

New Hutton Parish Plan

Introduction

The parish plan process was instigated by the Parish Council which formed a Steering Group to conduct a questionnaire during 2010 and there was a final open meeting of parishioners in February 2011 to discuss the major issues raised. The plan was approved by the Parish Council at its meeting on 10-03-2011.

The Parish Plan has been compiled prior to legislation on localism that is being discussed in parliament during 2011 and that may greatly shift and increase the responsibilities contained in a parish plan. Issues involve the creation of neighbourhood plans, community rights to build, assets of community value, community rights to challenge delivery of services and possible changes to the wider national policy planning framework. These could clearly affect what our parish may be expected to deliver either as a parish or in partnership with others. The emphasis in this parish plan has, therefore, been to draw up an action plan that addresses the current issues raised by parishioners. The plan will be revisited as necessary in the light of this forthcoming legislation.

This parish plan document has the following structure:

1. Some characteristics of the parish to provide the context within which decisions have been made
2. The parish plan itself with actions to be taken by the Parish Council over the next few years
3. Plans of organisations within the parish
4. Issues raised by the parish questionnaire which have already been dealt with
5. Comments made in response to the questionnaire for which it was decided that fuller information should be given to parishioners
6. Comments which were noted
7. Acknowledgements

1. Some characteristics of the parish

New Hutton is a rural parish with approximately 350 inhabitants of which 298 were registered electors in 2011. Data from Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion show that compared with the rest of Cumbria the parish has:

- Fewer single parent and single pensioner households
- A higher percentage in work than elsewhere and double the usual number work very long hours of more than 49 hours per week.
- Many fewer unemployed and ill people than the wider area
- A high percentage of workers who are managers or in the professions
- Double the usual number of people with degree level qualifications
- A low percentage of people who have long-term illnesses, are disabled or get an attendance allowance to provide help in their homes.
- Little demand for public transport as every household had a car in a survey in 2009. This also means that all households have access to services such as health, education and shops of which there is no provision in the parish.
- Hardly any overcrowding in houses and 92% of houses had central heating in a 2001 survey
- A high owner-occupation rate of 80% and very few houses are privately rented or rented from councils or housing associations. These facts show that there is very little affordable housing for families on low incomes.
- No flats and the proportion of detached houses is more than double the number in Cumbria

2. The Parish Action Plan

A host of issues was raised in the questionnaire and subsequent discussions. All were considered by the Steering Group or Parish Council. For some, it was decided to take no further action but for most action has been taken. Details of all these are given in the accompanying tables. Plans for the few remaining issues are described in the following table:

Issue	Actions taken so far	Further actions to be taken	Planned date for completion
Snow	Gritter to be delivered in April funded by LAP	Agree policy for storage and use	2011
Road maintenance	Database of potholes and problems set up	Continue to monitor every 6 months or so; Continue to urge parishioners to report problems to the CCC highways hotline; phone 0845 6096609 or online at www.cumbria.gov.uk and then >Transport and roads >Report a highway fault	continuing
Maintenance of enclosed footpaths	Legal responsibilities for the various types of path have been clarified	CCC to be asked to include paths not already maintained by them	2011
Poor broadband access and speed	An active role within the Upper Kent Local Area Partnership	Continue to support the LAP	2012?
Communication	E-mail system has been set up and reaches nearly half of households; the parish clerk's e-mail address is: nhpclerk@googlemail.com ; a parish website has been set up at www.communigate.co.uk/lakes/newhuttonparish	Continue to urge parishioners to join the system; New notice boards are needed	2011 and continuing 2012
First Responders and First Aid		The parish will begin to support the Old Hutton First Responder scheme financially; a New Hutton scheme will not be formed; More parishioners will be invited to join the Old Hutton group; The desire for a first aid course will be assessed	2012 and continuing 2011 2011
Localism Bill		The Parish Plan will be reviewed when the provisions of the Localism Bill are implemented and the Local Area Partnership has been developed further	2012

3. Plans of organisations within the parish

St Stephen's Church

Year	Description of developments	Estimates of costs (approx)
2010-11	Renovate the external parts of the church to stop water ingress	£30,000
2011-12	Refurbish the church interior to include provision of toilet and kitchen Bring the church audio-visual systems up to date	£30,000 to £50,000 £5,000
2012-13		
2013-14		
2014-15		

Notes:

This schedule of developments is expected to increase and extend into 2015.

One of the key priorities is to ensure that regular church services are maintained at the current level. The developments listed are essential in ensuring this is achieved.

The Institute

Year	Description of developments	Estimates of costs (approx)
2010-11	Paint the external south wall Explore ways to extend car parking	
2011-12	Explore whether to renew the power supply cable and main transformer Consider setting up a comfortable seating area near the bar for social nights	
2012-13	Renew the heating system with an air source heat pump system	£12,000
2013-14	Replace the stacking chairs with folding chairs Store chairs in an extension to the existing store room Extend the kitchen and construct a simple smoking area outside	£2,000 £10,000 £10,000
2014-15	Renew the kitchen with a larger warming oven and stainless steel surfaces Repaint the whole exterior and interior of the Institute	£10,000 £10,000

The Old school

Actions taken so far	Further actions to be taken	Planned date for completion
At the parish plan meeting the Old School was suggested by several people as a possible area for housing and the building itself could be converted.	The Directors will determine the future of the property	2011-15

Issues which have already been dealt with

Transport and roads:

Number of comments from questionnaire	Issue	Actions taken	Reasons why the issue will not be pursued further
32	Gritting/snow clearance/grit boxes/ use of local farmers to clear roads	Recommendations sent to CCC about where grit piles should be placed and about changes to the priorities for road gritting. The LAP will buy a hand-powered gritter for New Hutton.	
41	Repair roads/potholes/ encourage reporting through CCC road helpline/increase awareness of Highway Stewardship scheme	Parish database has been set up and problems are being monitored. Highways stewards informed; Parishioners urged to report problems to CCC hotline and to PC	
12	Drainage of roads	Parish database has been set up and problems are being monitored; Highways stewards informed;	
7	Excessive speed on A684; High speed of vehicles through village in spite of speed limit; Dangerous bends on Hayclose Lane	Monitoring of speed by CCC on A684 revealed no problems; PC's efforts to use a shared mobile speed warning sign have been prevented by very high insurance costs; CCC has accepted the need for improved safety at Hayclose Lane corners but work will depend on the availability of finance	
11	Passing places needed along New Hutton Lane from the A684 to the village		The council felt the road is wide enough for a caravan and car to pass with care; CCC would not agree to the need and cost
1	Satnavs bring too much big van and lorry through-traffic along Fairthorns Lane	CCC has agreed to improved signs but work will depend on the availability of finance	
1	Need a signpost for Paddy Lane at A684/Hayclose Lane junction	The council has written to CCC asking for the sign currently lying on the grass verge to be re-erected.	
1	Need a designated bus stop and timetable at Beehive Lane-A684 junction		The council felt there is not be sufficient demand for this
2	Maintenance of enclosed footpaths and bridleways	Legal responsibilities for the various types of path have been clarified	
1	Signs for routes of footpaths	The parish council has put up signs to make routes clear; CCC has erected missing fingerposts	

Communications (telephone, mobile, broadband etc):

Number of comments	Issue	Actions taken	Reasons why the issue will not be pursued further
43	Poor broadband access and speed	The Parish Council has taken an active part in this issue which is now being tackled by the Upper Kent Local Area Partnership; New Hutton parishioners were urged to take part in the recent questionnaire survey to establish the demand for an improved service and gave more replies than other parishes	
9	Poor phone lines especially along New Hutton Lane	BT has made it clear that householders themselves should complain about interference on their lines	
1	Need to maintain a public telephone in the village for emergency use	This is parish council policy.	

Environment:

Number of comments	Issue	Actions taken	Reasons why the issue will not be pursued further
1	Dog fouling		Signs are in place about this
10	Litter		The parish open meeting decided not to have an annual litter pick day; individuals were urged to pick it up whenever they see it and to report fly tipping to SLDC immediately
15	Energy		The parish open meeting decided not to form a group to promote renewable energy and the reduction of energy consumption. It was felt that there are plenty of initiatives available for individuals to apply for their own properties.

Housing:

Number of comments	Issue	Actions taken	Reasons why the issue will not be pursued further
16	Affordable housing		The parish open meeting decided there was not a need for affordable housing in the parish
	Land Allocation for development up to 2025		The parish open meeting voted unanimously to oppose inclusion of the field between the church and the Ashes in the Land Allocation document

Services and utilities (water, electricity, gas, fire service etc):

Number of comments	Issue	Actions taken	Reasons why the issue will not be pursued further
16	Provision of gas	National Grid, the gas supply company for this area, stated that provision would be uneconomic	

Parish council:

Number of comments	Issue	Actions taken	Reasons why the issue will not be pursued further
3	Continue to involve parishioners via e-mail/ newsletter/Gazette	E-mail system has been set up and reaches nearly half of households; parish website has been set up	
1	Issue parish newsletter to everyone as not all take The Grapevine		Cost precludes this.
3	Monthly agendas for future PC meetings would help		Agendas are published about a week before meetings via e-mail, the website and the notice board
1	At the AGM, re-introduce the old practice of giving responses to planning applications received in the year	Parishioners on the e-mail system are now notified when a planning application has been received and are informed when a site visit is to be made; The PC's responses to applications and the results are published in the minutes of PC meetings.	

Community social activities:

Number of comments	Issue	Actions taken	Reasons why the issue will not be pursued further
1	Need more communication about social activities	Activities at the Institute are broadcast via the parish e-mail system and website	

Crime:

Number of comments	Issue	Actions taken	Reasons why the issue will not be pursued further
9	Form more neighbourhood watch schemes		The parish open meeting decided there was no need as the crime rate is so low in the area. Parishioners were urged to remain alert.
1	Police should be invited to address the community in an open meeting		This would have happened if it had been decided to form more neighbourhood watch schemes
4	Requests for policeman or patrols to be more visible in the parish		Not felt to be cost-effective in such a low-crime parish.
1	Report crimes via e-mail		This is likely to happen if the need arises

Education:

Number of comments	Issue	Actions taken	Reasons why the issue will not be pursued further
1	Children doing GCSEs are at a disadvantage due to poor broadband access	See the comment about broadband	

Employment and business:

Number of comments	Issue	Actions taken	Reasons why the issue will not be pursued further
2	Could be encouraged by better broadband	See the comment about broadband	
1	Recognise the changing needs of all rural enterprises eg tourism		The parish council will continue to support rural enterprise to the full extent of its powers.

First Responders:

Number of comments	Issue	Actions taken	Reasons why the issue will not be pursued further
	Increased support for the First Responders scheme	This issue was raised at the parish open meeting	

4. Comments for which fuller information is given

98 comments were received in the responses to the questionnaire which showed that further information was needed to allay any concerns and answer queries. The comments themselves are not reproduced here as the information given below indicates their nature.

Transport and roads:

Cutting of verges – might seem to be random but a cutting plan is followed by CCC which avoids harming rare species, and major cutting occurs every few years to stop bushes shading out ground flora.

Extending bus services, transport for non-drivers and the elderly – the Rural Wheels scheme run by CCC provides transport which people book in advance. Further details can be obtained from:

The Rural Wheels Co-ordinator

Community Transport

Lonsdale Building

The Courts

Carlisle

CA3 8NA

Phone 01228 226721

Communications:

Poor mobile reception – the Steering Group believe that Vodaphone and Orange have the best receptions in the parish

Environment:

Recycling – The provision of recycling bins on the Institute car park has already been considered and rejected due to the amount of space that would be used. Parishioners who do not have a recycling collection should contact SLDC. Please take materials which are not collected such as cardboard to skips in Kendal.

Pollution – the Environment Agency should be contacted immediately when pollution is suspected in rivers.

Planning:

New housing – New Hutton Parish Council (NHPC) comments on every planning application but the final decision is made by the SLDC planning committee so NHPC's decisions sometimes stand and sometimes do not; for instance, the parish council has a policy of pressing for a local occupancy condition to be placed on all major new developments in order to reduce the risk of houses becoming holiday or second homes and thus remaining empty for much of the year with consequent undesirable effects on the life of the parish; however, the planners sometimes do not allow this condition to be applied to property. Planners must follow strict rules so the planning system is not arbitrary.

NHPC usually visits every site for which a planning application has been made. The visit is publicised at least three days before on the parish notice board and via e-mail (to those who are on the parish e-mail system). Such visits are normal council meetings and are open to parishioners to attend. Parishioners can also send their own comments to the SLDC planning department via e-mail. All comments are published verbatim on the SLDC website.

Monitoring of planning permissions – NHPC carries out this function, working with the SLDC planning department where it is thought that significant breaches of the conditions for planning permission have occurred.

Parish council:

Planning – The parish council supports local planning applications where they do not infringe the greater good.

Relationship with CCC about roads – NHPC regularly sends information to CCC about the maintenance of roads but it is CCC that decides whether and when work is done. In order to monitor this, NHPC has set up a database of the nature and locations of problems, when CCC was notified and when inspections are made to see whether the work has been done. For minor problems, two Highway Stewards work in the parish for a couple of weeks each year and liaise with the chairman of the parish council about what needs to be done. Parishioners are urged to report potholes, drainage and other problems directly to the CCC roads hotline as well as to parish councillors know.

Footpaths – In recent years NHPC has had all paths and bridleways signposted by CCC and the network of signs is regularly monitored.

Parish directory – In 2009 a parish directory of organisations was distributed to all houses but did not include the names, addresses and telephone numbers of parishioners.

Elections to the parish council – The next election will be held on 5th May 2011. The rules are clear: parishioners will be notified via the notice board and other media and will be invited to stand for election. The same procedure is followed when a vacancy arises on the council and a by-election is planned. If no-one offers to stand, the council has

then to consider who in the parish should be approached to be co-opted to the council. The council hopes that a number of residents will offer to stand for election in 2011.

Services and utilities:

Low water pressure, leaks and poor electricity supply – Residents are urged to contact their suppliers whenever these problems occur as they are often of an urgent nature.

Young people:

Playground/outdoor play activities – Several people wish to have such facilities but there are conflicting views that our young people are too spread out for the facilities to be used much. Although different in nature, perhaps organised groups such as the Helm Youth Group and Grayrigg YFC are the appropriate ways to provide varied recreational activities.

Apprenticeships – The Steering Group knows of no provision in colleges for apprenticeships in walling, masonry and hedging but the YFC, Friends of the Lake District, National Trust, The Dry Stone Walling Association etc do have short courses in them.

Community social activities:

Car parking and activities at NH Institute – These comments have been passed to the Institute committee

Comments to do with the Old School – These comments have been passed to the Miles Tarn Community Action Group

Crime:

Local policeman – Parishioners who wish to contact a local policeman, rather than contact the police in an emergency situation, should contact the Kendal Rural Officer (currently 932 Sergeant Steven Christy): telephone – 0845 3300247 or e-mail kendalruralnpt@cumbria.police.uk

Further information about the neighbourhood police can be found at: www.cumbria.police.uk and then click on Your neighbourhood – Kendal rural

Education:

Environmental awareness – A comment about the importance of field trips to increase environmental and historical awareness has been passed on to the primary school.

Potentially vulnerable groups:

Health visitor – The provision of a health visitor depends on the surgery which is used.

Delivery of medication – It is understood that ASDA deliver medicines when asked.

Transport – Transportation into Kendal and elsewhere can be arranged through Cumbria County Council's Rural Wheels scheme. For further details, see above.

Photocopier and broadband site in the Institute Supper Room – The Steering Group felt that this would not be viable as such facilities are already available at Kendal library.

5. Comments which were noted

74 comments were received which the Steering Group felt did not contribute to the plan. Many were compliments; it is pleasing to note that parishioners value so highly a range of aspects of life in the parish provided or organised by others. Most of the rest were opinions which did not suggest what should be done to improve the parish and could not be taken further.

6. Acknowledgements

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