

Can a working village survive in the National Park

Witherslack, Meathop & Ulpha Parish Council,
A Five Year Parish Plan

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Written 30/11/03 by Michael Clarke, in consultation with the Parish
Plan Steering Group and the Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha Parish
Council.

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Meathop and Ulpha Parish Council



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foreword

Living and working in the Parish* of Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha gives our community opportunities not afforded to the majority of people in the UK. It also sets some unique challenges. This plan strives to assess those challenges. It offers ideas and solutions to the problems of surviving as a viable community in rural Cumbria and in the Lake District National Park. The plan has been formulated throughout by the input and comments of the Parish. On behalf of the Parish Council of Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha I would like to thank everyone for their contribution to its production.

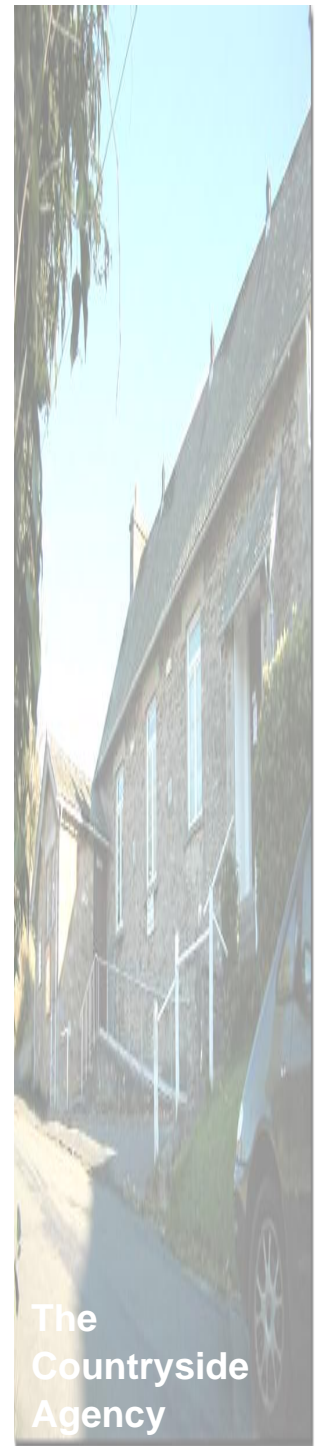
Anne Walshaw
Chairman

Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha Parish Council

**the word "Parish" throughout this document refers to the Parish of Witherslack and the Parish of Meathop and Ulpha combined.*

Section	Page No.
Executive Summary	2
1. The Consultation Process	4
2. Purpose of the Plan	4
3. Placing the Parish in Context	5
3.1 Location	5
3.2 Characteristics of the Landscape	6
3.3 The Population of the Parish	6
4. Community Assets	7
4.1 Parish Hall	7
4.2 Church Hall	7
4.3 Dean Barwick Primary School	7
4.4 Co-ordinating the Assets	7
5. Community Services	8
5.1 Retail Services	8
5.2 The Pub is the Hub	10
5.3 Childcare	11
5.4 Education and Training	11
5.5 Health and Personal Care	11
5.6 Public Transport	11
6. Housing	12
7. Business & Employment	14
7.1 Employment Needs & Opportunities	14
7.2 Visitors and Tourism	14
8. Utilities and Telecoms	15
9. Environment	16
9.1 Recycling	16
9.2 Litter	17
10. Community Safety	18
10.1 Community Safety	18
10.2 Traffic Speed and Volume	18
11. Leisure & Community Spirit	19
11.1 Childrens Interests	19
11.2 Community Spirit	21
Traffic Issues Questionnaire Returns	23
Potential Sources of Funding	Appendix 1
The Action Plan	Appendix 2 Appendix 3

Meathop and Ulpha Parish Council



executive summary

• Purpose of the Plan

The Parish Plan audits existing service and facility provision and sets out a vision of how the community wants to develop over the next 5 years and identifies the action needed to achieve these goals.

• Community Assets

Community assets include the Parish Hall, Church Hall and Dean Barwick Primary School and playing fields. This report recommends a more coordinated approach to their use and development.

• Childcare

Providing pre school age childcare within the Parish in partnership with Dean Barwick School would benefit working parents, children and the school. A pre school nursery can attract parents and children to the school as it does in both Milnthorpe and Lindale and subsequently help to increase or maintain pupil numbers and the viability of the school. There is currently no formal childcare provision available in the Parish for pre-school children or for over 5's outside of school hours in the form of after school clubs.

• Crime and Safety

It is important for crime prevention activity to continue in order to build on the success of previous initiatives. There was little concern about crime in the Parish survey. In fact the low level of crime was often stated as the reason people enjoyed living in the Parish. It would be a mistake to become complacent about this issue.

• Education and Training

More basic courses should be offered locally to increase access to lifelong learning. There are few formal adult education or training opportunities in the Parish. However there are many opportunities to access these throughout the south lakes area. Encouraging the community to take advantage of these opportunities is the responsibility of the local authority. The local authority uses the Parish Hall and it should be made aware of all the available venues in the Parish and be given the opportunity

to access them at educational rates.

• Health and Personal Care

The Parish lacks supported housing for the elderly which often forces older members of the community to relocate outside of the Parish to access personal care. Providing supported housing within the Parish must be a priority within any planned housing developments. This will give older people the opportunity to stay within this community.

• Housing

The Parish should manage any future building development work in partnership with South Lakeland District Council, a social landlord (housing association) and local landowners to create the best solution to the housing needs of the community. There is a shortage of affordable housing (buy or rent) in the Parish.

• Public Transport

The bus service is not frequent especially in the evening. For most people in the Parish getting to the bus stop would mean a walk of between 30 minutes and an hour. It is the older members of the community and the under 18's who need help to access public transport. This Parish Plan will allow the Parish Council to apply for transport grants to provide transport for those most at need in the Parish.

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• **Employment Needs and Opportunities**

For new and existing businesses to grow and provide employment in the Parish appropriate space and access to communications must be made available. Traditionally the economy of the Parish has been based on the original work/home based model, that of farming. If farming continues to decline and the number of farming families working within the Parish is reduced then the Parish would cease to be a working community.

• **Utilities and Telecommunications**

The Parish Council should act as an advocate for the community and communicate with the appropriate providers to lobby for a better service and to provide answers to the communities' questions. The Parish Council has no direct control over the provision of utilities or telecommunications technology within the Parish. A reliable electricity supply was the biggest concern of questionnaire respondents.

• **Recycling**

It would be more efficient to have a dedicated recycling point where all recycling can take place. It may also be useful to provide some recycling points in Meathop and Mill Side as currently all recycling happens in Witherslack. It is evident that the community is actively recycling, with paper and glass at the top of the list, both of which can be deposited here in the Parish. Currently there is a glass recycling collection point in the car park of the Derby Arms and paper and tin can recycling collection points in the car park behind the Parish Hall.

• **Retail Services**

As a community we should begin to work in partnership with the owners of the Witherslack shop and Post Office Ltd and the owners and tenants of the Derby Arms pub to head off any threats to these important community assets. A working group to link the community with the owners of these services would help to ensure their sustainability.

• **Environment**

The full report recommends organised voluntary litter picking. Litter, including silage wrap and dog fouling, was highlighted as a problem in the public meeting and respondents to the questionnaire also placed it at the top of their environmental worries along with untidy road verges and hedges.

• **Traffic Speed and Volume**

This report recommends a review of all the traffic issues raised in the questionnaires and the formal identification of danger spots and parking problems in partnership with the Cumbria County Council road safety officer.

• **Children's Interests & Encouraging Citizenship**

Respondents to the questionnaire have placed the provision of a youth club, a playground for over 5's, school holiday activities, a playground for under 5's and an after school club as their top five priorities.

• **Community Spirit & Citizenship**

Communication was an issue that came up in the public meeting. This plan recommends a free quarterly Parish newsletter shared with its neighbours Cartmel Fell, Crosthwaite and Winster. (This would complement the subscription only Parochial Monthly Magazine). People were concerned there was no formal communication method within the Parish to share information about activities and events, as well as Parish news.

• **Visitors and Tourism**

The Parish relies on a certain level of tourism to maintain businesses including the shop and the pub. It would make economic sense to manage the current level of tourism, provide better facilities (including off road parking) and more information so visitors can enjoy and spend in the Parish with as little disruption to the community as possible.



1 the consultation process

A thorough public consultation took place to gather information for this document. The process of events are listed below:

- A public meeting with 72 residents using the Metapanning method
- A public meeting with under 18's
- A school visit for under 11's
- A questionnaire to whole Parish, 174 respondents
- A letter to all groups and clubs within the Parish requesting feedback
- A letter to all outside agencies affecting the Parish.
- The final consultation draft plan public meeting

• The Action Plan (see Appendix 3)

This plan has been paid for by the Countryside Agency with additional financial support from Witherslack Estate. The project was managed by the Parish Council. The Parish Plan sets out a vision of how the community wants to develop sensitively and holistically and identifies the action needed to achieve it. This plan is entirely based on the results of the extensive consultation process. The Plan should inform and influence organisations and processes that affect the communities of Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha.

The plan is a statement of how the Parish of Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha sees itself developing over the next few years. It:

- Reflects the views of all sections of the community
- Identifies which features and local characteristics people value
- Identifies local problems and opportunities
- Spells out how residents want the community to develop in the future
- Has a 5 year plan of action to achieve this vision

This plan should influence local housing and land management strategies and should also contribute to the way local services are managed and delivered. It cannot however override adopted planning policy.

The Parish Plan has given everyone a chance to say what they think about the social, economic and environmental issues affecting the community, and how they'd like to see it improved in the future.

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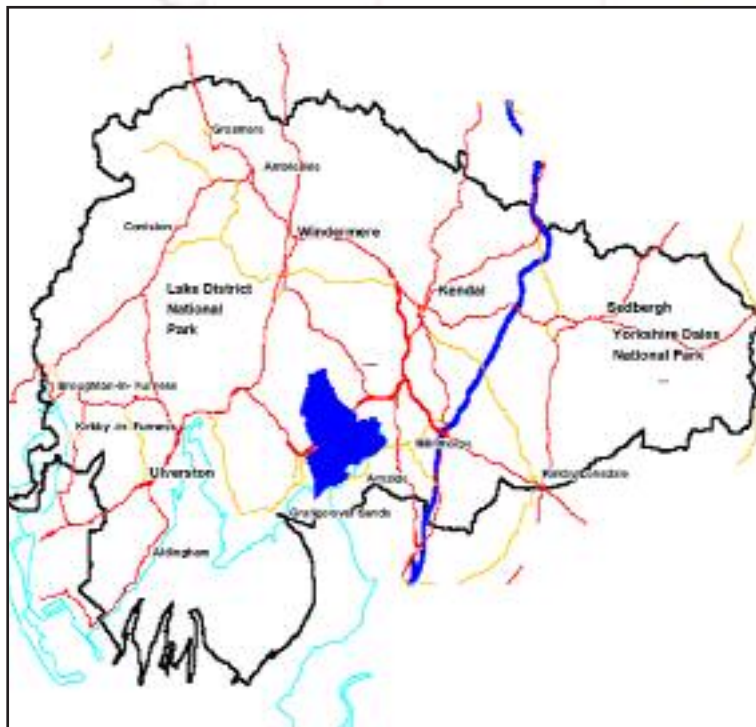


3 placing the parish in context

• 3.1 Location

The village of Witherslack and the smaller settlements of Meathop and Ulpha make up the Parish and give it its name. Witherslack, together with Meathop and Ulpha, are ancient villages mentioned in the Annals of Kendale in the 12th and 13th centuries. In the past large areas of land and property within the Parish were owned by a small number of families. Today the majority of homes within the Parish are now privately owned, while a smaller but significant number remain part of larger privately owned estates. The Parish also benefits from local authority and social housing provision.

The Parish lies at the southern edge of the Lake District National Park. Located on either side of the A590 trunk road approximately 6 miles north east of Grange over Sands (with access to mainline train services) and 10 miles south west of the Market Town of Kendal.



April 2004

There is a “hail and ride” bus service, which can only be accessed from the A590. Employment in the Parish centres on the tourist industry and agriculture.

The Parish currently benefits from the following facilities:

- Post Office/shop
- Primary school
- Doctor’s surgery
- Pub
- B&B’s
- Two hotel/restaurants
- Visiting library
- Parish Hall
- Church and Small Church Hall
- Petrol Station
- Two ‘Little Chef’ restaurants
- Equestrian Centre
- Artists and Craft workers
- Car repair services
- Mobile shop



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• 3.2 Characteristics of the Landscape

The Parish is sandwiched between the lower part of the River Winster and the impressive 200 metre high limestone escarpment of Whitbarrow. It is bordered on the south side by the upper tidal area of Morecambe Bay.

Soils are mostly limestone but there is some acid Bannisdale slate and much of both these soils occur near sea level and are covered by black and infertile peat. Tree cover is extensive and farmland is fragmented amongst the various outcrops of rocks. Where stone is available, fields are outlined by walls, but on flatter lower land, hedges or drainage ditches are used.

The variety and different depths of soil make the landscape very diverse and so give much character to the area.

Key Characteristics

- Wide expanses of shifting intertidal sand flats and salt marsh, gravelly or muddy beaches, and backed by low limestone cliffs.
- Low undulating farmland of pastures divided by dry stone walls, with infrequent individual windswept trees, but with areas of scrub and broadleaved woodland.
- Conspicuous limestone hills, with cliffs and scree slopes, rising above the low-lying pastures and wetlands.
- A richness of semi-natural habitats, including limestone pavements, scrub, semi-natural coppice woodland, herb-rich grasslands, peaty fenlands and mosslands.
- Inland, scrub woodland including juniper, and unimproved grasslands on gently undulating hills, divided by shallow valleys with hedgerows and damson orchards.

• 3.3 The Population of the Parish

No recent figures were available at the time of writing this plan. The Office for National Statistics states the population in 2001 for Wither Slack was 440 and for Meathop and Ulpha was 160. There are no breakdowns of these figures available until late 2003. The only figures available were published in 1997 and refer to 1995. Although these figures are now 8 years old they give some impression of how the population of the Parish is mixed and have been used in the tables below.

Population of Wither Slack

Population Change 1991 - 2001	Local	Cumbria
Population in 1991	380	489200
Population in 1995	397	490300
Population in 2001	440	487607
Numeric change 1995 – 2001	43	-2693
Percentage change 1995-2001	10.9%	- 0.5%

Population Density in 1995	Local	Cumbria
Area (square hectares)	1933	682354
Population density (persons per hectare)	0.19	0.7

Age Structure of Wither Slack in 1995

Age	Number	Local %	Cumbria %
Age 0-14	72	18.2	18.1
Age 15-29	67	16.8	20.5
Age 30-44	80	20.2	21.0
Age 45-59	81	20.4	17.5
Age 60-74	66	16.6	15.4
Age 75-84	24	6.2	5.8
Age 85+	6	1.6	1.7

Household Details of Wither Slack in 1995

Type of House	Number	Local %	Cumbria %
Detached	117	60	23
Semi – Detached	59	30	30
Terraced	13	7	35
Purpose-built flat	1	1	8
Other household spaces	4	2	3
Caravans and other	0	0	1



Population of Meathop & Ulpha

Population Change 1991 - 2001	Local	Cumbria
Population in 1991	141	489200
Population in 1995	154	490300
Population in 2001	160	487607
Numeric change 1995 – 2001	6	-2693
Percentage change 1995-2001	3.9%	- 0.5%

Population Density in 1995	Local	Cumbria
Area (square hectares)	1002	682354
Population density (persons per hectare)	0.14	0.7

Age Structure of Meathop and Ulpha in 1995

Age	Number	Local %	Cumbria %
Age 0-14	28	18.2	18.1
Age 15-29	26	16.8	20.5
Age 30-44	31	20.2	21.0
Age 45-59	31	20.4	17.5
Age 60-74	26	16.6	15.4
Age 75-84	9	6.2	5.8
Age 85+	2	1.6	1.7

Household Details of Meathop and Ulpha in 1995

Type of House	Number	Local %	Cumbria %
Detached	18	27	23
Semi – Detached	17	24	30
Terraced	12	17	35
Purpose-built flat	4	6	8
Other household spaces	0	0	3

• 4.1 Parish Hall

The Parish hall provides an extremely important resource for the community, accommodating a range of educational, welfare and sports and leisure activities. The Parish Hall is well used by the local community and clubs and societies in the South Lakes area, however it does not currently meet all health and safety requirements and the division of internal space is inefficient. It is managed by the Parish Hall Committee which is currently seeking funding to draw up plans for capital improvements to the building.

• 4.2 Church Hall

The church hall located next to St Paul's Church and is managed by the Parochial Church Council. Although used occasionally for small events and annually for the exhibition of art and crafts this building is under used because of its lack of facilities. This building is in need of extensive building work to bring it up to a standard where it could be used by the community. The Dean Barwick Trust and the Parochial Church Council are seeking funding to carry out these essential works.

• 4.3 Dean Barwick Primary School

Dean Barwick Primary School is managed by the head teacher and governing body. The buildings and grounds are assets of the Dean Barwick Trust. Apart from activities during normal school hours the buildings and grounds are not used by the community in any other capacity. The school lacks the space for activities like indoor physical exercise, dance or drama as it has no dedicated school hall and instead the junior classroom has to double as a school hall on occasion.

• 4.4 Co-ordinating the Assets

In the 'Community Spirit' and 'Children's Interest' sections of this plan the development of new activities and facilities has been outlined. These activities and facilities can only be delivered through a coordinated approach to the assets the Parish has a community. Communication between the various asset managers currently only exists on a very informal basis. It is often the case that one committee is not aware of another committee's plans. This could lead to costly duplication of facilities and applications to funders with poor results for the Parish as a whole.



In identifying new activities and facilities this plan does not identify the location of any new developments. This can only be done through formal cooperation between the Parish Council, the Parish Hall Committee, Dean Barwick School and the Parochial Church Council.

Action	How it will be tackled
Improve Coordinated management of Parish Assets	Set Up Parish Assets Group. Establish a link between the asset managers as a formal group to coordinate any future developments, pool information and resources and decide on the best location for the activities and facilities requested by respondents to the Parish Plan Consultation.

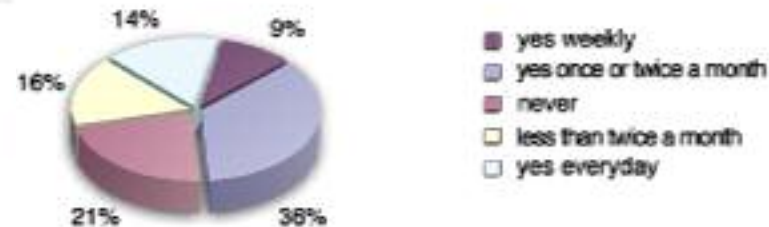
• 5.1 Retail Services

In small villages nowadays the shop and post office is often the centre of social activity alongside the church, school and pub. Rural shops are closing, though, for all sorts of reasons. Only when the shop has gone do local people realise how much they have depended on it, most of all those who are constrained by lack of transport - the elderly, young parents and teenagers - those least able to help themselves. This is damaging to the community.

There is of course no immediate threat to the Parish shop/Post Office, but like the pub we cannot take its long term viability for granted. The survey revealed only 36% of respondents actually used the shop and Post Office on a weekly basis while 21% used the shop and 27% used the Post Office once or twice a month.

The shop is used less than twice a month by 14% of respondents while the Post Office just 11%. A surprising 16% of respondents never use the shop and 18% never use the Post Office, but this figure can be attributed to the respondents from Meathop and Ulpha for whom the shop is not in a convenient location. Nine percent use the shop daily and four percent the Post Office.

How often respondents use the shop

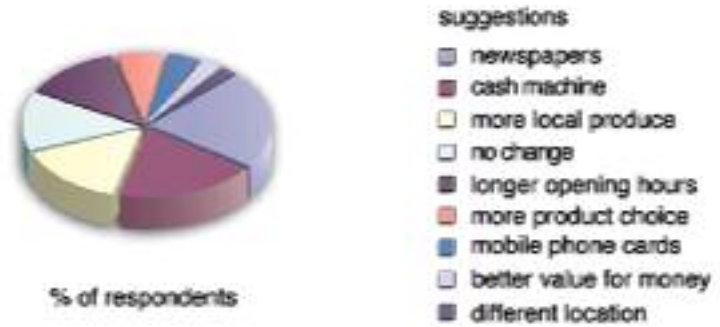


How often respondents use the Post Office



The shop and Post Office is seen as an important and essential service to 144 respondents (83%), while 18 (10%) respondents stated it was reasonably important but not essential. The survey also asked people which improvements they would make to the shop/Post Office facilities; this graph shows the results:

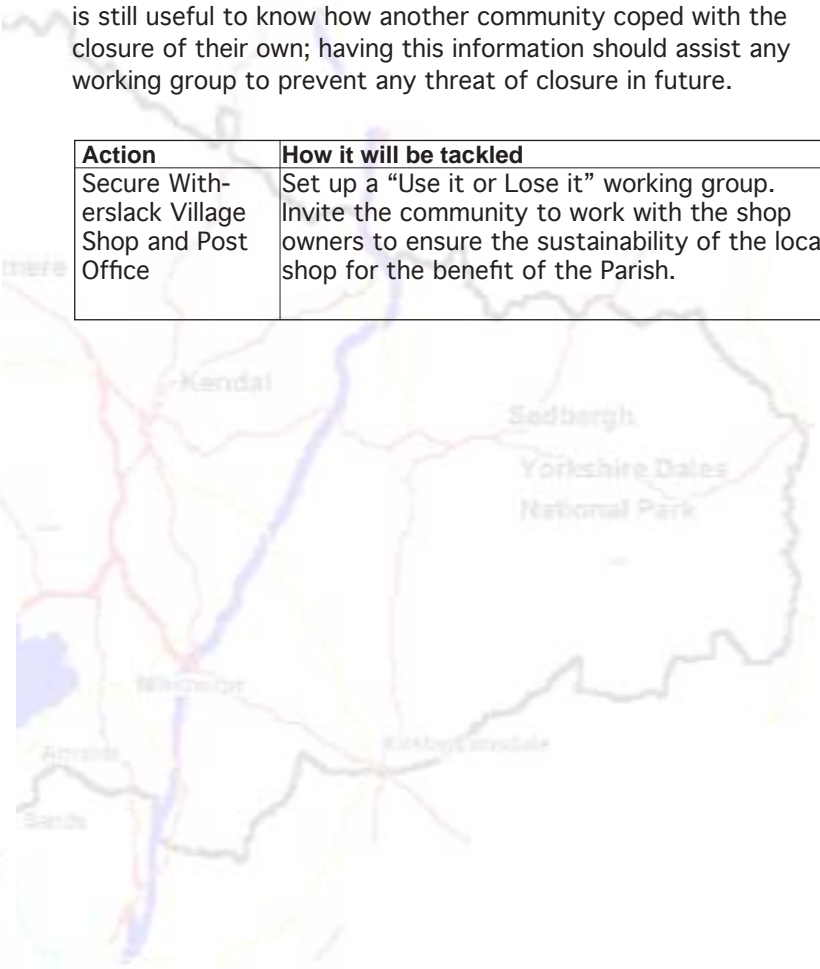
Shop/Post Office - Improvements



The community should begin to work in partnership with the owners of the shop/Post Office and Post Office Ltd to head off any threats to this important community asset should they arise in the future. A working group to link the Parish Council and the community with the owners could work together to ensure the sustainability of our local shop. It should also be noted that the Parish benefits from a mobile grocery service, mobile library and newspaper deliveries.

Bearing in mind there is no current threat to our Parish shop it is still useful to know how another community coped with the closure of their own; having this information should assist any working group to prevent any threat of closure in future.

Action	How it will be tackled
Secure Witherslack Village Shop and Post Office	Set up a "Use it or Lose it" working group. Invite the community to work with the shop owners to ensure the sustainability of the local shop for the benefit of the Parish.



Meathop and Ulpha Parish Council



The Countryside Agency

Case Study from Village Retail Services Association (ViRSA)

The Old Smithy - Community Village Shop

The history

The village of Wistanstow boasts a thriving school and play-group, a stunning twenties village hall, a medieval church, but had lost its shop.

Knowing the problems encountered by small businesses, villagers racked their brains and came up with a solution: what if a shop could be run for the benefit of the whole community without the need for large profit margins? In 1997, the Wistanstow Village Shop Committee was appointed to set the idea in motion.

The building

Next to the school there was the shell of the old smithy. Though tumble-down, it was a listed building of historical interest. The idea of renovating it and turning it into the new shop pleased everyone and the task began to raise enough money to make the scheme viable.

The hard graft

Months and months of phone calls, letters, meetings and red tape resulted in £20,000 secured for the renovation of the building plus £32,000 for the purchase. Main assistance came from The European Regional Development Fund, English Partnership, The Rural Development Commission and the Green Trust. The main conditions laid down were:

- To provide shop facilities
- To enhance the village centre
- To contribute to local economy
- To offer local tourist information

At last, in August 1999, the committee agreed to sign on the dotted line and the building work went out to tender.

Working to designs by local architects work began in September. The whole community who had originally approved the design

concept watched with interest as the smithy, unused for over 40 years was given a new life. By the following April, the Old Smithy Community Shop was finished.

The result

A glorious oak counter stacked with organic goodies is the first thing you see when entering the Smithy, with views to the tea garden behind. On rainy days, you can sit inside on the oak pew provided and enjoy a good cup of coffee. The interior is simple and deliberately uncluttered.

The nitty gritty

So what can you buy there? Based on surveys conducted in the community, the shop sells staple groceries (bought largely from the Cash and Carry) and there is an order book which shoppers are encouraged to use. Keen to keep the theme local, "Mr Bun" from Bishops Castle supplies excellent bread, cakes and pies. Vegetables and plants are regularly provided by local growers and even the free range eggs are laid within yards of the shop.

Each month the shop has a product theme. Last month it was pottery, this month it's clothing. The shop offer suppliers a commission on items sold although we are delighted to say that villagers have shown great generosity in donations to the shop.

Open every week day from 8.45 till 11.00 and again from 2.45 till 5.00, we also open to coincide with weekend events in the area. We rely on a team of volunteers to front the shop. In fact, the whole running of the shop is undertaken by volunteers. The committee of 12 meets regularly but everyone from the community is welcome to attend these meetings.

The future

The shop is well supported but we are aware of the need to raise funds to increase stock and to cover all standing costs such as insurance. The management structure may need to change as the circumstances of volunteers alter and it may be possible and desirable in the future to employ someone to help in the running of the shop.



The community itself will have differing demands over the years and the shop is bound to evolve to accommodate them. After all, it is vital to remember that the shop is here to serve the community and it has a duty and a need to be flexible in order to succeed. www.virsa.org

• **5.2 The Pub (is the Hub)**

People in many rural areas now have limited access to basic services, often made worse by a lack of public transport. The Countryside Agency’s survey, Rural Services 2000, shows that 52% of rural settlements have no pub and most rural community councils report a continuing decline in numbers of rural pubs.

There is no suggestion that The Derby Arms is in any danger of closing, but ensuring its survival should not be the sole responsibility of the tenant managers or indeed the commercial brewery business.

- Pubs perform a vital business role at the heart of rural communities across the country. They also provide an important social facility, as well as offering employment opportunities and adding to the attractiveness of an area for visitors”

Countryside Agency – The Pub is the Hub (a good practice guide)

Reasons given for the decline of rural pubs include greater observance of drink drive laws and greater police vigilance, young peoples’ preferences for larger theme pubs and a shift from landlord to manager run corporate premises which require higher profit margins. Small villages and more remote or isolated settlements are more likely to experience pub closures than those attractive to tourists, larger village centres and pubs on main roads.

The loss of the local pub could affect the quality of life in the Parish as a focal point for the community would disappear, it would also leave a gap in the local economy.

The Derby Arms benefits from some tourist trade and it has both a B&B business and an excellent local reputation for good food, which has secured its survival in recent years. This is a testament to the hard work and commitment of its current tenant managers who are active members of the community.

It would be fair to say that without the tourist trade and the B&B business the Derby Arms may not have survived to serve the local community.

The community should work in partnership with the tenant managers and the brewery to head off any future threats to this important community asset. A working group to link the Parish Council and the community with the team at The Derby Arms to work together to ensure the sustainability of the local pub.

The loss of rural services, including pubs, has prompted many rural businesses to consider the joint provision of services, where two or more services are delivered from the same premises, for example, a pub, post office and shop all run from the same building. This has enabled running costs to be shared and services to be retained on a smaller scale, thus preventing their loss altogether.

Action	How it will be tackled
Secure The Derby Arms Pub	Set up a “Pub is the Hub” working group. To provide a link between the community and the tenant managers and owners. The group would work together to ensure the sustainability of our local pub for the benefit of the Parish.



• 5.3 Childcare

There is currently no formal childcare provision available in the Parish for children under school age or for children outside of school hours in the form of after school clubs. There is, however, a parent and toddler group one morning a week which meets in the Parish Hall. This group is run on a voluntary basis and relies on contributions from parents and occasional fundraising.

There are two day nurseries outside the Parish which children can attend one is in Milnthorpe and the other is in Lindale. Providing pre school childcare within the Parish and particularly in partnership with Dean Barwick School would benefit both working parents and the school. A pre school nursery can attract parents and children to the school as it does in both Milnthorpe and Lindale and therefore help to increase or maintain pupil numbers and the viability of the school. Pre school provision could also be modified to provide after school childcare for working parents. It may be useful for the Parish Council to work in partnership with the governors and staff of Dean Barwick to test the feasibility of providing formal pre school and formal after school provision in the Parish.

Action	How it will be tackled
Improve access to Childcare provision	Parish Council to link with Dean Barwick School Governors to discuss the possibility of providing formal childcare provision in the Parish, discuss funding opportunities and venues for provision.

• 5.4 Education and Training

When asked in the survey which activities they would like to access in the Parish the majority of people requested adult learning (63%) this included computer clubs, local history and crafts. These requests are obviously of a non-vocational nature as people would like to increase personal knowledge for themselves and not necessarily improve their employment opportunities. There are few formal education or training opportunities in the Parish. However, lots of opportunities can be accessed throughout the south lakes area.

Encouraging the community to take advantage of these opportunities is the responsibility of the local authority, but some basic courses could be offered locally to increase awareness of lifelong learning. The local authority should be made aware of the available venues in the Parish and given the opportunity to access them at educational rates; Dean Barwick Primary School offers an adult computer course which has previously taken place in the Parish Hall.

Action	How it will be tackled
Increase access to Adult Education in Parish	Contact education providers and invite them to use venues within the Parish.

• 5.5 Health and Personal Care

It is not unusual for small rural communities to lack access to primary health care in their Parish. Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha are no exception and the majority of the community use health care providers in Grange-over-Sands, Milnthorpe or Kendal. The Parish is fortunate to have a ‘drop in’ doctor’s surgery every Tuesday and Friday afternoon at Constance Cottage in Witherslack, which 47% of respondents to the questionnaire use. Lack of very local primary health care was not a concern to the community at the public meeting or in the subsequent questionnaires.

Care of the elderly is a concern of respondents to the questionnaire as highlighted in the housing section. The Parish has no supported housing for the elderly and provision has to be accessed outside of the Parish which forces the elderly to relocate. The actions highlighted in the housing section below are connected to personal care.

• 5.6 Public Transport

The Parish Plan Survey showed 97% of the households who responded to the questionnaire owned one or more cars. Of the 174 individuals who responded to the questionnaire only two people (1%) used the bus service more than once a week. In fact 144 people (83%) never used the bus at all but chose to use their cars instead. Twenty four people (14%) stated the main reason they did not use the bus was the difficulty in getting to the bus stop.



It is not surprising the majority of those who responded chose to use their cars rather than public transport. The bus service is not as frequent as the community would like and for most people in the Parish getting to the bus stop would mean a walk of between 30 minutes and an hour. It is the older members of the community and the under 18's who need help to access public transport.

Three options for improving access to public transport were offered in the survey, a car share scheme, safer walkways to connect to A590 and mini bus service around the Parish to connect with main bus services. The latter suggestion was the most popular by far with the car share scheme the least popular solution.

The Parish Transport Grant scheme helps people in rural communities to meet their own local transport needs. The scheme is a flexible one, supporting a wide range of small-scale projects to enhance the lives of local people.

There are no hard and fast rules, since each community may have very different needs. However, some ideas might include:

- β car clubs
- β vouchers for taxis or taxi sharing schemes
- β funding for a local bus company to divert an existing service through the villages
- β projects to promote walking or cycling
- β purchasing cars, mopeds or minibuses for community use
- β new ways to provide transport information

Up to £10,000 can be claimed from the Countryside Agency (through the Parish Council) to meet up to 75% of the cost of the project. Applications can be made jointly with neighbouring Parishes to fund larger projects; or apply several times for smaller grants, to fund different projects, up to a total of £10,000. Cumbria County Council runs a mini bus sharing scheme called Brokerage. This enables groups and organisations within the community to use accessible and affordable vehicles. It should also be noted that Witherslack Hall School has a number of mini buses which it might consider making available to the

community if approached.

Action	How it will be tackled
Apply for a Parish Transport Grant	Decide on appropriate method of providing accessibility to public transport and apply for grant.

• 6.1 Affordable Housing

The provision of affordable housing is fundamental to the future prosperity and well-being of rural areas. Action is needed now if many of this, and future generations are not to be denied the opportunity and choice to live and work in the Parish.

In the 1998 Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha Housing Needs Survey carried out by Cumbria Village Homes Ltd in partnership with the Parish Council the following conclusion was reached:

“In our view the significant result of this survey is the desire of young people to remain in their community. It is often assumed that young people wish to move into the larger towns where entertainment and employment prospects are greater. This assumption is not borne out by other research. Young people certainly want access to towns but appear to prefer their residence in their home community albeit independently of the family home...”

There was a strong view that high prices and high rents had forced local people to move away.”

In their survey Cumbria Village Homes Ltd noted there was strong support for accommodation for young and older people within the price range that they were likely to be able to meet. Respondents emphasised the need for any homes to be provided in architectural styles complementary to existing buildings. Many respondents expressed support for affordable housing to maintain a balanced community and its services.

Although the housing needs survey was carried out 5 years ago, circumstances have changed very little. In our own survey carried out as part of the public consultation for this plan 132 respondents (76%) thought there was a shortage of affordable housing in the Parish. 103 (59%) thought there was a shortage



of suitable housing in the Parish – suitable meaning housing of the right size/type or in the right location. Of the 132 people who think there is a shortage of affordable housing 30% confirmed that they are worried it will prevent their grown up children from remaining in the Parish. 21% believe it will prevent themselves or a family member staying in the Parish as they get older.

The shortage of housing isn't extreme but it does exist and in the 1998 Survey the recommendation was to build just four two bed roomed houses. However this figure was based on a much smaller response to their questionnaire than the more recent survey and further research is required to assess more accurately the current need for both affordable housing for young people and suitable housing for older people within the Parish.

South Lakeland District Council has classified Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha as a "Secondary Priority Settlement" which in effect means that if the community can identify and supply land, then the council will build homes for rent. More council homes may not be the solution as tenants can not be restricted to only those identified in the local community as being in need of affordable housing.

The best solution may be for the Parish to manage any future building development work in partnership with South Lakeland District Council, a social landlord (housing association) and local landowners to develop a long term strategy for the housing needs of the community.

There are also redundant and underused farm buildings which could be converted to housing for the benefit of the community. Witherslack Estate has signalled its willingness to work in partnership with the Parish Council and other partners to provide more affordable housing within the Parish.

Speaking at a Rural Affairs Forum in 2002, the Housing Minister Jeff Rooker had stressed the importance of affordable housing, saying that countryside communities needed their own version of an urban renaissance to prevent an affordable housing crisis. Rising house prices and low wages have blighted rural

communities in recent years. Migration from the countryside has continued as people – especially the young – have found themselves unable to get onto the property ladder. Mr Rooker said:

"Too many young people cannot afford to live in the village of their birth. This can have a terrible knock-on effect on the stability of communities. But it's not just about houses. We have to reverse the policies which have led to the creation of dormitory towns and villages full of commuters. Providing more affordable homes needs to be underpinned by the sort of economic regeneration efforts that are starting to bear fruit in our towns and cities."

There is an identified need and a willingness on the part of South Lakeland District Council and landowners to create new homes in the Parish. Any new development would have to be designed and built to the highest standards taking into account peoples concerns about the environment and heritage. In order for all of this to happen a lead must be taken and work needs to be done to put together a proposal which will both satisfy the needs of the community and the restrictions of the planning authorities.

Initially a Housing Enabler Group could be established by the Parish Council. The Groups members would be drawn from the community and the Parish Council to undertake the following:

Action	How it will be tackled
Increase stock of affordable housing	Set up a Housing Enabler Group to work with community; Assess the housing need; Find a potential building site; Plan a viable long-term solution to the housing need; Obtain District Council Support; Involve Housing Associations; Obtain Planning Permission; Secure Funding; Provide Affordable Homes

Once the group was established its remit could be to develop into a social landlord or housing trust or it could just continue to work in partnership with other housing providers to get the best deal for the Parish.

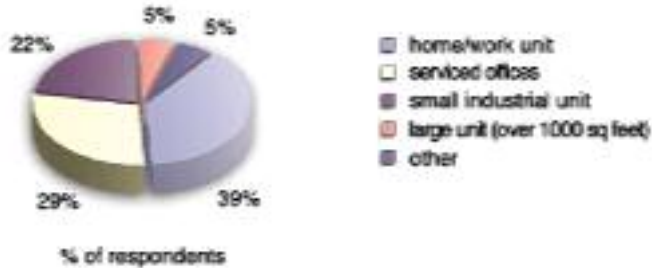


7 business and employment

• 7.1 Employment Needs and Opportunities

From the results of the questionnaire 36 (21%) respondents expressed a desire to work within the Parish and start their own businesses if suitable facilities were available.

Type of workspace required



Traditionally the economy of the Parish has been based on the original work/home based model, that of farming. If farming continues its decline and the number of farming families working within the Parish is reduced then the Parish would cease to be a working community. Instead the Parish is in danger of becoming a dormitory settlement for workers from bigger towns and cities easily accessed by the road network.

There are of course tourism businesses and other small enterprises in the Parish. The two caravan parks (caravan club 130 pitches & static with 170 pitches) and hotel in Meathop, the Old Vicarage Hotel in Witherslack, Garden Nursery at Halecat, two car repair businesses in Witherslack, log and timber yard at Halecat, the pub, the shop/post office, the petrol station, two Little Chef restaurants, Witherslack Hall Equestrian Centre, the five B&B's and those self employed individuals working currently working from home. There is also Dean Barwick Primary School and Witherslack Hall School.

All of these businesses employ their owners and in most cases other employees too.

It is fair to say that the employment opportunities offered by the majority of these businesses are low paid; low skilled jobs which are often casual in nature and, with the exception of

Witherslack Hall School, most of the businesses employ less than 10 people. For new and existing businesses to grow and provide employment in the Parish then appropriate space and access to communications must be available.

Action	How it will be tackled
Increase number of affordable work units	Parish Council to set up a Working Group to identify possible sites for work units. Working in partnership with local landowners and farmers possible sites for new business start up could be redundant farm buildings. Identifying these sites and encouraging their sympathetic redevelopment would provide more employment opportunities within the Parish.

• 7.2 Visitors and Tourism

Meathop has two caravan parks and a hotel. Witherslack has a hotel and throughout the Parish there are a small number of tourist accommodation businesses, including self catering cottages, B&B's and caravans. The Derby Arms Pub the Parish shop, Halecat Garden Nursery and Witherslack Hall Equestrian Centre all rely on tourism to some extent.

The Parish is not a tourist destination in itself but rather it acts as a gateway to the South Lakes and the National Park, providing a convenient place to stay away from more crowded villages and towns. Parts of the Parish do attract day visitors and Mill Side (Whitbarrow) particularly attracts a large number of walkers throughout the year.

It is obvious from individual comments from the questionnaire that there is no desire for the Parish to become a destination for tourism or for it to encourage extra visitors. However, some of our essential services rely on tourism; the shop and the pub in Witherslack are key examples. Therefore, it would be economically sensible to manage the level of tourism we currently have, provide better facilities (including off road parking) and more information so visitors can enjoy and spend money in the Parish with as little disruption to the community as possible.

Meathop and Ulpha Parish Council



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8 utilities and telecoms

Action	How it will be tackled
Manage visitor parking	Identify those areas in the Parish suffering congestion during peak visitor times and identify off road parking solutions.
Provide Visitor Information Points	Provide information points for tourists, including accommodation information to allow possible conversion of day visitors to overnight stays.
Assess the economic importance of visitors	Commission a small study of the economic impact of visitors to the Parish and its effect on businesses and services in the Parish.

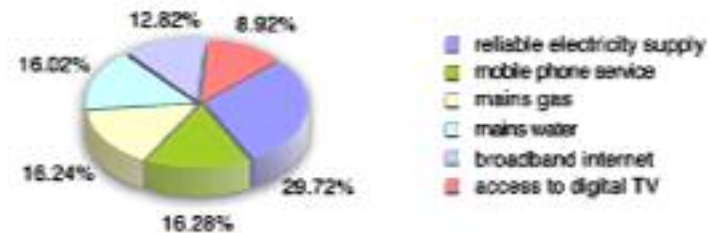
• 8.1 Utilities and Telecoms

The Parish Council has no direct control over the provision of utilities or telecoms technology in the Parish. It can, however, act as an advocate for the community and communicate with the appropriate providers to lobby for a better quality service and to provide answers to the communities' questions.

When asked to prioritise the services they would like access, or the services they would like to see improved, the community highlighted a more reliable electricity supply as their top priority. More than 29% of respondents were concerned with poor reliability and the regular power failures throughout the Parish. Three services almost share second priority and they are – access to mobile phone services (16.28%), access to reliable mains water supply (16.02%) and mains gas (16.24%). It is worth noting here that access to mains gas has been an issue within the Parish for some years and the Parish Council has done some work in this area, but the costs are prohibitive and not economically viable for either the Parish Council or homeowners.

Access to Broadband communications technology was the communities' third priority (12.82%) and access to digital television signal the fifth (8.92%).

Service and utilities respondents want access to



Since the public meeting and collection of the questionnaire some work has been carried out on the electricity supply in parts of the Parish. However, it would be useful for the Parish Council to ask the company responsible for the supply of power to the Parish what work has been done and what work is yet to be done to improve reliability. The power provider could also be made aware of the communities' concerns and their prioritisation of this problem. The same could be actioned with the water supply company – exploring their long-term plans to extend the mains water supply system.

Access to mobile telephone services relies on the construction and installation of telephone masts. The location of these masts is often controversial and the fact that the Parish is within the National Park boundary reduces the amount of mobile mast locations available. It may simply be a service the Parish will have to do without because of its unique location but this does not mean the Parish Council could not investigate the possibility of increasing access to mobile telephone services within the Parish.

Access to Broadband is an issue affecting the majority of rural areas. The lack of Broadband access affects both the business community and the individual's access to information and entertainment. There are a number of new solutions to providing access to this service within small communities and these solutions should be investigated and their feasibility assessed.

TV reception is generally poor within the Parish because of the nature of the landscape. There is currently no access to digital



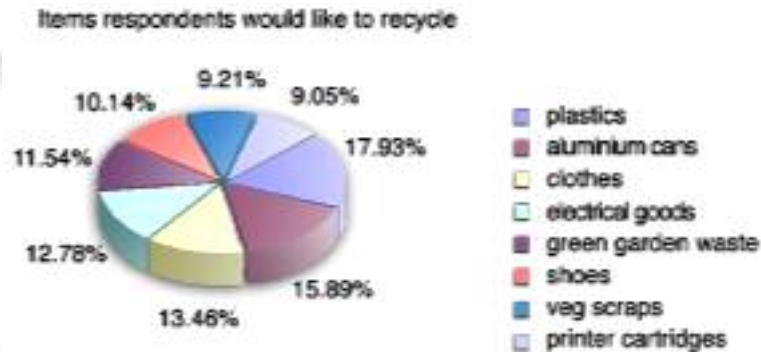
9 environment

TV reception through an aerial which reduces the communities' access to services it is already paying for through the television licence fee. Digital services and improved picture quality can be accessed via satellite services but only on a fee paying basis. The only way to improve access to these services is to lobby the providers.

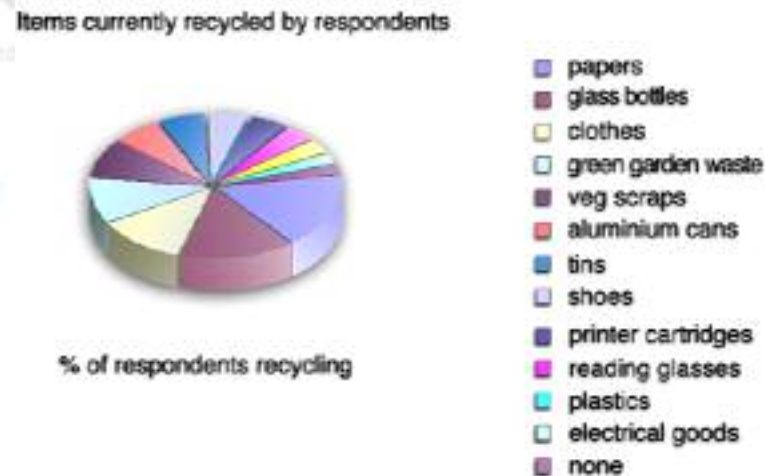
Action	How it will be tackled
Improve reliability of electricity supply Widen access to mains water supply	Contact electricity and water supply providers to ask for an update of service status and their long term plans to improve supplies.
Widen access to mobile communications	Contact Mobile Telecommunications Providers to ask for an update of service status and their long term plans to improve access.
Action	How it will be tackled
Lobby BT for Broadband Access	Contact the Cumbria ICT Broadband Initiative (CIBI). CIBI is a partnership formed to develop and take forward an Action Plan to meet the ultimate goal of all those consumers and organisations in the county wishing to access metropolitan standard broadband services at reasonable cost to be able to do so.
Action	How it will be tackled
Improve access to Digital TV services	Investigate access to Digital TV. Contact the providers of free to air digital services to ask for their long term plans for providing reception in this area.

• 9.1 Recycling

It seems from what respondents say that the Parish already does considerable recycling, with paper and glass at the top of the list, both of which can be collected from recycling points here in the Parish. It is surprising then that the Parish also has facilities for the collection of tins but significantly less of the community recycle that item at present. This could be due to a number of factors, one of which may be lack of information about where the facilities are located.



Apart from what we currently save for recycling in the Parish respondents to the questionnaire were asked which additional items they would like to have collected. Plastics came top of the list (17.93%) with aluminium cans a close second (15.89%). Clothing (13.46%) and electrical goods (12.78%) aren't far apart in third and fourth place.



% of respondents recycling

Meathop and Ulpha Parish Council



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South Lakeland District Council currently has no provision for the collection of plastics for recycling either from collection points or direct from homes. The only service at present for plastic recycling in South Lakeland is the 'Cumbria Farm Film Project' which has successfully recycled farm plastic such as bale wrap. For household waste 'plastic' there is no scheme available because of costs and logistics.

Farmers can take the following plastics to be recycled:

- Bale Stretch wrap/bale bags/silage sheets
- Small feed/fertiliser/mineral bags
- Half tonne (metric) fertiliser bag liners
- NO outer fertiliser bags

Farmers are charged a fee determined by the size and density of the load. This charge is heavily subsidised by the scheme and far less than the cost of hiring a skip or paying landfill charges to dispose of the waste.

Why recycle farm plastic?

- Burning plastic is damaging to health and the environment.
- Producing black smoke by burning plastic is illegal and can result in hefty fines.
- Buried plastic will not rot and rises back to the surface.
- Agricultural plastic should not be disposed of through the domestic waste stream.
- Landfill sites place high charges on this waste and are reluctant to accept it.
- Recycling makes sense for you and the environment.

The Parish currently has a glass recycling point in the car park of the Derby Arms and paper and tin can recycling points in the car park behind the Parish Hall. It may be useful to provide a dedicated recycling point were those three plus aluminium cans and clothes can be deposited. It may also be useful to provide some recycling points in Meathop and Mill Side as currently all recycling points are in Witherslack. It may also be useful to post information at recycling points which informs the community of nearby recycling points for other household items, like shoes,

motor oil, garden waste and cardboard and wood. Details on the below :

Recycling Points outside the Parish

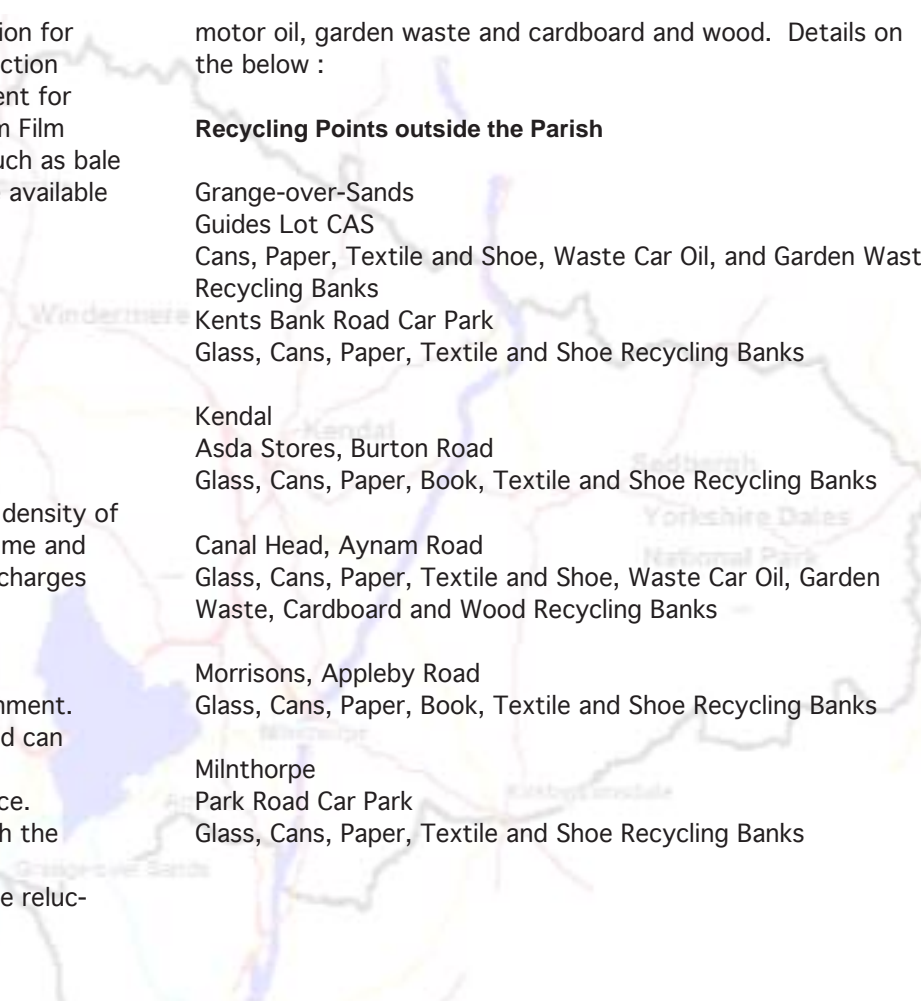
Grange-over-Sands
Guides Lot CAS
Cans, Paper, Textile and Shoe, Waste Car Oil, and Garden Waste Recycling Banks
Kents Bank Road Car Park
Glass, Cans, Paper, Textile and Shoe Recycling Banks

Kendal
Asda Stores, Burton Road
Glass, Cans, Paper, Book, Textile and Shoe Recycling Banks

Canal Head, Aynam Road
Glass, Cans, Paper, Textile and Shoe, Waste Car Oil, Garden Waste, Cardboard and Wood Recycling Banks

Morrisons, Appleby Road
Glass, Cans, Paper, Book, Textile and Shoe Recycling Banks

Milnthorpe
Park Road Car Park
Glass, Cans, Paper, Textile and Shoe Recycling Banks



Meathop and Ulpha Parish Council



The Countryside Agency

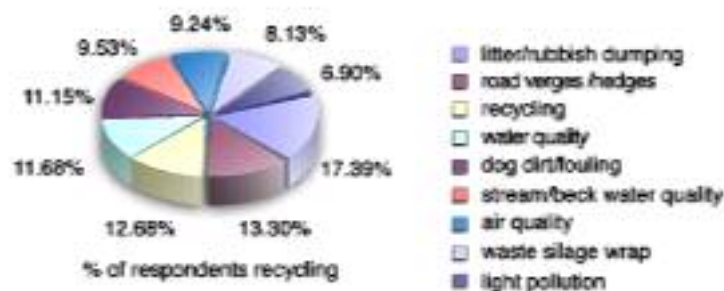


Action	How it will be tackled
Investigate relocation and increase of recycling services	Encourage recycling by having all the recycling facilities in one location, easily accessible by the Parish. Identify a site, request aluminium can and clothes recycling facilities.

• 9.2 Litter

It was highlighted as a problem in the public meeting and respondents to the questionnaire placed litter/rubbish including silage wrap and dog fouling (36.57%) at the top of their environmental worries, with road verges and hedges coming second (13.30%). Recycling comes in third place (12.68%) and water quality in fourth (11.68%). Stream/Beck water quality (9.53%) and air

Environmental issues that concern respondents



The Parish Council has discussed organised litter picking in the past and it seems clear from respondents that litter and fouling whatever their cause are an area of concern to the community. Mains water quality is the responsibility of United Utilities and individual residents should contact them if they have a concern. Stream water quality and air quality are monitored by the Environmental Agency and the Parish Council could contact them when concerns are raised.

Action	How it will be tackled
Reduce litter	Organise Litter Picking Working Group. To identify specific areas suffering from litter problems and organise voluntary teams of litter pickers to be provided with the correct health and safety training and the appropriate equipment.

• 10.1 Crime Prevention

There was little concern about crime in the Parish survey in fact the lack of crime was often stated as the reason people enjoyed living in the Parish. Safety issues were mainly centred on traffic problems which are covered in that section.

Although we have a 'Neighbourhood Watch' scheme in the Parish, and the nature of living in 3 small settlements allows the community to keep an eye out for anything out of the ordinary, there are still incidents of theft and other crime. Having said that, the perception of our Parish is a relatively crime free one. It would, however, be a mistake to become complacent about this issue and it would be useful for crime prevention activity to continue.

Action	How it will be tackled
Set up Public Crime Prevention meeting with Police	One or two public meetings with crime prevention office to refresh the communities' knowledge of crime prevention techniques.

• 10.2 Traffic speed and volume

In the public meeting the issue of traffic problems throughout the Parish created interesting debate and the results of the survey show 31% of respondents are concerned about traffic speed in the Parish with 20% citing parking as a problem.

Traffic problems in the Parish



The questionnaire asked respondents to identify danger spots within the Parish and the responses can be viewed in appendix 1.

Action	How it will be tackled
Improve Road Safety	Review traffic issues, traffic calming and identification of dangerous junctions and corners as part of the “Highwayman Scheme”. Using the list contained in Appendix 1 of the plan to identify and prioritise those danger spots and traffic issues highlighted by the survey. Use this information to work in partnership with the relevant authorities to improve road safety within the Parish.
Improve Off-Road Parking	Review parking problems within Parish using the list in Appendix 1 of the plan to identify and prioritise those areas of the Parish most affected by poor parking facilities, identify solutions including the creation of new parking spaces. Use this information to work in partnership
Reduce speed of Witherslack Hall School traffic	Write to Witherslack Hall again pointing out the excessive speeds of employees, visitors and delivery vehicles to the School has been highlighted in the recent public consultation for this Plan. Ask them to encourage the reduction of speed on a voluntary basis especially when travelling through the more built up areas of the Parish.

• 11.1 Children’s Interests – Encouraging Citizenship

There is a poverty of play opportunities in the general environment, and it is the responsibility of the community to ensure that all children have access to rich, stimulating environments that are free from unacceptable risk and thereby offer children the opportunity to explore both themselves and the world through their freely chosen play.

Many pressures increasingly dominate the lives of children in the UK. Public fears about safety, including the threat from traffic and from other people, lead many parents to restrict their children’s freedom to play and get around on their own. Commercial interests intrude into children’s lives through targeted marketing and advertising campaigns. Educational policies and practice take a curriculum-centred approach that places increasing demands on children’s time and energies in pursuit of educational attainment and constrains their free time.

Providing good play opportunities is, in part, a recognition of children’s entitlements as members of society, in the same way that adults’ entitlements in their free time are recognised through arts, sports and leisure provision.

A lack of good play opportunities can also have adverse consequences on families and communities. Independent research has found evidence that families of children who were kept indoors had poorer local support networks and consequently found it more difficult to, for instance, organise informal childcare. This supports the thesis that community play opportunities form part of the ‘glue’ that brings communities and families together.

Homes and schools are spaces in which valuable play can often take place, but they can restrict children, their freedom and their choices in a number of ways. Outdoor play, in both the natural and built environment, is of special value in providing freedom, large-scale physical activity and a range of challenges to children.

In addition to the benefits for children themselves, there are other good reasons why families, neighbours, agencies, funders



and government should be interested in the provision of good play opportunities.

There is evidence that community play facilities can reduce youth crime and vandalism. For instance projects examined by Thames Valley Police (Hampshire and Wilkinson 1999) showed significant reductions in vandalism and petty crime following the installation of play facilities and a youth shelter.

The usual argument for this is that play provision provides a diversion for children, an alternative to anti-social or criminal behaviour.

Happier, more fulfilled, less frustrated children are the direct and immediate benefit for the community. Put simply: play provision benefits parents and carers because their children are enjoying themselves, are active and will be learning at the same time. In particular play out of the home benefits families by allowing noisier and more energetic play than the domestic environment normally allows. It provides parents with resources for enriching their children's routine.

As part of the consultation for this Plan the children of the village were given the opportunity to express their opinion through informal group work.

The infant class at Dean Barwick Primary had are this to say about the Parish and its facilities (verbatim):

Things that are good about the Parish:

Fields, animals, trees, space, good school, nice houses, Harold's shop (Parish shop/Post Office), The Derby Arms.

Things they didn't like about the Parish:

Doing work in school, hearing guns and hearing RAF jets

The things they wanted in the Parish:

Swimming pool, slide, playground like Brockhole, tree house, pond, playhouse, roundabout, water, tube tunnels, tents, climbing frame, outdoor boules and bowling, rocking horse, bouncy castle, trampoline, seesaw, swings, sandpit, badminton, tennis,

bats and balls, football pitch, giant slide. And all of that set in plenty of space.

The Junior class added to that with the following:

Things that are good about the Parish:

Lack of cars, wildlife, the woods, the black panther, friends, animals, Riding School horses, the pub, the school play area and field at the school, the Parish hall, the school, Rocky Common and Nichols Marsh, Yewbarrow Noddle.

Things they didn't like about the Parish:

School, no river, lack of playground, lack of after school sports activities, no clothes shops, no skate park, not enough clubs for children to meet and do stuff, rubbish in the hedges, not enough farms, no roller coaster, too many girls, no indoor space on rainy days, no art places, the shop is too far away.

Things they wanted in the Parish:

Super Playground, bird of prey sanctuary, Tom Jones shop, rugby, massive park, massive trampoline, tree houses, equipment for village sports, swimming centre, allotments, ice skating rink, indoor games in the Parish hall, children's nursery, a supermarket, wrestling arena, airport, kids club, football pitch, night club for children.

The over elevens where consulted out of school in the Parish Hall, they said the following:

Things that are good about the Parish:

Quietness, the community spirit, wildlife, lots of space, the school.

Things that are bad about the Parish:

Nothing to do, no recreation ground, no skate park, no discos, no entertainment and no youth club.

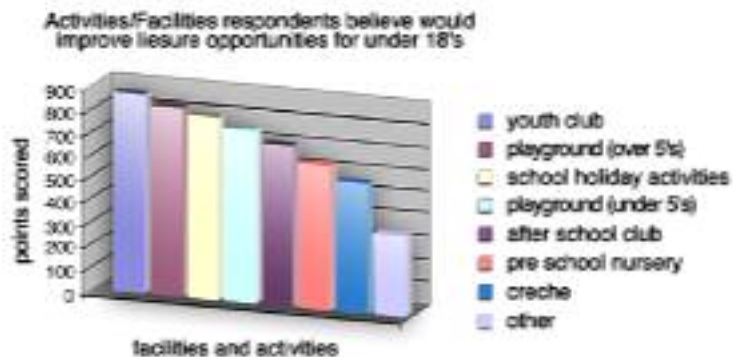


Things they wanted in the Parish:

Football Training, toddler playground, youth club (pool table, table tennis, softball, indoor quick cricket, sound system, tuck shop, trips, youth worker), skate park, driving range, adventure playground, archery.

You cannot read what the children had to say without a smile on your face, they were asked to dream big and they certainly did. However it isn't difficult to distil ideas from their dreams that can indeed become realities if the will of the community is behind them.

In the survey of adults in the Parish people were asked to put scores to activities they believed would benefit the community by improving leisure opportunities for our young people. As you can see from the graph below, there isn't much in it as respondents found it difficult to prioritise facilities and activities; giving most of them equal import.



It can be seen from the graph that respondents to the questionnaire have scored the provision of a youth club, a playground for over 5's, school holiday activities and a playground for under 5's and an after school club as their top five priorities.

It is also apparent from the views of the children that there are very few facilities for them within the Parish. And from what they and the adults had to say there is strong evidence of need for one or more of the following:

- playgrounds;
- skateboard and skate parks;
- bike tracks and jumps;
- hangout or youth shelters;
- adventure playgrounds;
- multi-use games areas;
- fun trails and activity courses;
- school playgrounds.
- sports facilities
- youth club
- after school club
- school holiday activities

Any plans for creating outdoor activity areas should be carried out alongside any proposed new housing development and any traffic calming measures contained in this plan as there may be areas of overlap and cost efficiencies which could be taken advantage of.

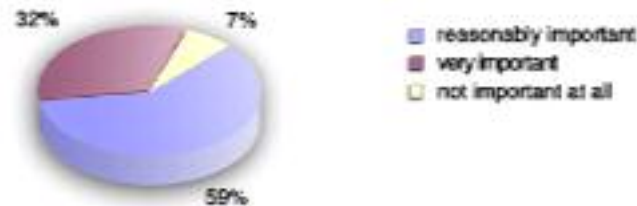
Any plans for creating indoor activities should be done in consultation with those committees currently responsible for community assets i.e. The Parish Hall Committee (Parish hall), The Parochial Church Committee (church hall) and the Dean Barwick Primary School Governors and Dean Barwick Trust (school buildings).

Funding for children's play is available and like most funding it is hard work to achieve, but it isn't impossible. Possible sources are funding are listed in appendix 2.



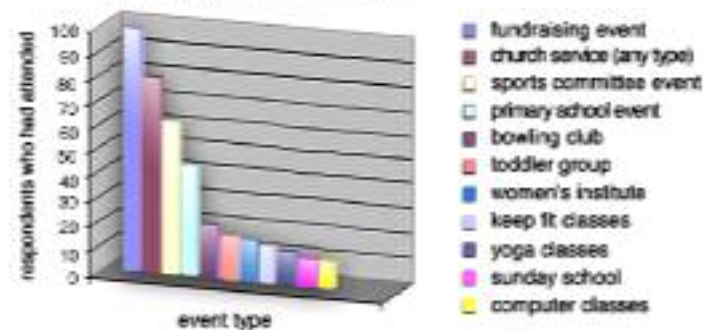
Action	How it will be tackled
Develop outdoor activities and facilities for children	Set up "Childsplay" working group to decide from the data collected which facilities/amenities are achievable. The working group should then consult with Parish asset managers and Landowners, SLDC and the National Park Authority to identify potential sites for planning to begin.
Develop indoor activities and facilities for children	Set up "Childsplay" working group to decide from the data collected which facilities/amenities are achievable. The working group should then consult with Parish asset managers and Landowners, SLDC and the National Park Authority to identify potential sites for planning to begin.

How important are community events in the Parish



Many events take place in the Parish, all of which promote community spirit; the survey revealed how many respondents had attended various events and activities in the village.

Parish events in the last 12 months



• 11.2 Community Spirit & Citizenship

Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha benefit from a well-developed community spirit. For many people living in the Parish has considerable benefits over living in a towns or a city. Low levels of pollution, more attractive environmental conditions, improved child safety, lower levels of crime and the space and freedom which are not associated with urban life are all seen as great benefits.

Despite the difficulties which have beset our community in recent years there is a strong sense of community spirit. This sense of togetherness is often identified as being one of the main benefits associated with rural life. In fact the survey shows that 91% of respondents believe community events are important.

Building and sustaining community spirit through Parish events and activities is partly responsible for the very good response to the Parish Plan Questionnaire and the excellent attendance at the Public Meeting. Sustaining this spirit doesn't happen by accident and it takes a small number of dedicated individuals to make so many activities and events happen.

In the survey 22% made a particular point of citing good community spirit as one of the reasons they enjoy living in the Parish. Here are just a few direct quotes to the question, "What is the most important things about living in this area?"

"Being part of a friendly caring community in a beautiful area"
 "The countryside and friendly attitude of the community"

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“Village unity”

“Good village community spirit. Church, post office shop, pub, wild life, walks, the farms, horses, and peace and quiet”

“Countryside/community spirit and community events”

“Peace quiet friendly people”

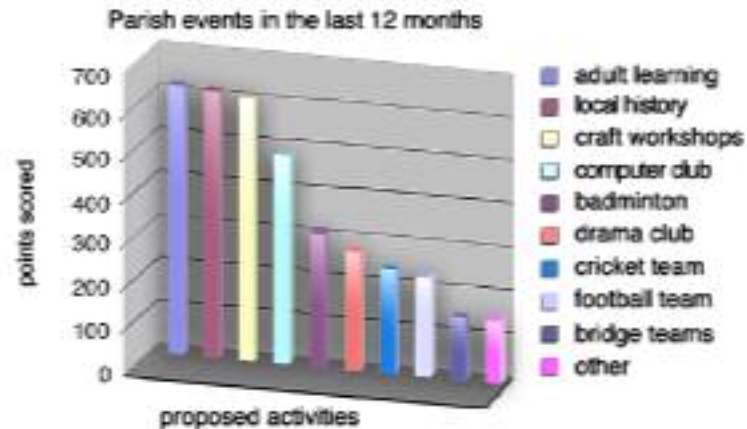
“The peace and quiet of the area. The community, which made us very welcome when we moved here”

“Community participation and consideration”

“Safe environment for my children. Community Spirit”

“I have lived here all my married life and like the community spirit of the village”

The survey asked what new activities people would like to attend in the Parish.



As the graph shows, adult learning, local history and craft workshops received the highest scores from respondents. While physical activities such as cricket, football and badminton share an almost equal amount of votes with each other. Physical activity appears to be the least popular choice amongst respondents which may reflect the age group of respondents as the majority are aged 40 or over with a large proportion of retired individuals.

Communication was an issue that came up in the public meeting. People were concerned there was no formal communication method within the Parish to share information about activities

and events, as well as Parish news. It was suggested some form of free newsletter could be produced perhaps on a quarterly basis. The distribution could be funded by the sale of advertising space. The newsletter could also include edited extracts of Parish Council minutes.

Action	How it will be tackled
Sustain and develop existing and new community activities	Existing clubs and groups to develop ideas for extra activities using information in plan. Parish asset managers to liaise with users and organisers of events in community to assess requirements and coordinate the use of indoor space to reduce duplications.
Establish Parish newsletter and Website	Investigate the cost and time it would take to produce a quarterly Parish Newsletter in conjunction with neighbouring Parishes, including postage to each home in the Parish.



Appendix 1

Questionnaire Responses - Traffic

Please note the responses have not been edited and are written verbatim, as they appeared on the questionnaires. They have been categorised to make them easier to read and any duplications are direct from the questionnaires.

Cyclists

I would like to see a cycle track from the west end of the old A590 (near Greystones) to the A590 roundabout near the foot of Lindale Hill. This would make cycling to Grange safer and more enjoyable)

Cyclists on the north lodge bend you can't hear them coming and they ride in groups taking up the whole rd

Children Playing

Children playing on roads town end around shop through main rd

Dangerous Corners

Dangerous corner near high fell end maybe mirror or white lights

High fell end corner

Needs a which lane on bad bend in Meathop by Meathop hall

HGV's

Heavy vehicles travelling via Meathop's narrow lanes are a clear danger to all other users and buildings.

Junctions

Beck head junction at mill side

Corner near derby arms and entering town end

Corner of church rd, very busy with tractors passing fast also cars parked on rd further along

Derby arms crossroads and palace house/holdfast cottage bend

Derby arms crossroads, this is a really dangerous bend, cars often in middle of road approaching this black spot which doesn't help also coming into village by palace house, blind bend and traffic often approaching too fast in middle of road

First corner into town end from A590.

Junction of church road and blea crag

Junction of church road and blea crag

Junction to halecat from post office

Meathop rd junction, Meathop roundabout

Mill side / a590 junction, Mill side to oakdene, several danger spots. Footpath?

Mill side access to the a590 and from it

Safer access to Mill Side from A590

The t-junction up to halecat usually has parked cars, which are a hazard.

Turning right into and out of the a590 at the Mill Side turn off (lack of physical centre island)

Lighting

Lack of street lights outside the council houses

Lack of street lights outside the council houses

Obstructed Views

bad corner below south view on the way to witherslack hall
crossroad at Derby arms when emerging from "old rd" this is a blindspot when turning right, traffic going too fast.

pixie hill

pixie hill cars unaware of road travel fast, hedges too high

Also in certain places the road side hedges need cutting back especially at the old woodlands café.

Parking

The only parking problems I have seen are in the village. Traveling too fast is a problem all over the area but anticipation of parked cars slows it down nicely

Church rd parking on the corner

Traffic parked outside derby arms off long Howe end farm

Junction of church rd and the road through village parking
Parking on private lanes also blocking access for milk tanker and farm vehicles. Not locals but outsiders

Both sides of rd near shop and council houses

Cars parked in the village

Parking on and around the bend at crossroads, Mill Side, this is dangerous when turning left off main rd.

Parking in the Roadway before the cross roads outside the derby arms



Too much parking on junction in centre of Witherslack, bottom of Church Rd. Footpath needed from village to school
BMW parked at village junction.

Parking of "walkers" cars at junction of mill side rd & old a590 making turning dangerous

Parking on church rd

Parking on junction - church rd and village centre by post office

Parking outside "the force" at town end

Parking outside post office.

Parking outside shop blocking town end cul-de-sac also junction at church rd parking on corner by residents

Parking, church rd in the village.

Road verges in Mill Side in a bad way due to continual parking of tractors and other heavy traffic

The on road parking outside the houses at the start of the road from the village up to the school/church is a danger spot.

Suggest there be no parking signs throughout Witherslack with more parking provision made on the old a590 for walkers cars

Tourists parking on old a590 at the bottom of mill side

Inconsiderate parking when people walking

Pedestrians

From pub up first hill in the dark, people do not wear light clothing

Road surface

the condition of the road surface between the cattle grid and the Derby Arms after rain it holds a large amount of water

The Old road next to the main A590 has crack in its surface which can be a danger to cyclists.

turning into village from off the A590 coming from grange side 2 big potholes near the gate at Birks Farm

farm and road surface approx 1 mile out of village past Moss Howe

Speed of Traffic

A590 cattle grid servicing & repair and use of agricultural tunnel by cars (NOT INSURED). It is a danger to horse riders, cyclists and walkers; I have almost been hit twice walking through the tunnel by vehicles travelling too fast. I will not go through it anymore. Vehicles leaving and accessing the a590 travel too

fast. I will not go through it anymore. Vehicles leaving and accessing the a590 travel too fast over cattle grid cause wear and tear.

Bridge across river Winster and Meathop fell

Single carriage way section of a590 & turnings into Witherslack A590 through village.

All of the road to Witherslack hall, traffic too fast

Between a590 and post office

Between the derby arms and post office

Between village and Witherslack hall cars travel too quick

Traffic too and from Witherslack Hall goes too fast through village

Cars travelling very fast on the Meathop rd and not stopping at the junction, and going very quickly around both corners (left & right at the junction). Cars not slowing down for pedestrians & cyclists

Church Rd-Road to school, main road through village past the shop to Witherslack hall travel too fast

Corner of high fell end, fast traffic especially delivery trucks and tractors

Fast and heavy traffic in Meathop - need speed limit esp. sub contracted vehicles

From A590 to Witherslack hall school - employees travel too fast in their hurry to get to work

Heavy traffic too fast to and from WH.

A590 "grange roundabout" needs better traffic calming to slow down traffic coming down Lindale Hill

Lack of "slow down" signs in out of village, warning of children playing on road

Cars travelling too fast

Lower speed limits seriously need looking at, Townend farm, church rd, do you realise how many children live in the vicinity and how much heavy traffic e.g. Tractors, vans, lorries, buses and cars use this stretch of rd particularly at speeds above what can be described as safe

Meathop rd

Meathop rd

Mill side and bottom of mill lane

Mill side rd

Mill Side farms Mill Side lane

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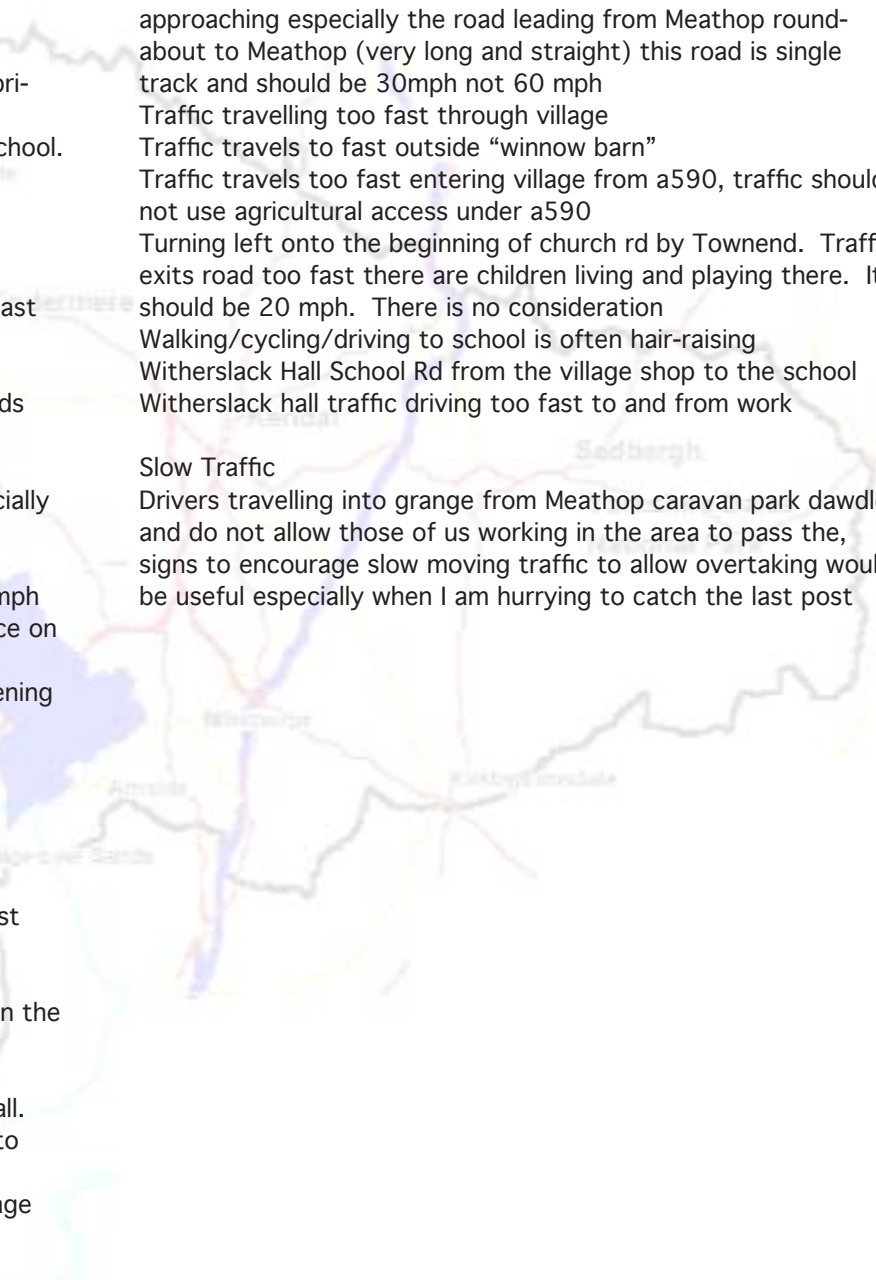


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On the way to Witherslack hall
 Outside village shop and village end of church rd
 Speed of traffic and lack of pavement outside Witherslack primary school
 Speed of traffic down main rd through to Witherslack hall school.
 Traffic travelling too fast through the village
 Pixie hill cars travelling too fast as it's a bad corner
 Pixie hill cars travelling too fast as it's a bad corner
 Poor road markings. Speed between a590 and post office
 Road danger spot - Derby Arms Area. Vehicles travelling past Derby Arms in Both Directions travelling too fast making it dangerous for vehicles joining this road from old A590.
 Road downhill from Kirkett nook farm entrance. Hedge needs replacing with fence on right. People go too fast, cant see oncoming traffic, been many crashes
 Speed of cars travelling too and from Witherslack hall especially around bends above Parish hall
 Speed of Witherslack hall traffic at peak hours
 Speed through the village should be reduced to 20mph 40mph on old A590. And 50mph with sound absorbing road surface on new A590 single carriageway section especially
 Speed through Town End past post office particularly in evening and hay making
 Speeding on Meathop rd, no footpaths no streetlights
 Also traffic up to Witherslack hall travel too fast
 Town end to church and beyond. Town End to beck head
 Town end/church rd. Derby Arms from village to A590 and Levens.
 Tractors/farm vehicles on Mill Side lane travelling far too fast
 Traffic from Witherslack hall school travelling too fast
 Traffic going past the Derby Arms is too fast for that bend
 Traffic going too fast past dean Barwick school and between the village of Witherslack and Witherslack hall
 Traffic travelling far too fast from Kate farm to winnow barn
 Traffic travelling too fast between A590 and Witherslack hall.
 Traffic travelling too fast particularly from Witherslack hall to A590 and vice versa
 Traffic travelling too fast through centre of village past village shop
 Traffic travelling too fast through Meathop and all roads

approaching especially the road leading from Meathop roundabout to Meathop (very long and straight) this road is single track and should be 30mph not 60 mph
 Traffic travelling too fast through village
 Traffic travels too fast outside "winnow barn"
 Traffic travels too fast entering village from a590, traffic should not use agricultural access under a590
 Turning left onto the beginning of church rd by Townend. Traffic exits road too fast there are children living and playing there. It should be 20 mph. There is no consideration
 Walking/cycling/driving to school is often hair-raising
 Witherslack Hall School Rd from the village shop to the school
 Witherslack hall traffic driving too fast to and from work

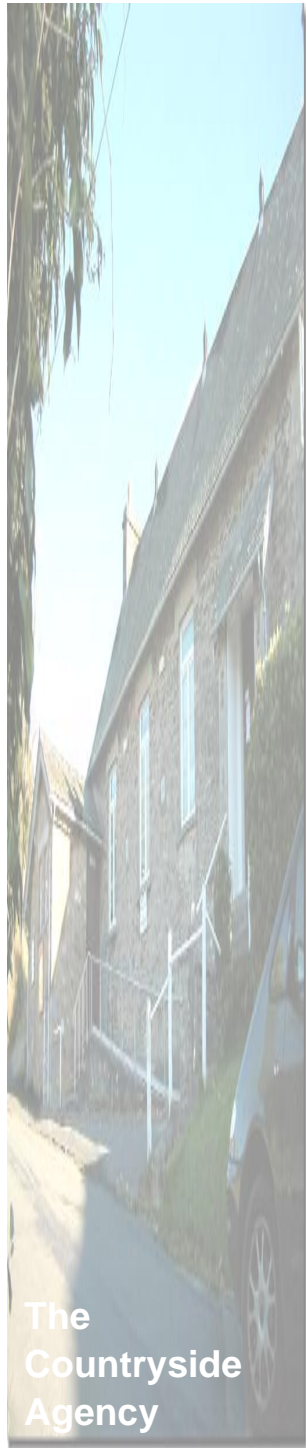
Slow Traffic
 Drivers travelling into grange from Meathop caravan park dawdle and do not allow those of us working in the area to pass the, signs to encourage slow moving traffic to allow overtaking would be useful especially when I am hurrying to catch the last post



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Appendix 2

Potential Sources of Funding

Statutory Funds/Local Authorities; Central government departments and local authorities:
Give grants to voluntary organisations.

European Funding:

There are two areas of funding that may be relevant to children's play: ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) and ESF (European Social Fund).

Companies

Companies can support voluntary organisations in a variety of ways, ranging from cash donations or sponsorship to gifts in kind. Increasingly today, companies are moving away from pure philanthropy towards community involvement/ community investment.' They like to be seen as creating goodwill in the community and also amongst their workforce. They also want to be associated with particular causes that have clear relevance to their business. It is very advisable therefore to do your groundwork before making an approach.

The National Lottery Community Fund (formerly National Lottery Charities Board):

This may be the most effective route to access a grant. The type of work they like to fund includes projects that provide or improve community facilities and those that improve the health and safety of the community by altering the natural or built environment. It is however important to relate your project to the CF's mission statement, which is 'to help meet the needs of those at greatest disadvantage in society and improve the quality of life in the community'. The CF has nine regions in England, which reflect and respond to local and regional differences.

New Opportunities Fund:

This awards grants for health, education and environment projects, with a particular focus again on the disadvantaged. Under the education theme, NOF will fund quality affordable out-of-school hours childcare, which might cover breakfast clubs, holiday play schemes, and after-school clubs and childminder networks.

Especially relevant is the 'Green Spaces and Sustainable Communities' grant programme, which aims to help communities understand, improve or care for their local environment. Included here is the 'Better Play' grant programme - managed by Barnardo's and the Children's Play Council - which will support distinctive and innovative projects that aim to transform children's play. Applications are invited from voluntary organizations and community groups wishing to provide play services to local groups and communities, or organisations wishing to develop local play strategies and support good practice.

Sustainable Communities programme). Arts Council:

Whilst there is not a specific priority on projects for children, these may be eligible if they have an arts focus. Funding is for capital projects only, not running costs.

Sport England (formerly English Sports Council):

Children's play activities are not usually considered unless they are sports-based projects that benefit children.

Heritage Lottery Fund:

This can give grants for capital projects that preserve and improve specific areas of land and buildings etc. Some children's play and playground projects have received HLF funding.

Awards For All:

This is a joint Lottery funding programme, designed to help small groups (ie those with an income of less than £15,000) to run projects that will involve people in their community, bringing them together to enjoy sports, arts, heritage and other community activities.

Charitable Trusts:

There are around 9,000 charitable trusts in the UK, giving out over £1bn. per year. Some operate at a very local level; others are regional and national. Most tend to prefer specific projects, e.g. 'one-off' pieces of work, and not to contribute to ongoing running costs. Competition for grants is extremely high: on average, less than 10% of applications are successful. Detailed research into the trust's policies, priorities and procedures is therefore strongly recommended. Some of the larger charitable

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trusts that may be relevant for children's play and recreation include : BBC Children In Need (but note the emphasis on the disabled and the disadvantaged)

Lloyds TSB Foundation for England & Wales
The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
Tudor Trust
Community Foundation



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Appendix 3

Housing - Essential Service - Business Development :

Action	How it will be tackled	Who will tackle it	When it will be tackled
Increase stock of affordable housing (6.1)	Set up a Housing Enabler Group to work with community; Assess the housing need; Find a potential building site; Plan a viable long-term solution to the housing need; Obtain District Council Support; Involve Housing Associations; Obtain Planning Permission; Secure Funding; Provide Affordable Homes	Housing Enabler Group, SLDC, Land Owners, Social Landlord.	Commence Spring 2004
Increase number of affordable work units (7.1)	Parish Council to set up a Working Group to identify possible sites for work units. Working in partnership with local landowners and farmers possible sites for new business start up could be redundant farm buildings. Identifying these sites and encouraging their sympathetic redevelopment would provide more employment opportunities within the Parish.	Work Unit Group, Housing Enabler Group, SLDC, Land Owners, Social Landlord.	Commence Spring 2004
Improve reliability of electricity supply (8.1) Widen access to mains water supply	Contact electricity and water supply providers to ask for an update of service status and their long term plans to improve supplies.	Parish Council	Spring 2004
Widen access to mobile communications (8.1)	Contact Mobile Telecommunications Providers to ask for an update of service status and their long term plans to improve access.	Parish Council	Spring 2004
Lobby BT for Broadband Access (8.1)	Contact the Cumbria ICT Broadband Initiative (CIBI). CIBI is a partnership formed to develop and take forward an Action Plan to meet the ultimate goal of all those consumers and organisations in the county wishing to access metropolitan standard broadband services at reasonable cost to be able to do so.	Parish Council	January 2004
Improve access to Digital TV services (8.1)	Investigate access to Digital TV. Contact the providers of free to air digital services to ask for their long term plans for providing reception in this area.	Parish Council	Spring 2004
Secure Witherslack Village Shop and Post Office (5.1)	Set up a "Use it or Lose it" working group. Invite the community to work with the shop owners to ensure the sustainability of the local shop for the benefit of the Parish.	Witherslack Village Shop Owners, Post Office Ltd, "Use it or lose it" group.	Commence Summer 2004

Meathop and Ulpha Parish Council



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Housing - Essential Service - Business Development :

Action	How it will be tackled	Who will tackle it	When it will be tackled
Secure The Derby Arms Pub (5.2)	Set up a "Pub is the Hub" working group. To provide a link between the community and the tenant managers and owners. The group would work together to ensure the sustainability of our local pub for the benefit of the Parish.	Tennant/Managers, Brewery, Pub is Hub group	February 2004
Provide Visitor Information Points (7.2)	Provide information points for tourists, including accommodation information to allow possible conversion of day visitors to overnight stays.	Parish Council	May 2004
Assess the economic importance of visitors (7.2)	Commission a small study of the economic impact of visitors to the Parish and its effect on businesses and services in the Parish.	Parish Council, Pub is Hub Group, Use it or Lose it Group	August 2004

Young People :

Action	How it will be tackled	Who will tackle it	When it will be tackled
Improve access to Childcare provision (5.3)	Parish Council to link with Dean Barwick School Governors to discuss the possibility of providing formal childcare provision in the Parish, discuss funding opportunities and venues for provision.	Parish Council, Dean Barwick School Governors, Witherslack Parent and Toddler Group, Friends of Dean Barwick, SLDC	Summer 2004
Develop outdoor activities and facilities for children (10.2)	Set up "Childsplay" working group to decide from the data collected which facilities/amenities are achievable. The working group should then consult with Parish asset managers and Landowners, SLDC and the National Park Authority to identify potential sites for planning to begin.	Parish Hall Committee, PCC and Dean Barwick Primary School, Landowners, SLDC, LDNP, Childsplay Group	2004/2005



Action	How it will be tackled	Who will tackle it	When it will be tackled
Develop indoor activities and facilities for children (10.2)	Set up "Childsplay" working group to decide from the data collected which facilities/amenities are achievable. The working group should then consult with Parish asset managers to identify potential venues for indoor activities.	Parish Hall Committee, PCC and Dean Barwick Primary School, Landowners, SLDC, LDNP, Childsplay Group	Commence Spring 2004

Environment and Community Safety :

Action	How it will be tackled	Who will tackle it	When it will be tackled
Set up Public Crime Prevention meeting with Police (10.1)	One or two public meetings with crime prevention officer to refresh the communities' knowledge of crime prevention techniques.	Neighbourhood Watch	Summer 2004
Investigate relocation and increase of recycling services (9.1)	Encourage recycling by having all the recycling facilities in one location, easily accessible by the Parish. Identify a site, request aluminium can and clothes recycling facilities.	Parish Council	2004/2005
Reduce litter (9.2)	Organise Litter Picking Working Group. To identify specific areas suffering from litter problems and organise voluntary teams of litter pickers to be provided with the correct health and safety training and the appropriate equipment.	Parish Council, Womens Institute	2004
Improve Road Safety (10.2)	Review traffic issues, traffic calming and identification of dangerous junctions and corners as part of the "Highwayman Scheme". Using the list contained in Appendix 1 of the plan to identify and prioritise those danger spots and traffic issues highlighted by the survey. Use this information to work in partnership with the relevant authorities to improve road safety within the Parish.	Parish Council	Commence Spring 2004

Meathop and Ulpha Parish Council



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Action	How it will be tackled	Who will tackle it	When it will be tackled
Improve Off-Road Parking (10.2)	Review parking problems within Parish using the list in Appendix 1 of the plan to identify and prioritise those areas of the Parish most affected by poor parking facilities, identify solutions including the creation of new parking spaces. Use this information to work in partnership with the relevant authorities to improve road safety within the Parish.	Parish Council	Commence Spring 2004
		Parish Council	Commence Spring 2004
Reduce speed of Witherslack Hall School traffic (10.2)	Write to Witherslack Hall again pointing out the excessive speeds of employees, visitors and delivery vehicles to the School has been highlighted in the recent public consultation for this Plan. Ask them to encourage the reduction of speed on a voluntary basis especially when travelling through the more built up areas of the Parish.	Parish Council, Witherslack Hall School	Spring 2004
Manage visitor parking (7.2)	Identify those areas in the Parish suffering congestion during peak visitor times and identify off road parking solutions	Parish Council, LDNPA	2005

Community Services and Community Spirit :

Action	How it will be tackled	Who will tackle it	When it will be tackled
Improve Coordinated management of Parish Assets (4.4)	Set Up Parish Assets Group. Establish a link between the asset managers as a formal group to coordinate any future developments, pool information and resources and decide on the best location for the activities and facilities requested by respondents to the Parish Plan Consultation.	Parish Hall Committee, Dean Barwick School and the Parochial Church Council	Summer 2004
Increase access to Adult Education in Parish (5.4)	Contact education providers and invite them to use venues within the Parish.	Parish Hall Committee, Dean Barwick School and the Parochial Church Council	2004/2005

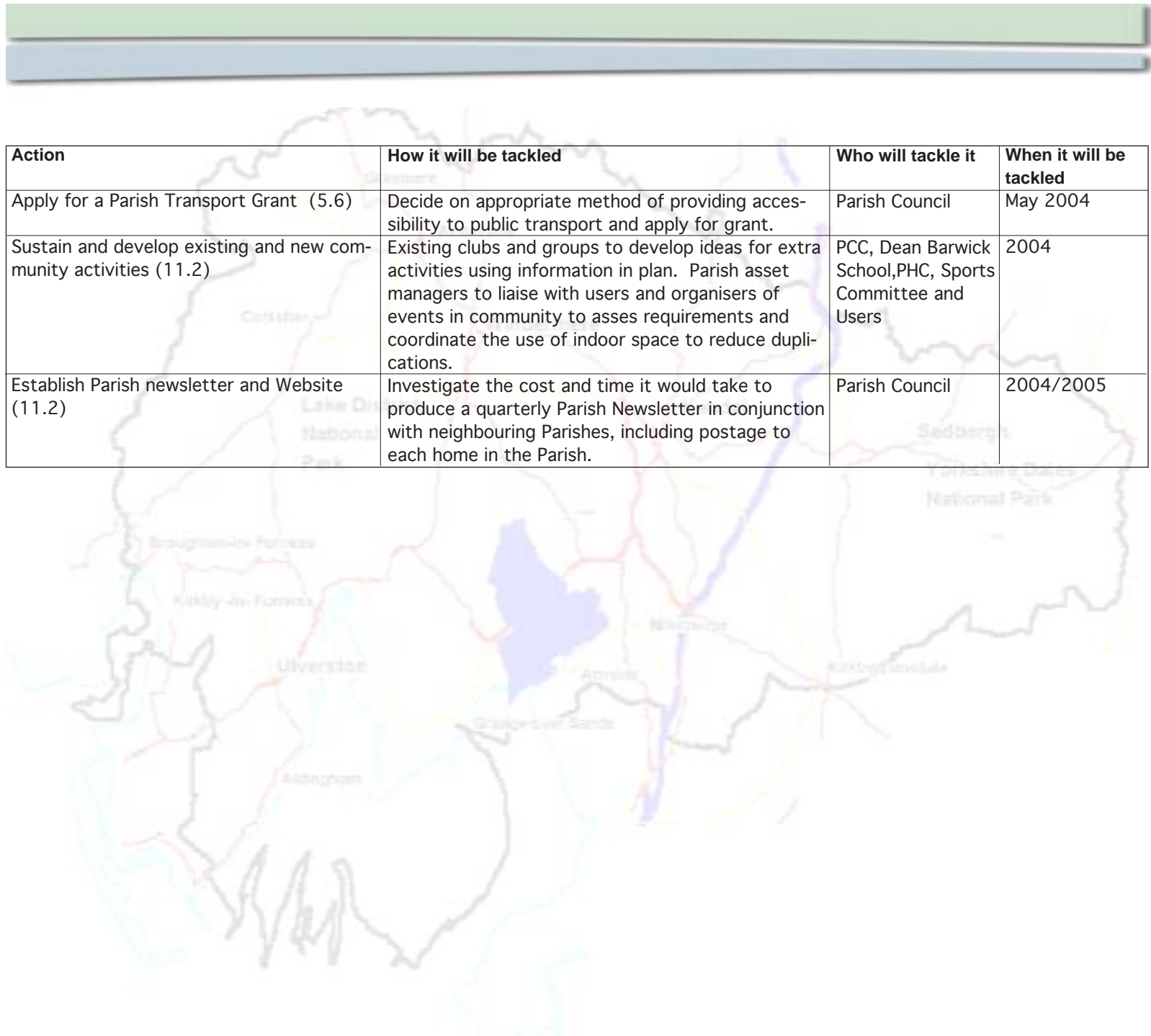
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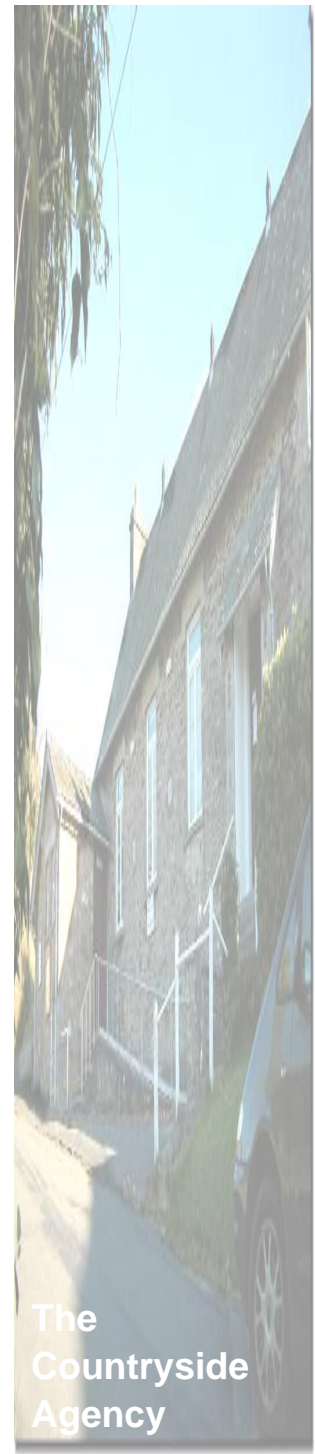
Action	How it will be tackled	Who will tackle it	When it will be tackled
Apply for a Parish Transport Grant (5.6)	Decide on appropriate method of providing accessibility to public transport and apply for grant.	Parish Council	May 2004
Sustain and develop existing and new community activities (11.2)	Existing clubs and groups to develop ideas for extra activities using information in plan. Parish asset managers to liaise with users and organisers of events in community to assess requirements and coordinate the use of indoor space to reduce duplications.	PCC, Dean Barwick School,PHC, Sports Committee and Users	2004
Establish Parish newsletter and Website (11.2)	Investigate the cost and time it would take to produce a quarterly Parish Newsletter in conjunction with neighbouring Parishes, including postage to each home in the Parish.	Parish Council	2004/2005



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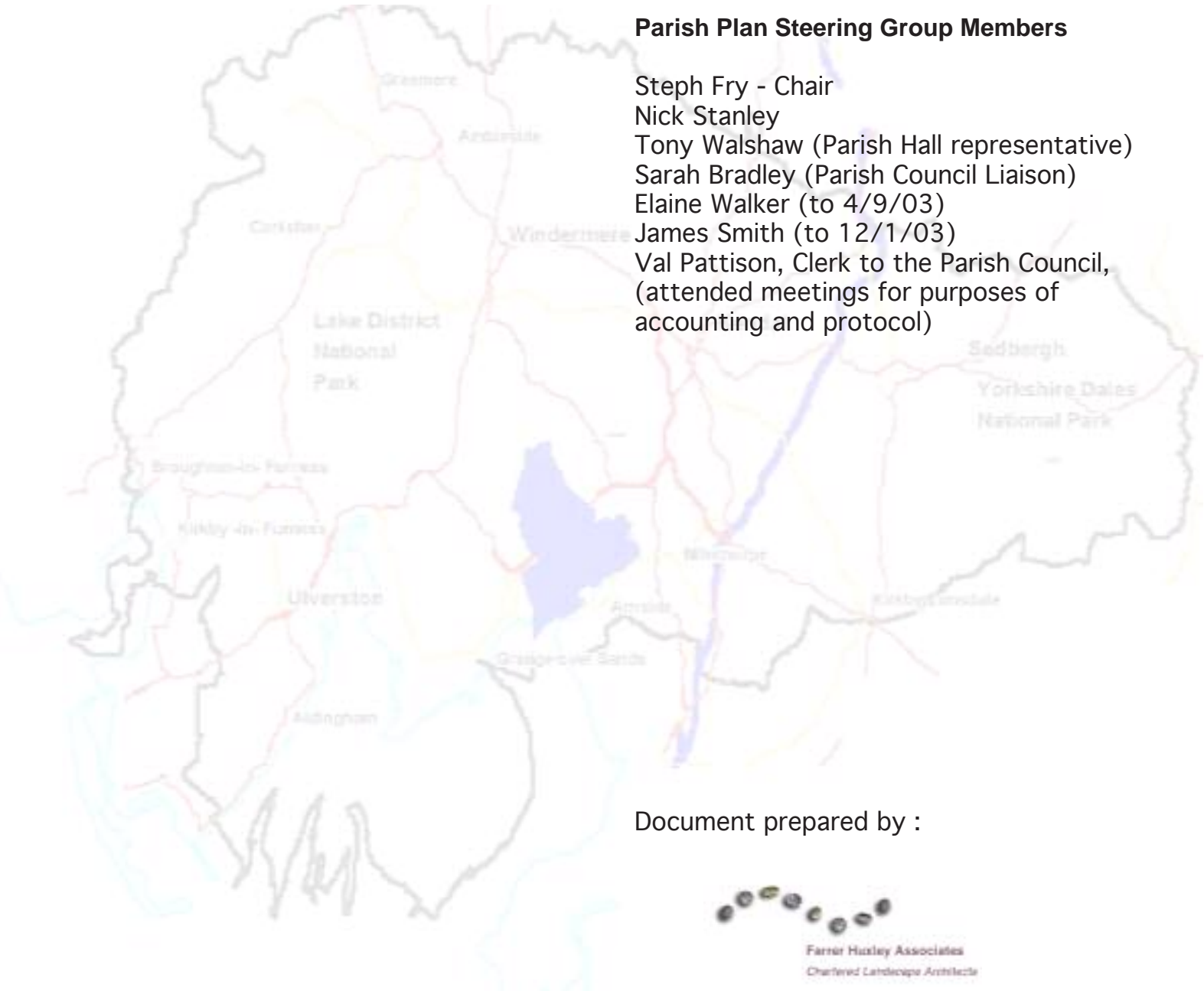
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Parish Plan Steering Group Members

- Steph Fry - Chair
- Nick Stanley
- Tony Walshaw (Parish Hall representative)
- Sarah Bradley (Parish Council Liaison)
- Elaine Walker (to 4/9/03)
- James Smith (to 12/1/03)
- Val Pattison, Clerk to the Parish Council,
(attended meetings for purposes of
accounting and protocol)



Document prepared by :



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