

Zip Wire Open Meeting 10/11/2014 Summary

About 70 people attended which included Mike Turner from TreetopTrek .
No one from the National Park attended.

A handout summarising the National Park's Advice Statement was distributed to all attendees. A number of people expressed their views; all of which were against the zip wire proposal.

Two notable contributions were given by John Gay & Graeme Connacher.

A third contribution was given by 2 ladies from properties adjacent to Brockhole. In a nutshell they were very, very scathing of the whole process that they went through when TreetopTrek applied for planning permission at Brockhole. The upshot being that the whole project was "rail roaded" through despite their objections.

At the previous meeting when Mike Turner was asked about the Brockhole installation there was no mention of any objections.

One of the selling points for the installation is that it will create a number of jobs for locals. An attendee had gathered information from TreetopTrek employees whereby it was stated that often they were asked to work 12 hour shifts without a break, had a zero hours contract and paid a minimum wage.

Mike Turner said that a number of the Brockhole employees were "local" - from Kendal & Barrow. Kendal is 12 miles away & Barrow is 32 miles away.

A straw vote was taken with the following result:-

For - 1 (Mike Turner)

Abstain - 4

Against - 65

So you can image the strength of feeling in the Public Hall and on a number of occasions Mike Turner was asked to stop this project and leave this valley. These requests had no impact on him & the very next day during a radio interview, with Radio Cumbria, when asked about the outcome of the meeting he simply said that the view represented only 10% of the parish.

Brockhole is owned by the National Park and was losing money prior to the addition of TreetopTrek. If the Zip Wire proposal becomes a reality the National Park have an opportunity raise some serious revenue.

Mike Turner stated that if the local population voted by a majority against the proposal then he would withdraw all proposals with immediate effect. It was requested by various attendees that this vote take place as soon as possible but Mike Turner said that he was "not ready" to present his case yet.

It was agreed that the date of next zip wire open meeting is on Monday 24th November at 18.30.

The objective of the meeting is twofold

1. To give Mike Turner the opportunity to present any further points in support of the proposal
2. To agree the format and date for the Parish Vote For and Against the Proposal