAY ELECTIONS There will be Councillor elections in May for the new Westmorland and Furness Council. It will be a Shadow Council, running in parallel with SLDC and Cumbria County Council until April 2023, when it takes over. Broughton and Coniston ward will be split into two. Broughton, Kirkby, and ENMO and Pennington Parishes will become High Furness and the remainder will become Coniston and Hawkshead ward. There will be just one Councillor per ward.

OMICRON BUSINESS SUPPORT Grants are still available for business, particularly those in hospitality and retail that have been affected by the Omicron variant outbreak. Go to the link to apply
<https://www.southlakeland.gov.uk/business-and-trade/business-support-grants-coronavirus-covid-19/>

SEWAGE DISCHARGES We are currently investigating discharges into Coniston Water last year from the Waste Water Treatment plant last year and are currently discussing this with United Utilities.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE We have had several meetings various agencies and it is clear that the gap between District and County level and what happened in each area was too great. The response in each areas varied greatly and we established that we need to create small resilience groups, coordinated between parishes, with central emergency hubs. So, we are looking at having public meetings around the area in order to discuss the best way ahead.

ILLEGAL OFFROADING On March 6th, we held a joint Police operation to deter and educate motorists from illegal off-roading. PCSO Paul Harris led the operation and there were representatives from SLDC, Park Rangers, the Trail Riders Federation, the Green Lanes Alliance, local Councillors and residents. The area covered, Gawthwaite, Coniston Fells and the Rusland and Crake Valleys. The operation was extremely well coordinated and it was great seeing so many different groups working together in the local Community. We will be looking at similar operations over the coming tourist season, including road safety and speeding.

VISITOR MANAGEMENT The first few months of this year have been extremely busy and the Tactical Visitor Management Group is beginning to put plans in action, in coordination with Safer Lakes. Unfortunately, the 56 day rule for pop up camping and car parking has not been extended this year, but the 28 day rule still applies. So the Park will be helping to develop these facilities to cope with the extra demand at peak times.

MIKE MCKINLEY, LDNPA CHAIRMAN Mike had been the Chair of the National Park for the past 7 years and unfortunately passed away in early March after a short illness. He led the Park through many difficult and challenging times and with passionate, professionalism and humour. He will be missed and I feel proud to have worked and learnt from him.

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Stay Safe, Keep Healthy

Ian, Heather and Tracy