

Thirlmere Zip Wire Questionnaire Responses.

The Questionnaire was distributed in late September with a response date of 30th October 2017.

The question asked was on the overall idea of the Zip Wire how many residents of your home (over the age of 18) are: Opposed, In Support, have No Opinion.

The questionnaires were printed on green paper for those who are permanently registered as living within the Parish and on white paper for second home owners or others that are not on the electoral register within the Parish.

Green- Those resident within the Parish

195 were delivered, 96 were received back a response rate of 49%.

The 96 that were returned represented 202 adults over the age of 18.

200 were opposed to the proposal (99%)

1 was in favour (0.5%)

1 had no opinion (0.5%)

White- Those not registered on the electoral register

15 were returned

27 people were in opposition

2 people were in favour

People were also then entitled to provide a written comment, all comments received are detailed below. These have been anonymised as the Council didn't seek consent to directly quote people.

Green Forms:

I do not regard the proposals as beneficial to our local community or environment. The bike route exists already and the activity hub will only expand.

Apart from the A591, the valley is relatively quiet attracting walkers and cyclists and is a good environment for wildlife including our red squirrels.

My objections are for the following reasons:

-The proposal is outside the principals of a National Park and World Heritage Site- This alone should mean it is not considered.

-The zip wires will go over the A591, this is distracting for drivers on a winding road and is likely to lead to accidents.

-The peace would be disturbed by multiple people screaming their way across the reservoir, the landscape would be changed and create more regular traffic around the lake on an unsuitable road transporting people back and forth as well as attracting higher numbers of visitors to watch- this increases people on and in the reservoir which is dangerous and not suitable for leisure boating-It is a drinking water supply.

-Increased visitors increase litter and waste which is already a problem

-This is a National Park (not a leisure park), our mountains and lakes are the reason it is here and this should be the reason people visit, not for quick thrill zip wires than can go anywhere (bridges, buildings) and that are already in existence in the Lakes in size and keeping with forest adventure/via ferrata.

-The jobs will not be for people local to the valley, the local businesses are already popular with tourists and there is little housing available locally, meaning that staff will most likely come from Keswick & Ambleside and likely from outside the local area.

-This is an expensive quick thrill exclusive to this company and it has no benefits that I can see to this valley, nor, from meeting this company, do they have an interest in the local views, the local environment or the national park we live in and are purely focused on making money at the expense of everyone else and everything here.

-It is not appropriate development for the Lake District.

Firstly, that this proposal could even see the light of day in a National Park is a complete shock. It would appear that both United Utilities & Tree Top Treks place more value on a company balance sheet than they do on the Lake District Landscape.

At stake here is beautiful and open landscape, renowned as a place of beauty and solitude- the road around the west side of Thirlmere is an incredible quiet location, and a complete contrast to the intensive tourist developments to be found elsewhere in the Lake District. I visit for photography, sometimes 3 times each week, so I know the landscapes, streams and hillsides very well.

What is clear with this proposal is that this can only have reached the current stage of planning & detail with complete approval of UU- a voice missing from all public conversations. My attempts to contact them to discuss this were unsuccessful, and I was directed to the Tree Top Treks Facebook contact page. UU see themselves as Landlords in this case. I think on this point UU need to explain to a broader public why they, as guardians of our landscape, see fit to sell it off without through of the broader consequences.

It is worth pointing out here that the access road to the take off site on the west side has already been re-surfaced. A very worrying development (an equally worrying possibility is that some degree of assurance has already been given from the LDNPA). This steep, zig-zag road is intended to be accessed using large military style 4 * 4 personnel vehicles, and with a projected throughput of 50,000 persons per year to use the zip wires, this amounts to a major increase in traffic in an extremely quiet location.

All things considered, I feel this proposal to be totally inappropriate within the LDNPA.

The LDNP has WHS. This is due to its great unspoilt natural beauty. We welcome all tourists to enjoy this along with the residents but in our opinion this man made intrusive structure is unnecessary and will mar a previously quiet and peaceful situation.

A zip wire across Thirlmere will be very obvious and the view of the lake will be damaged as a consequence. Thirlmere is much quieter than the other local Lakes as there is no existing commercial business around it and this will make the zip wire seem even more prominent. The view of Thirlmere lengthwise is a spectacular site and will be ruined by this wire.

As keen cyclists and walkers we enjoy the peaceful side of Thirlmere where traffic is minimal. Moving tourists from Swirls to the top of the wire will involve regular large vehicles traveling down this quiet narrow road decreasing safety for cyclists and increasing traffic noise for walkers.

We understand the need of the local community to encourage tourism but there are many other thrill seeking options that could be made available without changing the environment so radically.

If a zip wire is desired there must be areas where it could be less intrusive and equally as exhilarating e.g. Along a valley would be much less visible.

We are strongly against the proposal as it stands.

That this proposal is even being considered is an outrage to the purpose and definition of what we live in- a National Park. That it is even being considered is deeply troubling.

This proposal jeopardizes the preservation of the park as a place where people can interact with and enjoy nature in any sort of meaningful way. This proposal would turn it into a theme park. This a commercial company seeking to pay off the bodies that are supposed to protect it for the benefit of a minority of people who will profit inexorably off the back of this proposal and profit they will. There is serious money to be made with ventures of this sort, as has been proved to be the case on the continent.

There is inevitable damage to ancient woodland inherent in the necessary build.

The valley cannot sustain the increased traffic set out in the visitor numbers quoted.

There are no arguments in provision: you can travel a matter of under 10 miles to Whinlatter to do all the things they purport 'open up the countryside to engagement' or a further few miles to Brockhole to engage in the same activities.

On the argument of jobs, the majority of employees will be paid at best just above minimum wage whilst the

executives will make millions. But what will be lost to the people that interact with nature in a genuine capacity will be lost forever.

We are as I think you can tell, not at all happy with this proposal and personally I am going to do everything I can to ensure it goes no further.

We are strongly opposed to any commercial project that will detract from the beauty of The Lakes and are oppose to any recreational activity within main public view. We have looked at the 'Treetop' scheme and see the zip-wires would extend from one side of the lake to the other. Has anyone considered the safety of drivers of the A591 who would almost certainly be distracted with people on zip-wires going over their heads and across the lake? It seems a worthwhile element to consider along with other considerations.

We would suggest this organization reconsider the location of its proposed activity hub and zip-wire centre. Thirlmere and surrounding area are beautifully pristine where nature has been allowed to flourish. We enjoy going there for quiet walks to take in the peace, unspoiled beauty and tranquillity to release the stress from our hectic lives. It is upsetting to even contemplate that a commercial project would be allowed to spoil yet another sacred space in nature. In our opinion a project of this nature would be much better accepted if it were placed in a destination of a main thoroughfare and not in public view. Perhaps somewhere like an area off the A593 where there is an abandoned quarry, Hodge Close, with water to zip-wire over that few people even are aware of, apart from a few sports people. (There is plenty of unused land for parking at Hodge Close). Anywhere off the beaten path, where public views and serenity would not be ruined, would be a much more appropriate and accommodating location for this or similar enterprises.

We object to this proposal on the grounds that visitors come to this area to enjoy the peace and quiet, if a zip wire is not considered appropriate for Honister Quarry, an industrial site, how can it be suitable for Thirlmere? If permission is sort and granted not all car drivers would use the car parks because they have to pay, see the area some days at the Junction of A591 and Dam Rd End, cars would be parked everywhere which would be both an eyesore and dangerous to other road users.

I totally oppose the proposed zip wire scheme. Inappropriate development in a beautiful quiet valley. I hate the misinformation by the company as well e.g. that it is invisible, massive job creation, most people in favour of it and the crap about a new cycle path. 100% against it.

Every effort must be made to prevent our beautiful countryside from being turned into what increasingly seems to be a Disney World Style adventure playground or theme park that caters solely for the thrill-seeking and extreme sports element of the visiting public. Surely the recent granting of World Heritage Site Status should protect the Lake District even more so from the development of such unsuitable and inappropriate leisure-activity schemes.

Totally out of place to site a zip wire across Thirlmere.

We strongly oppose the zip wire, it would destroy the landscape and tranquillity of Thirlmere. LDNPA should not allow this but I suspect they will in the name of tourism, sadly.

Apart from the obvious risk to life by drowning or being run over. This would ruin a perfectly peaceful and beautiful stretch of Lakeland. How can anyone even think of suggestion this?

Would spoil the natural beauty, plus damages and pollution caused, as informed Grizedale (is very fouled and pollution etc is disgusting) Thirlmere would be the same!

If the Zip wire proposal is granted, it will upset a great many people who love the Lake District. If the zip wire proposal I not granted it will hardly upset anyone?

We live in a beautiful area, it should be appreciated not violated by a commercial money making venture. Save it now before its too late.

Local residents concern over safety of motorists on A591.

This zip wire would destroy the peace and beauty of Thirlmere. It is not in keeping with the Lake District- a UNESCO World Heritage Site now. Wonderful views would be ruined.

Thirlmere is one of the quietest in the Lake District & needs to be remain so. The aim of the National Park is to protect the environment no to make money out of it, by turning it into a theme park. What about World Heritage Status?

Totally inappropriate location.

Safety Issues- Low flying aircraft, passing motorist being distracted, increased volume of traffic and traffic turning of A591- Slowing down

We feel that there is little enough room or peace for wildlife as it is.

<p>Spoiling a beautiful landscape in the name of money-making. Extra traffic adding to already very busy/dangerous roads, as proved when A591 diversion was enforced recently. Extra parking spaces- trees cut down.</p> <p>Tree cutting and destroying flora/fauna in natural habitat always opposed.</p>
<p>A zip wire would be totally inappropriate in this area of natural beauty and tranquillity. It would cause noise & disruption and ruin the area for the more discerning members of society. The Lake District has enough natural attractions which cost very little to enjoy. Zip wires belong in adventure parks e.g. Brockhole.</p>
<p>Unsuitable development in WHS. Wires pose danger to civil/military flying. The sub structure, car park, toilets, bike hire, changing rooms. Not wanted. Electricity Pylons/Wind Farms are discouraged why not this?</p>
<p>Thirlmere is an unspoilt area and should remain so.</p>
<p>Unacceptable commercialisation of a quiet area</p>
<p>Inappropriate development in a quiet area and a serious danger to aircraft.</p>
<p>Money is the god here. Dread the resulting development- traffic, parking, buildings, noise, farewell to peace and tranquillity, the lifeblood of the lakes.</p>
<p>I oppose the zip wire but support any cycle trail/walking on health & income to the area. Thrill rides should be for areas in need of investment and work.</p>
<p>Extra traffic disturbance. Spoiling the environment for wild life (red squirrels) Ruining a very quiet part of the Lake District A disaster waiting to happen.</p>
<p>Concerns regarding the proposal. Safety of drivers using the A591 Safety of light aircraft Safety of paragliders Safety of rescue aircraft Safety of birds flying into wires. Safety of MOD aircraft Safety of stability of area- landslide Threat to wildlife, flora & fauna</p>
<p>Will the Zip wire be a distraction for motorists. Lead to further development Hardly fits with World Heritage Status</p>
<p>Oppose this awful scheme- Blackpool is not wanted here- this will be a huge intrusion on this wild area.</p>
<p>Totally unsuitable for this site, dangerous to road users & low flying aircraft. Lack of parking & increase in traffic.</p>
<p>Keep things as natural beauty</p>
<p>Take it somewhere else</p>
<p>Thirlmere is a peaceful place, lots of wildlife would suffer, Honister the place to be. A BIG NO.</p>
<p>Planes that fly low, chinooks skim the rooftops, Rescue helicopters low flying to seek tegh fells, injured, accidents waiting to happen, when drivers are distracted, zip wire? Please let common sense prevail and say big no to zip wire.</p>
<p>Honister is the ideal place, but Thirlmere. Beautiful lake, which is drinking water for Manchester. Red Squirrels thriving in peace and quiet. Please stop this, all for money making, catastrophic, before it ruins one of the best places in the Lake District</p>
<p>No body in this parish wants this. Very unsuitable for Thirlmere.</p>
<p>How can anyone even consider spoiling this beautiful, quiet area, with such an ugly noisy money making scheme. No No No No No</p>
<p>Would be an eyesore to the area</p>
<p>This is a National Park, not a theme park.</p>
<p>There are tree top adventures at Grizedale, Whinlatter, this one isn't required.</p>
<p>Very opposed to Zipwire at this site. No infrastructure in area for huge numbers. It is perfect as it is, gateway to most wonderful mountain, Helvellyn. Zip wires should be in forest areas only like Whinlatter.</p>

The Thirlmere area has exceptional landscape qualities, shaped by natural and human processes, it is a distinctive and unique environment with an extensive range of important habitats. Thirlmere is regularly visited for its scenery and the peace and tranquillity to be found there.

The zip wire proposed would have an adverse impact on the valley setting, the spectacular landscape and the peace and tranquillity without enhancing the valley in any way.

The proposal does not benefit the Lake District status of WHS.

I am completely opposed to the zipwire. I would like the Parish Council to also ask a question about the relationship between the chief executive of LDNPA and the marketing manager of Tree Top Treks. It seems an intimate relationship between the two would be conflicting in any unbiased independent approach to considering such a planning application. Our family love the tranquillity of the valley and paucity of people in it. Just because it is underused does not mean we should accept a development proposal

Are there any guarantees of impartiality given the apparent close personal and financial relationship referred to between an officer of the LDNPA, Brockhole & treetop treks?

I am not against Zip Wires per se, but this is in the wrong place, being in an outstandingly beautiful area- and one which is also used for low flying by the RAF. The wires would also be above the busy A591 trunk road which can pose a risk of distracting drivers. I quite like zip wires in the right place and I supported the (rejected) Honister proposal for example

The already statements made by many of inappropriate for WHS, AONB etc. Safety issues. No zip wires should be allowed over ANY public road, irrespective of amount of traffic/use due to the, even remote, safety aspects of accident. Misinformation as to the number of zip wires etc. I would like to comment on the responses provided by Treetop Treks in response to the Highways Agency, MOD/RAF and other installations. I find the quite responses Treetop have received from various agencies (all positive) quite astonishing as for them to commit without any full consultation appears to be a little economical with the truth. The reference to the cable car at Matlock Bath. The comparison is not like for like. Matlock Bath is not a rural area, therefore the level of noise is higher than Thirlmere will ever be. With no disrespect Matlock Bath but a town which is renowned for motorbikes visiting, amusement arcades etc is in no way comparable to Thirlmere and its surrounding areas. The heights of Abrahams are enclosed cable cars, therefore negating the noise and dropping of objects issues. The cable cars are there to enable everyone to have a birds eye view not a thrill seeker type of installation, which the zip wire will be (and Treetop Treks Market). The cable cars are far higher than the Thirlmere proposal.

The MOD/RAF as already mentioned, astonishing that there has been such a quick response. Any new wires/or obstacles need to be updated on all aviation charts (are Tree Top Treks prepared to pay for this?). I would also like to point out the following aviation accident involving aircraft and cable car wires (Cavalese Cable Car disaster 1998) look online for further details.

Finally I am presuming contact has been made with Glenridding for their insight and assistance following their successful opposition to the Greenside mine proposal?

White- Non resident/non electorate comments.

Whilst developing a good cycle path around the Reservoir would be great, I strongly oppose the idea of zip wires crossing it. The use of these would be detrimental to the aspect of Thirlmere; would require extra car parking; would mean increased traffic on an already busy road; would distract drivers and I cannot say what effect it would have on the local wildlife (Thirlmere is a natural corridor for wildlife, especially red squirrels). the RAF often fly up the valley on their low level training outings. I cannot think of one reason why such an idea would be beneficial to the area apart from bringing business in for your company and increased profits. I cannot see how Zip wires would add to the Lake District WHS. Zip wires already exist in Whinlatter and Grizedale forests, hidden amongst the trees. Honister Mine has its Via Ferrata, conforming to the geological structures of that area, so extreme adventures are already well catered for and this valley and the people in it should be respected and not subjected to an influx of more tourists will come for the adventure and not to admire and respect the environment.

On a visit to Keswick last week, I noted from the newspaper that plans are to be submitted for a zip wire across Thirlmere. This is an outrageous plan, purely for financial gain, and would spoil an idyllic location which has been protected splendidly since the reservoirs opening in 1894.

I travelled the road on the western side of Thirlmere on Thursday, and found it still such a magical and peaceful location which can be enjoyed by everyone, be they walkers, climbers, cyclists, motorists etc. Why would anyone want to bring commercial greed into an area which has been added to the tranquillity and history of the Lake District for so long.

Honister was the ideal place for a zip wire as it is bleak and isolated, but that failed so I trust you will be successful in having the application thrown out by the Lake District Planning Authority (Canon Rawnsley and Beatrix Potter must be turning in their graves)

It would ruin the whole feel of the valley.

One of the few quiet and peaceful valleys left in the Lake District it would be shameful to destroy it.

This development is entirely inappropriate.

Not in keeping with the Lake District, would spoil the environment.

Distraction for drivers, low flying aircraft. Honister Pass more suitable.

We lived at 4 Steel End, Wythburn for many years. Thirlmere was always a wild , beautiful unspoilt part of the Lake District and we hope it will stay that way forever.

Must not go ahead.

The plan indicates that 'traffic impact' will be 'minimal'- this does not seem to be the right word as parking is indicated as being at Legburthwaite and elsewhere in the 'underutilised' car parks at or near Thirlmere.

The Thirlmere Activity Hub Q & A (see Treetop treks website) has the estimate of 'attracting around 160,000 visitors' annually- presumably this could well be an under-estimate.

Linked to this is the use within the initial proposal of words such as 'breath taking scenery' , 'minimal impact' and 'spectacular Lake District Landscape' the estimated numbers will have a serious effect on what is the USP of the West Side of Thirlmere. The tranquillity and opportunity to enjoy the surrounding landscape, woodlands and lakeside with relative peace and quiet. We are sure that none of those being transferred on the eight zip wires will do is in silence.

Those travelling along the A591 may not see and hear the zip wire, users suddenly appearing in their peripheral vision followed by the distraction causing injury and death in road accidents.

Finally helicopters such as Air Ambulances travel across open water at approximately 100Ft, and RAF fighter planes at 250ft, one shudders to think of them meeting unexpectedly the eight zip wires.

Mountain rescue say impossible to do rescues in that area if it goes ahead.