

Summary Report on the Parish Questionnaire

February 2012

Thank you to all who contributed to the recent Parish Questionnaire. Overall we received 124 forms which is approximately a 25% response. Many returns included useful and helpful comments and these have all been taken into account to inform the main priorities for action for the next year.

Leisure and Social Activities

Nearly everyone who responded is an active member of the community, keen to give regular support and to raise funds for local community halls, churches and chapels. A number of people commented that they value the Farmer's Market and several would like to see wider community events, including celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee and cultural activities, such as theatre productions, music or folk groups. These need to be reasonably priced so that they are accessible to all. The majority of people felt that there was adequate provision for most age groups and that Kirkoswald and Renwick have a good range of activities. The exception was events or activities specifically for 11-18 year olds where 33% felt that more should be available.

Roads, Travel and Transport

Overall the cleanliness of the roads was considered to be good whilst verges and signage are adequate. A large number of respondents cited areas for improvement as the repair of the roads and potholes and the provision of gritting and snow ploughs. As you would have guessed, the vast majority of people use their own cars to travel, both for work and leisure whilst a small but significant number of people are reliant on public transport, including the Fell Runner and the train.

Environment all Issues

Overall people considered the local environment is good. The main issues for improvement, however, are dog fouling (with requests for more "Doggie Bins", both in Kirkoswald and Renwick) and the removal of roadside and agricultural litter. The majority of people make good use of local recycling facilities and consider the current provision adequate to good. A small number of people would like to see more recycling of plastic and card from home collection.

Crime and Policing

Unsurprisingly speeding through the villages and irresponsible parking (particularly around the school) were the most major concerns. A number of people were also concerned about fly tipping and hare coursing. A very large percentage of people commented on the lack of police visibility and a lack of engagement with the community.

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Parish Council

Overall people are satisfied with the current Parish Council, but there were some useful comments to help us to improve. These included better communication through the website, more information on who the members of the PC, how we are elected and what are the roles and responsibilities. The majority of people are willing to pay more through the precept, but understandably would like to know how the extra money would be spent.

Young People's Survey.

There were very few responses from young people, so it is difficult to draw any real conclusions. However, of those who did respond, the main issue raised was to improve the play area in KO and to create better play spaces in Renwick.

Overall Comments

Many and varied, but there are some recurring themes! Not surprisingly these included traffic lights on the bridge, the need for a footpath between KO and Lazonby and more police visibility.

Priorities for 2012-2013

As a result of our first survey the Parish Council consider the following to be main priorities for the coming year

- To work with Lazonby Parish Council to consider the issue of traffic lights on the bridge
- To explore the possibility of a safe footpath between KO and Lazonby
- To consider better provision for 11-18 year olds and better play spaces in KO and Renwick
- To contact the police regarding visibility and engagement
- To explore the possibility of more "Doggie Bins" in the villages
- To publicise and promote the work of the parish council in the community through the parish website etc. so that everyone is clear about roles, responsibilities etc.