



VOLUNTARY  
**ACTION**  
CUMBRIA

## Parish Plans Gazette

### A note from the Editor

Hello! This is the second newsletter brought to you by Voluntary Action Cumbria on Parish Plans. It is produced in response to requests from Parishes involved in Parish Plans for more sharing of ideas and examples of good practice. As this is **your** newsletter, please send me any thoughts, articles or ideas that you think would be useful. All the contact details for everyone involved in working with you on Parish Plans are on the back page of this newsletter.

Please display this newsletter where it can be read by as many people as possible. If you're one of the lucky ones and still have a pub, shop or Post Office, please display a copy there. If you need any more copies, please let me know.

Thank you. Carl Glynn - Editor

### The Parish Plans Conference

October 8<sup>th</sup> saw the Voluntary Action Cumbria Parish Plans Conference at Newton Rigg, Penrith. Overall, the conference was a success, in layout, attendance and delivery.

From your comments on the evaluation forms it seems that you found the workshop sessions most useful. As a result, each Rural Development Officer will hold three workshops within their areas. These workshops will cover all the stages of producing a Parish Plan, from recruiting volunteers to implementing the Action Plan. Further details will be printed in the next Parish Plans Gazette.

The first of these workshops is in Eden on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February covering implementation of Action Plans. For further details of this workshop please contact Anna Scamans.

So will there be another conference? That depends entirely on you. The October event was held in response to requests from yourselves. If you feel that it would be useful to hold another conference, please let us know and we'll arrange it!

## Web discussion group

Another suggestion to come from the conference was to set up a discussion group on the VAC website for Parishes involved in Parish Plans at all stages to be able to ask each other questions and help each other out.

We have spoken to the national Vital Villages team at the Countryside Agency about this, and they are currently considering offering this service on the Countryside Agency website. We will keep you posted on any future developments.

## Cumbria Rural Forum

### Planning to get Involved?

If planning issues are, or are likely to be, important in your action plan you may be interested in the next Rural Forum event on 26 January. Each Forum meeting looks at a different subject area and in January we will be looking at the planning system. In particular we will be looking at how the system is changing, how you can get involved in shaping it in the future and the processes available for you to either support or object to planning proposals in your area.

The meeting is being held at The Lake District National Park Authority's headquarters in Kendal and the LDNPA's community development team will be running the event for us, which should be practical and fun as well as informative! It doesn't matter if the National Park Authority isn't *your* planning authority as everything you learn on the day will be applicable to other areas of the County.

Cumbria Rural Forum brings people together with an interest in rural issues. It provides a chance to share ideas, influence opinion and learn about new initiatives and solutions to some of the problems which rural communities face.

The Forum is coordinated by Voluntary Action Cumbria, with funding from Cumbria County Council and the Countryside Agency. Membership is free and there are usually four Forum events per year at venues around the County.

Over the years the Forum has been involved in many projects and events including: the development of the Rural Stress Initiative which became the Cumbria Rural Stress Information Network and was invaluable during the Foot and Mouth crisis in Cumbria, a pilot project surveying Village Greens which is now being developed into a county-wide project to support village greens and co-ordinating a rural crime survey which reviewed of Crime Prevention Schemes particularly for isolated houses.

If you would like to come along to the meeting on 26 January or join Cumbria Rural Forum and receive information about Forum events, please contact Jean McCrum at Voluntary Action Cumbria on tel: 01768 242130 or email: [jeanmccrum@ruralcumbria.org.uk](mailto:jeanmccrum@ruralcumbria.org.uk)

# Parish Plans - after Vital Villages

As you are probably aware, the Vital Villages programme closed for new applications on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2004. Whilst this means that the scheme as it stood no longer runs, Voluntary Action Cumbria will still support Parishes wanting to produce a Parish Plan.

We have identified alternative sources of funding for producing and implementing Parish Plans, and will continue to work with you at any and every step along the way.

If you would like to discuss Parish Plans in any way, please contact the Rural Development Officer for your district.

## The Who's Who of Parish Plans

Here is the list of Parishes that are currently undertaking or have completed a Parish Plan.

### Parishes currently undertaking Parish Plans

Arlecdon & Frizington	Beetham	Blennerhasset & Torpenhow	Borrowdale
Bowness-on-Solway	Brampton	Burtholme	Caldbeck
Castle Carrock	Cleator Moor	Dalston	Distington
Ennerdale & Kinniside	Farlam	Greysouthern	Haile & Wilton
Hayton	Holme St Cuthbert	Hugill	Irthington
Nether Staveley & Over Staveley		Kirkbride	Lakes
Lazonby	Little Clifton	Lowick	Natland
Nether Denton	Orton	Shap & Shap Rural	St Bees
Stanwix Rural	Staveley & Ings	Tebay	Upper Denton
Urswick	Wasdale	Weddicar	Wetheral.

### Parishes that have completed Parish Plans

Allhallows	Alston Moor	Arnside	Askam & Ireleth	Bampton	Bothel & Threpland
Bridekirk	Brigham	Broughton	Burgh-by-Sands	Burneside	Burton-in-Kendal
Casterton	Colton	Coniston	Culgaith	Cumwhitton	Dearham
Duddon	Gilcrux	Holme	Kirkby Stephen	Lamplugh	Lowca, Moresby & Parton
Maryport	Meathorp & Ulpha		Plumbland	Segwick	Stainton
Threlkeld	Thursby	Wabberthwaite		Witherslack	

**Sharing skills and knowledge is important, and is something that Voluntary Action Cumbria encourages all Parishes involved in the process to do. If you see a nearby parish, or one that is similar to yours on this list, do get in touch, but remember that all communities are unique and that a process that worked in one community might not always work in another.**

Useful contacts at  
**Voluntary Action Cumbria**

**Rural Development Officers**

(Direct line with voicemail when unavailable)

Anna Scamans                      01768-869529            (Carlisle & Eden)  
annascamans@ruralcumbria.org.uk

Julia Wilson                      01768-869524            (South Lakeland and Furness)  
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Sarah Mitchell                    01768-869520            (Copeland & Allerdale)  
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**Rural Support Officer**

Carl Glynn                      01768-869525  
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**Funding Advice Service**

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Available Monday - Thursday 9am - 1pm

**Team Manager**

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**What is Voluntary Action Cumbria?**

Voluntary Action Cumbria is the Rural Community Council for the County of Cumbria. It is a registered charity (No 1080875) responsible for the delivery of a wide range of advice, information and support services to rural communities. It was established 54 years ago and is part of a national network of Rural Community Councils across rural England.

Voluntary Action Cumbria's statement of purpose is:

- To promote, in co-operation with statutory authorities, voluntary organisations and where appropriate, private enterprise a complete range of services, particularly in rural areas.
- To enable local communities to develop new initiatives in response to social and economic change.
- To develop policies which favour disadvantaged groups in rural areas.
- To promote voluntary service for any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community
- To organise VAC efficiently and cost effectively.