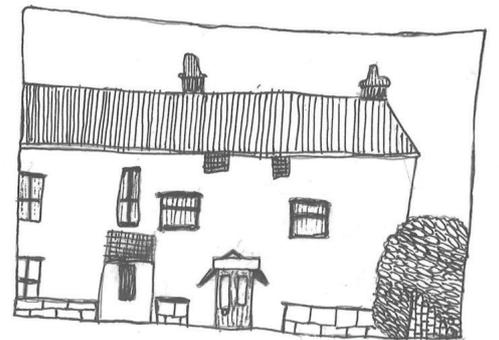
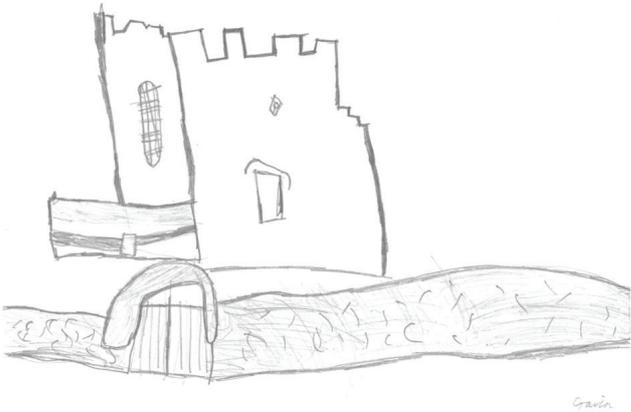




# Natland Parish Plan 2014

## Report and Action Plan



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## A INTRODUCTION

The centrepiece of this report is an Action Plan (included at the end of this document). This translates the hopes that residents of the parish expressed for the future of the Parish of Natland into a list of actions. The Action Plan is an agenda for action for the parish over the coming years, which has now been adopted by Natland Parish Council and will be carried out under their supervision.

Some of the actions are already in hand and the views expressed simply reinforce the decision to act. Other actions will require an input of time and effort to achieve success. Others still might be described as aspirational with no immediate prospect of achievement; but the action remains a long-term goal.

This is a **parish** plan in the sense that it reflects views expressed by people in the parish. Of course, residents did not all speak with one voice so there has, inevitably, been some selection, but we have tried to represent the majority view in our recommendations.

This is the third parish plan for Natland. The first, *Natland in the Eighties*, was published in April 1983 in response to encouragement from the District Council's Chief Planning Officer. The second, *Natland Parish Plan*, was published in March 2004 as a response to the Government's 'Vital Villages' initiative. Over the intervening years, the Parish Council, along with members of the local community, has been successful in carrying through many of the actions listed in that plan.

Almost ten years on, after the May 2012 Annual Parish Meeting, Natland Parish Council resolved to update the existing parish action plan (from 2004) to reflect current circumstances and issues. The Council called a public meeting in September 2012 at which volunteers were sought to form a Steering Group to carry forward a review of the plan.

The first meeting of the Steering Group took place on 6 November 2012. A budgeted project plan was prepared and funding for the review was obtained from South Lakeland District Council via the South Westmorland Local Area Partnership and Action with Communities in Cumbria.

The Steering Group met regularly throughout 2013, with additional meetings of subgroups working on particular tasks such as the questionnaire. The outcome of the review is the Parish Plan 2014 Action Plan which was adopted by the Parish Council on Monday 25 November 2013.



## B THE PARISH

This section provides general information about certain aspects of the parish which are relevant to this Plan. For fuller information about the parish of Natland, readers are referred to *Natland Parish Plan* (2004) and to *Natland and Oxenholme: The Story of a Westmorland Village* (W Inglesfield, Helm Press, 2006).

The civil parish of Natland extends to 892 acres. The map shows the boundaries. Its western boundary is the River Kent as far north as the Roman Fort at Watercrock. Its eastern boundary follows the A65 Burton Road from the roundabout by ASDA in the north to the railway bridge at Oxenholme in the south. It then turns east to incorporate the whole of the west side of the The Helm, which is common land, including the earthworks, possibly an iron age fort, at Castlesteads. Its southern boundary includes part of Barrows Green. Much of the parish comprises open countryside and there are four farms based within its boundaries.

The village of Natland lies in the centre of the parish. At its heart is the village green. This is in the ownership of the Lord of the Manor, Mrs Hornyold-Strickland, but its day-to-day management is in the hands of the Parish Council. Surrounding the green are the church (dating from 1910), the village hall and the shop and post office. The village school used to front onto the green but it moved to its present site in Oxenholme Lane in 1967.

The resident population of Natland parish as at the March 2011 census was 796 comprising 365 households, with a further 20 or so non-resident households (mainly second homes). The age range was from 1 month to more than 90 years, made up as follows:

	Age range	Number	% of total	% (England)
Children	0-4	25	3.1	6.3
	5-10	37	4.6	6.7
	11-17	56	7.0	8.4
Adults of working age	18-39	90	11.3	29.6
	40-64	312	39.2	32.7
Older adults	65-79	213	26.7	11.7
	80+	63	8.0	4.6
Total		796	100	100

In comparison with national figures, the parish has a disproportionate number of older adults, and those adults of working age are disproportionately aged 40 or over. In March 2011, 100 (12.6%) residents lived in single-person households and 82 of these were people aged 55 or over.

The church parish extends over a larger area than the civil parish of Natland, and includes parts of south-east Kendal – in particular Oxenholme. This is St Mark’s School catchment area and it sustains a viable primary school at the heart of Natland.

Data derived during the preparation of this plan gives further ‘colour’ to the make-up of the population, although it is important to note that the information is indicative only; it is based on a partial response to the Household Questionnaire:

	Number
Children attending St Mark's school	23
People studying full time at school or college in Kendal	22
People involved in running a business from home	37
People working from home	55
People working in the village	6
Retired people	217

## C THE PROCESS

The aim of the parish plan consultation was to seek views from as many people as possible in the parish and to engage with all relevant stakeholders. With this in mind, the review of the Parish Plan was undertaken in 6 stages.

### 1: Tell Us What You Think

The first step was to issue a short questionnaire asking respondents to state one thing they liked about Natland, one thing they disliked about Natland and one thing they would like to change. The questionnaires were available in the church, the post offices in Natland and Oxenholme and in the village hall. In addition, the Head Teacher of St Mark's School kindly arranged for pupils to take home a copy of the questionnaire. People were encouraged to respond online or put responses in boxes at the post office, the school, the church and the village hall.

There were 103 responses, of which 86 were from residents. In addition, pupils from each year represented on the School Council completed a questionnaire.

The responses showed that people particularly **valued** the village infrastructure (the school, the shop, pre-school, the church, the village hall and the green), the peaceful, rural atmosphere, the location of the village (close to the station, the motorway, the hospital, the superstores and Kendal), the strong sense of community and the village's physical separation from Kendal.

People **disliked** inconsiderate parking, the amount of traffic, the volume of new residential development, the poor state of the roads, inadequate parking provision and the lack of pavements. **Changes** that people particularly wanted to see were the provision of a safe walking/cycle route to Kendal, speed restrictions through the village, restrictions on parking, the provision of a car park, improvements to pavements and the provision of a play park for children.

The outcome of the short questionnaire was portrayed by the Steering Group in a poster display which was mounted at the Quiz Evening in the village hall on 9 February 2013, the village Art Exhibition in the village hall on 9 and 10 March 2013, at the Summer Fete on 8 June 2013 and in the school. Information was also posted on the Natland website and a small display was mounted on the village green bus shelter. Further responses were invited.

### 2: The Household Questionnaire

This first stage of consultation helped the Steering Group to identify what people considered to be the main issues facing the parish and formed the basis for a detailed household questionnaire.

The Group received helpful guidance in drafting the questionnaire from Carl Glynn and Julia Wilson of ACT (Action with Communities in Cumbria) and Emma Nichols of South Lakeland District Council. The questionnaire was tested on several people before being delivered to all 385 households in the

parish. It was also published via the Natland website and people were encouraged to respond online if they preferred. Completed questionnaires could be returned to the village shop/post office, but members of the Steering Group also undertook door-to-door collection.

There was a very encouraging response. 235 completed questionnaires were returned, including 25 online. The responses were analysed and the principal findings are summarised below.

### 3: Interviews with key institutions

One thing which came through both questionnaires very clearly was the extent to which people used/valued the school, the village hall, the church and the shop and post office. Interviews were therefore conducted with the Head Teacher of St Mark's School, the Village Hall Management Committee, the Vicar of St Mark's Church and the proprietor of the shop/post office to identify what could be done to help these key institutions, what more they could contribute to the community and what challenges they faced. The Chair of the Parish Council was also interviewed.

### 4: The Action Plan

The responses to the two questionnaires, particularly the Household Questionnaire, coupled with the outcome of the interviews with key institutions, provided the Steering Group with enough information to attempt a first draft of an Action Plan.

A poster display of the draft Action Plan was prepared and all households were invited to 'drop-in' and see the display in the church on 5 September. 65 people attended the drop-in session. The poster display was subsequently made available to view in the school, a version put up on the village green bus shelter and a summary was provided on the Natland website. People were invited to comment on the draft and it was subsequently revised in the light of these comments.

### 5: Consultation with stakeholders

The revised draft Action Plan was then the subject of consultation with the following key stakeholders:

- Natland Parish Council
- the County Councillor and District Councillor for the parish
- the County Council Area Engagement Officer
- the District Council Community Engagement Officer/Parish Liaison Officer
- the Vicar of St Mark's Church
- the management committee of Natland & Oxenholme Village Hall
- the Head Teacher of St Mark's School
- the proprietor of the village shop and post office
- members of the Natland website team (Stephen Baker and Don Shore)
- neighbouring parish councils (Kendal Town Council, Helsington, Sedgwick, Stainton).

### 6: The Final Plan

The responses to the consultation with key stakeholders led to some further revisions to the Action Plan. The Steering Group then drafted the narrative to accompany and explain it. The revised Action Plan was then presented to the November 2013 meeting of Natland Parish Council for adoption.

## D FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

To those familiar with the parish, the findings may hold few surprises. Indeed, in some cases, they replicate the findings of the 2004 Parish Plan. This is because, notwithstanding the best efforts of the Parish Council and others, some of the concerns such as parking problems, volume of traffic, inadequate road network, lack of pavements and so on, are not capable of speedy resolution and continue to be an issue. That does not mean we should stop campaigning to resolve them. If anything, the findings of the Steering Group reinforce the work which the Parish Council have been doing.

### Tackling traffic problems

Not surprisingly, the great majority of people travel to Kendal most of the time by private car. Walking, cycling and travel by bus are also fairly significant.

	Daily	Weekly	Less often
Walking	8	24	87
Cycling	15	19	39
Bus	2	49	56
Private car	87	109	23

The number of people who said they would make use of a footway/cycleway along the Natland Road to Kendal suggests that it would be strongly supported. 35 would make daily use of it, 82 would make weekly use of it and 72 would use it less often. 44 respondents said they would never use it. The proposal for a 20mph speed limit within the village received strong support with 173 respondents in favour and 28 against. The Steering Group recommend that the Parish Council explore these options further with the County Council.

There was considerable support for certain new stretches of footpath or pavement within the parish, if they were to be established. The creation of any new lengths of footpath will require the prior agreement of relevant owners and occupiers. The Steering Group recommend that a Traffic and Footpaths working group consider whether, and if so how best, to take this forward. Of the suggestions for other lengths of pavement, Oxenholme Lane was top of the list, followed by the Sedgwick Road from the post office to the turn off to Cracalt House. Such suggestions present obvious difficulties given the narrowness of the roads but the Steering Group recommend that the working group should explore what progress may be possible.

The support for traffic calming measures was more variable and the response is considered in more detail in Section E ('Matters omitted..') later in this document. A number of respondents suggested the use of a speed indicator device (SID). The Parish Council has already arranged for shared use of a SID which will be used for up to four weeks each year at entrances to the village and data from this can feed into consideration of the case for a reduced speed limit within the village.

Support for measures to improve parking in the village was also variable; and there was strong opposition to the introduction of a one-way system through the village. Both these matters are discussed in more detail in Section E below.

### Housing development in Natland

Many respondents expressed concern about the continuing expansion of the village. For reasons given in Section E ('Matters omitted..') (below), it is unrealistic to expect a total ban on further housing in the parish. However, the response to the Household Questionnaire showed strong

## NATLAND PARISH PLAN REPORT & ACTION PLAN 2014

support (186) for maintaining green gaps between Kendal and Natland and between Oxenholme and Natland.

Respondents (184) also wanted the traffic implications of future development on the local road network to weigh more heavily in decision-making, a response which was supported by Sedgwick Parish Council as it was felt that more development in Natland could cause an increase in the volume of traffic travelling through Sedgwick. And there was strong support (150) for the proposition that the scale and design of future development should maintain or enhance the character of the village.

The planning authority, in its consultation response, suggested that these matters should be incorporated into a Neighbourhood Plan if they are to make any significant impact and this suggestion has been conveyed to the Parish Council for consideration. In the meantime, the Steering Group recommend that the Parish Council continue to raise these issues, when appropriate, as material considerations when responding to the planning authority on planning applications.

As regards the need for particular types of housing in Natland, the response, as shown in the table below, suggests this is a matter which the Parish Council and the local housing authority should keep in mind when considering proposals for further development.

	Number in support
Is there a need for any of the following kinds of housing in Natland?	
Affordable housing	42
Smaller houses/flats	41
Sheltered housing	43

### Community life in Natland

The responses, extracted from 231 questionnaires, showed that the noticeboards at the shop, the village website and the parish magazine are all important means of communication about what is going on in the village. So too is word of mouth. The *Westmorland Gazette*, roadside signs and the publicity banner on the green were among the other means identified. However, 216 (93.5%) respondents included at least one of noticeboards, parish magazine or parish website in their response, so co-ordinating news and information to all three of these is key. Most (11) of the other 15 respondents relied solely on word of mouth.

	Number of responses
How do you hear about what's going on?	
Village/shop noticeboards	170
Parish magazine (from church)	92
Natland parish website	104
Word of mouth	142
Via the school	22
Other	16

The Steering Group felt that the time was right to revive the Parish Council's earlier initiative of a 'Parish Directory' giving information about the organisations operating within the parish and to

make a printed directory available to all households (and the same information clearly available on the Natland website for residents who are online). Consideration will need to be given to how best to keep it up-to-date. There was also strong support for reviving some sort of 'welcome', perhaps in the form of a 'welcome letter', for new residents.

People said they made regular use of the church, the post office and the village hall. However, the interview with the proprietor of the shop and post office suggests that there would be merit in making people more aware of the range of goods and services available and in encouraging people to support the facility. This could be achieved by an entry in the Parish Directory and through publicity in the website and the *Parish News*.

Very few households said they made use of the playing field or the adventure playground at the school and many were unaware of its availability. Discussion with the Head Teacher of the school indicated that he is willing to explore ways of raising awareness of the availability of these facilities to young children out of school hours.

There was widespread support for the suggestion that there should be some form of interpretative panel in the centre of the village telling visitors about aspects of the history of Natland and the Steering Group recommend that a working group be set up to research, plan, design, cost and obtain funding for this. The question 'how do you think leisure facilities in the village could be improved?' produced an imaginative response which is considered further in Section E ('Matters omitted...'). The response also suggests that some residents are not aware of what facilities and what activities are available in the village and reinforces the case for reviving a village 'Directory'.

One of the successes of the 2004 Parish Plan was the introduction by the Parish Council of an annual litter pick. The Household Questionnaire sought to capitalise on this by asking what support there might be for organising a group of volunteers to coordinate and carry out maintenance and other jobs in the village throughout the year, including the litter pick. The response was encouraging and the Steering Group recommend developing a process to facilitate such volunteering in the parish – perhaps initially through the Natland website, but also using the noticeboards and the *Parish News* to maximise involvement.

A number of changes or extra features were proposed for the village website by respondents and these have been passed to the editor to consider. It is likely that some of the actions proposed in this Plan, such as the revival of the Parish Directory and the setting up of several volunteer working groups, will necessitate further changes to the website and options will be discussed with the website team.

### Internet access

We asked households how often they used the internet and what they used it for. From the responses shown in the table below, it is clear that the internet is an increasingly important source of information and communication in the parish. However, most of the 13% (31) minority who do not use the internet indicated that they were not interested in using it. This needs to be borne in mind for communication within the parish.

	Number of responses
How often does someone in your household use the internet?	
Constantly	75
Several times a day	79
Once a day	31
Less than once a day	17
Not at all	31

Of those who use the internet, most use it for contact with family and friends, leisure activities and shopping. Others use it for study, working from home and voluntary activities.

Quite a large number of respondents (108) expressed dissatisfaction with the speed of internet access and the Steering Group recommends that a working group of volunteers be set up to look at ways of getting better access.

### Affordable energy for Natland

Two questions were directed at matters relating to energy. The first asked about the level of interest in an oil-buying collective. Most respondents indicated that they did not use oil for heating but a few expressed an interest in such a scheme. The second question asked what support there might be for a parish energy scheme using different forms of renewable energy. The table below shows the level of interest in the different technologies.

	Number in support
Would you support a village energy scheme using the following?	
Wind	42
Solar	85
Micro-hydro	67
Biomass	49
Ground source heat pump	82

In view of the level of interest, the Steering Group recommends that a working group of volunteers be set up to consider the matter of a village energy scheme further.

### What have we missed?

73 people responded to this section of the questionnaire. It is not possible to list all the responses here. Many used the opportunity to reinforce answers to earlier questions. Several emphasised the importance of Natland retaining its village character. Other issues included:

- traffic problems on the Helm
- dog fouling
- the demand for allotments

- the future of Home Field
- the excessive use of white lines around the green
- the provision of a covered bus stop
- a reduction in street lighting to prevent light pollution
- an increase in street lighting to promote safety
- a dedicated cycleway alongside the A65

Some of these issues, such as the Helm, allotments, white lines around the green and the use of the Home Field, have already been the subject of discussion by the Parish Council, while others, such as the need for more or less street lighting, were in conflict with each other. Some, such as the plea for a dedicated cycleway alongside the A65, lacked a sufficient mandate to warrant action.

### Taking action together

One of the really encouraging results of the Household Questionnaire was the number of people who said they would be willing to join one or more of several working groups to progress various matters arising from the Plan.

There is, of course, nothing new about members of the community being willing to help out in community affairs and the parish has been fortunate in attracting the services of dedicated volunteers to support the Parish Council, the village hall and the church. What we are hoping to do as a result of the response to the questionnaire is to build on this experience. The numbers willing to take part in each working group, as given as options in the Household Questionnaire, are shown in the table below. Several more indicated a general interest in helping to take action together. (As part of the plan-drafting process, the 'Footpath and Traffic' group has now become the 'Traffic and Footpaths' group and the idea of a working group for 'Maintenance' has been dropped in favour of better management of volunteers and volunteer opportunities through the website and other channels.) The names and contact details will be passed to the Parish Council to take forward.

Proposed Working Group	Number willing to join
Footpath and Traffic	25
Maintenance	32
Broadband	12
Community Energy	11

## E MATTERS OMITTED FROM THE ACTION PLAN

The Short Questionnaire, the Household Questionnaire and our discussions with key institutions in the village and with key stakeholders threw up a wide range of issues. The Action Plan takes forward those where we are hopeful that some solution may be found. In this section we comment on other issues which have been raised but which are not taken forward in the Action Plan.

### Traffic problems

*Measures to slow down traffic:* The installation of measures such as rumbles strips and ghost strips to slow down traffic in the village received some support in the response to the Household Questionnaire; there was less interest in the installation of speed bumps or chicanes.

	Number in support
Would you support the following traffic calming measures?	
Chicanes	28
Rumble strips	52
Speed bumps	34
Ghost strips	53

There was also some opposition to any such measures in the village. In the absence of a clear mandate for these measures, the Steering Group are not recommending that they be pursued at this time. Instead, the focus will be on trialling a speed indicator device and on exploring the prospects for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit (see Section D above).

*Improving parking:* There was variable support for the measures suggested in the Household Questionnaire for improving parking in the village:

	Number in support
Which of the following would improve parking?	
More lines on the road	32
Education	56
Residents' parking	25
Better enforcement	62
Clear signage	76

Of the measures proposed, clear signage, education and better enforcement all received some support but not a strong mandate. In terms of education, the school already issues guidance to parents on parking during drop off and pick up times and will continue to do so. And signage is employed to protect the village green during some events at the church and village hall. A number of respondents proposed the creation of a new car park in the village as a way of resolving problems, including, for example, using part of the village green or the vicarage garden. The Parish Council have been pursuing the idea of a car park but without success for some time and, as this is not a practical solution at this time, it is not included in the Action Plan but the position will be kept under review

by the Parish Council. Some respondents suggested parking on the village green. But the green is common land and is owned by the Lord of the Manor so the Parish Council are not able to determine an alternative use for it, even if they so wished. Others suggested parking in the Vicarage garden but the garden belongs to the Diocese of Carlisle and they would have to agree to any alternative use for car parking. It is also apparent from our discussions that there are doubts whether a car park would do much to alleviate parking problems during school drop-off and pick-up times because the parking is of short duration.

*One-way system through the village:* Respondents rejected a one-way system through the village by almost three to one with 96 expressing themselves as 'strongly against'. Some noted also that one-way traffic would be impractical for much of Helm Lane because the low railway bridge restricts access for some vehicles.

*The bus service:* The Household Questionnaire shows that bus is the second most popular way of travelling from Natland to Kendal but comes a long way behind the use of private cars. The main reasons given are that it is easier to drive (83 respondents) and that the bus service does not fit people's schedules (105 respondents – although 60 of these also gave other reasons for not using the bus including 53 who said it was easier to drive). However, it was not clear to the Steering Group from the response that a change in the timetable would promote a significant increase in the use of the bus.

Two respondents said they didn't use the bus because it wasn't accessible for wheelchairs. Wheelchair accessibility on the bus service became a legal requirement from January 2014.

### Housing development in Natland

*New development:* There was some resistance on the part of respondents to the Household Questionnaire to any further new housing development in the Parish. However, the District Council's approved Core Strategy states that 8,800 new dwellings will be required in the District to the year 2025 (from 2003) and the Council's Land Allocation Document has allocated sites to meet much of this commitment, including one site in the village with an estimated capacity of 28 houses. The remainder of the commitment will be met from unallocated (mainly infill) sites.

The Parish Council have been consulted about the proposed allocation and has responded. They are also consulted about all planning applications for new development, including the development of unallocated sites, in the parish. All settlements are expected to take a share of new housing and South Lakeland District Council will not support 'no go' areas without good planning reasons (for example, lack of capacity in the sewage system).

### Community Life in Natland

*Leisure facilities:* The question 'How do you think leisure facilities could be improved in the village?' produced a lengthy list ranging from more facilities for men, to a pre-school nursery, swings for children, a green space for football, etc, activities for children in the evening, a coffee shop, a tennis court, a squash court, a bowling green and a cinema. Resourcing is a major challenge for all such facilities and the Steering Group have not, therefore, included these suggestions as actions in the Plan.

*The state of the roads in the village:* Several respondents commented on what they regarded as the poor state of some of the roads and pavements in the village and drainage problems associated with some of the roads. Cumbria County Council as the Highways Authority has appointed an Area Steward as a single point of contact for highway matters but residents are urged to continue to report potholes, faulty street lights, blocked gullies, damaged road signs and the like using the Highways Hotline (0845 609 6609) and the online reporting facility on the Council website ([www.cumbria.gov.uk](http://www.cumbria.gov.uk) and search for 'Highways Hotline').

*Pub:* Several respondents suggested that leisure facilities in the village could be improved by a pub. The nearest pub is the Punch Bowl at Barrows Green, although The Station Inn at Oxenholme is a close second and a pleasant walk across The Helm. Sedgwick Cricket Club accommodates a private registered club which operates a bar on match days and Friday evenings. A commercial pub could raise a number of issues, including traffic and noise, which would need to be addressed. Because of this, it was decided at the time of the last Parish Plan to investigate a community-based solution perhaps based on the private club model, but nothing came of this.

## F THE ACTION PLAN

The actions listed in the first table are very largely a response to the ‘Findings and Recommendations’ described in Section D and summarised in the second table.

Some of them, such as the 20mph speed limit within the village, are derived from the Plan process but are also actions which the Parish Council have been actively pursuing. They appear in this Plan because they are clearly a current issue for respondents and reinforce the mandate that the Parish Council has for action now and for the life of this Plan.

NATLAND PARISH ACTION PLAN 2014: Action Points					
No	Action	Related to Issues	How?	Partners	Timescale
A1	Facilitate/support volunteering in the parish	1.1, 3.3	Co-ordinate volunteer opportunities to help with parish maintenance and in support of VH, church and school. Set up process for publicising opportunities regularly through website/noticeboards/Parish News	Website team/ church/VH/ school	1 year
A2	Revive Parish Directory	1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6	Produce new leaflet as an online and paper document, deliver hard copy to all households and new residents, update periodically online and redistribute hard copy as necessary (no more than once a year) and with welcome to new residents	Village organisations and activity groups	deliver with Annual Report in April 2014
A3	Refresh and expand website	1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6	Discuss options with website team: to help promote key village information (eg Parish Directory content); volunteering information and village calendar; ideas to promote further social activity	Website team	1-2 years
A4	Facilitate better use of Parish News and village noticeboards	1.3, 2.2, 2.5	Look for volunteer Noticeboard Manager, promote Parish News more widely, set up mechanism for inclusion of key website content in both	Shop/website team/church	1 year
A5	Interpretative panel in village centre	2.4	NPC to set up Interpretative Panel working group to consider design and funding		1 year
A6	Coordinate use of village facilities	2.6, 4.2	Maintain village calendar on website, consider online booking system for church, school, village hall, manage parking including exploring out-of-hours parking at the school	Village institutions/ website	1 year
A7	Register Village Green as asset	5.1	Apply to SLDC	SLDC	1 year
A8	Explore creation of shared footway/ cycleway along Natland Road	4.3	NPC to discuss options with CCC	CCC, Sustrans	Ongoing
A9	Introduce 20mph limit in village	4.1	NPC to request from CCC	CCC	Ongoing
A10	Explore options for safer roads, including speed limits (A65 and Natland Road), more pavements, and A65 crossing points	3.4, 4.4, 4.5	NPC to set up Traffic and Footpaths working group	CCC	1-2 years
A11	Facilitate wider reporting of Highways issues	3.3	Promote on parish noticeboards and website		immediate
A12	Oppose inappropriate development	5.2, 5.3, 5.4	NPC to continue to apply agreed principles. Consider the option of developing, or being part of, a Neighbourhood Plan.	SLDC/ neighbouring parishes	Ongoing
A13	Maximise broadband coverage	3.1	NPC to set up Broadband working group		1 year
A14	Minimise community energy needs	3.2	NPC to set up Community Energy working group		1 year

NATLAND PARISH ACTION PLAN 2014: Findings, responses and action points – by theme			
No	Finding	Suggested response	Action points
<b>Theme 1: Parish Institutions – protecting, maintaining and strengthening</b>			
1.1	Parish Institutions are valued by community but would welcome wider support to continue to thrive	Promote volunteer involvement to protect, maintain and strengthen Natland's physical environment, community facilities and community life.	A1
1.2	The role and services provided by village institutions and the challenges they face could be better publicised.	Raise community awareness of the role and needs of each major organisation.	A2, A3
1.3	Shop and Post Office are important assets for the community but they are at risk if not well-used.	Raise awareness of the facilities available through the Post Office. Encourage the community to support the Post Office and Shop.	A2, A3 A2, A3
<b>Theme 2: Community Matters – information, communication and social activities</b>			
2.1	New households need initial signposting to information about the community and its organisations	Produce a welcome letter to accompany a copy of the Parish Directory for all new households.	A2
2.2	Clear and reliable, regular and advance information on all community events is important to residents.	Make better and more coordinated use of website, Parish News and noticeboards at PO and at redundant bus stop.	A3, A4
2.3	Use of school field and adventure playground as safe play areas for village children needs to be clarified.	School to clarify the position; raise awareness within community of play facilities available at the school.	A2, A3
2.4	Support expressed for information on features of interest in the Parish to be publicly displayed, particularly for visitors.	Consider creation and erection of an interpretative panel(s) on or near the Village Green.	A5
2.5	Parish Council's role in community affairs could be better understood by the community.	Include appropriate information in the Parish Directory and on website. Regularly report decisions from PC meetings on website and in Parish News.	A2, A3 A3, A4
2.6	Both church and school would welcome greater use of their buildings by community groups. Availability of venues for local events could be more easily accessible and coordinated	Publicise details for all venues on website and in Parish Directory. Consider options for online information on facilities and booking availability.	A2, A3 A6
<b>Theme 3: Infrastructure – local resources and parish maintenance</b>			
3.1	Desire for faster internet access across the parish.	Maximise high-speed broadband coverage. Investigate possibility of community build.	A13 A13
3.2	Support expressed for alternative energy schemes	Investigate and monitor options for community energy schemes. Investigate availability of grants for installing energy efficiency measures.	A14 A14
3.3	Perceived reduction in Local Authority provision as regards some aspects of parish maintenance.	Promote wider reporting of highways issues. Supplement statutory provision by coordinating volunteers for minor tasks, such as the existing annual litter pick.	A11 A1
3.4	Scope for additional footpaths identified, including shortcuts.	Investigate feasibility of additional routes.	A10

NATLAND PARISH ACTION PLAN 2014: Findings, responses and action points – by theme			
No	Finding	Suggested response	Action points
<b>Theme 4: Traffic, footpaths and parking – improving the village for walkers, cyclists and motorists</b>			
4.1	Perception of excessive traffic speeds on roads through and to Natland	Make use of Speed Indicator Device (in hand) Explore possibility of 20mph speed limit within village. Explore possibility of a 40mph speed limit on Natland Road.	A9 A10
4.2	Need for overflow parking for events held at the church, school and the village hall.	Explore with the school the potential for school car park to be more widely available for events held outside school hours. For popular events ask organisers to encourage car sharing.	A6 A6
4.3	Safety risks for pedestrians and cyclists on Natland Road. Residents expressed interest in an off-road footway/cycleway.	Re-iterate to CCC (highway authority) the local need and support for combined footpath/cycleway alongside Natland Road, and explore options.	A8
4.4	Safety risks for pedestrians on village roads without pavements. Particular suggestions, including a pavement extension from school to Long Meadow Lane.	Liaise with CCC to assess the feasibility of any further pavements.	A10
4.5	Safety risks when crossing A65, both at Helm Lane for walkers and cyclists using National Route 70, and at Helmside Road – which discourages residents from walking rather than driving.	Liaise with County Councillor and with Highway Authority to assess feasibility of installing safe crossing points. Also consider feasibility of extending 40mph speed limit to south of Barrows Green crossroads.	A10 A10
<b>Theme 5: Village Identity - preserving the character of our parish</b>			
5.1	Widespread desire to preserve the character of the parish, particularly the village centre.	Register key features of the Parish eg the Village Green as ‘assets’ under the new legislation.	A7
5.2	Expressions of support for preserving green gaps between Kendal and Natland and between Oxenholme and Natland.	Natland PC to continue to aim to preserve these green gaps when responding to potential new development proposals.	A12
5.3	Need to consider the consequences of new development on an inadequate road network.	Natland PC to continue to do this when responding to potential new development proposals.	A12
5.4	Desire that scale and design of any limited, new development should respect the character of Natland village.	Natland PC to continue to have regard to these concerns when responding to potential new development proposals.	A12

## NATLAND PARISH PLAN 2014: STEERING GROUP

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\* Martin Jayne and Andrew Gill withdrew from the Group before completion of the Plan.

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Graham Needham, proprietor of village shop and post office

David Peters, Chair, Natland Parish Council

Rev Angela Whittaker, Priest-in-Charge, St Mark's Church, Natland

Carl Glynn and Julia Wilson, Action with Communities in Cumbria

Emma Nichols, South Lakeland District Council Community Liaison Officer

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