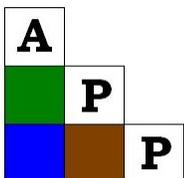
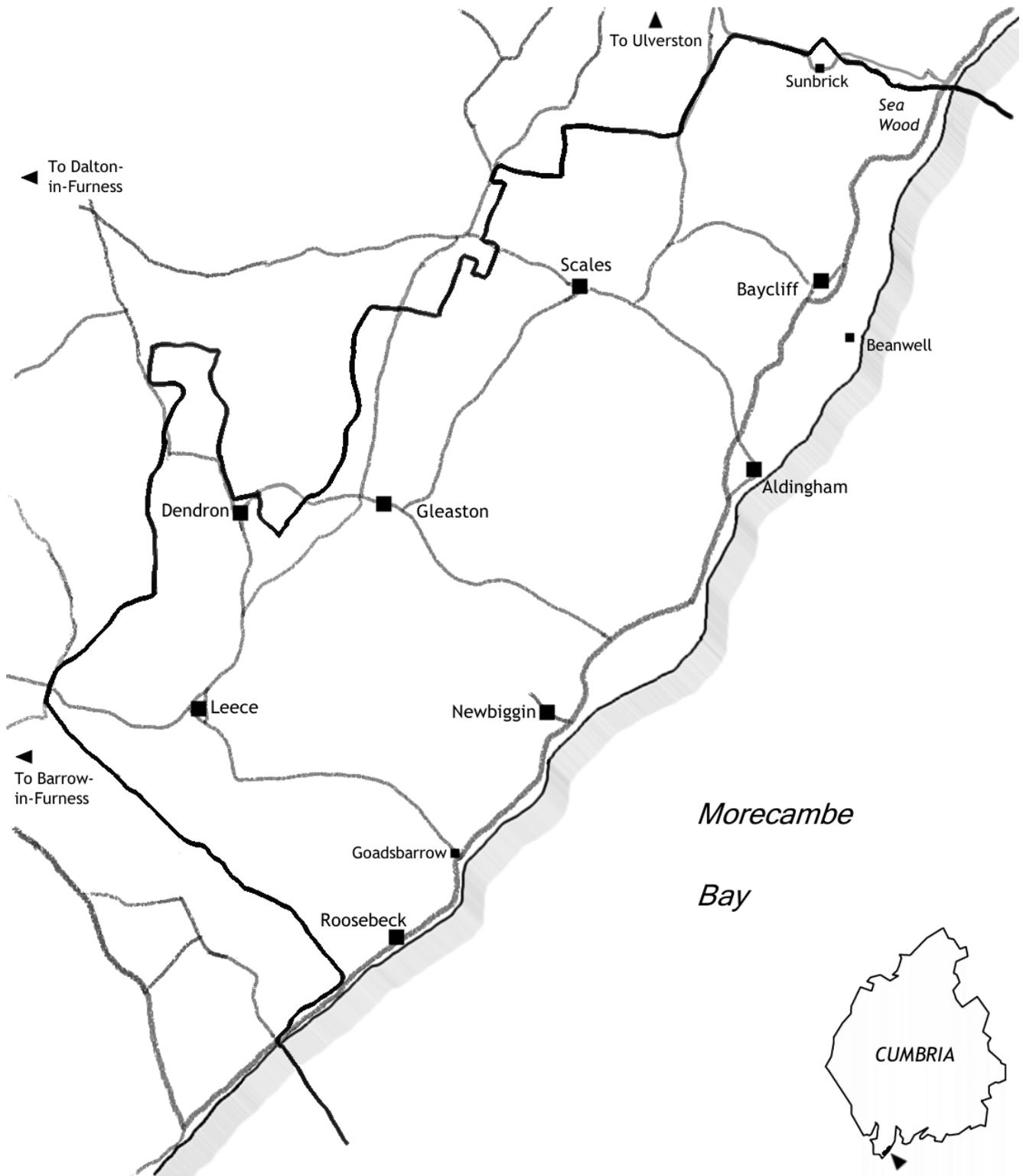


# Aldingham Parish Plan



2010 – 2015

aldingham  
parish council



*Aldingham Civil Parish*

based on Ordnance Survey Series M726, Sheet 96

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### **Thanks to:**

Julia Wilson of Action with Communities in Cumbria

All residents who volunteered to help with the plan and took part in the public consultation

# 1. Introduction

The civil parish of Aldingham is a rural parish situated on the western edge of Morecambe Bay, a short distance from the towns of Ulverston, Dalton and Barrow-in-Furness. The parish is about 18 km<sup>2</sup> (7 sq mi.) in area and has eight villages - Aldingham, Baycliff, Dendron, Gleaston, Leece, Newbiggin, Roosebeck and Scales - with a number of outlying hamlets such as Sunbrick, Goadsbarrow and Beanwell.

The parish consists of two electoral wards: Aldingham North (Baycliff, Aldingham, Scales) and Aldingham South (Gleaston, Leece, Dendron, Newbiggin, Roosebeck). It forms part of the South Lakeland Administrative District and the Barrow and Furness Parliamentary Constituency in South Cumbria.

In 2001 the parish had 468 households and a population of 1,187 people<sup>1</sup>. The average age of almost 45 years is higher than the national average for England (38.6). Around 60% of residents age 16-74 were employed at the time of the census, with the highest areas of employment being service industries, managerial & professional, extractive & manufacturing industries, and small businesses. With an average of 15.5 km (9 mi.) travelled to work, the majority of residents must work outside the parish. Around 36% of residents were classified as economically inactive, but less than 2% of those able to work were unemployed.

## 1.1. A Brief History

For a relatively small and isolated place, there is a remarkable breadth of history within the parish, dating back around 13,000 years. Some of the earliest evidence for human occupation in Cumbria has been found here, with bone and flint fragments found near Scales being thought to date to before the last ice age.

Prehistoric artefacts have been found across the parish, from Langdale stone axes in Leece to a bronze axe and dagger found at Gleaston. The area was obviously well populated by the Bronze Age, when the stone circle at Sunbrick (often called the *Druids' Circle*) was built, and further evidence for ancient activity can be seen in the numerous burial mounds around the parish and Iron Age settlements on Scales Hags.

Until the 7<sup>th</sup> century the population spoke a language similar to Welsh, which can still be glimpsed in place names like Leece and Roosebeck. But the influence of the English brought new ways of doing things - with villages being built around a village green and given names like Aldingham, Gleaston and Dendron. Just a few centuries later the arrival of Norse settlers from Ireland, Scotland and Mann brought further change and gave the area a distinctive character which can still be seen today in place names like Scales and Sunbrick, and in the local



ALDINGHAM MOTTE overlooking Morecambe Bay, the original home of the Lords of Aldingham

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics from the 2001 census obtained from <http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk>, January 2010



ST CUTHBERTS, ALDINGHAM, was built in 1148 but probably stands on a much older sacred site.

By the 12<sup>th</sup> century Roger de Poitou's lands had been confiscated and the parishes of Aldingham and Urswick were passed to one Michael le Fleming under the title Manor of Aldingham, later called Muchland meaning 'Michael's Land'. Michael and his descendants lived at Aldingham and the remains of their moated manor house can still be seen along with their original motte and bailey castle south of the village. They were also responsible for beginning the construction of the present St Cuthbert's church on the site of an older religious spot.

In the 14<sup>th</sup> century the Lords of Aldingham built Gleaston Castle, where they lived for little over a century before moving south and placing the manor in the hands of a local steward. By the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century the manor had fallen to the Crown, who still own a significant amount of land here, and the manorial courts were held at Sea Wood Farm into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



GLEASTON CASTLE, the 14<sup>th</sup> century home of the Lords of Aldingham was abandoned in 1459

The early Quaker movement has close connections with the parish. George Fox preached at several places in the parish in the 1650s, including the newly built Dendron Church, and Margaret Fell, a leading early figure in the Friends movement, is buried in the Quaker Burial Ground in Sunbrick.



LIME KILN, BAYCLIFF HAGGS is one of several in the parish - an important relic of our rural past

In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Aldingham was one of the few parishes in Furness to escape the booming iron industry unscathed. Early cartloads of ore were brought through to be shipped to Backbarrow from moorings at Beanwell, but there was little other involvement with iron. Instead, the area provided limestone for building and became an important food growing area, supplying the new industrial towns of Lancashire with bread and, more importantly, beer. Barley grown in the fields was processed into malt in

dialect.

Following the Norman Conquest, Furness was granted to a Frenchman named Roger de Poitou along with much of what would later become Lancashire. Roger ruled his lands from Lancaster, establishing his administrative base on this side of the bay at Aldingham; already a place of some local significance. In the Domesday Book of 1086 Aldingham is mentioned as a separate manor; Dendron belonged to Ulverston whilst the remaining villages of Gleaston, Leece and Sunbrick are listed under the much larger manor of Hougoun which encompasses the rest of Furness.

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kilns at Scales, Gleaston and Newbiggin before being sent across the bay for brewing. The number of kilns in the area and the size of the kiln in Scales is a testament to the scale of the industry in this area.

At this time the villages in the parish were thriving, with pubs and beerhouses, post offices, shops and craftsmen such as blacksmiths, wheelwrights, shoemakers and stonemasons. Alongside the parish churches at Aldingham and Dendron, new chapels were founded for the Methodists at Leece, Congregationalists at Gleaston and Wesleyans at Roosebeck. New schools were also established at Scales and Dendron.



GLEASTON WATERMILL, an 18<sup>th</sup> century corn mill, was one of three mills in the parish and is now a tourist attraction



ST MATTHEWS CHURCH, DENDRON is one of two churches in the parish. It was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and preached at by George Fox, the founder of the Quaker movement.

30s. Built partly as a public works scheme for the unemployed, the road provided a direct link between Ulverston and Barrow and vastly improved the links between the coastal villages. It also brought about the growth of Roosebeck, previously just a scattering of farms, as houses were built to take advantage of the panoramas across Morecambe Bay.

Today, despite the changes, the area still remains a rural parish and each of our villages retains a unique character. Nor has the sense of community been lost, with residents continuing to work together to maintain and improve their villages and take part in a wide variety of local events.

It was farming area, however: 46 farmers were recorded in the parish in 1829 and there were several farms in every village.

Like many rural areas in Britain, the 20<sup>th</sup> century brought huge changes. A decline in rural businesses was followed by an increase in population, and many of the former pubs, shops, post offices, police stations and farms were closed and converted into houses. Residents commuted to the local towns or further afield for work and the closure of Scales and Dendron schools in 1994 saw the end of primary education in the parish.

One of the biggest changes was the creation of the A5087 Coast Road in the 1920s and



SHELTER, SCALES. This unusual structure is one of several listed buildings in the parish

## 2. What is the Parish Plan?

In 2000 the Government issued a Rural White Paper setting out their agenda for the countryside and encouraging local communities to take more control of the development of their own parish.

Parish Plans are a way for local people to express how they would like their community to develop in the future and the idea is that Plans, such as this one, will help communities have a greater say in their own affairs. They are intended to help parish residents identify local issues that are important to them and set down their vision for the future of their parish.

To be effective a Parish Plan needs to represent the views of as many people in the community as possible. It should be prepared by the local community in partnership with the Parish Council and residents should feel a sense of ownership for the aims and objectives of the plan.

A Parish Plan can cover everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the parish, from social housing to places for children to play. It should address the needs of the local community including local businesses and usually spans a period of five years.

### 2.1. Aims

From the outset, the creation of the plan is intended to achieve a number of aims:

- To gain input from the community regarding its needs and concerns
- To inform other decision-making bodies of those needs and concerns
- To focus future work in the community
- To inform the public about the services available and the nature of local government
- To act as a foundation for future grants and funding

### 2.2. How the Plan Was Created

The Parish Plan was instigated by the Parish Council and created by the Parish Plan Committee, a group of volunteers from within the parish, with additional help from a number of other residents. The body of the Plan, however, has been created with input from a large section of the parish's population.

Work on the Plan began in October 2008 when the Parish Council held a public meeting, inviting all residents of the parish to attend, along with the County and District Councillors and members of other organisations involved in the parish. The meeting was well attended and brought to the fore at an early stage some of the major issues affecting residents.

Following this a period of public consultation was held, culminating in the Parish Plan Questionnaire carried out in March 2009. The results of this public consultation form the backbone of the Plan and can be viewed in detail in a separate document entitled 'Aldingham Parish Plan: Public Consultation Report' available from the Parish Council.

Each of the chapters in the Plan covers a topic identified as a main concern during the public consultation. The 'Actions' in each section have been agreed by the Parish Council as positive steps to tackle each of the specific issues raised by the public.

## 3. The Plan and Local Government

### 3.1. Local Government in Cumbria

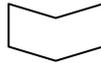
There are three tiers of government within Cumbria, which sit beneath national and regional government, starting with Parish Councils at the lowest level, then the District Council and County Council. Each of the tiers has a different role to play, but all three work closely together to ensure services are maintained on the ground.

#### CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL

Based in Carlisle, has one representative from Low Furness

Highways  
Education  
Social Services

Consumer Protection  
Libraries  
Fire Services

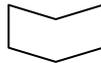


#### SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

Based in Kendal, has one representative from Low Furness

Housing and Planning  
Environmental Health  
Recreation and Tourism

Refuse Collection  
Street Cleaning  
Licensing



#### ALDINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Based in the parish, consisting of volunteers from the community

Liaise with other authorities  
Lobby for action  
Comment on planning applications

Represent residents to other bodies  
Maintain playgrounds  
Grass care

#### 3.1.1. Local Area Partnerships (L.A.P.s)

South Lakeland District Council is currently trialling a scheme to create Local Area Partnerships - an informal level of government which sits between District and Parish levels. The purpose of the partnerships is to give parishes a greater say in how resources are handled within the area and to improve communications between the various levels of local government. Aldingham is part of the Low Furness and Ulverston L.A.P. along with Urswick, Pennington and Ulverston Parish and Town Councils.

### 3.2. How the Parish Plan Can Influence Local Government

Local Authorities are required to produce a Sustainable Community Strategy to ensure all appropriate agencies work together to improve the quality of life. It is intended to be a single strategy within which all other strategies fit, with local people at the centre. It should provide for joined up working and effective community involvement.

The South Lakeland Sustainable Community Strategy, 2008-2028, recognises the value of Parish Plans and acknowledges their importance as a source of information.

The national system for producing planning policy documents has changed. The 'old' development plan system of a County Structure and District-wide Local Plan has been replaced by a new system comprising a Regional Spatial Strategy and a Local Development Framework, which is a portfolio of spatial planning documents prepared by the Local Planning Authority.

Spatial planning aims to go beyond traditional land use planning to bring together and integrate policies for the development and use of land with other policies and programmes which influence the nature of places and how they function.

The Local Development Framework (LDF) is a portfolio of documents which set out the Local Authority's spatial planning policies for the District and will include a Core Strategy, setting out the Council's overall approach to new development, a Site Allocation document and a Development Control Policies document, amongst others.

More details relating to the South Lakeland District Council's Local Development Framework can be obtained via their website [www.southlakeland.gov.uk](http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk). In preparing these documents the District Council will have regard to all relevant Parish Plans.

## 4. Community Facilities

### 4.1. Current Situation

Within Aldingham Parish there are a number of facilities for the community such as playgrounds, village halls and greens provided either by the residents of the parish or by the Parish Council. There are also two Anglican churches, at Aldingham and Dendron. These are all valuable facilities, providing meeting places and safe environments for residents and encouraging non-residents to visit the community.

The public toilets at Aldingham, which are currently run and funded by SLDC, provide an important facility for visitors and locals visiting the church or the beach, for walkers on the Cumbria Coastal Way and for motorists on the A5087 Coast Road.

A number of private businesses also provide meeting places and other facilities: pubs at Leece and Baycliff, a tearoom at Gleaston and a small post office at Baycliff. There are also a number of specialised shops at Leece, Newbiggin, Gleaston and Baycliff.



Baycliff Playground

### 4.2. Who is Responsible?

#### Baycliff

- the playground is held in trust by the Parish Council but is provided and maintained by the Baycliff Community Association.
- the greens belong to the Parish Council but are maintained by members of the community.

#### Dendron

- the Sunday School belongs to Dendron Church and is maintained by the Church.

#### Gleaston

- the playground, village hall and green all belong to the residents of the village and are provided and maintained by the Gleaston Village Hall and Green Committee.

#### Leece

- the playground belongs to the Parish Council and is provided and maintained by the residents.

- Leece village hall belongs to the residents of the village and is cared for by them.
- The green surrounding Leece Tarn belongs to the Parish Council and is maintained on their behalf by H. Armer and Son.

#### Newbiggin

- The greens are maintained by the residents.

#### Scales

- the playground and greens belong to the Parish Council but are maintained by the villagers.
- Aldingham Parish Hall (The Malt Kiln) in Scales belongs to the Church of England but is cared for by the Parish Hall Committee.

All the playgrounds in the parish are inspected weekly by residents and undergo a full annual inspection by SLDC to ensure that they remain safe and conform to legal requirements.

#### 4.3. Response from the Parish

In the survey almost 60% of respondents said that village halls in the parish were 'good' or 'very good' and just under a quarter rated them 'Okay'. Comments focussed on the varying quality of the facilities, in particular Leece Village Hall's need for attention and the lack of facilities in some villages.

Playgrounds were rated 'good' or 'very good' by around 55% of respondents and as 'okay' by around a quarter. There were few detailed comments made, although some respondents suggested that some improvements needed to be made to the facilities.

#### 4.4. Actions

- **Leece Village Hall:** the findings of the questionnaire will be passed to Leece residents for their information. Support and guidance will be offered by the Parish Council if required.

#### 4.5. What Can You Do?

- Use the facilities available.
- Get involved with community groups in your village. Information about local groups is often posted on noticeboards or included in newsletters in your village.
- Go along to fundraising events.
- Report any problems with facilities to your community group or the Parish Council.

## 5. The Community

### 5.1. Current Situation

The parish has seen many changes in the past few decades with an increase in housing and a decline in rural industries, but it still retains a strong local and working rural identity. The sense of community has also remained within our parish, shown by the way residents come together to care for and maintain common property.

Aldingham also remains a safe place to live and crime figures for the area remain consistently low. We currently have a dedicated Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who is regularly seen in the parish, including at Parish Council meetings, and can be approached for advice or assistance on a number of issues.

*People are friendly. We have a community of fellow residents to be grateful for.*

- Questionnaire respondent

### 5.2. Who is Responsible?

The main responsibility for ensuring a community is close-knit and active has to lie with the residents. It is up to the individual to become involved with his or her community, getting to know the neighbours and becoming involved in community events.

The Police and PCSO work closely with the Parish Council and other organisations in the area to keep the area as safe and pleasant as possible.

Age Concern offer free advice and support to residents over 50 and are currently piloting a 'Rural Agent' scheme to engage more actively with the local people.

*Gentle buzz of a community at work and play - don't want silence...*

- Questionnaire respondent

### 5.3. Response from the Parish

A very positive response regarding life in the parish was received from the questionnaires, with almost half of respondents saying the rural location is the most important aspect about living in the area and a third saying that it is the community itself.

When asked about the worst aspects of living in the parish, around a third gave no response, suggesting that they couldn't think of any negative aspects to life in the parish. Roads and local facilities each received around one fifth of the total.

When respondents were asked whether they would be interested in taking part in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in their village, over half said 'yes', with numbers varying in each village.

*[I value] the peace & quiet & people knowing each other, & prepared to help if needed. Working together to make it a good place to live.*

- Questionnaire respondent

#### 5.4. Actions

- **Neighbourhood Watch:** the police are currently working with the Parish Council and local residents to get Neighbourhood Watch schemes up-and-running. Contact the Parish Council or local police for more information.
- **Voice Action:** a new scheme intended as an 'early warning system'. Information regarding crimes or disturbances in the immediate area is passed to a few residents who then pass it on to neighbours. The scheme is low-involvement with only a few messages a year. Anyone interested should contact the Police or Parish Council for more information.
- **Farm Watch:** intended for farms and rural businesses, this is a county-wide initiative which informs participants about rural crimes or suspicious events. A number of other crime-prevention schemes are available to farmers and similar businesses; contact the local police to find out more.

*Fun and lots of space. I love all of it.*

- Under 16s Questionnaire respondent

#### 5.5. What Can You Do?

- Join your local Neighbourhood Watch or sign up to Voice Action or Farm Watch by contacting the Police or Parish Council.
- Get to know your neighbours and bear in mind vulnerable members of the community may need your help.
- Report anything suspicious to the Police.

Details of how to contact the Police and Parish Council are on the back of this plan. Further details are available at [www.aldingham.org.uk](http://www.aldingham.org.uk).

## 6. Roads and Transport

### 6.1. Current Situation

Roads are vital to all of us, not only for getting to school, work or into town, but for maintaining businesses within the parish and allowing emergency services to reach us when necessary.

The only classified road in the parish is the A5087 Coast Road, which forms a backbone to the other roads in the area. The Coast Road is not only an important route to residents but also provides the only other major route into and out of Barrow-in-Furness besides the A590; in the case of a major emergency, it would provide an essential evacuation route from the south of the peninsula. The No 11 bus service connects Barrow and Ulverston via the Coast Road.

The other major routes through the parish include (see also map on page 17):

- the Scales road, which provides the most direct link from the Coast Road at Aldingham to Dalton and Furness General Hospital.
- Ulverston Road, which passes through Gleaston and Leece, providing a link to Barrow-in-Furness.
- the Birkrigg road, which provides a direct link north to Ulverston and beyond.

The No 10 bus service runs along these roads connecting Scales, Gleaston and Leece with Barrow, Stainton, Urswick and Ulverston.

### 6.2. Who is Responsible?

All the public roads within the parish are the responsibility of Cumbria County Council in cooperation with the contractors Capita Symonds and Amey. Together they are responsible for repairing and maintaining roads, maintaining drainage systems, setting speed limits and gritting roads in icy weather. The County Council is also responsible for providing public transport services in conjunction with Stagecoach Cumberland.

The County Council provides each area with a Highways Steward, who cooperates with the Parish Council to tackle small problems on the highways such as unblocking drain covers, ensuring road signs are visible and clearing leaves on pavements.

Issues such as street cleaning, fly tipping and abandoned vehicles are dealt with by SLDC.

### 6.3. Response from the Parish

Roads received one of the highest rates of response in our questionnaire, unfortunately it was not very positive. Road surface maintenance was generally regarded poorly, with over 80% of respondents rating it 'poor' or 'very poor'. Verge maintenance was rated 'poor' or 'very poor' by around two thirds, and 'OK' by the final third. Around half of respondents deemed road markings 'OK' with another 40% rating them 'poor' or 'very poor'. Signage fared a little better with over half rating it 'OK'.

The comments received focussed on the general poor state of the roads, in particular the quality of the road surfaces, and Riddings Lane was singled out as a particularly bad example. A lack of maintenance and investment were blamed and the lack of drain and verge maintenance alongside verge erosion were highlighted as major factors in road flooding. Overhanging hedges, dirt on the roads and road cleaning, and parking were also

identified as significant issues. A number of Roosebeck residents also commented on the lack of place name signs in their village.

Speeding was another issue which received a high response in the questionnaire. Almost 60% of respondents suggested that the speed limits within the parish are appropriate, however many of the comments suggested that there was a perception that drivers were not abiding by them and that there may be a problem of enforcement.

#### 6.4. Actions

- **Highways Monitoring Scheme:** the Parish Council is setting up a scheme to report and monitor problems on our highways, from potholes to major floods. They will monitor problems, prioritise them and deal with them appropriately through the Highways Authority, Highways Steward and Parish Steward.
- **Parish Steward:** the Parish Council will look to employ someone to tackle smaller problems more quickly than other bodies are able, in an attempt to prevent major problems later.
- **Priority Routes:** the main routes through the parish (highlighted above, section 6.1; see also Floods Map, p17) will be designated Priority Routes by the Parish Council and will receive higher priority for maintenance.
- **Riddings Lane:** attempts are already underway to get Riddings Lane properly repaired. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the issue and work with the Highways Authority.
- **Roosebeck Place Name Signs:** a request has already been placed with Cumbria County Council and permission for new signs has been granted. The Parish Council are awaiting further information. Alternatives will be sought if the County Council are unable to provide the signs.
- **Highways Hotline:** the Parish Council will encourage the use of the Highways Hotline by residents.
- **Speeding:** the Parish Council will continue to work with the police to monitor speeding and work towards identifying and tackling problem areas. The concerns raised in the public consultation will be passed on to the police.

#### 6.5. What Can You Do?

- Report problems on the highways as soon as possible. See below for details of how.

##### Reporting Problems on Highways

- Call the Highways Hotline (0845 609 6609) to report a problem direct
- Visit [www.cumbriacc.gov.uk](http://www.cumbriacc.gov.uk) and go to the Transport section to report a fault online
- Contact the Parish Council via the clerk or your local councillor (see back of plan for details)
- Visit the highways page on our website [www.aldingham.org.uk](http://www.aldingham.org.uk) for more information

## 7. Public Rights of Way

### 7.1. Current Situation

Public Rights of Way are routes that are open to members of the public for walking, cycling, horse riding and, in some cases, driving. They are usually marked by signposts at the start and will often have directional markers along the route.

Aldingham has 32.76km of Public Rights of Way, some of which form part of the Cumbria Coastal Way and Cistercian Way long distance routes. There are three categories of Public Right of Way:

- **Public Footpaths**, which are open to the public on foot only and are marked with yellow arrows. Aldingham Parish has 28.05km of public footpath.
- **Public Bridleways**, which are footpaths marked by blue arrows where access for horses and cycles is also permitted. Access to motor vehicles is only permitted for access to land. There are 3.47km of bridleway in the parish.
- **Public Byways**, where access to walkers, cyclists, horses and vehicles is allowed. There is only 1.24km of byway in Aldingham Parish, marked by red arrows.

### 7.2. Who is Responsible?

Most Public Rights of Way cross private land such as fields, fells or woodland and ownership of these lies with the landowner. However, responsibility for their maintenance and repair lies with Cumbria County Council who is the Highways Authority for this area. Any problems regarding footpaths can be reported directly to the Highways Hotline (see p12 for details).

### 7.3. Response from the Parish

The parish questionnaire revealed that most respondents felt, in general, that the parish's footpaths and bridleways were 'OK', and when asked to comment on community facilities most of the responses received concerned footpaths. Many of these comments highlighted maintenance issues such as clearance or muddy spots and a number of respondents commented that our footpaths are being neglected. Access and inadequate signage were also put forward as significant issues.

### 7.4. Actions

The Parish Council recognises the importance of Public Rights of Way within Aldingham and acknowledges the high regard the residents of the parish have for this facility. They are committed to protecting these important assets and improving them where possible. The following actions have been identified to help achieve this:

- **Parish Paths Group**: the Parish Council will initiate a local group of volunteers to help monitor and maintain footpaths in the parish. The group will include local walkers who use the paths regularly and provide a formal means for them to report and monitor problems.
- **Parish Paths Initiative**: this is a Cumbria County Council initiative which offers advice and grants to help maintain the footpath network in Cumbria. The Parish Council and Paths Group will work with them to improve local public rights of way.

- **Waymarkers:** in response to issues regarding inadequate signage, new waymarkers will be provided by the Parish Council and will be placed on appropriate routes by the Parish Paths Group.
- The parish's rights of way are scheduled to be surveyed by Cumbria County Council's Countryside Access Team in 2010 and repairs to signs, stiles, gates, bridges will be carried out where necessary.

## 7.5. What Can You Do?

- Report problems with public rights of way to the Parish Council. See the back of this plan for details of how.
- Use public footpaths responsibly and be aware of the Countryside Code.

### The Countryside Code - Tips for the Public

- *Be Safe, Plan Ahead and Follow Any Signs* - use reliable maps and guidebooks, know where you can go, take appropriate equipment and clothing and check the weather beforehand.
- *Leave Gates and Property as You Find Them* - avoid walking on crops, use gates/stiles wherever possible, leave machinery and livestock alone, and report signs you think may be misleading or illegal to the Parish Council.
- *Protect Plants & Animals and Take Your Litter Home* - take all litter and food waste with you, don't disturb natural features such as rocks or plants, avoid disturbing wild or farm animals, avoid the risk of fire.
- *Keep Dogs Under Close Control* - dogs must, by law, be kept on a short lead between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> July on open or common land and at all times near farm animals. Don't allow your dog to disturb wild or farm animals and clean up any mess your dog leaves.
- *Consider Other People* - don't block gateways or driveways with vehicles, keep out of the way when farmers are moving stock, respect other walkers, cyclists and horse-riders.

### Tips for Landowners

- *Know Your Rights, Responsibilities and Liabilities* - be aware of rights of way on your land, don't obstruct rights of way or discourage the public with misleading signs, get to know the laws regarding dogs and trespassing.
- *Help Visitors Act Responsibly* - make sure rights of way remain clearly marked and easy to access, give clear and polite guidance where it is needed, clear away farm rubbish to discourage others from littering.
- *Identify Possible Threats to Safety* - occupiers have a duty of care to protect those who have access to their land, so make sure hazards are clearly signed and don't let dangerous animals roam freely where the public has access.

*More information is available from Natural England (see back of Plan for details)*

## 8. Flooding and Coastal Erosion

### 8.1. Current Situation

The Parish Council believe flooding and coastal erosion are two of the most serious issues affecting the parish today and, as with many other parts of the UK, the problems have got worse in recent years. The response from the public consultation suggests that it is of similarly high concern to residents within the parish.

A new Shoreline Management Plan is being produced for 2010<sup>1</sup> detailing the most effective ways to manage the coast from the Solway Firth to Great Orme's Head in Wales for the next 100 years. The draft plan sets out the following recommendations for Aldingham Parish:

- **Bardsea to Newbiggin:** NO ACTIVE INTERVENTION (0-100 years) - natural erosion will be allowed to occur. Localised defences may be permitted to protect isolated properties, but major defences cannot be economically justified.
- **Newbiggin to Rampside:** HOLD THE LINE (0-20 years) - the Coast Road will be protected; the possibility of realigning the road and providing further defences will be investigated. MANAGED REALIGNMENT (20-50 years) - the outcome of studies will determine how the Coast Road is protected in future. The road may be re-routed or defences built. HOLD THE LINE (50-100 years) - protection of the Coast Road will continue and existing defences maintained.

### 8.2. Who is Responsible?

Working to prevent flooding involves a wide range of authorities and individuals and requires a great deal of cooperation.

It is the responsibility of Cumbria County Council to ensure that highways remain flood-free by maintaining gullies and verges. SLDC are responsible for road sweeping, which should prevent a build up of materials in drains and gullies.

Landowners also have a part to play, by working to prevent run-off from fields or gardens which causes the majority of flooding on our roads. The Parish Council, for example, is responsible for preventing Leece Tarn flooding the road.



Flooding at Scales, 2001

Coastal management is the responsibility of the North West England and North Wales Coastal Group, a partnership of local authorities and other groups such as Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agencies.

### 8.3. Response from the Parish

About one third of the people in the parish who completed and returned the questionnaire said they'd experienced flooding in the past two years, with the highest numbers of these

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<sup>1</sup> Produced by the North West England and North Wales Coastal Group

respondents in Gleaston, Dendron and Newbiggin. Improving drainage was seen as the best solution for resolving the problems of flooding.

Respondents identified the following as the worst affected areas in the parish, with the number of comments received for each area in brackets:

1. Between Gleaston & Leece (18)
2. Old Holbeck (Stank Crossroads) (15)
3. Leece & Leece Tarn (15)
4. Gleaston (13)
5. Newbiggin (12)
6. Dendron (11)
7. Malt Kiln, Scales (8)
8. Aldingham (8)
9. Roosebeck (7)
10. Coast Road at Newbiggin (6)
11. Between Gleaston & Dendron (6)

There were also a number of nominations for the Coast Road (14) and 'the lanes' (5) with no further specification.

Over two-thirds of respondents said they were 'quite concerned' or 'very concerned' about the issue of coastal erosion. Improved or increased defences, such as rock armour and breakwaters, in conjunction with planning and investment were seen as the main ways to tackle this situation. A number of respondents said nothing could or should be done to prevent coastal erosion.

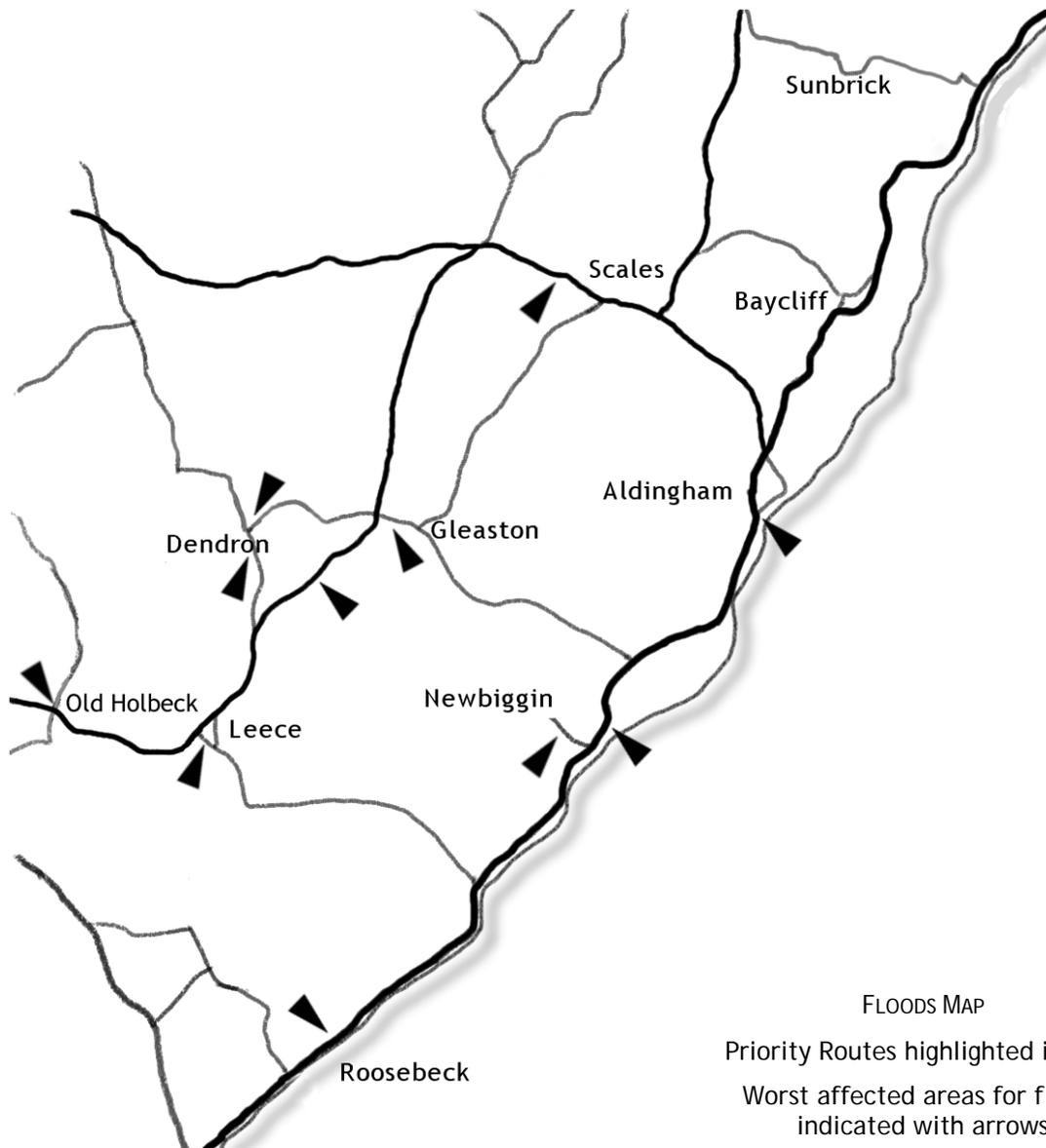
#### 8.4. Actions

- **Community Flood Plans:** the Parish Council will encourage and oversee the formation of localised flood plans in each of the affected villages via village committees and residents. Strategies will include:
  - **Flood Watch Teams:** small voluntary groups to monitor local conditions, identify problem areas and act as an early warning system for residents.
  - **Emergency Action Teams:** volunteers from the community who will coordinate a response when floods strike, helping distribute sandbags, divert traffic and aid vulnerable residents.
  - **Identifying Vulnerable Residents:** elderly or infirm residents and families with young children who live in flood-prone areas will be identified in advance so that additional help can be provided in the case of an emergency.
  - **Identifying Local Resources:** residents with useful equipment such as towing facilities, pumps, boats, generators etc., or storage space for sandbags or other equipment will be requested to come forward.
- **Flood Protection Equipment:** the Parish Council will supply emergency sandbags and other equipment in the worst affected areas.
- **Priority Routes:** important routes through the parish will be prioritised for maintenance by the Parish Council, to help ensure emergency services can reach people in floods.

- **Parish Steward:** a Parish Steward will be employed by the Parish Council to help keep drains and culverts clear.

### 8.5. What Can You Do?

- Volunteer for a Flood Watch Team or Emergency Action Team in your village. Contact the Parish Council or look out for more details in your village.
- Report blocked drains to the Highways Hotline or Parish Council as soon as possible (see the back of this plan for contact details).
- Be prepared! Make sure you know what to do in the event of a flood and be aware of the warning signs. See below for more details.



## Be Prepared for Flooding

Flooding can't always be prevented, but good preparation can reduce the risk to your property. Make sure you know in advance what to do if a flood strikes. The following points may help you.

Things you can do now:

1. *Know the risk* - how likely is it that your property will flood based on its location and history? Speak to neighbours or your Parish Councillor if you're unsure.
2. *Check your insurance* - does your policy cover flood damage?
3. *Keep valuables above flood level* - make sure important documents or personal items such as photographs are kept away from flood risk, or can be easily moved.
4. *Know who to call* - make sure you have important numbers to hand including the Floodline, your water, telephone, electricity and gas providers, and insurance company.
5. *Know your home* - make sure you know in advance how to turn off the water, gas and electricity supplies to your home.
6. *Know the warning signs* - check the weather regularly and know the tides. Keep an eye on water levels around your home during heavy rain.
7. *Consider purchasing flood protection equipment* - plastic covers for airbricks, sandbags and flood boards can all be purchased to provide some protection against flooding. Sandbags can also be made at home from pillow cases or plastic bags filled with earth or sand.

Things to do when floods threaten:

1. *Move what you can above flood level* - try to move as much furniture and possessions above the expected flood level, move your car to higher ground and try to ensure outdoor pets or livestock have somewhere to go.
2. *Make a flood kit* - have a torch with spare batteries, a first-aid kit, warm and waterproof clothes and wellingtons handy.
3. *Switch off supplies to your home* - if flood water reaches your home, switch off electricity, gas and water supplies.
4. *Help friends and neighbours* - try to help other members of the community take action. Offer to help move furniture or put flood protection measures in place and check that vulnerable members of the community are safe.

For more information contact the Environment Agency on 08708 506 506, [enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk), [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk).

Floodline: 0845 988 1188

Further information about floods in the parish can be found on our website: [www.alddingham.org.uk](http://www.alddingham.org.uk).

## 9. The Environment

### 9.1. Current Situation

Aldingham Parish has a variety of natural and man-made environments, with the shores and mud-flats of Morecambe Bay to the east, the higher ground with its limestone outcrops to the north and prime agricultural land to the south and west. A short distance from the towns of Barrow-in-Furness and Ulverston, it is also within half an hour's drive of the Lake District.

Morecambe Bay is a workplace for local fisherman who catch mussels and the famous Morecambe Bay shrimps, and its shores are used by locals and tourists alike for walking and picnicking. The bay is a European Natura 2000 site<sup>1</sup>, valued for its unique environment which is home to large populations of sea birds. Three sites along our shore, between Aldingham and Goadsbarrow, have been designated as specifically important due to the large numbers of birds that roost there. Mere Tarn near Scales also provides a habitat for birds and other fresh water creatures.

In the north of the parish is Sea Wood, a semi-natural ancient woodland reaching down from Birkrigg to the shore, which once provided oak timbers for the shipbuilding industry in Ulverston. The wood is managed by the Woodland Trust and is open to the public to enjoy.

There are currently four areas of natural limestone pavement within the parish, protected from damage or removal by Limestone Pavement Orders. There are also two Tree Preservation Orders in place for ancient or significant trees.<sup>2</sup>

There are only a few small areas of common land within the parish, the largest of which stretches the entire length of the parish along the foreshore. Other areas include Leece Tarn, a plot at Bracken Bed Lane, several spots within Newbiggin village and small strips in Gleaston and Scales.

*Nice to hear sheep bleating and birds singing*

- Questionnaire respondent

### 9.2. Who is Responsible?

A large number of public bodies are involved in helping maintain our local environment, including Cumbria County Council, South Lakeland District Council and Natural England, the Government's advisor on the natural environment.

The Morecambe Bay Partnership is a key player in the management of the bay. It is a charity funded by local councils, private businesses and individuals who live and work around the bay from Fleetwood to Walney Island. The Partnership deals with a range of issues affecting the bay from working with environmental management groups to organising regular beach cleans.

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<sup>1</sup> The parish lies within the Morecambe Bay Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation, Ramsar site and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)

<sup>2</sup> Limestone Pavement Orders: Scroggs Close, Baycliff; Scales & Baycliff Haggs; Green Slacks, Baycliff; Stoads Farm & Enclosure (mostly in Urswick parish). Tree Preservation Orders: No 53 (1985) Aldingham House; No 112 (1995) Dendron House.

The Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of common lands and helps the County and District Councils in protecting important aspects of our landscape.

Landholders, whether they're organisations such as the Crown Estate or Woodland Trust, farmers or homeowners also play a big part in maintaining the landscape we live in. As caretakers of our environment they can shape and change the way our landscape and general surroundings appear.

### 9.3. Response from the Parish

Landscape and the Environment came out as the third most important issue in the original consultation. In the main questionnaire around half of respondents rated beaches 'Okay', with a quarter rating them 'Good' or 'Very Good' and the same number 'Poor' or 'Very Poor'. Litter and the need for regular beach cleaning came out as the main issues of concern regarding beaches, with further general comments about litter and dog fouling received in other areas.

*Great views, scenary... Abundance of wildlife & birds;  
natural look to landscapes (not overdeveloped)*

- Questionnaire respondent

### 9.4. Actions

- **Beach Cleans:** in cooperation with the Morecambe Bay Partnership and local volunteers, the Parish Council will support and publicize beach cleans in the parish and encourage residents to take part.
- **Litter and Dog Bins:** the Parish Council will continue to monitor the effectiveness of litter bins currently installed throughout the parish in regard to litter and dog fouling levels, and consider installing new ones if appropriate. The Parish Council will consider providing dog litter bags on bins if appropriate.
- **'Adopt-a-Road' Litter Picking:** villagers will be given the opportunity to 'adopt' a road or part of a road in the parish, and will take responsibility for clearing any roadside litter. Equipment such as litter pickers and rubbish bags, and disposal of waste will be organised by the Parish Council.

### 9.5. What Can You Do?

- Volunteer to help with beach cleans. Check parish noticeboards regularly or contact the Morecambe Bay Partnership for more information (details on the back of this Plan).
- 'Adopt' a road in your village and help keep the parish litter-free. Contact the Parish Council for more information.

*[I would like to change] nothing really I like  
everything the way it is.*

- Under 16s Questionnaire respondent

## 10. Development and Planning

### 10.1. Current Situation

#### 10.1.1. Planning Policy

The production of local planning policy documents (Local Development Framework Documents) involves consultation with numerous bodies and organisations, including the Parish Council. The Parish Council's comments are an important source of information for local authorities and effective, informed comments can help to direct local planning policy for the benefit of everyone.

#### 10.1.2. Development Control

Most planning applications that fall within the parish are passed to the Parish Council for comment, prior to them being determined by the Local Planning Authority. The Parish Council does not have the power to approve or refuse planning applications, but the comments they put forward are taken into account when applications are considered and determined.

#### 10.1.3. Listed Buildings

There are 28 listed buildings and monuments in the parish:

*GRADE I*

Gleaston Castle (Scheduled Ancient Monument)

*GRADE II\**

St Cuthbert's Church, Aldingham

*GRADE II*

Limekiln, Aldingham

Limekiln, Scales x 2

Stonard Monument, Aldingham

Sundial, Aldingham

The Old Rectory, Aldingham

Aldingham Hall

Low Farmhouse, Baycliff

Baycliffe House

St Matthew's, Dendron

Village Hall, Dendron

5 Duke Street, Gleaston

Limekiln, Gleaston

Gleaston Watermill

Tarnside House, Leece

Goadsbarrow Farm

Cattle Shelter, Scales

Cockpit, Scales x 2

Malt Kiln, Scales

Low Sunbrick Farmhouse & 4 adjacent structures

Friends' Burial Ground, Sunbrick

### 10.2. Who is Responsible?

South Lakeland District Council (SLDC) is the Local Planning Authority for Aldingham Parish. SLDC prepare and produce the local planning policy that applies to the parish and determine planning applications for development in line with this policy.

A Parish Plan that has been produced with extensive consultation, such as this one, demonstrates to the Local Planning Authority that the Parish Council's comments represent resident's views. This not only helps to ensure that the Parish Council are making informed comments on behalf of the community but it also means that the Local Planning Authority can be reassured that the comments are representative and therefore they can be afforded

a significant amount of weight in planning policy development and the decision making process.

### 10.3. Response from the Parish

There was a very mixed response to the prospect of development in the parish, with a general tendency against new sites of any kind. When asked whether residents would support new developments, the following answers were given:

	Yes	No	Don't Know	None
New Housing (general)	25.8%	52%	11.6%	10.6%
Low Cost Housing	37.7%	45%	8.9%	8.3%
Social Rented Housing	13.9%	58.6%	15.9%	11.6%
Local Occupancy Housing	50.3%	28.1%	11.3%	10.3%
New Commercial Sites	11.6%	65.6%	14.9%	7.9%
New Tourism Sites	35.1%	41.1%	14.2%	9.6%
Wind Farms	22.8%	59.9%	10.6%	6.6%
A Morecambe Bay Bridge	43.4%	37.1%	15.6%	4%

Table: Questionnaire Responses to Q14 'Would you support any of the following developments in the parish, if they were proposed?'

However, when asked to visualise the community in 10 years time, over a quarter of respondents said they saw development in the area and the majority of these people saw this as a positive thing. The same number of people visualised little change in the parish and, again, the majority saw this as positive. Overall, there were twice as many positive comments about the future as negative.

#### 10.3.1. The Housing Needs Survey

This survey, carried out by the Rural Housing Trust in 2008, was intended to get a picture of the level of need for housing in the parish. The survey, which was posted to every household, received a low response rate from residents (only 24.2%) and the conclusion was that only 7 new households would be necessary in the parish in the next 5 years. The Parish Council, who commissioned the survey, felt this need would be covered by the current rate of development.

### 10.4. Actions

- The Parish Council will consult the Parish Plan when it comments on future planning applications and planning policy documents affecting the parish.
- The Parish Council will make relevant information available for those looking for a house.

### 10.5. What Can You Do?

- Keep up-to-date with the Parish Council's work through the Tarn News, the Council's website or on noticeboards throughout the parish.
- Register for SLDC's 'Matchmaker' Scheme, which aims to find empty homes for those who are looking to purchase. Contact them at [empty.homes@southlakeland.gov.uk](mailto:empty.homes@southlakeland.gov.uk), call 01539 797525 or write to Empty Homes Officer, Community & Housing, South Lakeland House, Lowther St, Kendal, LA9 4DL for more information.

## 11. Action Plan

ISSUE	ACTION	PRIORITY*	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME-FRAME
Footpaths: Clearing and maintaining	Initiate group of volunteers to monitor & maintain. Seek funding and advice from Parish Paths Initiative.	High	Parish Council Local Volunteers Cumbria County Council	Set up summer 2010 Review annually
Footpaths: Inadequate signage	Obtain waymarkers and distribute via Parish Paths Group.	Low	Parish Council Parish Paths Group	Before summer 2011 review
Beaches: Problems with litter & dog fouling	Support and publicize beach cleans in the parish. Organise more if necessary.	Medium	Parish Council Morecambe Bay Partnership Local Volunteers	By summer 2010 Review Autumn 2010
Leece Village Hall needs attention	Pass findings to Leece villagers to consult. Parish Council to offer support and advice, if needed.	Low	Leece villagers Parish Council	By June 2010
Perception of speed limits being ignored and not enforced  Speed limits inappropriate	Parish Council will work with the Police to continue monitoring. Findings to be passed to police. Advertise enforcement. Identify problem areas Look into solutions in worst areas.	High	Police Parish Council	Current and ongoing

ISSUE	ACTION	PRIORITY*	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME-FRAME
Inadequate Maintenance of Roads	Implement Highways Monitoring Scheme with Priority Routes to tackle defects.	High	Parish Council CCC Highways Steward Parish Steward	Underway May 2010 Review monthly
	Hire Parish Steward.	High	Parish Council Local Area Partnership	By September 2010 Review after 6 months
	Encourage use of Highways Hotline by residents.	High	Parish Council Residents	Underway May 2010
	Riddings Lane will be prioritised above other non-priority routes for repair.	Low	Parish Council CCC Highways Steward Parish Steward	Current and ongoing
Roosebeck Place Name Signs	Signs have already been requested. Alternatives will be sought if no progress is made.	Low	Parish Council CCC	Renew request by Summer 2010 Alternatives sought before March 2011
Lack of bus service	Parish Council will resist further loss and support developments which might improve the service.	Medium	Parish Council	As matters arise
Poor response from District and County Council following contact by residents	Encourage people to inform the Parish Council of issues raised for follow up.	Low	SLDC CCC Parish Council Residents	Ongoing

ISSUE	ACTION	PRIORITY*	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME-FRAME
Lack of amenities such as shops, post offices	Parish Council will support and encourage applications for such businesses, where appropriate.	Medium	Parish Council	As matters arise
Dirty Roads and Lack of Road Sweeping	Parish Council will monitor Road Sweeping as part of the Highways Monitoring Scheme. Schedule to be obtained from SLDC.	High	Parish Council SLDC	Ongoing
Retaining the Rural Character of the Parish	The Parish Council will use the Parish Plan to inform future consultation responses.	High	Parish Council	Ongoing
Litter and lack of bins	Monitor effectiveness of bins. Consider providing new ones where necessary.	Medium	Parish Council SLDC	Autumn 2010 Review annually
	Implement 'Adopt-a-Road' Scheme with resources provided by Parish Council.	Medium	Parish Council Local Volunteers	Summer 2011
Dog fouling	Monitor effectiveness of bins and consider providing new ones. Consider providing litter bags.	Medium	Dog Owners Parish Council SLDC Police	Autumn 2010 Review annually
High interest in Neighbourhood Watch	Information passed to Police, Neighbourhood Watch / Voice Action / Farm Watch to be encouraged by Parish Council.	High	Police Parish Council Residents	May 2010 and ongoing

ISSUE	ACTION	PRIORITY*	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME-FRAME
Flooding	Implement Parish Flood Plan (see below).	High	Parish Council Residents	(see below)

\*Priority levels are based on the number of comments received in the Parish Plan Questionnaire

### 11.1. Flood Plan

ISSUE	ACTION	PRIORITY*	RESPONSIBILITY	TIME-FRAME
Flooding in villages - lack of organisation	Oversee setting up of Community Flood Plans in affected villages (see §8.4 for details).	High	Parish Council Residents and Village Committees	Before Winter 2010
Flooding in villages - lack of resources	Parish Council will purchase flood protection to aid residents in an emergency.	High	Parish Council Volunteers	June 2010
Flooding on roads - difficulties for emergency services	Parish Council to prioritise emergency routes for maintenance.	Medium	Parish Council CCC Emergency Services	Underway May 2010 and ongoing
Flooding on roads caused by blocked drains	A Parish Steward will be hired to keep gully covers and culverts clear.	High	Parish Council Parish Steward Highways Steward	September 2010 Review after 6 months

## 12. Useful Contacts

<p><b>The Parish Council</b></p> <p>See Noticeboards, The Tarn News, Parish Newsletter or Website for contact details of current Parish, District and County Councillors and the Parish Clerk.</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:parish.clerk@aldingham.org.uk">parish.clerk@aldingham.org.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.aldingham.org.uk">www.aldingham.org.uk</a></p>	
<p><b>South Lakeland District Council</b></p> <p>Customer Care Line: 0845 050 4434 (local rate, 8am - 6pm)</p> <p>Address: South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal, LA9 4UF</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@southlakeland.gov.uk">info@southlakeland.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.southlakeland.gov.uk">www.southlakeland.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Fax: 01539 740300</p> <p>Emergency Number: 0870 428 6906 (24 hours a day, for emergency use only)</p>	<p><b>Cumbria County Council</b></p> <p>Tel: 01228 606060</p> <p>Address: Headquarters, The Courts, Carlisle, CA3 8NA</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:information@cumbriacc.gov.uk">information@cumbriacc.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.cumbriacc.gov.uk">www.cumbriacc.gov.uk</a></p>
	<p><b>Environment Agency</b></p> <p>Tel: 08708 506 506</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk">enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk">www.environment-agency.gov.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Police and P.C.S.O.</b></p> <p>Tel: 0845 33 00 247</p> <p>Address: Ulverston Police Station, Neville St, Ulverston, LA12 0BN</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:ulverstonnpt@cumbria.police.uk">ulverstonnpt@cumbria.police.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Natural England</b></p> <p>Tel: 0845 600 3078</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.co.uk">enquiries@naturalengland.co.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.naturalengland.co.uk">www.naturalengland.co.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Age Concern South Lakeland</b></p> <p>Tel: 01539 728180 (information &amp; advice)</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:admin@ageconcernsl.org.uk">admin@ageconcernsl.org.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.ageconcernsl.org.uk">www.ageconcernsl.org.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Morecambe Bay Partnership</b></p> <p>Tel: 01539 734888</p> <p>Email: <a href="mailto:info@morecambebay.org.uk">info@morecambebay.org.uk</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="http://www.morecambebay.org.uk">www.morecambebay.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Highways Hotline</b></p> <p>0845 609 6609</p>	<p><b>Floodline</b></p> <p>0845 988 1188</p>

A comprehensive list of contacts for services in our area can be found in '*Your Cumbria*' magazine, which is delivered to every household. Copies can be obtained from Cumbria County Council by calling 01228 226 338 or visiting the website [www.cumbriacc.gov.uk](http://www.cumbriacc.gov.uk)