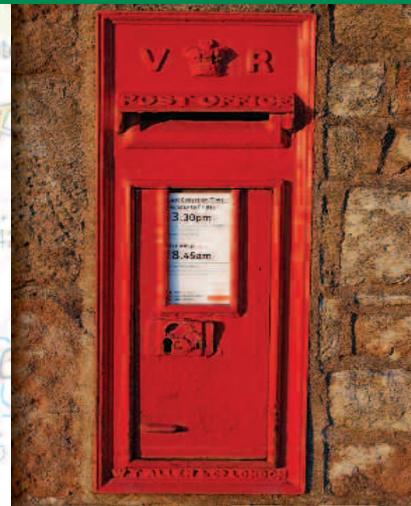
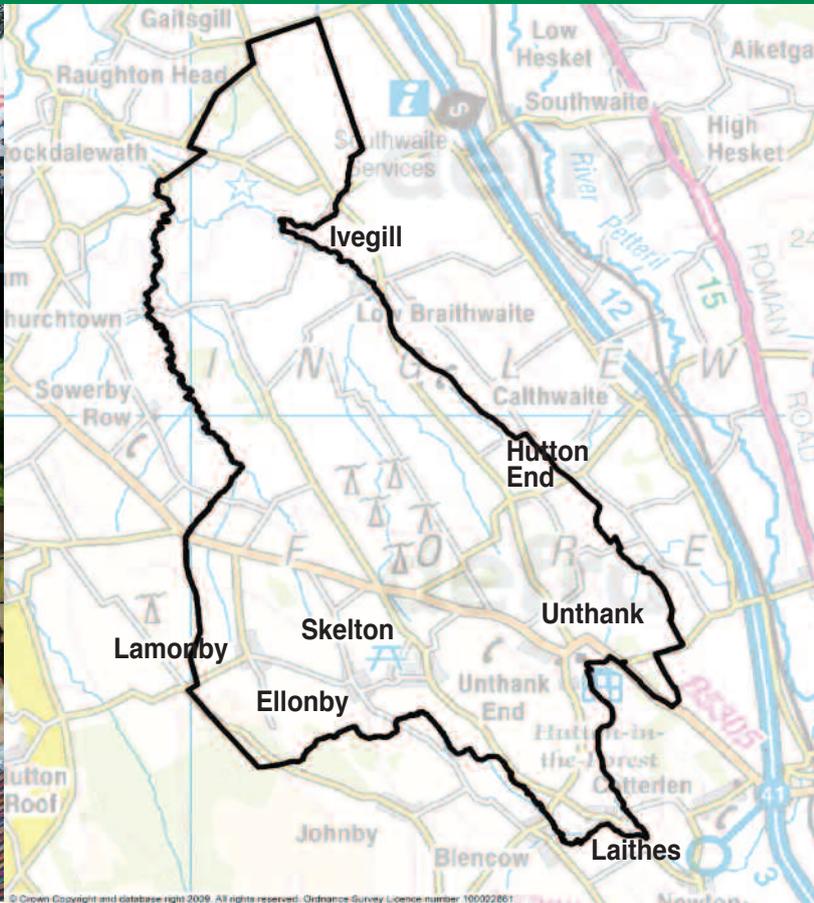




Action Plan for the Communities of Ellonby, Hutton, Ivegill, Laithes, Lamonby, Skelton and Unthank



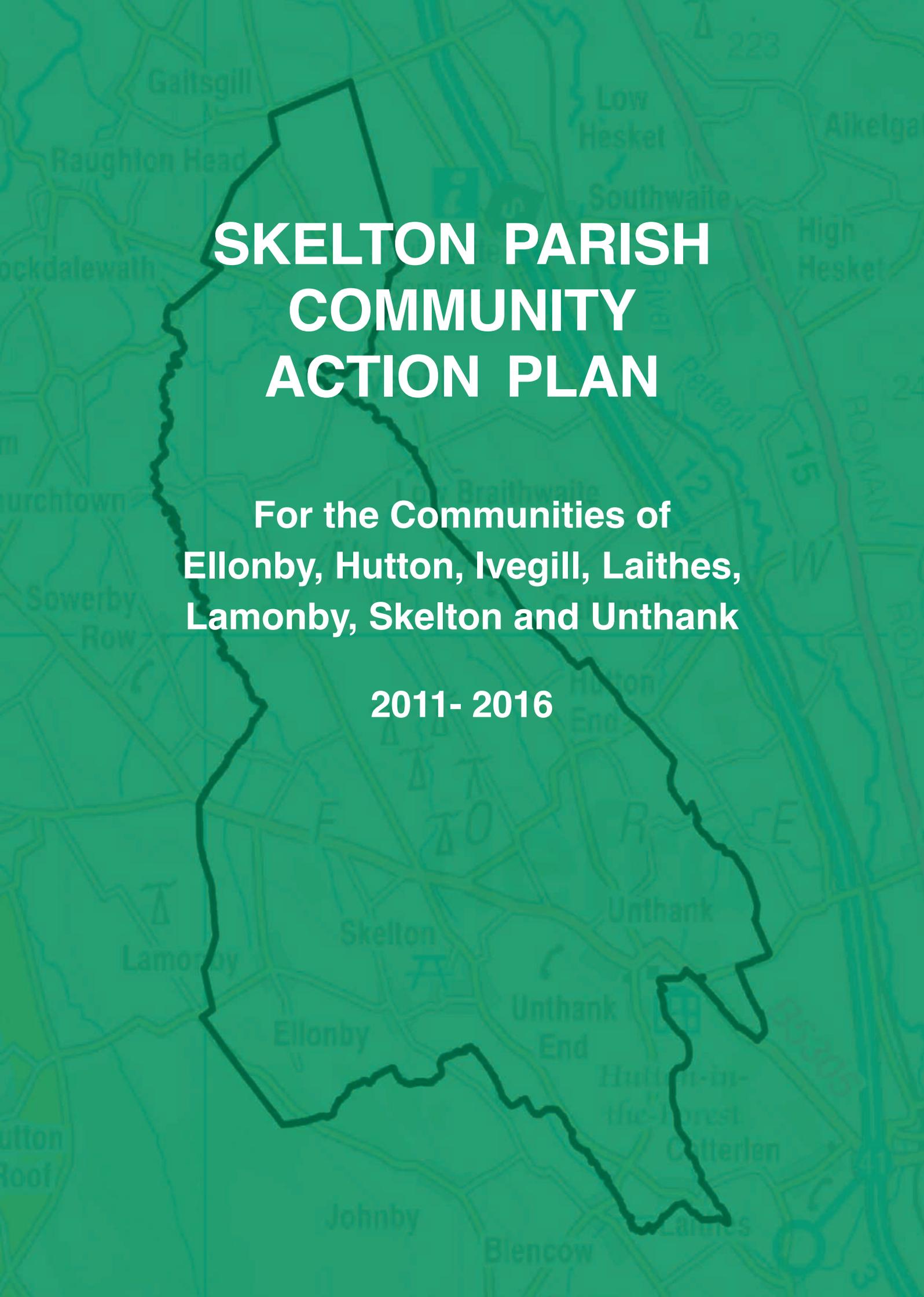
WANTED: YOUR IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

SKELTON LAITHES IVEGILL HUTTON
UNTHANK ELLONBY LAMONBY

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS

RAISE THE ISSUES, HAVE YOUR SAY!





SKELTON PARISH COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

**For the Communities of
Ellonby, Hutton, Ivegill, Laithes,
Lamonby, Skelton and Unthank**

2011- 2016

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Further Information

The Community Action Plan and Summary, the Household Survey, Young Person's Survey and Warwick Network Ltd Data are available online at the Skelton Parish Council website www.skeltonparish.co.uk and the Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) website www.cumbriaaction.org.uk

The Community Action Committee

Liz Blake, Anne Charlton, Terry Jolley,
Anna Matthews, Sandra Morfett-Murdock,
Helen Squires, Bob Towers and Frank Walmsley

Acknowledgements

Thanks and appreciation to Carl Glynn ACT, Oliver Shimell EDC, CCC, Skelton Parish Council, Consultants Warwick Network Ltd and to the many other members of the Community who contributed to the production of this Community Action Plan.

Chairman's Introduction

As part of the Cumbria-wide initiative to involve communities in local developments and decision-making, Skelton Parish Council decided that an Action Plan should be undertaken. This is a way of ensuring that local priorities and ideas are brought to the fore and can be acted upon.

A Community Plan is three things; it is a **Document** that sets out what local people value in their community, it is an **Action Plan** for projects to achieve the aspirations of the local people and it is a **Process** which a community goes through which has its own value quite apart from the document it produces.

The Community Action Plan dates from 26th March 2009, when a small sub-committee called an open meeting in order to set up an official working committee to draw up an Action Plan initiated by the local residents themselves. ACT (ACTion with Communities in Cumbria) and Eden District Council were supportive and actively helped from the beginning.

Since then there have been a number of consultation exercises – the main one being questionnaires going to every household and to every young person in the community. The information collected in these surveys was independently analysed by Warwick

Network and presented to a general meeting of local residents on 16th September 2010. At this event, interested individuals were identified to form various focus groups, so that the whole initiative could move forward based on the ideas and priorities of local residents as opposed to any other body or Council.

This document describes first, the local area; second, the consultation process, third, the survey results and in Part 4 the Community Action Plan.

The Community Action Plan is set within the political and economic uncertainties of 2011 and beyond – but at a time when the importance of local groups and initiatives are being stressed in for instance 'the Big Society'. The Plan can be reviewed annually since priorities can change. **The point is that the Action Plan should lead to some practical steps being taken to improve life within the local community.**

Much effort and time has gone into producing this Action Plan. I would like to thank all those who have contributed.

Bob Towers
Chair Community Action Committee

May 2011

Part 1: Background to the Local Area

The Parish of Skelton

The Parish of Skelton includes a number of hamlets of different sizes but only part of the village of Ivegill. For the purposes of this study such a division makes little sense – so the whole of that village is included along with Ellonby, Hutton, Laithes, Lamonby, Skelton and Unthank.

This Parish is large, extending some 19 square miles. It lies west of the M6 and the nearby corridor of road, rail and river links. There is also a reasonable network of roads for those travelling east and west, namely the A66 in both directions and the B5305 passing through the Parish, North West to Wigton.

While the landmarks of the past would have been Inglewood Forest and the droving routes for cattle – today they are the masts at the Skelton Transmitting Station (now Babcocks) and several tourist attractions - Hutton-in-the-Forest, an historic house with a Pele Tower, Cloisters Tea Room, formal garden and extensive grounds hosting the Potfest, Eventing and open air theatre activities; the Upfront Gallery, with its coffee shop, vegetarian restaurant and puppet theatre and the High Head Sculpture Valley with extended country walks, art gallery, tea room and spa. The National Park lies just a few miles away and remains the significant backdrop to the area.

Up until the end of World War Two, agriculture and its supporting interests were dominant. This is no longer the case as farm machinery and mechanization has significantly reduced the numbers of those employed in this activity. Diversification into small businesses and tourism are growing concerns.

Skelton is the largest community and up until 2009, when the shop closed, had an excellent range of local facilities. It boasts the only post office and pub in the parish, a school and nursery, a church, chapel, village hall, and a veterinary surgery. Skelton is also well known for its big one-day agricultural show, dating back to 1880 and held in the summer. It is organized and run by local people for the general public.

In this large and scattered Parish there are two other churches at Hutton and Ivegill, two other village halls at Hutton End and Ivegill and a second school and nursery at Ivegill. The churches and chapel are historic buildings with origins that can be traced back many centuries.

The housing stock varies from the original farmhouses (some a few hundred years old), to former council houses, agricultural cottages, barn and other conversions, a residential caravan site and, most important, the newer estates that have been built. The impact of tourism is reflected in house ownership with second homes and various other forms of holiday accommodation.

Such developments have seen a change in the residents attracted to and able to live in the area.

The Skelton Parish Profile – Census Data 2001*

	Skelton	Eden	Skelton vs Eden
Population	1396	49,777	Skelton represents 2.8% of Eden's population
Males	742	24,493	53% of Skelton's population are males as compared to 49% of the District as a whole
Females	654	25,284	47% of Skelton's population are females as compared to 51% of the District as a whole

Population mid 2007 Estimates

Population	1511
Population change	7% Increase

* While these figures do not include Ivegill (included in the Census figures for Hesketh) their census details were very similar.

The area is sparsely populated and is classed as 'super sparse' in national categorisation as it has only 0.24 people per hectare. The Community is similar to Eden in this respect but more sparsely populated than the Cumbrian average. There were 541 houses in the Skelton Parish, 80% of which were detached properties which reflects the rural nature of the area and its relative affluence. The population had grown by over 100 by mid 2007 estimates.

Travel

The Census revealed that the majority of households in the area have two cars. From a national perspective this would appear to be a further sign of affluence, but in very rural areas such as Eden, access to two cars is often essential due to the large distances individuals may have to travel to access employment and education. This is aggravated by the lack of public transport. A significant number of individuals in the community travelled in excess of 20 kilometres to work, while around a quarter of individuals worked from home.

Health

The vast majority of those living in the area enjoyed fairly good or good health when self reporting. The numbers who consider themselves suffering from bad health are few. Comparison of the general health of the residents of the Community using Census data showed that overall the Community enjoyed better health than the average for Cumbria and the UK as a whole.

Crime and Disorder

Crime and disorder records showed that the area was one of the safest places to live in Eden and in the County. There were very low levels of crime in the area, with incidents predominantly concerned with criminal damage, burglary and theft.

Part 2: Consultation Process

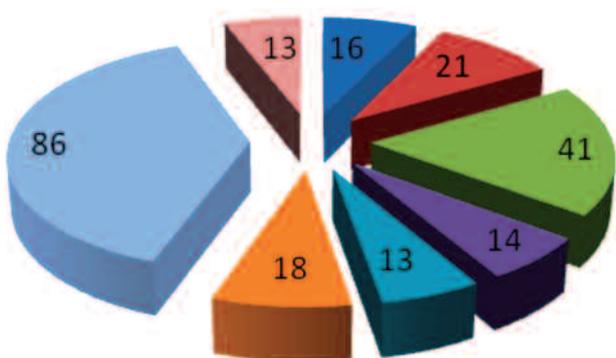
How the Skelton Parish Community Action Plan was achieved and how it captured the community’s ideas is set out in a timeline in the appendix.

A Household Survey formed an important part of the consultation exercise that was conducted over many months. It covered the key topic areas identified during the consultation period. The Survey was sent to every household in Ellonby, Hutton, Ivegill, Laithes, Lamonby, Skelton and Unthank and could also be completed online. A separate “Young People’s Survey” (ages 5-18) was also conducted.

Over 550 household surveys were distributed, 222 were returned completed (12 of which were done online) which gave a response rate of 40% which is considered adequate for conclusions to be drawn.

The pie chart below sets out the number of responses received from each area.

Community responses

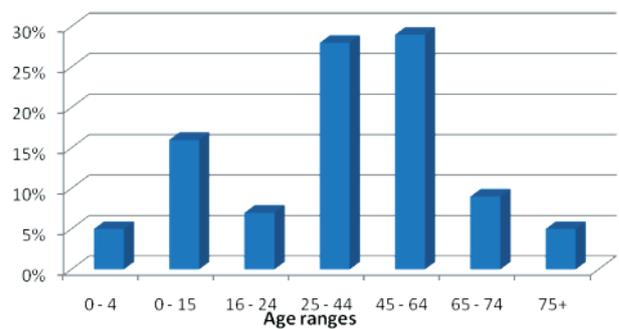


- Ellonby - 16
- Hutton - 21
- Ivegill (Skelton Parish) - 41
- Ivegill (Hesket Parish) - 14
- Laithes - 13
- Lamonby - 18
- Skelton - 86
- Unthank - 13
- Total = 222**

Age Profile

The chart below highlights the family age range of the households that completed the Survey.

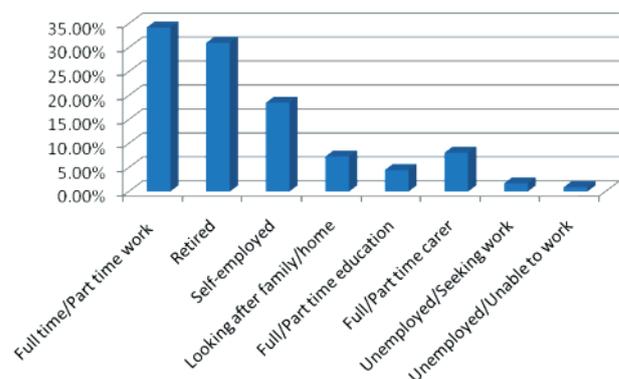
Family age range



Employment Status

The chart below sets out the employment status in percentage terms of those who responded to the Survey. More than half are not in employment.

Employment Status



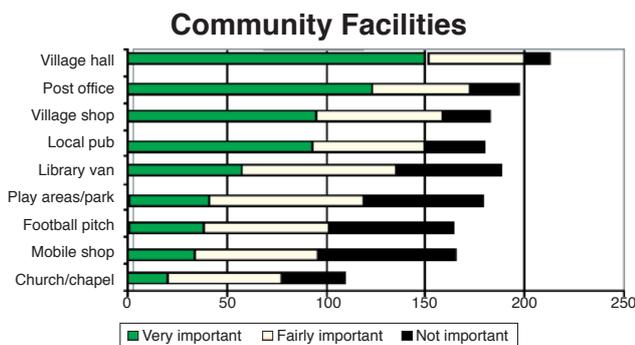
Part 3: Survey Results and Analysis

The Survey results set out in this section were independently produced by an external company with no links to the area. The results of the Survey have been grouped into ten separate sections: community facilities, natural environment, neighbourhood, communication, built environment, housing and development, health and well being, transport, young people and business.

Community Facilities

The survey asked for opinions on the value of community facilities, how they could be improved and what other amenities might be provided. Many respondents answered these questions offering suggestions.

The reported importance of each facility is shown in the chart. The facilities which were considered the most important to the community were: village halls, the post office, the village shop and the local pub.



Village Halls

The Village Halls are felt to be the most important community facility, and are seen as centres of community cohesion and activity. There are village halls at: Skelton, Ivegill, Hutton and a facility at Blencow which is in the adjoining Parish of Greystoke which is shared by Laithes. A variety of events are organised throughout the year at each of the village halls. In general these are well supported. The halls are also available for private functions. Each has its own committee, responsible for its running, general upkeep and finances.

The Hall at Hutton End

The Hutton End Hall was originally a Chapel and Sunday School. In April 1949, it was purchased for £500 by and for the community, to be used as a local meeting place and amenity. It was used as a canteen and recreation area for the neighbouring Hutton Marr School until the School's closure in 1986. Over the last 62 years the Hall has been host to a variety of other organisations such as Skelton YFC, Play Groups and Border City Wheelers. Domino and Whist Drives are also held regularly.

The Hall at Ivegill

The Ivegill Hall opened in October 1964 with funding raised by the community. It is a wooden building that has had to have several makeovers during its lifetime; the most recent being the provision of a disabled toilet and commercial style kitchen. From supplying parking space for the school opposite to hosting rural touring theatre, the hall is a valuable resource for both community groups and individuals.

The Hall at Skelton

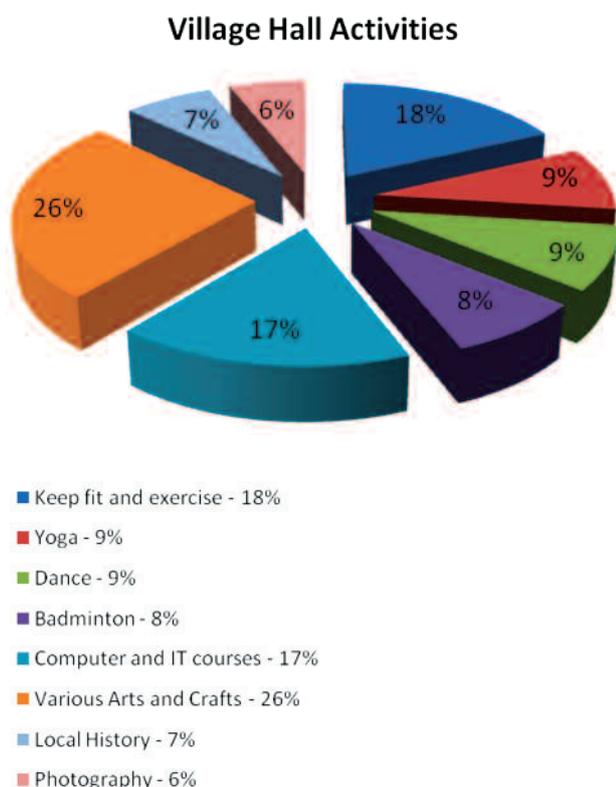
The Toppin Memorial Hall was opened in 1923 to perpetuate the generosity of the late Frederick Toppin JP who built and endowed this Hall for the benefit of the people of Skelton and District. This period building is of substantial construction; it incorporates a stage in the main hall as well as two meeting rooms and a kitchen. The facilities are well used by a number of different groups and the school, both during the day and in the evenings. There is a bowling green just behind the Hall with its own bower – the car park on the same site serves both places.

A number of returns from the Survey suggested that the scale of charges for the Hall, particularly for certain classes of user, were expensive. However, 'an unofficial comparison' with similar facilities in the district, suggested that the prices at Skelton were in line with those charged elsewhere. Since the Survey was completed there have been some changes including a displayed pricing policy, a notice board and the introduction of a monthly book exchange and coffee morning.

Suggestions for Future Activities

The Action Committee received many suggestions for further activities centred on the Village halls. **The extent to which these ideas can be taken forward depends upon the availability of the facilities, volunteers to initiate them and the number of participants actually prepared to ‘sign up’.** The suggested list of activities can be grouped into two basic groups: sport, fitness and general well being on the one hand, and general educational and craft on the other.

The pie chart below highlights suggestions for activities in the village halls arising from the survey.



Post Office and Village Shop

Skelton Village has the only Post Office which opens two days a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays and is unlikely to be extended due to Post Office cutbacks and alterations to opening hours being subject to Central Post Office agreement. The Postmaster is helpful with shopping on behalf of a few local residents; goods can be pre-ordered and delivered. The only shop which was also in Skelton closed in 2009, although the former owners still deliver papers and milk locally. It is a much missed facility and unlikely to be replaced.

It is worth noting that a mobile shop tried but failed to establish a viable round in Skelton during the summer of 2010.

The problem of retail outlets being viable in rural areas is a well known, documented issue throughout the country. It is often found to be impossible to run a ‘Village Shop’ for local people to use just for ‘top-up’ shopping whilst the weekly main shop is done in a local town.

The Pub

The Dog and Gun is the only Pub in the area. It opens every evening and longer at week-ends. It serves food, provides a take away service and caters for outside events. It is a popular facility for visitors as well as local residents. It also hosts local team competitions, quizzes and live music events.

Library Van

The Cumbria mobile Library Van visits the Community at a few locations every six weeks and is used regularly by a significant number of residents. (See also book exchange under *The Hall at Skelton, Page 9*).

Play Areas

There are designated play areas at Laithes and Skelton as well as a football pitch at Ellonby. All could be more widely used. At Laithes the facility is in need of updating and refurbishment: at Skelton the playground has been updated but it lies a short way out of the village: the Ellonby area is mostly for football. In addition, Skelton School has a small playground for younger children, a tennis court and a larger sports field – subject to some conditions these are open to the community outside school hours. Similar facilities (except the tennis court) exist at Ivegill School.



Churches and Chapel

There are three Anglican Churches in the area St James Church at Hutton –in-the-Forest, Christ Church at Ivegill and St Michaels at Skelton. These three are linked to four more to form the Inglewood Group of Churches. Each has its own loyal participants; programme of services (almost every week); Parochial Church Council, various officials; annual celebrations and special fund raising events. Within the group they share clergy and some other facilities. Each is a building of historical interest with its own churchyard.

The Methodist Chapel is in Skelton and is part of the Penrith Circuit with weekly services. It has its own officials, members and programme of events including fellowship, coffee mornings and sewing afternoons. The youth clubs meetings are held there and the premises may be booked for meetings.

Primary Schools, Nursery and After School Club

The two Primary Schools in the Community (at Skelton and Ivegill) are at present well supported and are just about keeping their numbers up to the required strength. There is, however, the possibility of a decline in numbers over the next two years. The two schools are seen as very important to the life of the whole Community.

Ivegill Primary School has a full day nursery attached, while the nursery at Skelton Primary is mornings only. These are core assets for the whole community, a view also confirmed by residents without young children. Skelton also has an After-School Club which is considered to be a vital facility for some in making their choice of school.

The table below details the important of these facilities. It is likely that those who have declared that the facilities are not important do not use them, which would be true of many retired people in the Community.

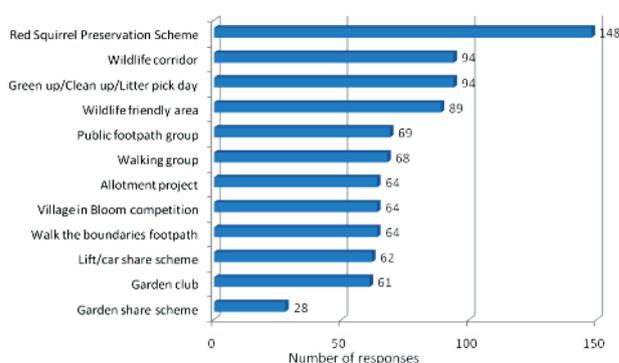
Facility	Very Important	Fairly Important	Not Important
Primary School	81	7	81
Nursery	65	11	90
After School Club	33	27	105

Natural Environment

The consultations emphasise residents’ commitment to the preservation of the countryside. However, they also point to some concerns on a day-to-day basis and suggest some improvements.

The table below sets out the level of support for a range of ‘green related issues’: the text follows up on these various points. About 80% of survey respondents answered this question. Many of the suggested initiatives were supported by at least one third of those replying. A number of them could be implemented without the need for much funding or external support though some encouragement and advice from outside might be required.

Support for 'green related' issues



The Initiatives are:

Red Squirrels

The clear winner receiving the most support was the scheme for the preservation of red squirrels. This scheme has been running in this area for several years.

Wildlife Corridors

A wild life corridor is a strip of land, often beside a hedgerow or wall that is left uncultivated: it is managed in such a way that the preservation of wildlife is encouraged. They are usually linear habitats and are seen as a means of dispersal for many species as they link isolated habitats such as woodland by allowing species to move through otherwise open terrain. More than half the respondents supported this potential initiative.

Green up/Clean up/Pick up Litter Day

The community suffers from the indiscriminate dropping of litter along many of the roadside verges. Many supported this initiative. As a written comment it was the one most frequently mentioned and 94 responses were in favour of a litter pick initiative.

Wildlife Friendly Areas

There are a number of requirements for a Wildlife Friendly Area; these tend to include a wide variety of the following features: food, water, shelter and places to breed.

Public Footpath Group

The present condition of many of the local footpaths is of major concern to many people who would like to be able to use them frequently for easy walking. Unfortunately many are overgrown, ill signed and sometimes obstructed. An active Footpath Group exists in the north of the Parish, based at Ivegill. It is intended to use the experience gained there to attract other volunteers to carry out remedial work, improve the surfaces, install gates in place of stiles and put up some sign posts to identify the official rights-of-way.

Walking Group

Active Walking Groups already exist in the Community – the Ivegill Footpath Group and “Walk 4 Fun” initiated from Lamonby. However many of the survey respondents appear not to know of their existence, or felt they were too far from their own village.

Allotments

There seem to be significant demand for allotments in the Community. The few that do exist are mostly privately owned. The table below sets out the individual demand in the different villages in the area.

Area	Demand Count	Area	Demand Count
Skelton	23	Laithes	4
Ivegill	17	Hutton	3
Lamonby	6	Unthank	2
Ellonby	5	Unknown	4

Village in Bloom Competition

The Community has entered and won awards in various Bloom competitions in the past. Recently this participation has lapsed, but there is now support for the Community to take part again. An entry into the competition at village or hamlet level would provide a worthwhile community experience and would recapture the experience and successes achieved in past years. It would require significant organization and work, but would provide groups of volunteers with the opportunity to tackle other issues - road side litter, untidy verges, and un-cleared dog mess.

Walk the Boundary

It is hoped to establish a few circular routes and to be successful, this may involve the negotiation of short stretches of “permissive path” and to actively promote the *Country Code*. Overall the footpaths in the Community are seen as a valuable potential asset to be used for people’s leisure.

Lift/Car Share Scheme

97% of households have their own private transport (this confirms the 2001 census figure): those without a car are likely to be the elderly and most vulnerable. With no bus service – this was cancelled in the spring of 2011 – it is essential that the voluntary and alternative transport schemes should work efficiently (See page 18 for more details).

Garden Club

The Goode Garden Club, initiated in Lamonby, with a wide spread of members is an existing facility for others to copy.

Garden Share Scheme

A garden share scheme maybe an alternative proposition to an allotment bringing together those who might find their existing gardens too much with those looking for opportunities to garden

Environmental Problems

The table below records the feedback from a question asking about the seriousness of various environmental problems. Dog fouling was considered the most serious issue, particularly in the Ellonby and Skelton areas: fly tipping was an issue in Ivegill and Unthank, and agricultural waste/mud on the road was an issue in Lamonby and Unthank. Plastic coverings from silage bales are also mentioned as an unnecessary litter problem.

Issue	Serious Problem	A bit of a Problem	Not a Problem
Dog Fouling	28	63	69
Fly Tipping	16	62	82
Agricultural Waste	14	30	94
Litter	17	18	65

Neighbourhood

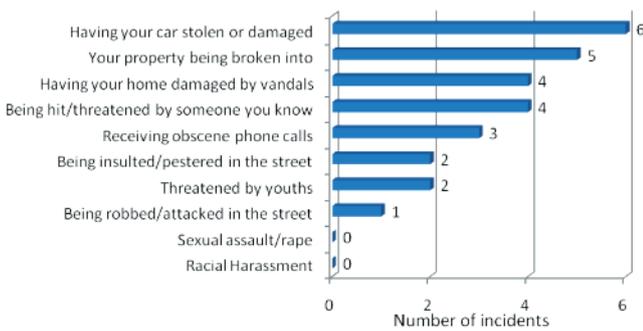
Crime

Fortunately the Community remains an area of low incidence of crime. Respondents to the survey were asked to list actual or potential crimes occurring in the last year.

In general, comments asked for a greater visual police presence to act as a deterrent and also to monitor more closely the speed of traffic on the B5305, and through some of the villages; particularly Skelton.

The Community has a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme which extends throughout the Community, with members in all the villages. However, only about 30% of householders appear to be current members and many people indicated that they would be willing to join the Scheme.

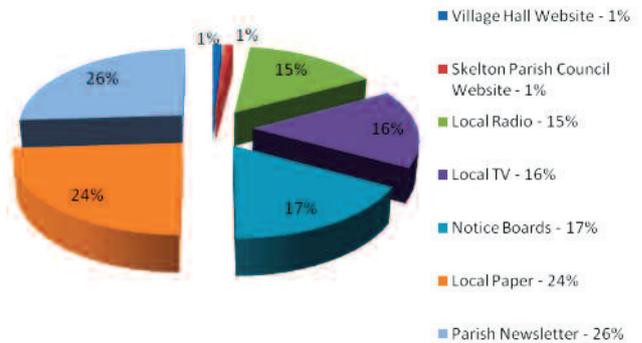
Social Incidents



Communications

The pie chart below shows how local information is obtained.

Sources of local information



The dissemination of information effectively can be difficult. This survey highlights the fact that much useful information remains unknown to some or becomes misplaced and forgotten.

Traditional channels of notice boards, local papers, and the Parish Notes are for most people the primary source of information and news. The local radio and TV are also informative. This is as expected for a small community.

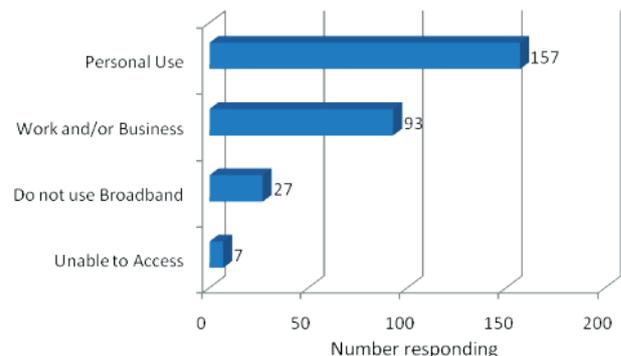
There is a Skelton Parish Council Website (www.skeltonparish.co.uk): this appears to be under used. The village halls can advertise on this site: they can also promote their facilities on the *Action with Communities in Cumbria* website (www.cumbriaaction.org.uk). This has links to Eden District Council's website which advertises them as conference venues (www.eden.gov.uk).

The community seems well served for notice boards though there are request for a few more and a suggestion that the one outside Ivegill School should be re-positioned on the opposite side of the road, in the Village Hall car park.

Broadband and Internet speeds

The use of broadband is widespread and thought to be generally satisfactory throughout the villages.

Broadband Use

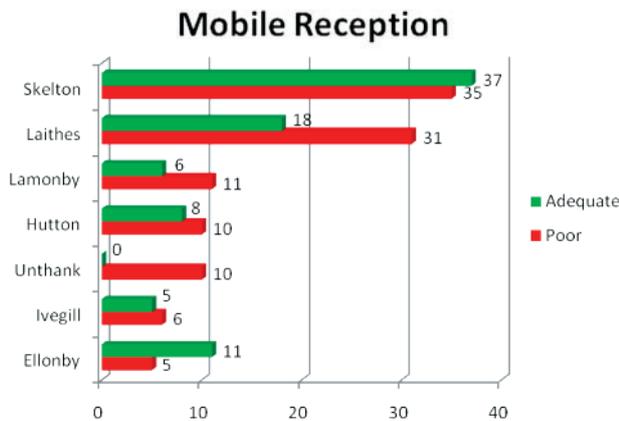


The chart shows that only a very small proportion of people are unable to access this service, while a few do not use it at all. 98% of those using the service do so for personal purposes and 60% also use it for their work and business. Broadband speed was thought to be at least adequate by 65% of users.

Only 11% said they would use a computer/cyber café in their village and for some this would only be if their own facilities were unavailable.

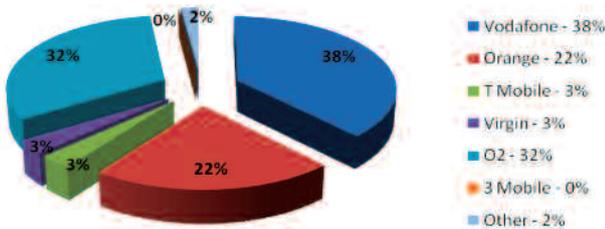
Mobile Phones

The survey found that mobile phone reception varies significantly in the area, even between people living in the same village. The chart below highlights the mobile phone reception grouped by villages.



The table below highlights the mobile phone usage of the various providers.

Mobile phone usage by provider

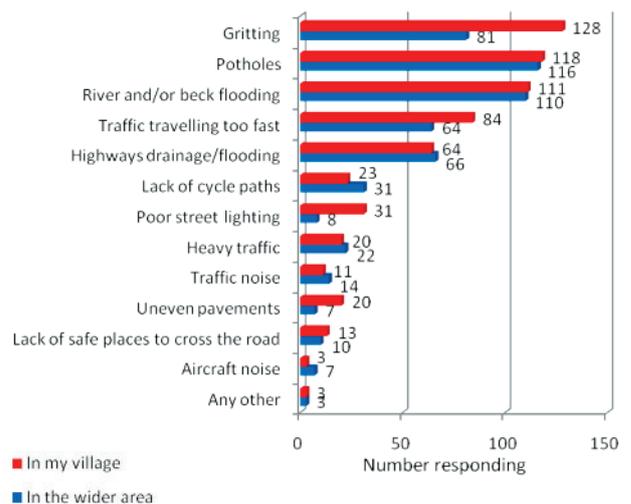


Built Environment

The winter of 2009/2010 was the first really long and cold one for a number of years. This fact was reflected in the replies to the questions in this section with the residents and authorities taken by surprise by the snow, ice and flooding problems.

The chart below demonstrates what was considered to be the most serious problems in the villages and wider area.

Built Environment Issues



Gritting

Most roads in the Community are not on priority 'gritting routes' and suffered in consequence. The aftermath of the very cold weather was significant damage to road surfaces, particularly where the underlying substructure was not robust.

To find out where the priority gritting routes are visit Cumbria County Council's website: www.cumbriacc.gov.uk/roads-transport/highways-pavements/highway-maintenance/wintermaintenance/

Potholes

The problem of potholes is however not one just created by the recent bad weather, although significantly increased by it. It has been a cause of complaint by individuals and the Parish Council for a number of years. The length of time taken for a repair to be completed causes frustration.

Flooding

A number of roads in the Community frequently become flooded because surface water does not clear, usually because of blocked drains, and choked

ditches; or at times because the local beck has not recently been cleaned out. There was again frustration because of the time taken to unblock drains - instances of drains being blocked for more than two years are known. There is concern about water levels being allowed to rise particularly around the Packhorse Bridge in Ivegill which was built with lime mortar; immersion in water for long periods is said to be very detrimental so much so that this might ultimately lead to structural collapse.

Speeding traffic

Speeding traffic within the Community was highlighted as an issue in the survey results. This covered comments around the built up areas around Skelton and Ivegill but also covered the B5305 road between the M6 and Wigton. In addition, of concern was the minor C road that runs from Hutton in the Forest to Carlisle. This road is well used an alternative to the M6 heading north and speeding traffic is dangerous especially around the Hutton End and Ivegill junctions.

Roadside verges and pavements

The deterioration in the condition of roadside verges during the wet months is an issue and the increasing size of lorries and farm vehicles will mean that this will remain an issue to be addressed. The overall view of the maintenance of verges and pavements is not unfavorable.

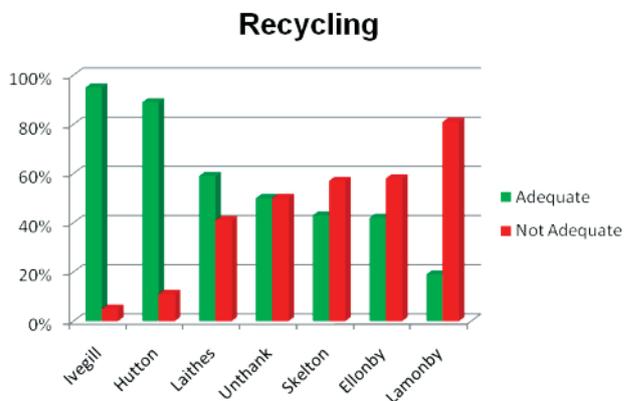
Maintenance of road side verges and public areas	Good	Okay	Poor
Within the village boundaries	33	92	57
Outside the village boundaries	24	78	70
Number of respondents			

The frequency with which verges are cut leads to some controversy between residents looking for neatness and residents looking for wildflower and wildlife preservation. However, verges that are left too long uncut at difficult road junctions create problems and potential accidents, because normal sight lines are obscured.

There are a few concerns about the poor condition of some pavements that are cracked and uneven. Such matters need to be addressed to the Highway Authority through the Parish Council.

Recycling

Local facilities for recycling have improved. The extent to which they are perceived as adequate depends upon where householders live as illustrated in the table below.



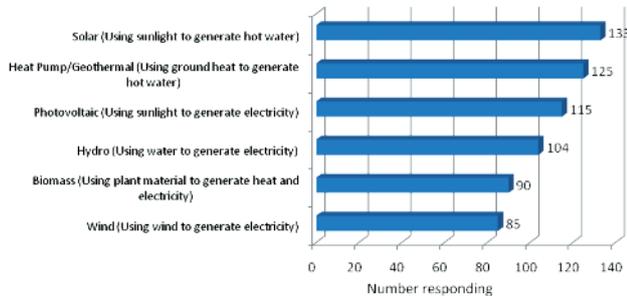
The major improvement requested is for the collection of plastic items and cardboard cartons which can be recycled across the entire Community. At the moment if residents wish to recycle plastic, with the exception of Ivegill, it must be taken elsewhere. The existing green waste collection points at Ivegill and Skelton fill quickly and are considered to be a valuable Community asset.



Renewable Energy Schemes

The possibility of running community renewable energy schemes has significant support within the Community across the different range of renewable energy schemes.

Renewable Energy Schemes



In the longer term the use of solar energy and possibly geothermal schemes are the most likely option for both community buildings and individual homes as we all come to grips with living in a more sustainable way. However, using a geothermal pump is usually only viable on a new build/development with the ability to excavate a reasonable area of land to lay pipes. This may be a possibility for a future new development but none is currently contemplated.

Wind power has recently encountered very significant local opposition, and two potential large scale schemes have been withdrawn from planning. Small wind turbines may be viable for an individual dwelling or farm but none are contemplated at present.

There is no source of water of sufficient power locally to justify a hydro scheme. Biomass requires significant financial investment and an agreed source of biomass supply before it can be contemplated; usually an agricultural project.



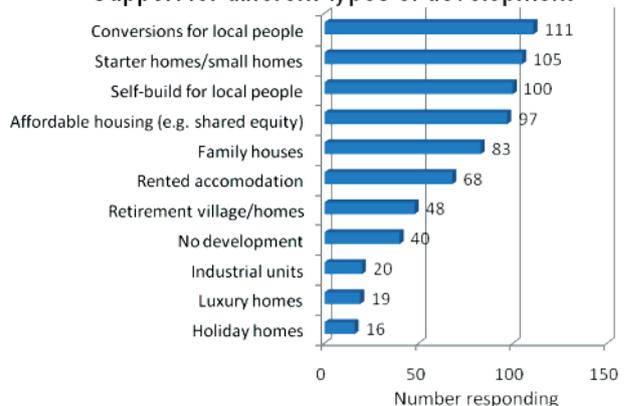
Housing and Development

About 20% of respondents to the survey said that they would prefer there to be no further development within the Parish in the future. However the majority seem to accept, and indeed welcome, a small degree of development in keeping with the essentially rural and peaceful environment of the area. It is realised that in order to maintain a vibrant and self sustaining community in the future, provision should be made for younger people, either to remain and set up separate households within the Parish of their birth, or indeed for new young people to move into the locality. If the continuing renewal of the Community is dependant upon a small element of further appropriate housing development then this would be welcomed by the Parish at large.

The average house price in the Parish is higher than the County's average price, probably due to location and environment, but the average wage in the Community— approximately £22,000 – is below the national average.

The relative support for different types of housing development which might be proposed for the Community is shown by the graph below.

Support for different types of development



The most supported options would be to provide accommodation for local people; particularly in the area of affordable housing/ self build /starter homes and conversions – presumably of redundant local buildings. Current Eden District Council policy is that over a certain number of units – 30% of a development must be affordable housing.

Replies to the Survey suggest that from within these households (or near family at present living elsewhere) about 24 units of new housing might be required over the next five years.

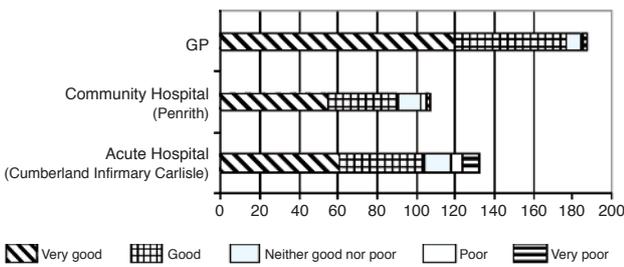
Eden District Council has agreed to undertake a full Housing Needs Survey in 2011 in the Parish of Skelton, which will provide further and more detailed evidence of the housing need.

Health and Well-being

GP Surgeries and Hospitals

A question on the experience of visits to General Practitioners and hospital services during the last twelve months, from February 2010, produced a generally very positive opinion particularly for the GPs.

Medical Provision



There were some unsatisfactory experiences at the hospitals. These were in the minority, although for the Cumberland Infirmary at Carlisle the rating 'poor' and 'very poor' totalled 10.6%. Written comments confirmed that Penrith Hospital was felt to have higher standards than Carlisle, and that people would prefer more specialist clinics to be available in Penrith, rather than concentrated at Carlisle.

Although there was support for some medical services to be available locally – in the Village Halls – there was also an understanding that this may prove not be cost effective and could be difficult to administer. There was a considerable level of support for annual flu jabs, blood donor clinics, more area cover by volunteer 'first responders' and repeat prescription services.

The problem of people travelling to out-patient clinics in either Carlisle or Penrith was not seen to be significant for most people because of the high number of households with cars. For the minority who have no transport, or where vehicles are in use by other members of the household, a volunteer driver scheme would probably be the preferred option to be developed.



Wider Social Services

The use of wider Social Services appears to be limited; although very important to the individuals concerned. The two most widely used services - Citizens Advice Bureaux and Social Worker Support - seem to suggest that social rather than health problems are more widely felt.

Facility	Used	Unable to access
Home care	9	1
Meals on wheels	4	0
Respite care	7	0
Day centre	4	0
Occupational therapy	5	0
Citizens Advice Bureau	10	1
Social worker support	10	0
Adoption/fostering service	1	0
Other social service	5	0



Transport

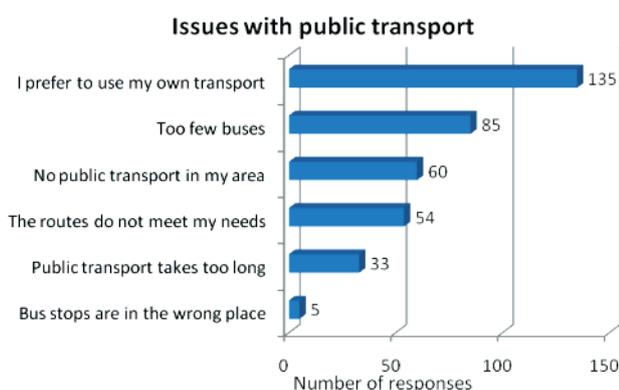
The Parish has the advantage of being comparatively close to the two urban centres of Penrith and Carlisle. Penrith and Carlisle have good North / South rail links and the M6 motorway – about 1 mile east of the area – provides good road connections to the rest of the UK.

Buses

Regular public transport in the form of buses was very limited throughout the area. At the time of the Survey one bus each week ran to and from Penrith and another to and from Carlisle passing through Ivegill. Even then the amount of time available to be spent in either Penrith or Carlisle was limited. Early morning and evening travel by bus was not possible and there was no week-end service which was of particular concern to the younger members of the Community. A pertinent comment received from a resident was: **“one bus a week is not a service”**. *More recently even these limited services have been withdrawn.*

In the Survey only around 13% of respondents said they used the bus service from time to time and a large part of the 69% of respondents, who said they preferred to use their own transport, would probably continue to do so, even if the bus service was prompt, frequent and widespread.

The main issues around the use of public transport from the survey are given below.



Volunteer Car Scheme, Rural Wheels and the Fellrunner Bus

Ad-hoc semi-public or volunteer transport facilities offer a limited alternative form of transport. Very few people had used the Rural Wheels Service and even fewer reported using the Fellrunner Service. The Voluntary Car Service which operates in the Community has greater usage. All suffered from not being widely known.

The Voluntary Car Scheme is intended for those people who have no other means of transport. Volunteers are available to collect you from your home and take you to your chosen destination. The scheme is mainly used for:

- Visiting friends and relatives
- Doctors and dentist appointments
- Shopping
- Making connections with buses or trains
- Other social trips

The scheme relies on volunteers - drivers who provide transport in their own cars to members of the community, and co-ordinators who recruit drivers and ensure that they are registered with the County Council and who publicise the scheme in their local area.

Rural Wheels provides transport for people in rural areas who do not have access to public transport. Rural Wheels can be used to link you up with the bus or train, or take you to your nearest town to attend appointments, access shops etc. Anyone living in the rural areas of Eden district can join the scheme.

Rural Wheels customers are issued with a smart card that stores points to pay for your travel instead of cash. There is a telephone number to ring to book the transport in advance. Transport will be charged at the subsidised rate of 30 pence per mile for all journeys (as at 2011 prices) and is available Monday to Friday 9 - 5 pm.

The Fellrunner Buses are operated and driven by local volunteers for the benefit of the community. They serve most of the villages in the Penrith area with services to Penrith or Carlisle. Most services allow for about 3 hours in Penrith and 4 hours in Carlisle.

Business

The business survey was completed by 79 respondents as part of the Household Survey. Employment is dominated by agriculture and tourism.

Business Sector	Total	%
Agriculture, hunting and forestry	33	41.8
Construction	6	7.6
Holiday accommodation	6	7.6
Business and professional	6	7.6
Tourism/leisure	5	6.3
Wholesale and retail trade, repair of vehicles	3	3.8
Health and social work	3	3.8
Other community, social and personnel services	3	3.8
Campsite/caravan site	2	2.5
Public administration and defence	2	2.5
Education	2	2.5
Bed and breakfast accommodation	1	1.3
Manufacturing	1	1.3
Other	6	7.6
Total	79	100

Questions Asked

Employment needs in the future?

Of the 56 responses to this question 44 stated that their business would stay roughly the same, 5 would grow and 7 would decline.

Barriers to achieving plans?

32 responses were received. Lack of suitable skilled local staff topped the list of barriers with 10 responses, while lack of affordable housing for potential staff and lack of finance had 7 responses each. Lack of suitable business premises 4 replies, lack of public transport 3 replies and lack of appropriate training for staff 1 reply.

Other barriers?

Other barriers to running a business included slow broadband speeds, lack of commercial space, poor care of road infrastructure, business rates, planning permission and lack of community support.

Solutions to the barriers focused on a progressive approach to planning and housing policy and an understanding that the village/countryside cannot always be peaceful and quiet.

Broadband

The maximum broadband speeds vary considerably within the community and reflect a Cumbria wide issue for business. Cumbria has, however, been chosen by Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) as one of four pilot areas in the country to establish a project known as "Accessible Cumbria", with the objective of developing a first class broadband network across the whole County.

The Skelton Show

The Skelton Agricultural Show demonstrates the wealth of talent and resources that can be brought together to achieve "a great day out for all the family". An army of Officers, Committee Members and Stewards organise a vast array of events which is now "The Big Village Show". It is an example of what can be achieved and is a show case for the businesses in the area as well as an exceptional community event.

Part 4: Community Action Action Plan Table 2011-2016

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
AP01	Community Action Plan	Support the development of appropriate focus groups to take the following initiatives forward.	The extent to which these ideas can be put into practice depends on the availability of facilities and resources and the number of participants prepared to initiate and take issues forward.	Duration of Plan	H
AP02	Distribution	An electronic copy (pdf) of the Community Action Plan to be produced along with a Summary to go to each household.	The Summary will be distributed with the Eden District Council Skelton Parish Housing Needs Survey, which will also cover all households in Ivegill.	0-6mths	H
AP03	Distribution	The Community Action Plan, Household Survey, Young Persons' Survey and Warwick Network Ltd Data to be available on line.	This should form part of the revamped Skelton Parish Website www.skeltonparish.co.uk and can be found on the Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) website www.cumbriaaction.org.uk	0-6mths	H
AP04	Distribution	Distribute the Community Action Plan.	To include Cumbria County Council, Eden District Council and Hesketh Parish Council and existing activity groups to see how they could take the actions forward.	0-6mths	H
AP05	Adoption and Review	Present the Community Action Plan to the Skelton Parish Council for adoption and annual review.		Duration of Plan	H
AP06	Celebration	Events to be arranged at each Village Hall.	Focus to be on a social activity to bring the community together e.g. BBQ.	0-6mths	H

Community Facilities & Young People

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
CF01	Village Halls	Continue to financially support Village Halls when suitable applications made.	This is current Parish Council practice subject to approval of project and funds available.	Duration of Plan	M
CF02	Village Halls	Liaise with Village Hall Committees about future developments and improvements and to find additional sources of funding.	Visits to other village halls, such as Crosthwaite, Bolton and the new hall at Newbiggin could be considered along with joint meetings of existing Parish Village Hall Committees to liaise and exchange ideas and resources.	1yr	M
CF03	Additional activities	Facilitate the setting up of new clubs and activities within the Community.	A club/activities night at Village Halls could be arranged to establish levels of interest and volunteer support, in association with Village Hall Committees and existing group organisers.	0-6 mths	H
CF04	Existing Activities	Support where necessary the many successful existing activities.	The knowledge and expertise of those running existing activities is an important resource for the Community.	Duration of Plan	M
CF05	Community Shop	See if there is enough interest within the community to set up a 'Village Exchange' and if so, establish a working group to take this forward at different settlement areas.	Success has been achieved elsewhere in Cumbria by villages organising a 'Village Exchange', where a limited selection of goods is offered by local people. The recent "book exchange" at Skelton Village Hall is a promising start.	1yr-2yrs	H
CF06	Local facilities Pub/Post Office	Encourage the use of local services, to keep them viable, such as the Skelton Post Office and Dog and Gun Pub. Look at holding pub nights in other community buildings.	A dual approach is necessary. To use existing facilities or risk losing more of them or where no facilities exist to think of alternative ways to meet the need.	Duration of the Plan	H
CF07	Youth Clubs	Support the development of Youth Clubs and other young peoples groups.	Skelton Youth Club meet at the Methodist Chapel and Village Hall, Skelton Young Farmers meet at Hutton End and Scout group meet at Ivegill.	Duration of Plan	H
CF08	Play Areas	Work with Eden District Council/Parish Council to improve the play areas.	Liaise with Play Area Committees.	2yrs-3yrs	M
CF09	Play Areas	Liaise with Skelton School to upgrade the Tennis Court.	Research funding through education/sports grants.	2-3yrs	M
CF10	Play Areas	Research possibility of footpaths to Skelton play area and extend the 30 mph zone.	Request Parish Council to see if feasible and criteria needed.	1yr	H

Natural Environment

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
EN01	Red Squirrels	Support the Red Squirrel Preservation Scheme.	82% of people replying to the survey wished to support a preservation scheme. Penrith and District Red Squirrel Group is well established.	0-6mths	H
EN02	Allotments and Community Gardens	Identify sites for allotments and community gardens.	Allotments already exist in Skelton Village, mostly on private land. Land for more allotments may take some time to source, but would be providing encouragement to the current resurgence in own vegetable production. Ivegill is developing a Peace Garden.	2-3 years	L
EN03	Garden Share Scheme and Garden Club	Encourage, promote and advertise Garden Schemes/Clubs.	The Goode Garden Club, led from Lamonby, with a wide spread of members is an existing facility for others to copy. A garden share scheme may be an alternative proposition to an allotment.	1-2 yrs	M
EN04	Wildlife Corridor / Friendly Areas	Invite suggestions for potential project sites.	Part of Skelton Churchyard is a designated wildlife friendly area. Sites in villages are most easily accessed and managed. A wildlife corridor is a longer term project. New woodlands would help farm diversification and create wildlife habitats.	Duration of plan	L
EN05	Village in Bloom	Encourage community action to re-enter Village in Bloom competitions.	Entry into the competition at village or hamlet level would provide a worthwhile community venture and would recapture the experience and successes achieved in past years. This could be linked to other measures to improve the local environment.	2-3 years	L
EN06	Public Footpath	Create a Skelton Footpath Group.	A natural environmental focus group initially dealing with footpaths in Skelton has been formed to establish a footpath from Skelton Church to the Upfront Gallery. It is supported by the existing Ivegill Footpath Group.	0-6mths	H
EN07	Public Footpath	Creation of a footpath around the boundaries of the Community.	This is a long term project which requires a project brief as a first step.	Duration of Plan	L
EN08	Public Footpath and Walking Groups	Provide information about local walking and footpath groups.	The well established Ivegill Footpath Group invites local people to join in monthly walks. Walk 4 Fun is a weekly walking group operating from Lamonby.	0-6mths	H
EN09	Public Footpath	Prepare and publish a Parish Footpath Map.	The Parish Footpath Map, based on the Definitive Map, should be displayed locally (e.g. village halls). Leaflet versions should be available.	2-3 years	L
EN10	Litter/ Mud on the Road/dog fouling	Increase awareness of actions that can be taken.	Formal complaints should be made to Eden District Council. Continued liaison between the Parish Council and the appropriate authorities required.	1yr	M
EN11	Roads, drains and verges	Work with Cumbria County Council and local land owners to find ways of dealing with dirty roads, blocked drains and damaged verges.	Cumbria County Council as a Highway Authority has a statutory duty to maintain highways, cut back overgrowth, repair surfaces and bridges.	1yr	M
EN12	Litter	Arrange and promote a number of seasonal community litter picks.	This initiative could be school/youth focused but involving the whole community in each area.	1yr	M

Neighbourhood

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
NE01	Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Promote and extend the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.	Current organisers to be asked to undertake a recruitment drive. Liaise with Neighbourhood Policing Team.	0-6mths	H
NE02	Farm Watch Scheme	Promote the Farm Watch Scheme.	Liaise with Neighbourhood Policing Team.	Duration of Plan	H
NE03	Good Neighbours Scheme	Look into the potential of setting up a good neighbour's scheme.	Such a scheme would keep in contact with elderly, and sick and vulnerable people, living alone and maybe outside the settlements, in order to ensure they are not in any difficulty (with their permission of course).	1-2yrs	M

Communication & Business

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
CM01	Local Website	Develop and expand the Skelton Parish Website, including incorporating Parish Notes.	The development of electronic means of delivery should not be to the detriment of the more traditional methods of communication.	6mths-1 yr	M
CM02	Parish Directory / Welcome Pack	Publish annually a Parish Directory which would form the basis of a welcome pack.	Directory to contain as much information as can be collected about facilities and services, including local businesses, which are available in the Community.	1yr	M
CM03	Notice Boards	Maintain and review.	This is done by the Parish Council.	Duration of Plan	H
CM04	Broadband Speeds	Keep abreast of Cumbria wide initiatives.	There is a need to increase broadband and connectivity rate and reach.	Duration of Plan	L

Built Environment

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
BE01	Road Conditions/Pot Holes/Gritting	Encourage local residents to report dangerous conditions on roads to the Highways hotline (08456096609).	Safety of pedestrians, especially children and the elderly must take priority.	Duration of Plan	H
BE02	Road Safety	Campaigning for traffic calming measures and lower speed limits to be encouraged.	A simple method of traffic calming and considerate parking would be beneficial.	Duration of Plan	L
BE03	Salt Bins	Seek volunteers prepared to grit local areas.	Additional supplies of salt/grit are now available with the distribution organised by the Parish Council.	1yr-2yrs	M
BE04	Recycling	Increase recycling provision. Provide facilities for recycling plastic. Maintain and support the existing recycling centres.	The Skelton Village Hall Committee is currently looking into providing a plastic recycling facility.	Duration of Plan	H
BE05	Renewable Energy	Look at potential of renewable energy usage for the community and for individuals.	Photovoltaic panels to turn sunlight into electricity could be installed on village halls which would benefit from the feed-in tariff. New and existing homes could also benefit from energy efficient measures.	Duration of Plan	L

Housing and Development

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
HD01	Housing needs	Eden District Council to undertake a full Housing Needs Survey.	The Housing Needs Survey will be conducted by Cumbria Rural Housing Trust.	0-6mths	H

Health and Wellbeing

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
HW01	Healthy Lifestyles	Encourage the holding of keep-fit sessions in the village halls.		Duration of Plan	H
HW02	Local Provision	Investigate the provision of additional local health services.	Such as blood donor service and a flu jab clinic.	1yr	M
HW03	First Responders	Extend the First Responders Group to cover the whole area. Continue with promotion campaign.	Additional people have been trained during the development of this Action Plan. Others are needed. A contact group operates effectively in Lamony.	Duration of Plan	H

Transport and Access

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
TA01	Voluntary Car Scheme	Further promote the existing Voluntary Car Scheme.	Greater publicity to be given to promoting the existing Voluntary Car Scheme and to recruiting more voluntary drivers. VCS co-ordinators are looking at ways to assist those who used the former bus service.	0-6mths	H
TA02	Alternative Transport Modes	Investigate, promote and advertise such schemes as Rural Wheels and Fellrunner Buses.	A start has been made with this Community Action Plan.	0-6mths	H
TA03	Alternative Transport Modes	Investigate possible use of School bus in mornings and afternoons when it runs back and forth empty.		1yr	H
TA04	Timetables	Ensure bus timetables, details of Fellrunner, rural wheels, voluntary car scheme are available on notice boards and in the Community Directory.		Duration of plan	H
TA05	Parking	Promote safe and considerate parking.		Duration of Plan	H

Appendix

Timeline of the Community Action Plan:

2008 December - Skelton Parish Councillors agree to develop a Parish/Community Plan.

2009 January–March Parish Council Sub Committee meets to prepare consultation meeting, design poster and flyers.

2009 26 March Community consultation meeting takes place - attended by 60 residents.

2009 28 April First meeting of Community Action Committee and start of regular meetings, links with local authority officers are made.

2009 May Consultation exercises culminating in a display at the Skelton Show.

2009 September–December Preparation of Household, Business and Young Persons' Surveys.

2010 February Surveys distributed with issue of Parish Notes and made available online.

2010 April Surveys collected. Over 550 household surveys distributed, 222 returned - a response rate of 40% which is considered adequate for conclusions to be drawn. 43 replies received from Young Peoples Survey and 79 replies to the Business Survey Section.

2010 June Independent analysis of results done by Warwick Network Ltd.

2010 July Display of initial findings and photographic competition at Skelton Show.

2010 16 September "Pies, Peas and Priorities Meeting" – attended by 49 people. Presentation of Warwick Network Analysis and initial development of focus groups made.

2010 October–December Writing Plan and fundraising.

2011 February–April Agreeing the final actions which will form the core of the Plan.

2011 May Final Plan produced. Summary written and distributed to every household in conjunction with the Housing Needs Survey, conducted by Cumbria Rural Housing Trust.

2011 - 2016 Celebration and Implementation of Community Action Plan. Annual review.



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