



Arlecdon & Frizington

PARISH PLAN

November 2005



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The Parish Council



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Introduction

Welcome to the first ever Arlecdon and Frizington Parish Plan. This document is the end product of a process that began some 18 months ago. A process that set out to identify what you – **THE COMMUNITY** – thought of the place in which we all live and your ideas on what could be done to make it a more attractive and pleasant environment.

During the last 18 months, many of you will have been involved in what is known as 'Participatory Appraisal' (PA) – a community based approach to consultation that seeks to obtain the views and attitudes of local people with the aim of getting them involved in actions to improve their locality. Information from the PA enabled this Plan to be produced. This has been done in several ways, but more of that later.....

You may not have realised at the time, but your comments, thoughts and opinions have enabled us to draft this Parish Plan in the knowledge that we are addressing the issues, wants and needs that you – **THE COMMUNITY** – believe are a priority for our Parish. This is **YOUR** Parish Plan.

It is intended that this Parish Plan is a document that reflects your views and identifies actions to be put in place to address the community aspirations and desires to make the area a nicer and better place in which to live and work.

The Parish Plan is meant to be a 'live' working document – not something to be placed on a shelf and forgotten about. We hope the Plan will be used by other organisations and agencies to inform their own strategy documents and support funding applications to grant-giving bodies.

Whilst we recognise that the enjoyment of reading this document will not be the same as reading a novel, someone's autobiography or a magazine, the Parish Council hope that you do read it and remember, if not all, then some of the priorities we have set and the promises we have made to deliver the priorities **YOU** identified.

The impact of the Parish Plan and the success that it may achieve, will be far greater than is usual for another famous plan maker – a certain individual by the name of Baldrick – whose cunning plans have only limited success to say the least!

PLEASE READ ON.....

How the Parish Council came about

The villages of Frizington and Arlecdon grew up around the Iron Ore mines in the area. Asby built up beside the coal mine near Kidburn Gill. Limestone was another mineral quarried in Frizington and Rowrah and was used in the smelting of the local Haematite Iron. Mining was the economic linchpin of the Parish and supported the local community. Much has changed since our humble beginnings with our industrial past nothing more than a distant memory, yet they're still referred to as the good old days!

Frizington Council were responsible for the original local governance of the area and their splendid offices are still standing on the main street. At that time (from about 1850 onwards) the Council were responsible for providing the main utilities – water, sewage, refuse collection, street lighting etc. Unfortunately, the General Strike of 1926 saw a decline in the areas fortunes when none of the Parishes Miners were returned to work. This placed the Council in a difficult position – they were no longer able to afford to provide this service.

Under the Cumberland Review Order of 1934 the Parish of Arlecdon and Frizington was set up and had its first meeting on 17th April 1934. After the first election on 26th March 1934 there were 13 members, Cllr J R Finlayson was elected as Chairman with Cllr A S Huddart as Vice-Chair. Arlecdon and Frizington Parish Council was born.



Original Frizington Council Headquarters

In July 1934, the Parish Council advertised for a Clerk to the Council, there were 16 applications for the post, this was reduced to four by exhaustive vote. It was resolved that the Clerk would be chosen by drawing lots. Mr T W Rogers won the draw and became the Parish Clerk serving the community for the next 13 years.

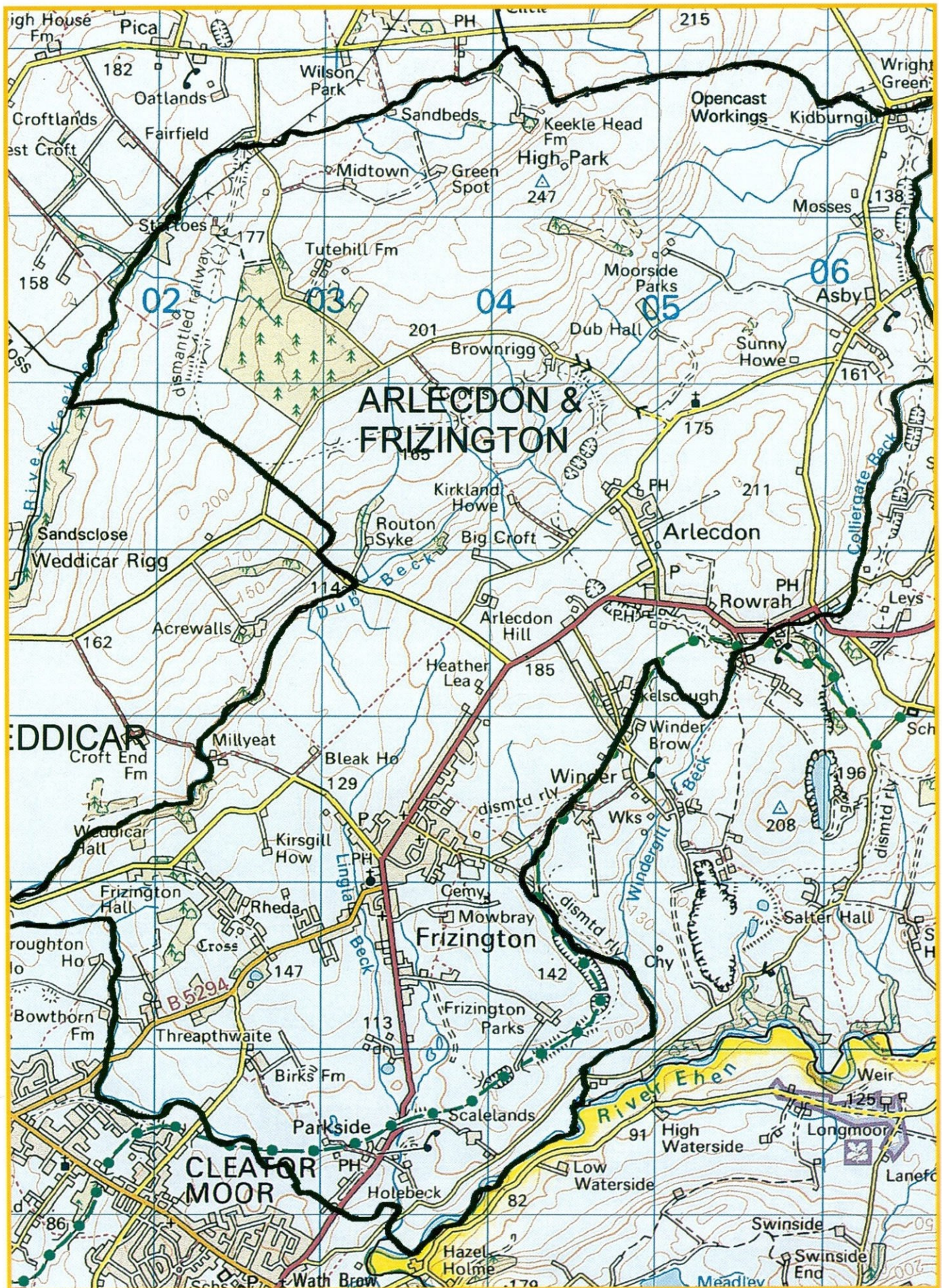
In February 1936, the Parish passed a resolution to reduce the Parish Council membership from 13 members to nine: six members from Frizington and three members from Arlecdon.

The Council has not changed in its size, duties or function since that date.

The longest serving councillor was Mr W Crossthwaite of Arlecdon, who served his community for over 35 years commencing in 1953. Of the present Parish Council membership, Cllrs James Close and Peter Connolly have served the Parish for 26 years with the present Clerk to the Council, Mrs Gwyneth Everett serving the Parish for over 10 years.

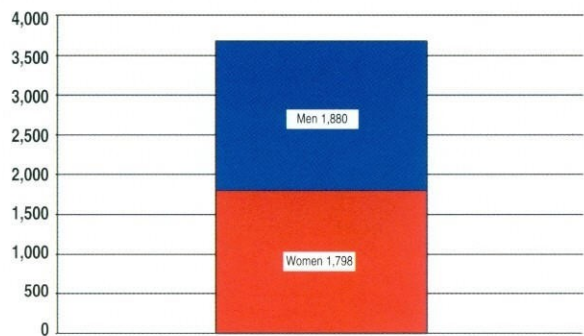


Current Headquarters of Arlecdon & Frizington Parish Council. Meetings held 1st Monday in every month - Public welcome.

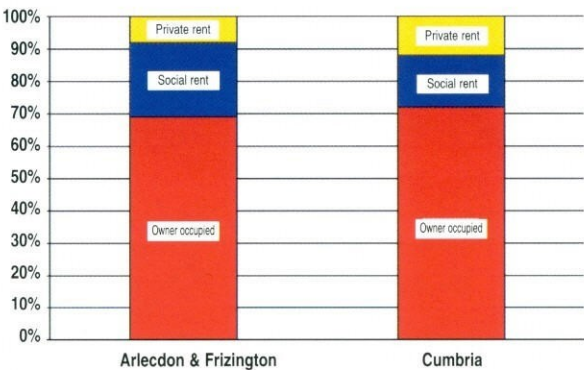


From the 2001 Census

Parish Population:

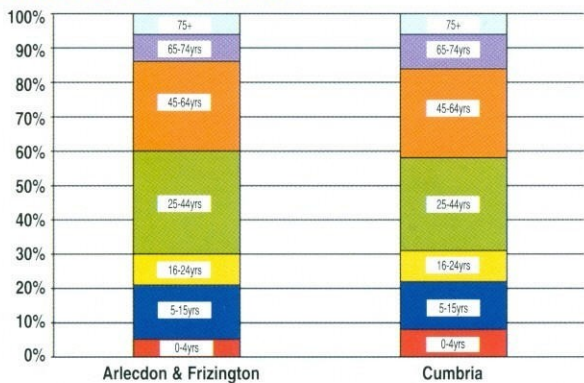


Household Tenure:



The Parish contains 1% of Cumbria's total population.

The Parish age structure is typical of Cumbria as a whole:

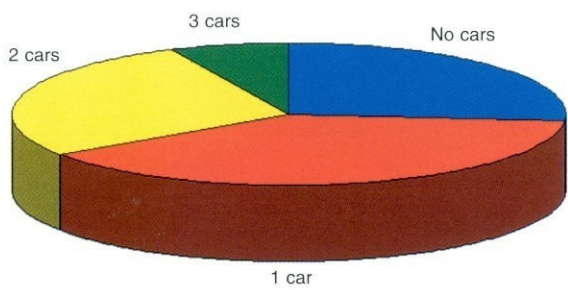


Household details:

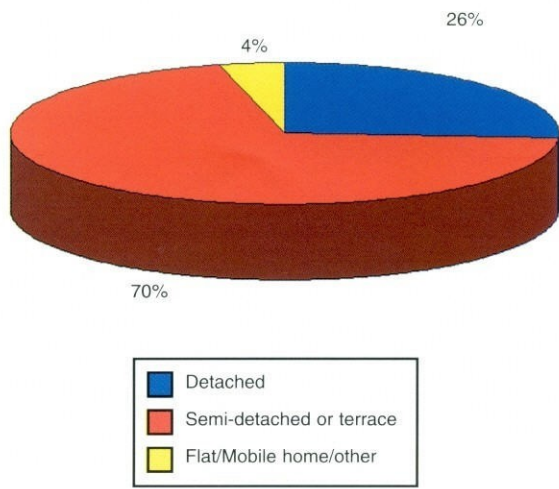
In Arlecdon and Frizington, there are 1,530 household spaces with residents. There are also a further 108 which are vacant, and 11 which are either second or holiday homes. The average household size in the parish is 2.4 people.

The average age is 38.4 years.

Car/Van ownership:



Dwelling type:



Origins of the Parish

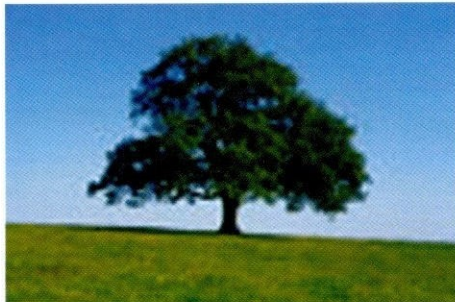
The Parish of Arlecdon and Frizington contains three major settlements, Frizington and to the north Arlecdon and Asby.

Although in more recent times these settlements developed and grew alongside the mining industry, the origins of these very different communities lies in their growth as agricultural settlements. It's hard to imagine what life must have been like, but they were first mentioned in the 11th and 12th centuries!



ARLECDON

is Old English and means
*"Valley of the stream
frequented by Eagles"*.



ASBY

in contrast is Old Scandinavian
and means
*"Farmstead or village
where ashtrees grow"*.



FRIZINGTON

is also Old English, but with
Scandinavian/North German connections.
It means
"Estate of the followers of the Frisian"
and refers to settlers who came after the
Romans left and before the Norman
Conquest.

The Consultation Process

WHO WAS INVOLVED:

The Parish Plan Steering Group consisted of:
Peter Connolly, Cath Giel, Tim Knowles, Graham Sunderland, and Gwyneth Everett.

Along with:

A team of dedicated people/volunteers who helped with the Participatory Appraisal (PA) to gather community views.

And:

YOU – THE COMMUNITY

without your comments we would not have the basis for this Parish Plan.

Consultation with local people was carried out using both new and traditional methods.

Arlecdon & Frizington contributed to the wider evaluation being carried out across the Cleator Moor area to guide post-SRB funding packages. This was conducted by a working group using PA, which is a community based approach to consultation that seeks to obtain the views and attitudes of local people with the aim of getting them involved in actions to improve their locality.



The working group involved local volunteers and agencies going to public places, such as the local pubs, schools, Frizington CDC, the Lingla Centre, St Josephs Hall, Adams Hall, etc., as well as conducting some door to door discussions to gather people's views – "We tried to take advantage of every opportunity presented, in a bid to leave no stone unturned". The first contact through PA with local people was unprompted and allowed them to raise what they considered to be the most important issues; follow-up

contact explored the issues in more detail and identified actions that could be taken to solve local problems. Approximately 10% of the local population were spoken to during the PA process.



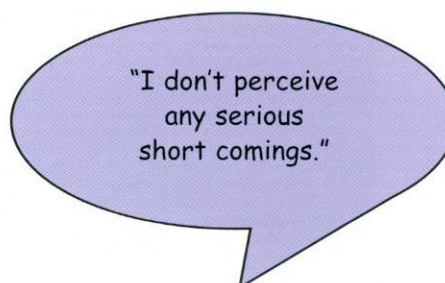
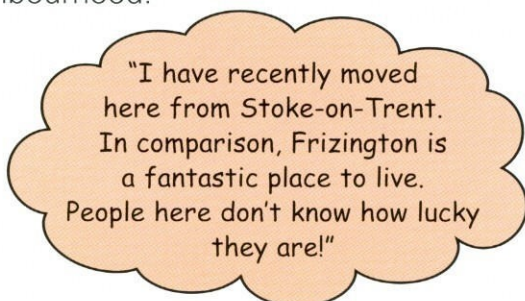
Following this, the working group decided to develop a questionnaire that could address key issues that either hadn't been covered during the PA process or warranted follow-up with new people. The questionnaire was circulated in the areas of Main Street, Rheda Park and Rheda Close in Frizington; Pasture Road, Rowrah; Asby and each of the post offices throughout the Parish. This distribution targeted areas which we believed hadn't been adequately consulted during PA and, through the post office distribution, gave more people a chance to add their views. The response rate to the survey was 35%.



In addition, at the Arlecdon & Frizington Neighbourhood Forum on 5th July 2004 Dave Smith, the County Council Neighbourhood Development Officer, led a discussion on the Parish Plan and invited more views and comments from the floor. 46 people attended the Forum to give their views.

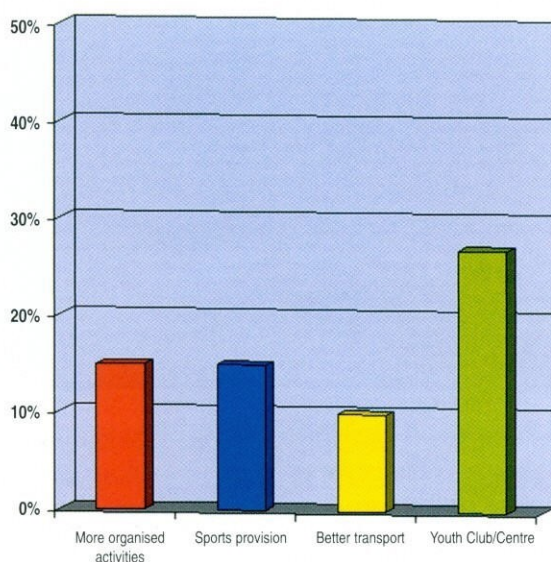
Issues Identified by the Community

The following issues were raised during the consultation highlighting local concerns. It should be said that not all comments were regarding concerns or problems, several people expressed a lot of pride in the area and were very positive about their neighbourhood.

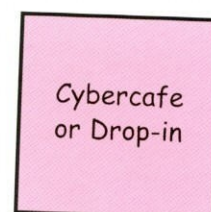
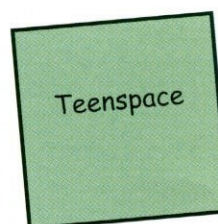


1. Young People

- People were mostly concerned that there is a lack of things for young people to do.
- Childcare was not reported to be a local issue – the majority (78%) of local people use relatives, friends or neighbours to look after their children when they need care. The local library came up as one of the best used local services. When asked what other activities and facilities were needed in the area, a few people highlighted the need for more safe playing areas and playgrounds, particularly in Arlecdon, and some Asby residents expressed a need for a youth club in their village.
- There are issues around ensuring young people have plenty to do. Most young people hang out in the street or at friends' houses; 55% are involved in sports clubs and team activities; 45% are already involved in youth clubs and 30% are involved in uniformed groups such as the guides, scouts, etc.
- There was a high level of support to continue these activities and services, with most people highlighting that sport and youth clubs were the most important part of youth provision in the area.



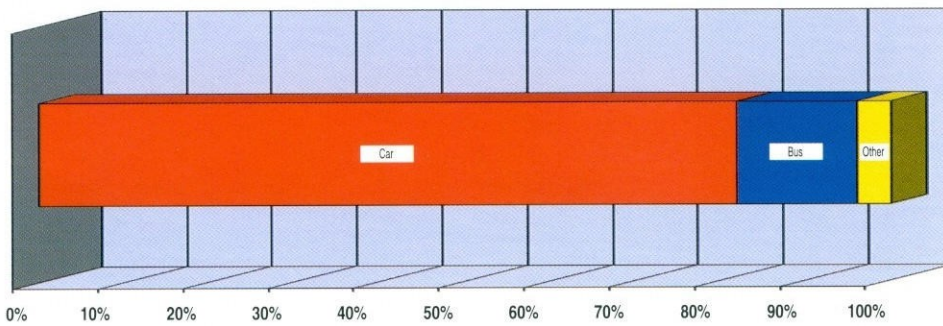
Ideas for new activities included:



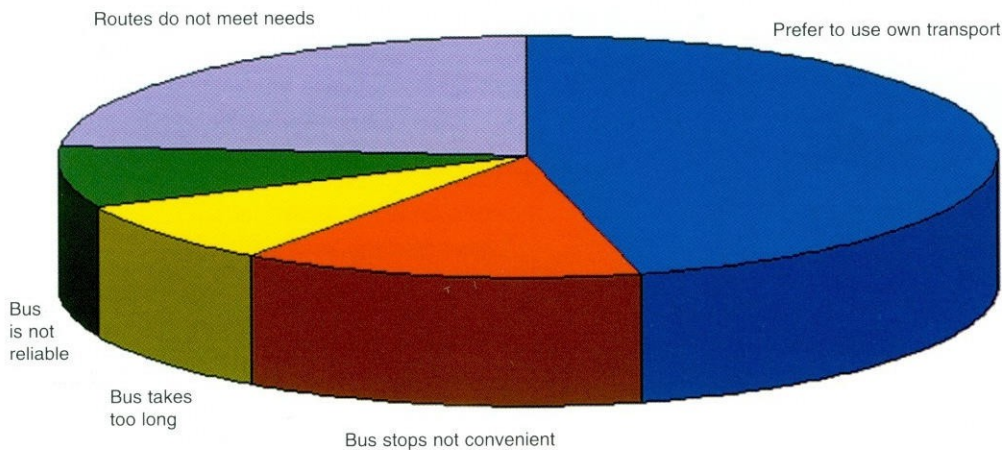
2. Public Transport

As would be expected in a rural parish, most people rely on their own private transport to get around, but a significant minority do depend on public transport to access local services and travel to local towns.

82% of people use their car for local travel and 14% use the bus.



As a result most people have the flexibility to move around the area and do not experience transport difficulties, but of those that rely on public transport the availability of services is a problem. 40% of respondents reported that the bus service was essential/ important; of those that do not use the bus, 67% preferred to use their own transport, 34% said that the routes do not meet their needs.



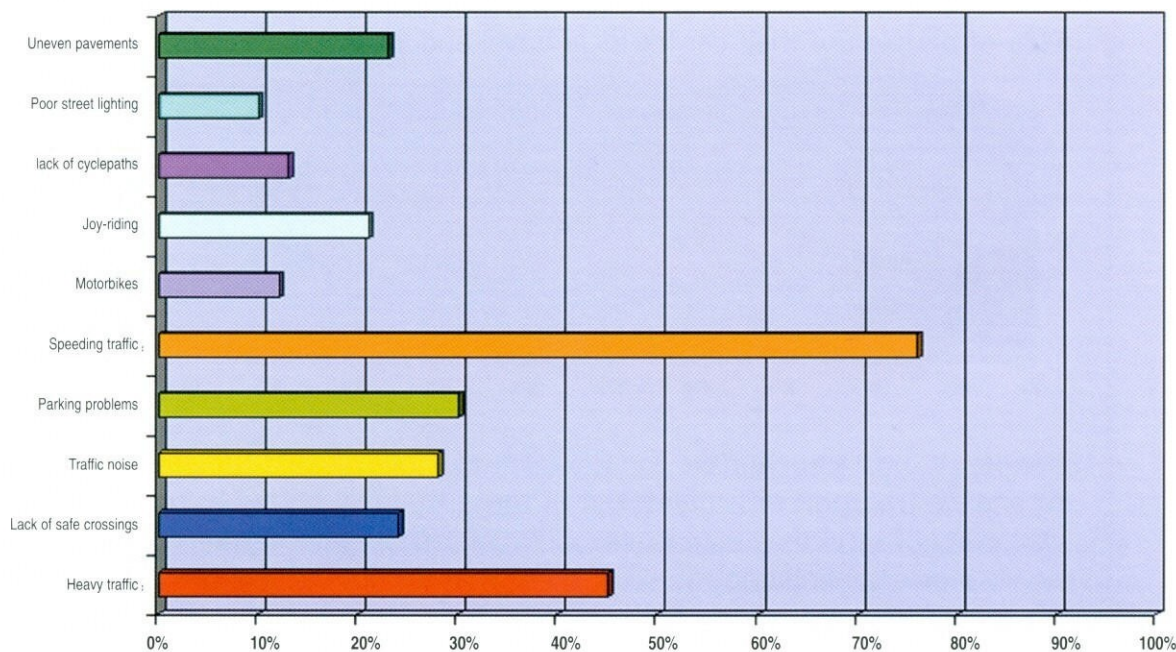
A few people in Arlecdon and Asby did state a need for improved bus services to local towns and later buses for young people.

Some ideas to development transport locally included:



3. Traffic Calming and Traffic Management

- Quite a few people expressed concern at the speed and volume of traffic passing through the villages.



- Some people supported the introduction of measures to combat speeding traffic on Frizington Main Street or by the Quarry at Asby, but several were also clear that they didn't wish to see traffic calming measures, especially speed bumps.

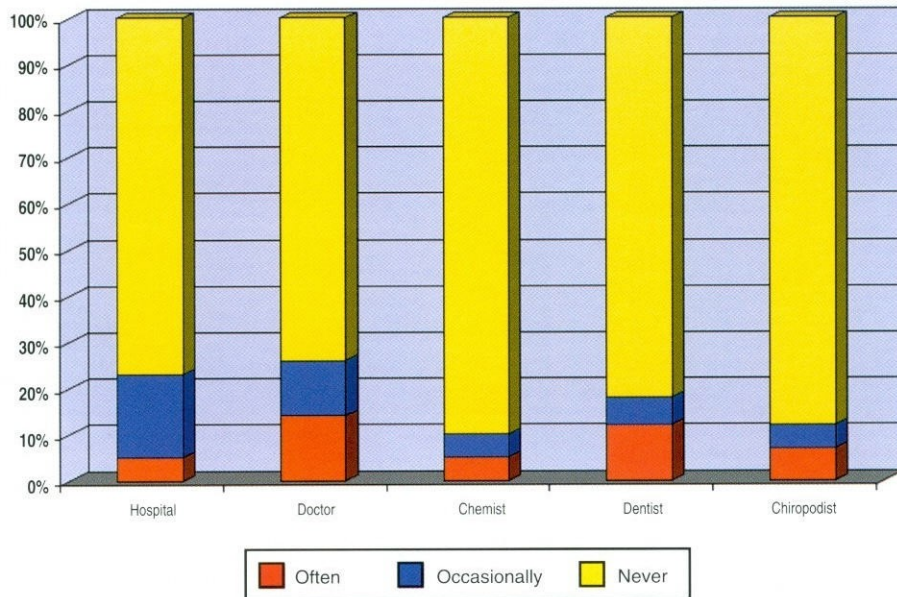
"Speeding traffic, volume of traffic, speeding of HGVs."

"Do not wish to see traffic bumps - the only people to suffer are the motorists."

"Main Street Frizington, Lingla Bank- it is a 30mph zone, but people speed all the time on this road."

4. Health Issues

- The majority of local people are satisfied with the health provision in the area and few experience difficulties accessing local services, except occasionally to the local hospital.



- Those few experiencing regular problems accessing a doctor or dentist locally have either been affected by the surgery closures at Rowrah and Arlecdon; have expressed some difficulty getting appointments or have failed to register with a local NHS dentist.

"Sometimes have to travel to Cleator Moor or Whitehaven for doctors appointment."

"Impossible to register with NHS dentist locally. Having to travel to Carlisle for a dentist."

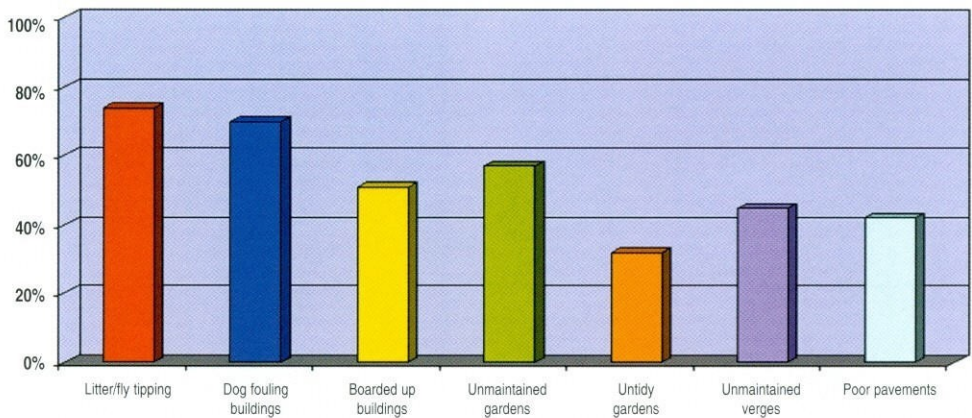
"Getting a doctors appointment is virtually impossible. Lack of NHS dentists."

"It is very difficult to get to Distington unless you have your own vehicle."



5. Environmental Issues and Derelict Buildings

- Most people were concerned about litter, rubbish dumping and dog fouling. They also felt that boarded up buildings and poorly maintained properties spoiled the appearance of the local area.



- Several people also had concerns over the poor state of some pavements and footpaths in the parish and lack of maintenance of some verges. One person highlighted that verge maintenance wasn't always positive:

"On the back road from Frizington, down Mill Street, past Foulmast Hill there are wild orchids growing on the verge. Every year they get cut back when the verges are maintained.

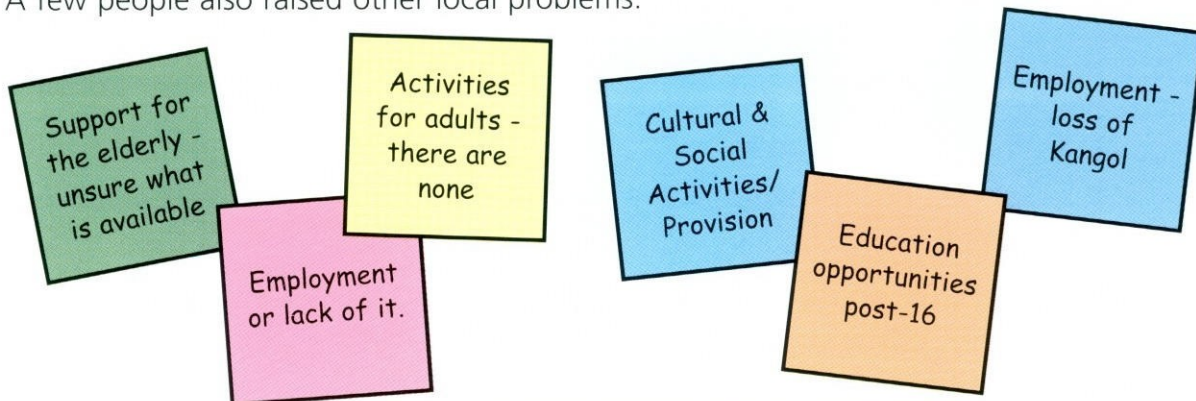
Ideas to improve the environment included:



"A few brightly coloured flowering beds dotted around the main public areas would make the area a lot more cheerful and desirable.

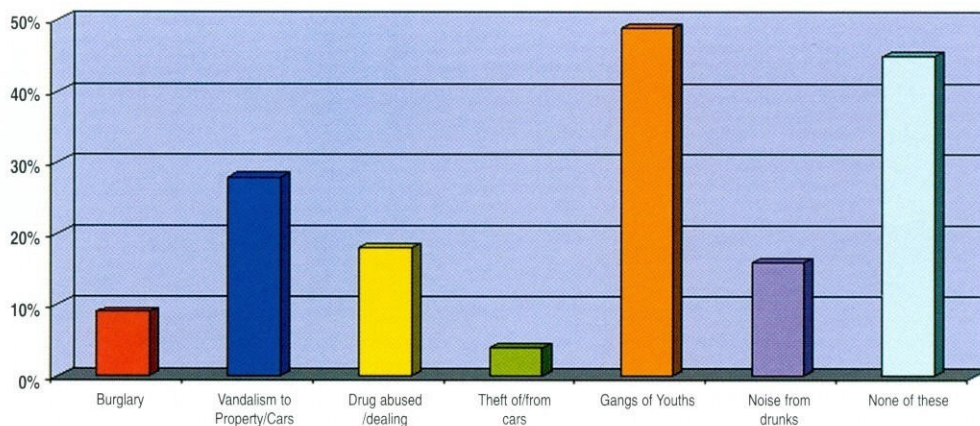
6. Shops/ Businesses and Amenities

- Several people felt that there needed to be more support for shops and businesses.
- Not everyone was happy with the services available locally, and some expressed a need for more activities to be available for adults and older people.
- A few people also raised other local problems:

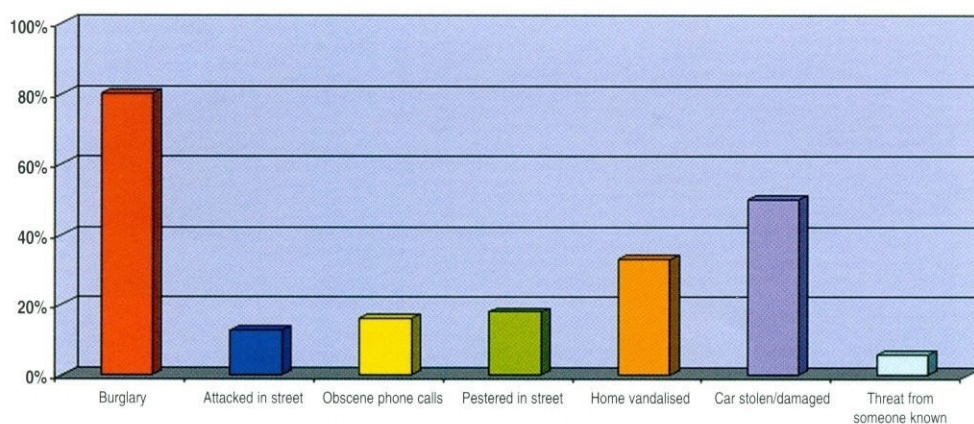


7. Community Safety/Policing Issues

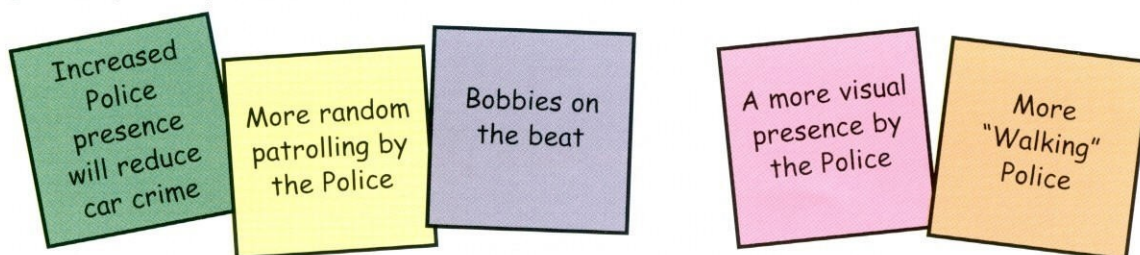
Some people felt that gangs of youths hanging around was a serious problem locally and others had some concerns about vandalism, but a lot of people didn't feel that they had any major concerns. Environmental problems, such as litter, were highlighted as more of a problem.



People worry about having their home or garden broken into or having their car stolen or damaged.



84% of people commenting on how to tackle the above problems wanted to see a greater police presence.



Other ideas to improve the community's safety included:

- More community events
- Neighbourhood watch schemes
- "Get people involved in their area and start to feel pride in it, then I believe vandalism and crime will be reduced."

8. General comments included:

"Drugs, Drugs, Drugs."

"Good to see that
someone is taking an interest."

"Withdraw from Copeland,
and go back to the Ennerdale Rural
Council where every town and
village got their share."

"Thank you!"

"Speeding traffic through the village
is a danger to elderly people,
young children and animals
- pets, wildlife and
occasionally farm stock."

"We need some affordable council houses
in Arlecdon for young ones starting
out with families (from the village
and not for outsiders)."

Arlecdon & Frizington Parish Action Plan

You will see as you progress through this document that we have taken your concerns seriously. Clearly we are unable to solve all our community's problems, but we have listened and pulled together an action plan, categorising each issue and placing a priority for action against them.

We will try to make immediate improvements in those areas where we have a budget allocation, other issues will rely on partnership working and the Parish Council utilising every avenue at its disposal, but we will try to deliver what you, the community, have asked for.

Priority	Issue	Response	By When
1st	Need for improved provision for young people.	The Parish Council has been instrumental in helping the Phoenix Youth Group set up in the newly renovated and refurbished Adams Hall. Weekly activities are open to 11 - 18 year olds from the Parish of Arlecdon and Frizington (includes Asby). Phoenix are already running regular activities at Frizington, this is in addition to existing Youth Club facilities through Nora Ben. In addition, the Parish Council provide financial support to Home Housing and others for Summer Holiday youth activity schemes. We will do all that we can to raise awareness within the local community of what is available with regard to youth provision. If you are interested in helping or would like to start something new, please let us know.	1-2 years
2nd	Traffic Management Issues	The Parish Council recognises the level of concern regarding traffic issues throughout the Parish, from speeding to parking. All of these issues will be addressed in a comprehensive traffic management study to be conducted by Cumbria County Council within the current financial year. Recommendations from this survey will be supported by the Parish Council and enforced at all levels.	1-2 years

Priority	Issue	Response	By When
3rd	Community Safety/Crime	The Parish Council have already pushed for and received an increased police presence throughout the ward. PC Ben Mitchison is holding regular surgeries in both Arlecdon and Frizington. The Police have given assurances that they will endeavour to attend both Parish Council Meetings and Neighbourhood Forum Meetings. An upturn in attendance has been witnessed this year. Members of the community are given advance notice of these meetings and attendance is encouraged. The Parish Council will do all that it can to encourage community interaction with the Police and Neighbourhood Watch and raise awareness of various initiatives as they arise.	1-2 years
4th	Need for environmental improvements.	The Parish Council will agree to set up an "environmental sub-group" who will look at the built environment and consider ways to improve the general look of the place. They will meet twice yearly to decide which schemes should be taken forward to full Council with a recommendation for implementation. The Parish Council welcomes your involvement in this group. In addition the Parish Council will organise "pick up litter days", encourage the prosecution of "environmental offenders" and invest in flower planting and hanging baskets for the villages.	1-2 years
5th	Improved children's activities/facilities	The Parish Council has already made a commitment to review the use of the Jubilee Field and other Council play facilities throughout the parish. Where necessary the Council will commit funding to bring the facilities up to specification.	1-3 years

Priority	Issue	Response	By When
6 th	Improve local /public transport	The Parish Council recognises the problems associated with poor public transport and is closely monitoring this issue. We are actively seeking solutions with partner organisations/ stakeholders and encourage local people to use existing facilities or face losing them. We will consider supporting any viable, local transport initiative that delivers a service to the local community that meets your needs.	1-3 years
7 th	Improvements to derelict buildings	The Parish Council will endeavour to encourage private owners to improve the exterior of their properties and will consider participating in any "facelift" scheme available to the local area. The Cleator Moor Regeneration Delivery Group has been set up to help deliver capital projects from this and other Parish Plans within its catchment area. It aims to improve the visual impact and general feel of local villages.	1-5 years
8 th	Support local shops and businesses to maintain and improve market range.	It is not within the Parish Council's remit to interfere with, or become involved in, the way businesses operate unless they are breaking the law. We will however, endeavour to provide an environment where businesses can flourish and consider any schemes/initiatives brought to our attention and try to assist in a positive way. This will include "shop local" campaigns and working with the Cleator Moor Regeneration Delivery Group.	1-5 years
9 th	Local Health Issues	The Parish Council are actively seeking solutions to the problems associated with closure of local surgeries and lack of NHS Dentists. Health provision/issues are an ongoing problem faced by communities throughout the country and not unique to Arlecdon and Frizington. However, we recognise that they are impacting locally and are committed to working with partner organisations to identify practical solutions. Where possible we will utilise the services of the Cleator Moor Regeneration Delivery Group to support implementation.	1-5 years

Our Pledge to YOU

This consultation and Parish planning process has been the most wide ranging and comprehensive attempt to discover **YOUR** views that has ever been undertaken.

The Chairman and Members of Arlecdon and Frizington Parish Council are committed to working with Local, Regional and National bodies to try and bring about the changes and improvements **YOU**, our local parishioners, have highlighted to us during consultation. We are members of the Cleator Moor Regeneration Delivery Group who are working with neighbouring partners to improve our area. This group will employ an officer to identify funding and help us implement this Parish Plan and fulfil our pledge to you.

It is the Parish Council's firm view that it must be the champion and defender of the way of life in the villages of Arlecdon, Frizington and Asby. It will continue to actively seek the views and support of residents and other village organisations, businesses and community/voluntary groups in achieving that goal.

But most importantly, please remember - we can't do anything without **YOUR** co-operation and involvement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Arlecdon and Frizington Parish Council wish to acknowledge the hard work and support of the following people and organisations in the preparation of this plan.

Arlecdon & Frizington Parish Plan Steering Group:

- Peter Connolly
- Gwyneth Everett
- Cath Giel
- Tim Knowles
- Graham Sunderland

Assisted by:

- Sarah Mitchell, Voluntary Action Cumbria
- Dave Smith, Neighbourhood Development Officer
- Kirsty Lowrie, Groundwork Trust

Photographs courtesy of:

- Peter Fox

Edited by:

- Cath Giel

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