

Seascale Community Plan 2012

Seascale Parish Council

Seascale Community Plan 2012

Introduction

The last framework Parish Plan was produced in 2009 to update the first plan, "The Seascale Rural Challenge Bid" of 1997. Since then the concept of parish plans has become more formalised and, as a result of localities working, more standardised.

It is now a condition of seeking funding from various sources that any request is directly related to a need established in the parish plan. This is known as "evidence of local need".

In addition the requirement under the commitment to localities working is that each parish must produce a plan and that this should be a living and evolving document; to that end we are making the structure simple and easy to update.

The Seascale Community Plan will be distributed mainly by internet, on our website and those of our localities partners and will be downloadable in a secure format. Printed copies will be available, but in limited numbers.

What has been achieved since the last parish plan?

The Seascale to Gosforth Cycleway is now a viable project, with funding identified and a planning application in progress. It now has the official number of Cycleway 727; the name will be decided shortly.

An Environmental Warden with responsibility for Seascale has been appointed by Copeland BC and is dealing with problems with dogs.

The BMX Track was constructed and has been open since 5 July 2009. Seascale Groundforce have now handed responsibility for maintenance of the track to Seascale Parish Council.

The Seascale Village Website (seascale.org.uk) went live in February 2011.

The Quality Beach Award was given to Seascale for the second year running in 2011.

A community fitness centre to be run by a non-profitmaking company has been granted planning permission and has raised the necessary funds; building and conversion work in part of the Windscale Club are due to start in February.

How is data collected for the parish plan?

The starting point for each revision is the earlier plan: we need to assess what progress has been made and whether aspirations for the village have changed.

Questionnaires are issued from time to time, examples being those from 2009 and the Together We Can week in March 2011, which both indicated what was currently enjoyed in the village and produced "wish lists" for improvements. Further surveys and questionnaires will be carried out as necessary.

Ideas from the past continually resurface, sometimes in new guises; examples are the recent petition for traffic lights at Arch Hill and a proposal to access better and faster mobile phone reception.

Localities Working produces new ideas and models; for example the 5 Rivers (now Mid Copeland Partnership) Draft Issues Framework is shortly to be incorporated into a larger localities document. Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria County Council, CALC (Cumbria Association of Local Councils) and NALC (National Association of Local Councils) are all producing guidance on Localities Working.

New government legislation provides different opportunities and requirements; over the next few years the Localities Act will have a huge impact.

Village Profile

Seascale is a large village on the coast of West Cumbria in the non-metropolitan authority district of Copeland and on the edge of the Western Lake District.

The main employer in the area is Sellafield Ltd and most households have at least one family member who works or has worked there. There should continue to be work in the nuclear sector with new nuclear power stations planned, a possible high level waste underground storage facility being discussed and a proposed expansion of the Low Level Waste Repository. Nuclear issues rate highly in the community; although people here have learned over two generations to live with the nuclear industry their agreement to these new proposals should not be taken for granted by developers and interested parties. The nuclear industry has responsibilities towards the areas it works in and the village and its neighbours would expect substantial community benefits to be forthcoming as a result of such large scale development proposals.

Tourism is also an important part of the local economy. Tourists coming to the Western Lake District by rail can access the National Park from stations at Seascale and Ravenglass. Camping and caravanning are also popular and well catered for. There is a network of footpaths and coastal and inland cycleways. The area has archaeological sites dating from the Neolithic period, through the Romans and the Vikings to the Victorian industrial age.

Population and Dwellings

At the **2001 census** the **population** was recorded as **1473** and the number of **dwellings** as **648**.

The **2008 estimate** put the **population** at **1462** and the number of **dwellings** at **709**.

The Copeland Strategic Housing Market Assessment of **2011** put the number of dwellings at **849**

The results of the 2011 Census have not yet been published but will give a more up to date picture.

The following are based on the **2001** census.

Age ranges:

0-11 = 219

12-18 = 125

19-29 = 128

30-59 = 621

60-74 = 264

75 and over = 138

Residents with limiting long term illnesses = 246
Non White Residents = 3
Dependent Children = 311

Summary

Of the total population of 1473:
23.4% were aged 18 or under
27.3% were aged 60 or over.
16.7% had long term limiting illnesses
0.2% were non white.

Housing

Residents state that there is a need for affordable housing, so that younger people can stay in the village and buy their own homes. But the term "affordable housing" has a number of different meanings and although new housing developments are required to contain a percentage of such housing it is very hard to interpret what is intended and whether it would in fact meet the requirements of local people.

The Copeland Strategic Housing Market Assessment of 2011 indicated that there was likely to be a need for 7 new affordable homes per year from 2011-2015. It also recorded that 26.6% of those responding to the survey thought that more housing for younger people was needed and 23% considered more was needed for older people.

Other questionnaires have suggested that there is a need for more bungalows and also for sheltered housing. Very little proposed development in the village has so far addressed this.

Action Plan

Seascale Parish Council's aims continue to focus on both the village itself and the village in the wider community.

Maintaining and improving the opportunities and quality of life in the village, for residents and businesses

No:	Which areas will be covered?	Who will Seascale Parish Council work with?	Timescale/ Priority?	Funding?
1	Structure and Surroundings			
1.1 1.1.1 1.1.2 1.1.3 1.1.4 1.1.5 1.1.6 1.1.7 1.1.8 1.1.9 1.1.10	The Beach Area. To maintain our Quality Coast Award status. Continuation of free parking. Toilets open 7 days a week. Control orders for dogs. Encouraging bright and attractive shop fronts. A tidy and integrated recycling area. Maintaining a safe and attractive play area. Maintaining the seats and picnic tables. Replacing the notice board and map on the Wishing Well. Flying the Flag Litter-picking.	Copeland BC; Beach Improvements Committee. Beach Advisory Panel. Environment Agency Volunteers Volunteers	Ongoing/High	Seascale PC. Copeland BC Beach Improvements Scheme.
1.2	Housing Needs Report. To validate or modify the conclusions of existing surveys and produce a model specific to Seascale.	Copeland BC. Local Strategic Partnership?	2012 onwards /High	Seascale PC. Localities funds?

1.3	The Environment. To keep the village and its surroundings clean, tidy and welcoming to visitors.			
1.3.1	Control of Dogs.	Copeland BC.	Ongoing	Seascale PC. Copeland BC. Cumbria CC.
1.3.2	Parking.	Better Highways.	/High	
1.3.3	Renovation and Maintenance of Footpaths.	Cumbria CC; Countryside Access Team.	/High /High	
1.3.4	Promoting recycling.	Copeland BC.	/High	
1.3.5	Beach Safety		/Medium	
1.3.5.1	Red Warning Flag	MOD Eskmeals		
1.3.5.2	Radioactivity Monitoring	Sellafield Ltd.		
1.3.6	Beach Cleaning.	Volunteers.	/High	
1.3.7	Monitoring of health and variety of wildlife.	Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Volunteers.	/High	
1.4	Road safety. To improve road safety in the village.	Better Highways.	2012/High	Cumbria CC. Cumbria Constabulary.
1.4.1	Safety and Traffic Survey.	The Police.		
1.4.2	To investigate possibilities for a roundabout or traffic lights at Arch Hill			
1.4.3	Control of speeding on Gosforth Road			
1.5	Transport. To preserve existing public transport and if possible improve coverage.	Cumbria CC. Mid Copeland Partnership. Northwest Rail	Ongoing/High	Cumbria CC. Mid Copeland Partnership. Northwest Rail
1.5.1	To provide better and safer access to trains on the station platform by means of "Harrington Humps"	Network Rail CRUG.	2012/High	

1.5.2	To lobby for improvements to the road system in the area.	Cumbria CC. Nuclear bodies. MRWS	Long Term/High	Cumbria CC. Nuclear bodies.
1.5.3	To promote more cycleways (See under Tourism)			
1.5.4	To lobby for improvements to the bus timetables (eg to co-ordinate with train times) and for safer, more comfortable buses.	3D Cumbria CC.	Long Term/High	Cumbria CC Transport companies
1.6	The Library. To work towards making Seascale a Mid Copeland hub, ie becoming a "Library Extra"	Cumbria CC. Mid Copeland Partnership.	Ongoing	N/A
2	People			
2.1	Young people. To promote ways of supporting and benefitting young people through:		Ongoing/High	Seascale PC. Copeland BC. Cumbria CC.
2.1.1	Organisations.	The School. Parents. Scouts,Cubs,Guides, Brownies. Shackles Off. Youth Forum. Cumbria CC.		
2.1.2	Better Transport	Cumbria CC.		
2.1.3	Play Areas	Copeland BC.		
2.1.4	The BMX Track			

2.2	Elderly people and the vulnerable. To maintain links with organisations that provide support and social activities and to publicise their work.	Churches. Charities and voluntary organisations. U3A. Evergreens Community Transport Schemes.	Ongoing/High	Seascale PC. Copeland BC. Cumbria CC.
2.3	Shops and businesses. To support local enterprises by helping to promote and protect them.		Ongoing	
2.3.1	Promote Apprenticeship Schemes.	Copeland BC.	Ongoing/High	Copeland BC.
2.3.2	Establish a Chamber of Trade	Other Local Chambers of Trade	Starting soon/Medium	
2.3.4	To promote the use of the Cross Lanes Industrial units	Copeland BC.	/Medium	Copeland BC.
2.4	High Speed Broadband. To work towards acquiring this which will benefit all sections of the community, individuals, the school, and businesses.	Broadband Champions. Mid Copeland Partnership. Cumbria CC. Commercial enterprises, eg Vodafone	Ongoing/High (there is a limited opportunity)	Cumbria CC. Commercial companies.
2.5	Neighbourhood Watch. To re-establish the scheme in the village.	The Police.	Starting January 2012/High	Cumbria Constabulary.
2.6	Health and fitness. To promote health and fitness in the community by supporting health initiatives, cycleways and sporting activities.	Seascale Health Centre. The Sports Hall Committee. The Cricket Club. The Golf Club. The Tennis Club. The Bowls Club. The Seascale Community Fitness Centre. Copeland BC.	Ongoing/ Medium February 2012	Seascale PC. Mixed public and private funding.

3	Outreach			
3.1	<p>Tourism. To provide information about local attractions and wildlife through publications, leaflets, maps and the website.</p> <p>To promote cycleways, eg between Drigg and Seascale and between Ravenglass and Drigg</p> <p>To provide an ATM to complement the existing banking hours.</p>	<p>Mid Copeland Partnership. Cumbria Tourism. LDNP. Copeland BC. Cumbria CC. Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Local hotels. Better Highways. Sustrans Parish Councils</p> <p>NatWest Bank.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Long term/Medium</p> <p>Ongoing/Medium</p>	<p>Mid Copeland Partnership. Cumbria Tourism. LDNP. Copeland BC. Cumbria CC. Cumbria Wildlife Trust. Local hotels. Better Highways. NatWest Bank NatWest Bank.</p>
3.2	<p>Information and Publications. To maintain the Seascale Village Magazine and the Village Directory. To produce a series of walks leaflets.</p> <p>To Maintain the Website</p>	<p>Mid Copeland Partnership. Cumbria Tourism.</p>	<p>Ongoing/High</p> <p>Starting 2012/Medium Ongoing/High</p>	<p>Seascale PC. Mid Copeland Partnership. Cumbria Tourism. Seascale PC.</p>

Participating in Localities Working by Building and Maintaining Links within the Wider Community

Mid Copeland Partnership	Seascale PC has signed the new constitution of the Partnership. The position of Chair of the Partnership is currently held by a Seascale PC/Copeland BC Councillor. The Partnership aims to co-ordinate parish initiatives involving for example tourism, high speed broadband, road and rail improvements and to provide a framework for the partners' parish plans.
Neighbourhood Forum	Seascale PC promotes the Forum to the eligible organisations in the village and supports their requests for funding. Non-profitmaking and charitable bodies which are raising funds from a number of sources for new or existing costed enterprises are encouraged to apply for small sums.
Cumbria County Council/ Copeland Borough Council/ Parish forums	Seascale PC participates in the regular meetings of these groupings to keep itself informed about opportunities for and to promote the interests of Seascale Village.
MRWS (Managing Radioactive Waste Safely)	Seascale PC is consulting residents about the proposals as well as taking part in discussions between parishes and with Copeland BC and Cumbria CC under the auspices of CALC.
Nuclear New Build	Seascale PC is taking part in discussions between parishes and with Copeland BC, Cumbria CC and CALC.
Road and Rail Transport and the infrastructure	This is an issue which is increasingly important. With the whole of West Cumbria coming under the Government spotlight because of nuclear development plans there may be an opportunity to make progress. Nuclear projects are now required to bring "Community Benefits" and Seascale PC is taking an active part in assessing with other parishes and the district and county councils how this can make improvements to the infrastructure from which all communities in the locality will gain.