

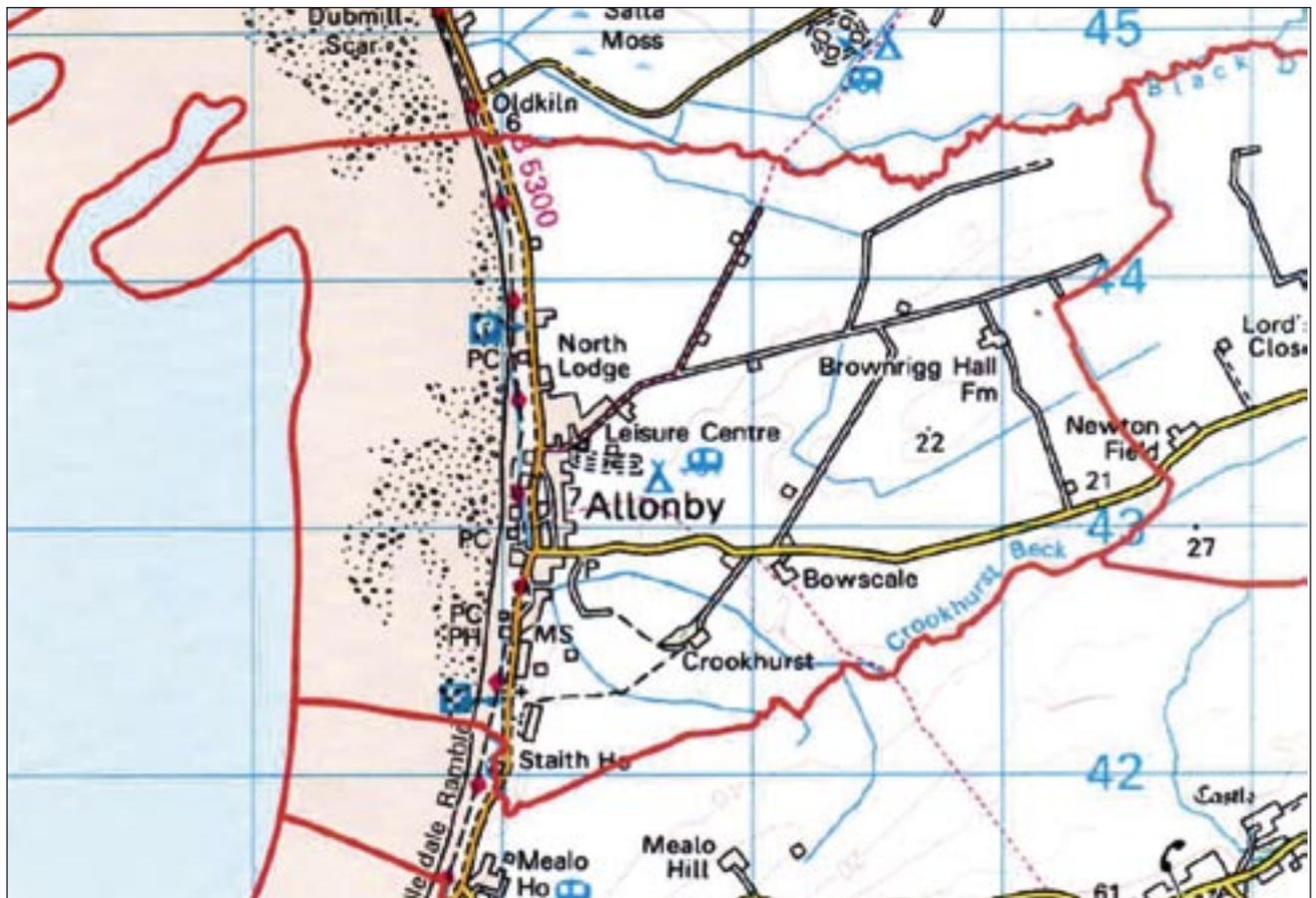
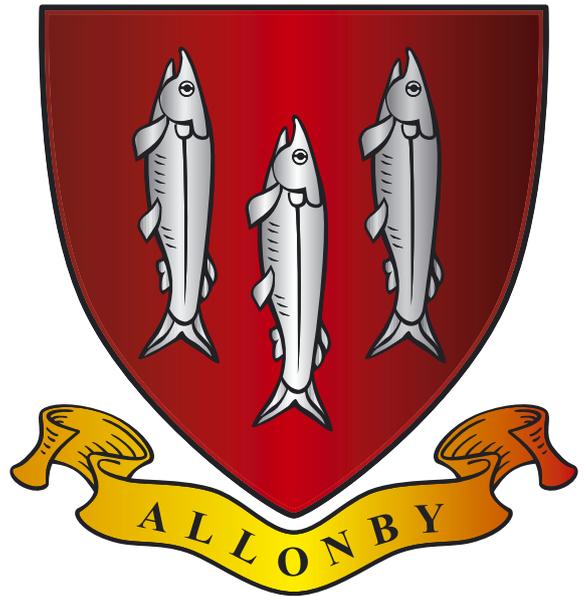


ALLONBY

PARISH PLAN 2008

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Allonby Parish Councillors



Albert Marr (Chairman)



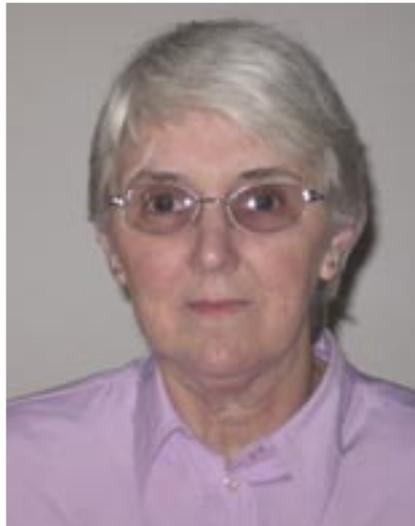
Bill Douglas (Vice Chair)



David Bastable



Steph Newham



Ann Bradley (Clerk)



Alan Jones



William Bradley



Roger Hart



John Dobson

Background



In January 2006 there was a presentation to the Allonby Parish Council by Carl Glynn of Voluntary Action Cumbria about the Parish Plan initiative, which encourages parishes to look at their current situation and plan for the future with the involvement of local residents of all ages. The intention was for a series of short and long term actions to bring local improvements.

Following this, a public meeting was held in the Village Hall, at which a small group of residents expressed an interest in being involved in developing such a plan.

A number of meetings were held to devise the consultation methods, with the particular intention of involving both residents and regular visitors of all ages. This resulted in another public meeting, a consultation and display at the annual Artex event and finally a questionnaire delivered to every household in the village. Just over 200 questionnaires were hand-delivered by

the volunteers involved and 175 of them were returned – a very high proportion.

The Parish Plan, which we hope will support the development of the village for many years to come, is the result of the views of those residents responding, and gives some practical actions for implementing the most popular views. The idea of a nudist beach, which was suggested in one response, has been discarded as impractical in view of cold prevailing wind, and the thought of those wrinkly goose pimples!



History of Allonby



Allonby is an attractive village situated on the Solway coast between Maryport and Silloth. It is famed for its spectacular sunsets over the Solway Firth and Scottish hills, whilst inland can be seen the Lake District fells. The area around Allonby has been designated an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', and the sandy beach has won several Seaside Awards.

The current population is 300, which increases to around 2000 in the summer months when the caravan sites are open.

Facilities are reasonable for the size of the village. There is a Church, a primary school, two hotels, a post office, several shops and food outlets, and a leisure complex attached to one of the caravan sites. Two halls are available for public use. A mobile butcher visits on a weekly basis, and a mobile library three-weekly. A bus service connects Allonby with Maryport and Silloth, but there is no evening or Sunday service.

There are few employment opportunities in Allonby. Many of the resident population are of retirement age, and of the remainder most commute to one of the larger towns in the area.

Allonby's history goes back many hundreds of years and there are several interpretations of the origins of its name. The most popularly accepted version connects the name with Alan, son of the second Lord Allerdale. Alan founded Holm Cultram Abbey and chose to live in what thus became known as Alan's Bay as a retreat for peaceful meditation.

Until fairly recent times Allonby, in common with most villages, had to be self-sufficient. The village contained several public houses and hotels, and a range of shops sufficient to support the inhabitants' requirements. The main industries were herring fishing and weaving, with the cloth being laid out on the greens to bleach in the sun. The dependence on the herring shoals is shown



by the fact that herrings feature prominently in the Allonby coat of arms. Farming has always played an important role in the village economy, and ship-breaking was another money-making enterprise. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, its fresh air and pleasant situation led to Allonby becoming a popular seaside resort. In 1835 the Baths, built by public subscription and containing a suite of hot, cold, and vapour baths with a ballroom above, opened.

Despite its small size, Allonby has several other impressive buildings. The Reading Room was erected around 1862, funded partly by local donations and partly by Joseph Pease, a Quaker industrialist. It was designed by Alfred Waterhouse who went on to become the architect for Manchester Town Hall and London's Natural History Museum. Derelict for many years, it is now being restored as a private residence.

North Lodge was built around 1840 by Thomas Richardson of Darlington. The central section served as a summer residence, and at each side were three smaller cottages which were occupied rent-free by local widows or spinsters.

Two of Allonby's most famous visitors were Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins who stayed at the Ship Hotel in 1857. Their visit is documented in Dickens' "Lazy Tour of Two Idle Apprentices".

Allonby's most famous son is Captain Joseph

Huddart (1741-1816), mariner, hydrographer, chartmaker and inventor. A large memorial to his memory is situated in Christ Church, Allonby.

It would seem fitting to include some lines by Joseph J Heskett (1865-1951) – Allonby's Shoemaker Poet. During his long and interesting life he wrote over 500 poems, and though he emigrated to Vancouver in 1911 he never forgot his Allonby roots.

From 'Allonby on a Summer Morning':

*The surf-swept shingle beach with gentle rise
Stretches along as far as eyes can scan.
The pretty white-washed village snugly lies,
The fairest spot to me or any man.*





Issues affecting Allonby



Environment

A village face lift

The survey identified that the people of Allonby are clearly concerned about the appearance of the village. Twenty three people volunteered to be involved in village 'face lift' type projects. Some of the project ideas proposed were:

- planting more flowers at key points in the village
- cleaning and maintaining the beck
- improvement of cobbled areas
- involvement in a 'best kept village' competition.

Street lighting

Concern was expressed regarding inadequate street lighting, particularly at the south end of the village.

Derelict buildings

Concern was expressed that some buildings were allowed to lie derelict for too long. These become unsightly and dangerous and hinder attempts to improve the appearance of the village.

Recommendation / Actions

- Parish council to seek funding.
- Identify volunteer co-ordinators for projects.



Litter and dog fouling

Litter on the greens and the beach and across the village has been highlighted by many respondents. Dog fouling spoils the greens and causes a health hazard. It was felt that this could be reduced by the provision of more strategically placed bins and notices, and the availability of free doggy bags.

Recommendation / Actions

- Request greater provision of general waste bins.
- Promote the use of bins and bags by signage.
- Make free doggy bags available at retail outlets.





Traffic Issues

Speed of traffic

This is a major concern in Allonby. Residents are aware that significant numbers of vehicles travel through the village at excessive speeds. This is confirmed by observing the portable speed indicator lights that are set up in the village from time to time.

Our survey indicated that there are clear preferences regarding possible solutions to combat excessive speeds. These include permanent speed indicator lights at the north and south ends of the village, pedestrian crossings, and painted lines on the road showing speed limits. There was very little support for speed cameras, chicanes, speed bumps, rumble strips or gates.

Recommendation / Actions

Include in the local transport plan the need for:

- Permanent speed indicator devices at both ends of the village.
- Painted lines on the road advising of speed limit.
- Pedestrian crossings.

Parking

Whilst the majority of respondents were satisfied with car parking facilities in the village, a number of people expressed concern over residents and visitors 'competing for space' in the summer months.

The majority of respondents felt that parking on the village green should not be allowed. Some residents requested 'residents only parking' areas.

Recommendation / Actions

- Enforcement of parking bans on greens and verges.
- Clear signage for parking and restrictions.

Motor cycles on the green and the beach

Concerns were expressed regarding the use of motor cycles and vehicles on the green and on the beach. Signs banning such use do exist but violations still occur.

Recommendation / Actions

- Inform the police of violations.



Issues affecting Allonby



Local Services

The majority of respondents were happy with the existing shops in the village but would like to see the development of more mobile services.

The most requested services were: Taxi service, Mobile chemist and Farmers' market.

New services proposed for Allonby (% of respondents)	Essential or useful	
	Not needed	Essential or useful
Taxi services	11%	63%
Mobile chemist	18%	62%
Farmers market	22%	58%
Clinic	21%	43%
Mobile shops	26%	41%
More shops	41%	23%

Post Office

At the time of survey there was speculation regarding the continued maintenance of our local post office. This may have prompted 91% of respondents to endorse the continued presence of the service and propose a campaign against a threatened closure.

Recommendation / Actions

- Approach Allerdale Borough Council in respect of a local farmers' market initiative.
- Investigate the possibility of a car transport scheme.
- Encourage regular use of the post office and campaign against any future threatened closure.



The Community

Facilities for young people

The development of the playground and the mini football pitch has greatly improved facilities for the younger children. These were made possible by the generosity of local people who gave freely of their time and support. However, the survey identified the need for more organised activities for young people.

Although only ten of our questionnaire respondents were identified as 'young people' (under 18s), there was a measure of agreement among them about the sort of facilities they would like to see – particularly sports facilities (football, tennis or cricket).

Unlike the adults, there was also a positive vote (7/10) in favour of having an Allonby community website.



Facilities for people with disabilities

Our survey was not aimed specifically at people with disabilities, but residents did make suggestions for improving access for wheel chair users.

These included:

- Improved access to local pubs and shops
- Improved access to coastal paths and areas of the beach
- Lowered kerb stones in appropriate places
- Improved paths around the village
- Pedestrian crossings.

Facilities for older people

Although few respondents felt that Allonby was significantly lacking in facilities for older people, some suggestions for improvement were made.

These included:

- A bowling green
- A drop-in day centre
- Coach trips.

Recommendation / Actions

- Encourage local youth agencies and volunteers to provide activities locally.
- Seek assistance from the Allerdale Disability Association regarding a better understanding of facilities for people with disabilities.
- Encourage the development of activities for older people through volunteers.
- Encourage youth volunteers to get involved in village developments, including a possible village website.



Community concerns

The survey identified people's concerns related to vandalism, anti-social behaviour, theft and burglary. There is a clear perception that this has increased over recent years.

Suggestions for improvement include:

- Improved street lighting
- Greater police presence
- An active neighbourhood watch scheme.



Recommendation / Actions

- Make the police aware of incidents directly through neighbourhood watch and parish council liaison officer.
- Encourage greater police presence.
- Establish neighbourhood watch meetings with a local co-ordinator.
- Increase organised activities for young people.



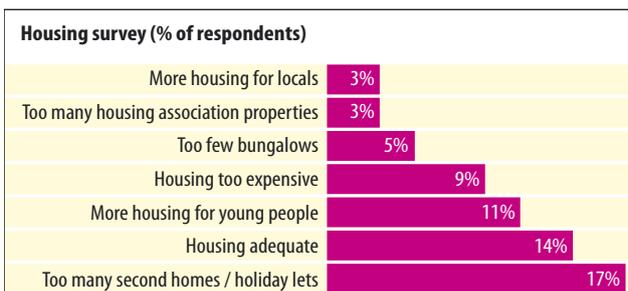


Housing

Allonby has a range of older residential and holiday type property. Recent new build developments have offered a choice of starter houses and more expensive properties. Despite this, a number of respondents felt that there was a need for more bungalows and housing specifically for local people.

Recommendation / Actions

- Encourage the provision of more affordable housing for families.
- Make the Borough Council aware of the need for more affordable housing.



Information

Response to the survey showed that there was considerable satisfaction in Allonby regarding the dissemination and sharing of information.

The ABC (Allonby Beach Comber) was widely cited as a valuable source of information. 'Word of mouth' for vital information was considered important. This shows that Allonby is a friendly village where information is readily shared.

Notice boards and shop windows were also considered to be a valuable source of information.

Several respondents suggested that a village website be set up. This could be used to display valuable information for residents and visitors.

Recommendation / Actions

- Parish Council to consider providing a central notice board.
- Seek volunteers, especially young people, to consider the development and maintenance of a village 'web site'.

Allonby Parish Action Plan



Issue	The Action	How it will be tackled	Partners	Lead Responsibility	Time Scale	Resource Implication
1 Concern over areas of the village that have been neglected and fallen into disrepair, spoiling the overall appearance of the village and in some cases being a risk to safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village improvement to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cobbled areas Street Lighting Facelift Scheme Derelict buildings Signage and street furniture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council to seek funding Identify volunteer coordinators for areas of concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council Local self-help groups 	Chair of Parish Council	Ongoing/ Long term	Substantial grant aid needed for some activities but local volunteers could be recruited for self-help options
2 The local environment spoilt by dog fouling and litter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision and greater use of doggy bags and bins, and general waste bins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request greater provision of general waste bins and 'doggy' bins through the Parish Council Promote use of bins and bags by signage. More provision of free bags by local shops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council Allerdale Borough Council Solway Coast AONB 	Chair of Parish Council	Immediate	Allerdale Budget
3 Concern over traffic problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater road safety. Enforcement of parking bans on greens and verges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include in the Local Transport Plan the need for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Painted lines advising of speed limits Provision of permanent speed indicator devices and pedestrian crossing Clear signage of parking restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Council Highways Department 	Chair of the Parish Council	Ongoing	County Council Budget
4 Limited provision of mobile shops, and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage greater provision of mobile services especially chemist, Farmers' Market and taxi services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approach Allerdale Borough Council in respect of local farmers' initiatives Investigate possibility of a Car Transport Scheme Promote a greater awareness of local taxi services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allerdale Borough Council Local Suppliers Chair of Parish Plan Steering Group 	Chair of Parish Plan Steering Group	Ongoing	Nil

Issue	The Action	How it will be tackled	Partners	Lead Responsibility	Time Scale	Resource Implication
5 Long-term survival of the village Post Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintaining a Post Office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage regular use of Post Office and campaign against any threatened closure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council 	Chair of Parish Council	Ongoing	Nil/Low
6 The lack of provision of activities for the young people in the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More activities for young people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage local youth agencies and volunteers to provide activities locally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Cumbria Cumbria Youth Alliance 	Initially Chair of Parish Plan Steering Group and then local organiser	ASAP	Local volunteers Fundraising for equipment and premises
7 Increasing concern of residents over anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackling anti-social behaviour (including vandalism, theft/ burglary, illegal parking, car crime and motorcycling on the village greens Encourage greater 'take up' of the Neighbourhood Watch Initiative and identify a Local Coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make the police aware of incidents either directly or through the Parish Council Encourage greater police presence Re-establish the Neighbourhood Watch Initiative through ABC (Parish Magazine) and encourage meetings with the Local Coordinator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police, Parish Council Crime and Disorder Partnership 	Police Liaison Officer Chair of Parish Plan Steering Group initially and then Neighbourhood Coordinator	Ongoing	Nil
8 Lack of affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the provision of more affordable housing for local families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make the Borough Council aware of the need for more affordable housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allerdale Borough Council 	Chair of Parish Plan Steering Group and then Allerdale Borough Council Housing Office	Ongoing	Within Allerdale Council budget
9 Need to improve the sharing of information in the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A central notice board to be set up and maintained A village website to be established and kept up-to-date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make parish council aware of need Seek volunteers to develop website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish council Volunteers 	Chair of Parish Council	ASAP	Parish Council Steering group Budget

Acknowledgements



I should like to thank my colleagues on the steering group: Rosamond Blaney, Sandra Bristow, Mary Hart, Jane Jackson, Alan Jones, Joe Kewin, Albert Marr and Godfrey Newham for their involvement over the last two years.

I should also like to thank Carl Glynn and Hellen Aitken of Voluntary Action Cumbria for their guidance and support, Pat Ackred of Cumbria County Council Neighbourhood Support and Debbie Keir of Allerdale Borough Council's Regeneration Section for their advice.

Thanks are also due for funding support to DEFRA and Allerdale Community Fund, and also

to the Allonby Parish Council for their general interest and support.

Also to the children of Allonby Primary School for their bright and imaginative illustrations, and to Frank Bristow for the photographs.

Last, but not least, I should like to thank the residents of Allonby for their input into the plan and their forbearance for the length of process.

Roger Hart

Chairman, Allonby Parish Plan Steering Group

Directory of facilities and services

LOCAL PUBS / HOTELS

Springlea Centre	01900 881331
Ship Hotel	01900 881017
Baywatch Hotel	01900 881088
Past and Present B&B	01900 881576

LOCAL SHOPS AND TAKEAWAYS

Twentyman	01900 881247
Allonby Corner Shop	01900 881436
The Little Ramekin	01900 881180
R.J. Harrison (mobile butcher)	016973 42192

LOCAL TAXIS

Cooters Cabs	01900 814141
Keith Kabs	01900 818686
Johnstones	016973 31557

POST OFFICE

Allonby Post Office	01900 881333
<i>Allonby Postbox Collection</i>	
Monday – Saturday	10.30am and 4.15pm
<i>Opening Times</i>	
Mon, Wed, Thur and Friday	9.00am – 5.30pm
Tuesday and Saturday	9.00am – 12.30pm

POLICE

Emergency only 999
Non-emergency number 0845 3300247

HEALTHCARE

Hospitals With 24 Hour A + E

Cumberland Infirmary Carlisle	01228 523444
West Cumberland Hospital, Whitehaven	01946 693181

LIBRARY

Maryport Library	01900 812384
Mobile Library	07736 656 750

LOCAL DOCTORS

West Street Practice Aspatria	016973 20209
Silloth Group Practice	016973 31309
Maryport Healthcare Centre	01900 815544
Outgang Barn Surgery Aspatria	016973 20367

DENTISTS

King Street Dental Practice Aspatria	016973 22900
Steele & McBride Maryport	01900 812109
Mrs J M Stevenson Maryport	01900 819222
Mr Steele Silloth	016973 32042
Mrs Buchanan Silloth	016973 31270

Nhs Direct

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
0845 4647
Texphe 0845 6064647

SCHOOLS

Allonby Primary	01900 881324
Silloth Primary	016973 31243
St Matthew's	016973 20545
Holme St Cuthberts	01900 881242

Secondary Schools

Beacon Hill Community	016973 20509
Solway Community	
Technology College	016973 31234
Netherhall	01900 813434

COUNCIL

Allerdale Borough Council	01900 702702
Domestic Refuse	01900 702800
Sandbags	01900 702770
	Out of hours ring 01900 871080
Floodline 24hrs	0845 9881188
Council Tax	01900 702530
Housing Benefit	01900 702650

