

## **Not in my back yard**

You know, I had never heard the word ‘Nimby’ until 2 weeks ago. I was chatting to a neighbour about this zip-wire proposal and he said we must not become NIMBYS. I got to thinking about this. So let me tell you about MY back yard.....

10 square feet of concrete and a front garden that takes 2 minutes to grass cut.

I then realised that actually I share my yard with all the lovely folk who visit each year. I chat to our walkers as they pass my house. I devote all my working days to looking after the visitors to my yard. I do what I can, when I can, to make sure that MY yard, and the folk who live here, stay awhile, or are passing on the day enjoy and share what I hold special. Why? Well....

My real back yard is one of the most amazing and lovely valleys in the country, Ullswater. The Victorians called it the English Lucerne. I have spent the most fulfilling 20 years of my life piloting 100 year old boats up and down our lake. 10,000 times and climbing.

We have a superb visitor base here in our valley. Folk come from far and wide to enjoy the peace and tranquillity, They take the easy to challenging walks, go sailing, cruising on the Steamers and try there hand at rowing. They know that 10 minutes out from any of our busy villages the lanes, the paths, and the view are as unspoilt as you will find anywhere in the Lake District. This has led to ‘repeat trade’ repeat visitors who come time and time again to explore more and relax more. This was my holiday story from age 4. Eventually I could not stay away. So I moved here and made a life. We are not Windermere or Keswick and it’s the difference that brings our visitors and our livelihood.

We are always open to new ideas here, but we must be sure that they will benefit our community and be in harmony with what makes us special. I am afraid that something as radical as a zip-wire will do nothing to enhance our local lives or the visitor experience.

If we had chronic unemployment, dwindling visitor numbers or a lack of ‘zest’ in our community... maybe. However I know that many businesses have to ‘import’ staff anywhere from Penrith the the EU. Unless anyone tells me otherwise, I know of no businesses that cannot ‘make ends meet’ and many make a good living. Is it greed for more and more money that would drive such a project?

Do we allow the few to kill the golden goose for long standing, hard working and caring businesses?

This does not mean 'new and different' jobs, No, simply more minimum-wage work in the tourist industry. The company proposing the wire is from outside our community, so direct profits will simply leave our locality. Maybe the LDNPA will benefit from even more car-park funds and use of it's land but this has never been invested locally and I see no reason to think it will be now.

Spin-off trade? I would suspect that folk won't take any accommodation just to 'ride the wire' day in and day out. No, it will be a quick visit and once the thrill is satisfied will drive on to try a similar ride anywhere from Alton Towers to Blackpool. The real situation here, and the risk this portends, is that folk who have come for years won't. Everyone who stays here, from our campers to holiday lets, our caravans (static or visiting) our chalets and our bothys, our hotels and our guest houses come because we are still the most unique place in the Lakes. Imagine (even if you have had a 'ride') putting up with the noise and the traffic for all the rest of your stay?

Folk do come here for a thrill, Helvellyn is our most extreme climb and a real challenge for your average person. Imagine walking up the 'red route 1' to one of the most dramatic mountain ranges only to be passed by road-trains of organised thrill seekers on their way to a controlled and regimented quick 'scream' ride back down the valley. Do we want Greenside to become a fairground?

By default any 'thrill ride' has to become more and more exiting, no one wants the same every visit. So what will happen after a few years as the 'we have done that' clientele demand the next phase. Do we think 75% repeat trade given the cost of a ride?

So no, not in my back yard, because my back yard is **YOURS** to. Thousands of you each year and I know you love our dale as much as I do.

If we had a proposal for a proper mine attraction perhaps with underground adventure and an exhibition hall to the history of Greenside fine. But this is an awful and totally wrong idea. Please can we put it to bed now. I do not relish the idea of spending a lot of personal time and stress fighting this. We as a community have better things to do, not least of which is to devote our time to looking after our repeat visitors and ensuring that the mystery and the tranquillity of our valley is here for future generations.

I wish the zip-wire company all the success else where. Good fun in the right place. What happened to Honister? Please withdraw your possible application and save us all from wasting vast amounts of time and emotion fighting this tooth and nail. Please believe me when I tell you we will.

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We need to be ready if planning is applied for in the quiet time around Christmas, we need to be ready to ramp this above the LDNPA who cannot be trusted to make a balanced decision. The LDNPA imposed a speed limit on the lake 30 years ago and limited Greenside road to a bridle way. All to allow for a quiet valley. An 'attraction' however allows access and what goes up to Greenside also goes through the entire village.

Over 1000 signatures against the proposal now on line. Please help and add yours to.

[www.noziphere.org](http://www.noziphere.org)

Thank you.

Graeme Connacher.