

With reference to any named rural area, examine the ways in which decision-makers have tried to resolve the conflicts associated with recreation and tourism.

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I plan to examine the ways in which decision-makers have tried to resolve the conflicts associated with recreation and tourism in the Lake District. The Lake District is located in the northwest of England. It is the area's beauty that has led to the area's recent development. The famous Victorian poet, William Wordsworth, first acknowledged the beauty of the Lake District in his poems. This inspired other writers to visit the area. Slowly more and more people were attracted there and by the 19th century it was a very popular destination. The invention of motorcars made it easy to travel there and when the M6 was built in the 1960's it made the Lake District easily accessible. Before this, it was very lonely and had very few inhabitants. A lot of towns were created in the Lake District whilst Victoria was in power and most notably Windermere. In 1951 it became a National park and has been open to the public ever since. The area's status is so well spread that it attracts thousands of tourists throughout the year, especially in summer months. It is popular to walkers, climbers, boaters and most importantly people wanting to see the area's natural beauty. The Lake District is pretty much dependant on tourism and 42,000 jobs (1 in 6) are in tourism. The people who make decisions in the Lake District are the National Park authority, Friends of the Lake District, the National Trust and also the Cumbria tourist board. These groups are the organisations in which conflict occurs between.

One big area of conflict that has occurred in The Lake District is at Lake Windermere. Lake Windermere is the biggest lake in the UK. In the late 80's people began to use it for jet skiing. The National Parks said that it was too noisy and that it was scarring away the wildlife. Jet skiing needs fast boats to make it possible so the Park put a 10mph speed limit on the lake making jet skiing impossible. This affected the local businesses around the lake as there were less people visiting the lake. Fewer people were staying at the hotels, fewer people were being produce from the supermarkets and tourist shops and also fewer people were eating out. This means that these places were losing money that upset them.

Hayes garden world has caused conflict between the Friends of the Lake District, the National Park and the locals. Hayes Garden world started off as a small business and is now huge. It sells almost everything and over 1.5million people visit it every year. The friends of the Lake District say that its growth is out of scale with its surroundings. They don't want it to grow anymore. It is inappropriate and is causing huge amounts of traffic congestion. They say that it should relocate as it does nothing for the Lake District. The National Parks have said that they do not want Hayes to shut down but overtime tourists won't want to visit The Lake District for the original attraction (beautiful scenery) but for the artificial attractions. Hayes garden world knows what its doing but argue against them saying that it is good as they are bringing in more tourists which is what makes The Lake District. It is also spreading tourism out over a bigger area that means it should reduce congestion in other places.

Ambleside was once a quiet, peaceful village but now has huge traffic problems. Ambleside used to only have really busy days on weekends but now it is constantly thriving. A campaign for a by-pass in Ambleside has running for the last 30years and is believed by many that this is the answer to their problems. This would also help the residence as they find it hard to cross the road and many old people are scared to do anything. It is causing the

locals huge delays to do anything as it is hard to travel around even to the local places such as schools and shops. Despite some people seeing the by-pass as the only option other residence see it as pointless and ugly. Some residence believe that by building a by-pass the congestion would get worse as access to Ambleside would be easy and others don't believe that it would. There is strong conflict in Ambleside on both behalves and an agreement is going to be hard to find.

A huge problem in The Lake District is traffic. For years different authorities have tried to manage the traffic but nothing significant has been done to improve it. Residences have suggested that cars should be banned altogether in the big tourist areas; Tourists should be able to park outside town and use other forms of transport to visit attractions and others have said nothing can be done. The Cumbria tourist board, county council, national Park, Countryside commission are, for once, all in a agreement that something must be done soon. They have come up with ideas such as introducing more park and ride schemes and ban certain roads to tourists. Going against trying to cut tourists down are the National Trust and the tourists themselves. As the national trust needs tourists to run they say that too many constrictions are being created. They believe tourists don't have to come by cars also but they also know businesses would struggle without cars. Tourists say the busy roads don't affect them and that it's still a beautiful part of England.

The most likely improvement to traffic problems is increasing public transport. By doing this people hope that the congestion in busy tourist areas will be cut down. Residence believe that this is unlikely as people wouldn't bother using it and it would be no help to lazy tourists who would find it so much easier to just drive in. Another big possibility is too use more boats which would cut down the amount of traffic on roads but that would only improve congestion by the lakes and not in big built of areas.

I see the future of the Lake District as seeing more tourists. It is a beautiful area and people still chose to visit there whatever. The main problem that I have noticed occurring in the lakes is traffic. This can either be improved by introducing new traffic calming methods or increased if things carry on like they are. New developments are already being built on the outside of the Lake District which is spreading tourism about. A new Oasis Park has been built which is already seeing an increased number of tourists. Whatever happens, conflict in the Lake District will always occur between those who support the tourist industry and those that don't.