

Why I believe you should vote **NO** in the Community Zip Wire Vote

Dear Resident

Thank you for taking the time to read this prior to casting your vote. This is an important issue that affects us all and which could fundamentally change the nature and aspect of our valley forever. I'm born and bred in the Dale, my family have lived here for generations, and I'm passionate about this valley that we all live and work in.

What it is

Whilst no formal plans have been submitted the current proposal is to install **four parallel zip lines, each one mile long**, running from above Greenside Mine down to one of the Gillside Farm fields below the Rake Cottages. Comparisons have been made to the existing attractions set up in Brockhole in Windermere. Please be aware that what is proposed in Glenridding is **NOTHING** like this. The whole point is to install the longest set of zip lines in England, which will run above our village. In all likelihood the zip lines will be accompanied by new facilities, possibly including a café, at Greenside, taking business away from the village

What will this mean for us

Other than the obvious visual impact of having these lines in place, the main impact will be **noise**. The Health and Safety Executive recommend the use of ear defenders with noise levels above 85 decibels. Recordings at Brockholes have seen levels of 78 decibels – and that's just one small wire. This will be 4 wires, each a mile long, operating for up to 12 hours a day 364 days of the year.

There will also of course be the increase of **traffic** up the Greenside Road through the village and up the bridlepath to the mine, plus the associated increase in **parking issues**. And please remember, just like visitors to Brockhole, these people will "park zip and go". No-one will want to stay in a place dominated by a loud, intrusive thing like this.

What it means for our businesses

Many of us work in the tourist trade and know that we rely on the 500k+ visitors who come to the valley every year. **Visitors come here because it is beautiful and peaceful with plenty of activities on offer, precisely because it is NOT Windermere or Ambleside**. These are the people who stay for days and weeks at a time, shop in the local shops, eat and drink in the local pubs and cafes, and help to sustain our economy all year round. Many of these people will NOT return if this proposal goes ahead because the fundamental nature of the valley will have been ruined. This will threaten far more people's livelihoods than the handful of jobs this proposal might create.

Other ways to increase visitors to the Dale

Of course we'd welcome more visitors to the valley. Current plans such as the new pier at Aira Force will bring more visitors. In addition, what we really need is a new "wet weather" attraction and again discussions are taking place for a new cultural centre to celebrate the valley's past with its rich mining and agricultural history and heritage. **What we don't need is something that will drive away our existing visitors.**

Don't just take my word for it

Thousands of people have already signed an online petition against the proposals, and many local businesses have also publicly stated that they are opposed to the plans in Glenridding, including the **Ullswater Steamers, The Inn on the Lake and the Glenridding Hotel**. Over 100 local residents attended the last open meeting at the Village Hall. At the end of the meeting **NONE of them voted in favour of the plans**. Even the **Lake District National Park's** own planning department have said that this is the wrong place for such a plan saying "The proposal is unacceptable as a matter of policy principle".

Please Vote No

A "No" vote is not a vote against change, or even against Zip Wires themselves. **It is a Vote to protect all that's special about the place we live and work in, and that attracts the hundreds of thousands of visitors who come here every year**. I opened the Glenridding Gallery precisely because I wanted to both protect and promote our existing local businesses – **please help me to protect our special valley, for us now and for future generations**. More info can be found at the website below or better still please just speak to any of us who attended the last open meeting. Please **Vote Now and Vote No** – just fill in a voting form and take it to Sharmans or the Post Office in Patterdale.

Thank you

Robert Teasdale - Sharmans and The Glenridding Gallery

www.noziphere.org