

Burton-in-Kendal
Parish Council



Parish Plan
2003

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THE PARISH OF BURTON IN KENDAL

The parish of Burton in Kendal is situated adjacent to the boundary between the shire counties of Cumbria and Lancashire. It is equidistant between Kendal and Lancaster.

The parish consists of the village of Burton in Kendal and the hamlets of Clawthorpe and Dalton. There are 620 dwellings and approximately 1500 inhabitants.

Burton is mentioned in the Domesday Book and there are traces of Romano-British dwellings at Dalton. The village lies along a strip of land between the limestone escarpment of Burton Fell and Dalton Craggs to the east and Burton Moss to the west.

Although there are 12 farms in the parish, few people are employed in agriculture, which is dairy and livestock based. The local sources of employment are at Holme Mills Industrial Estate, the motorway service area and Holme Park Quarry. Most of the employed commute to neighbouring towns and further afield. Approximately 16% of employed residents work in the parish itself or from home.

Local services include: -

Morewood Primary School (recently extended)
4 Public houses/ Restaurants (2 in centre of village)
Village shop cum Post Office
Butcher's (also sells bread and confectionery)
Hairdressing Salon

The parish is a growing community with many clubs and interest groups. The Memorial Hall is thoroughly utilised for indoor sports and recreational activities. There is a bowling green and an all-weather, multi-use games area laid out for tennis, 5-a-side football, netball and basketball. The parish church of St. James has a thriving congregation. The village has its own football team, Burton Thistle.

There is a bus service north and south through the village every hour. There are two M6 junctions within three miles and the nearest railway stations are Carnforth (five miles) and Oxenholme (eight miles, for intercity trains).

Background

In March 2002 the parish council decided to consider what benefits could be obtained by taking part in the Vital Villages Scheme. This is a government funded project, administered by the Countryside Agency, to help in the revitalisation of local communities.

Monies are available in the form of the following grants: -

Parish Plan Grant. Funds available to carry out an appraisal of village problems and needs; resulting in a parish action plan. Up to £5000 can be spent on this project (maximum contribution by the Countryside Agency 75%).

Parish Transport Grant. Funds available to identify and resolve local transport issues. The ceiling on this project is £10000.

Community Services Grant. Funds available to improve local services and facilities, to a maximum of £25000 per parish.

In April a Registration of Intent was forwarded to the Countryside Agency, with regard to the Parish Plan Grant scheme. In May two parish councillors attended a parish plan workshop organised by the rural community officer of Voluntary Action Cumbria. As a result of attendance at the workshop the parish council decided to formally apply for a parish plan grant, that being done on 18 July.

A working party was formed in June to implement the application procedure, carry out the village appraisal, produce an issues report and facilitate the production of an action plan by the parish council to improve the quality of community life in Burton in Kendal.

The proposed budget for the above action was £1200. On 2 August the Countryside Agency awarded the parish council 74% of the proposed costs (i.e. £890). The shortfall in funding was to be made up by voluntary 'support in kind' and a minimum of 5% by the parish council.

A community issues computer software package was purchased and a questionnaire was produced for distribution to every household in the parish.

The other components of the village appraisal were: -

1. Eliciting the views of the major village organisations.
2. A short questionnaire for youth club members to complete.
3. A primary school project to find out the views of the youngest residents.

The questionnaires were distributed at the end of October, extra copies being made available in the village shop, in case more than one person per household wished to complete the questionnaire.

Of 650 questionnaires distributed a total of 289(44.46%) were completed and returned. This was judged to be an excellent and far better than expected response by the working party. The data collected was collated and inputted into the computer program. The software program produced a statistical report and the working party was able to analyse this and produce a draft issues report in January 2003. This was approved by the full council in February and published in the April's issue of the Burton News.

A special meeting of the parish council in March considered the issues and decided how to address them. This led to the production of an action plan, which was distributed to every household in May.

AIM

The objectives of the plan are: -

1. To maintain and improve services and facilities
2. To improve the appearance of the parish
3. To attempt to resolve perceived longstanding problems
4. To explore the provision of more opportunities for young people in sport and leisure
5. To encourage more participation by residents in sporting and recreational activities
6. To assist all parish organisations

General Statistical information

The household questionnaire consisted of 49 questions of a variety of complexities. The following statistics have been extracted from the analysis of the answers. 289 households replied, which represent 44.46% of all households in Burton, Clawthorpe & Dalton.

Note: It is important to remember that the percentages refer to the answers and opinions of respondents, not to the views of all the residents in the parish.

A chart illustrating the AGE OF RESPONDENTS (Question 2) follows this section.

Only 18% of households were members of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

413 cars, 22 motorbikes and 29 vans and lorries were kept at 289 residences.

145 bicycles were used at least once a week in the 289 residences.

11.4% of respondents were born in Burton. This is illustrated on the chart entitled HOW DID YOU COME TO LIVE IN BURTON (Question 11).

43.3% of respondents are retired. See chart entitled ARE YOU AT PRESENT (Question 12).

The localities where respondents work are listed on the table entitled WHERE DO YOU WORK (Question 8).

40% of people have problems parking in the village, either often or occasionally.

72.1% think speeding vehicles are a problem in Burton.

61.2% believe that Burton can accommodate no more housing.

46.9% would like to see more sheltered housing being made available.

48.2% would use a bus to Oxenholme Station and Westmoreland General Hospital if one were made available.

74.2% and 20.6% attend a doctor's surgery in Milnthorpe and Carnforth respectively.

76.7% of respondents think that the policing of the parish is poor.

Theft (52.7%) and Vandalism (56%) are major concerns. See chart entitled WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING CONCERN YOU (Question28).

90.9% would use separated refuse collections if made available.

78.1% like to support local shops.

72.6% have never used the multi-use games area.

81% never use the mobile library and 90.6% never use the public telephone boxes.

81.8% have never attended a parish council meeting.

60% of respondents believe that a Lengthsman should be employed to keep the parish neat and tidy.

89.1% think that more dog litter bins are required.

The working party considered the results of the survey of the youth club and the major village organisations in addition to the household questionnaire. A draft issues report was produced, which was adopted by the parish council and published in the Burton News.

N.B. Method of returning questionnaires :-

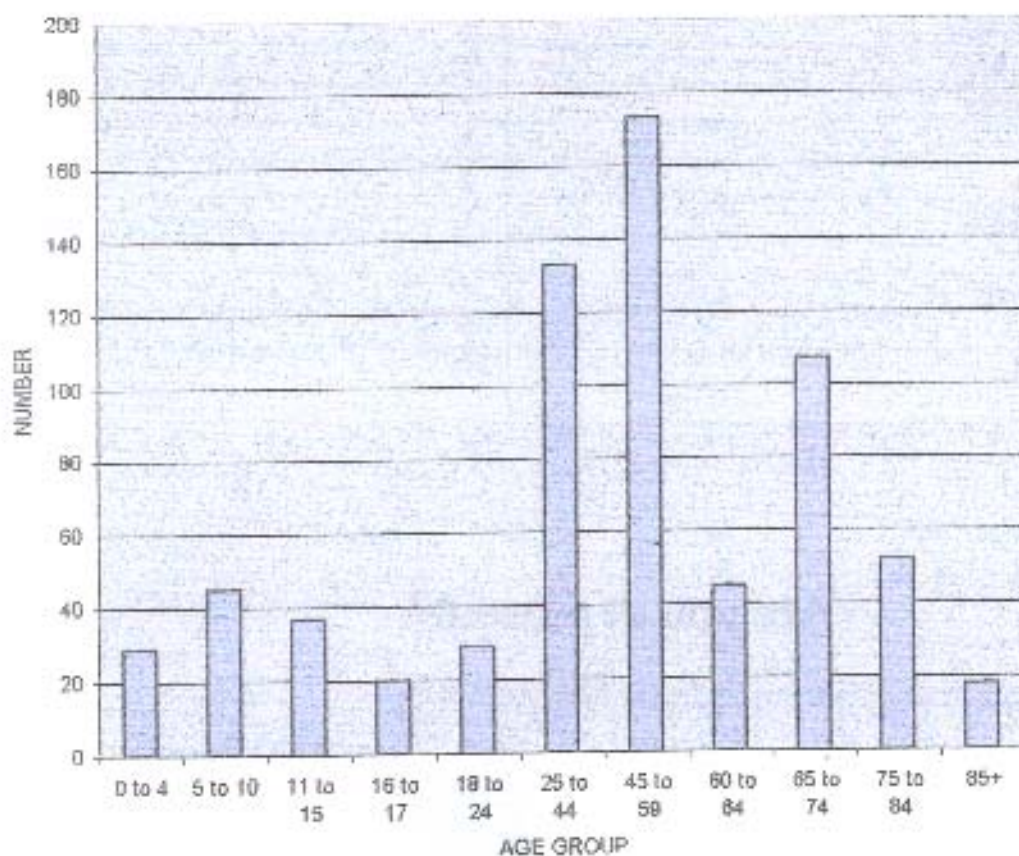
To box in village shop (post office)	259 (89.62%)
By hand to 15 Hollowrayne	14 (4.84%)
By post to 15 Hollowrayne	16 (5.54%)

Q 2

Age distribution

AGE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
0 to 4	12	17	29
5 to 10	26	19	45
11 to 15	21	16	37
16 to 17	8	12	20
18 to 24	13	16	29
25 to 44	66	67	133
45 to 59	81	92	173
60 to 64	26	19	45
65 to 74	47	60	107
75 to 84	24	28	52
85+	8	10	18

AGE DISTRIBUTION IN HOUSES

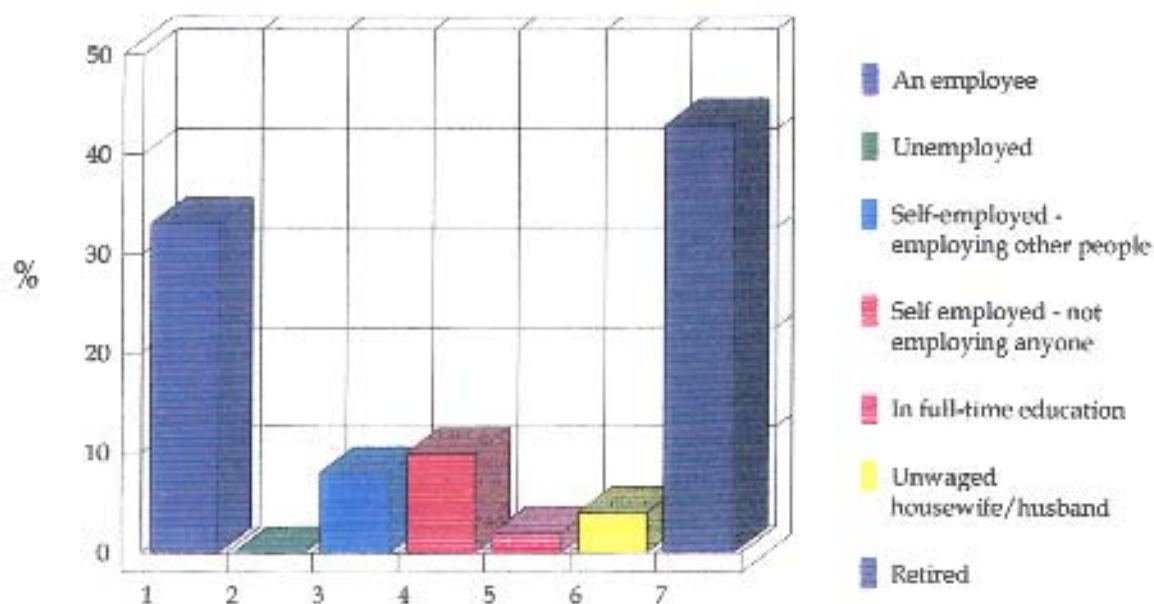


Question 8 Where do you work?

Lancaster	35
Kendal ,Ings & Staveley	32
From home	14
Burton	12
Morccambe & Heysham	8
All over Cumbria & North Lanes	8
Carnforth	6
Milnthorpe,Beetham, Arnside & Silverdale	6
Ambleside & Windermere	5
Kirkby Lonsdale	4
Holme	3
Preston	3
Garstang	2
Blackburn	2
Bolton	2
Settle & Ingletton	2
Dent	2
West Midlands	2
North Wales	1
Mercyside	1
Manchester	1
Fylde	1
Lytham	1
Sunderland	1
Carlisle	1
Allithwaite	1
Wigan	1
TOTAL	157

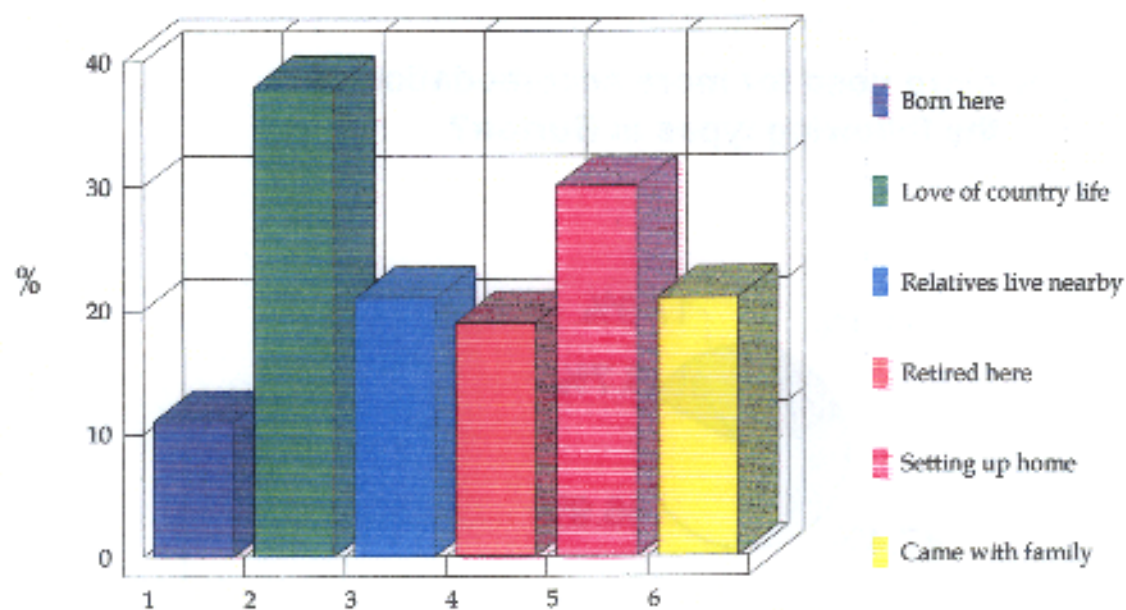
Q12

Are you at present?



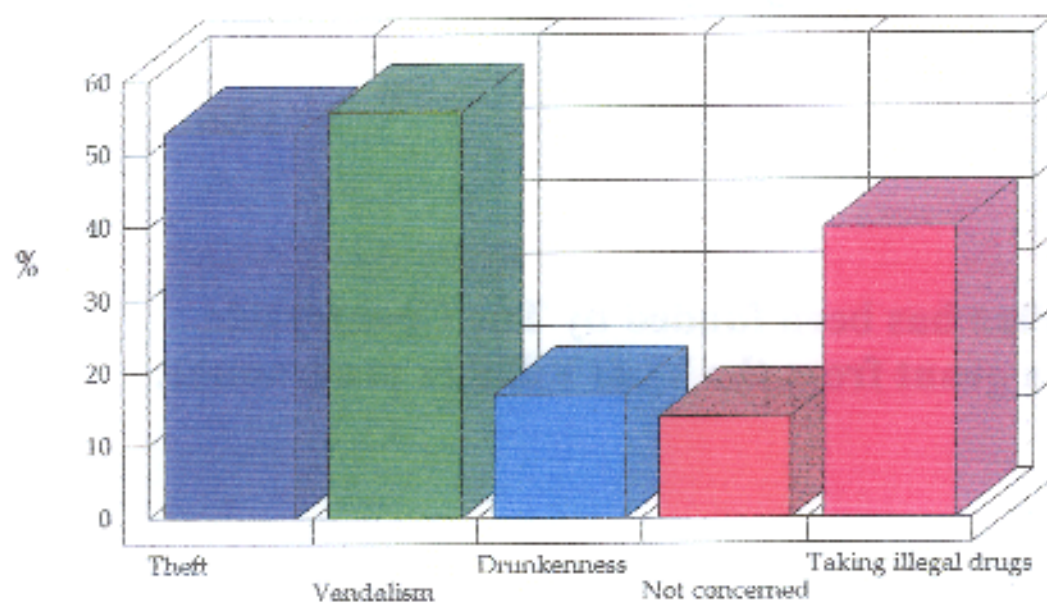
Q11

How did you come to live in Burton ?

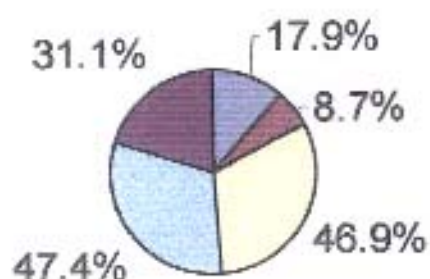


Q28

Which of the following concern you?



**Q 20 Is there need for more accomodation of
the following types in Burton?**



**This Parish Plan has been funded by The Countryside
Agency with a grant from the Vital Villages programme.**

Issues Report

The issues listed below are not arranged in any order of perceived priority. They have been brought to the parish council's attention by several respondents at least. The issues have been loosely grouped into the categories underlined below.

POLICING AND CRIME

The low participation and awareness of Neighbourhood Watch Schemes
Speeding vehicles in Burton
The poor level of policing – concerns regarding theft and vandalism
Youth nuisance
School security

TRANSPORT AND PARKING

The lack of parking in central Burton (a sizeable minority have problems)
The need for a community bus for trips to Oxenholme station and WGH
Inappropriate and inconsiderate parking
The flooding of roads
A request for the provision of a bus shelter at Clawthorpe
Easier boarding of public transport for infirm and disabled required

RECREATION, SPORT AND LEISURE

The poor utilisation of the Recreation Ground
More youth sporting and recreational activities requested
Increase numbers using mobile library
A request for the provision of a skateboard area

MEETINGS

A request for the provision of a sound-proofed room in the Memorial Hall for meetings

The low attendance at Parish Council meetings by residents

HOUSING , ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

A lack of sheltered accommodation and low-cost housing

Sales of new housing to be restricted to locals (the majority think there should be no more houses built)

Postboxes requested at bottom of Vicarage Lane and Dalton Lane

The poor lighting in Memorial Hall car park

Overgrown hedges and bushes adjoining pavements and roads

Overgrown public footpaths

Unrepaired drystone walls

Overflowing drains

The lack of dog litter bins and lack of enforcement of relevant legislation

The provision of a Lengthsman

Unkempt Royal Hotel and Memorial Hall car parks, and verges and gutters throughout village

The poor appearance of the Square

The appearance of the demolished service station and garage at the north end of the village

Litter all the way from the Square to Green Cross cottage along Main Road

ACTION PLAN

The issues identified by the different aspects of the village appraisal were considered by the parish council and it was decided that the following actions will be implemented.

1. **Inappropriate Parking:** Yellow lines are felt to be inappropriate in a village setting. It is proposed that a sign be to be put in shop asking customers not to park outside shop. The shopkeeper will be consulted as the initial action.
2. **Speeding Vehicles:** The parish council will consider the use of various measures to try and reduce this problem, including speed cameras, a flashing sign, red '30' signs painted on road, rumble strips and larger 30 mph signs. An application to the Countryside Agency for a Parish Transport Grant Transport could partially fund the rumble strips. The Cumbria Constabulary Traffic Management Officer has agreed to use radar guns in village.
3. **Youth Nuisance:** This is primarily a policing issue. The increased utilisation of the Recreation Ground may lessen the problem. The parish council will explore the possibility of providing a youth shelter, which has proved beneficial in other villages in reducing anti- social behaviour.
4. **Flooding of Roads:** SLDC and CCC are taking Action at present. This problem causes great annoyance and inconvenience to residents. The parish council is pressing hard for this issue to be finally resolved.
5. **Dog Dirt:** More dog litterbins are needed. SLDC is to be approached with regard to providing more bins.
6. **Cutting back of hedges:** Householders are co-operative when asked to cut back their hedges. Councillors must be more vigilant and report these problems, so immediate action can be taken.
7. **Overgrown Public Footpaths:** Footpaths are only cut once a year by contractors Councillors are to ensure that this is done.
8. **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:** The Local Community Policeman will be invited to a parish council meeting to discuss the scheme and the parish council will endeavour to promote more participation by households.
9. **School Security:** the Governors are costing the provision of CCTV. The parish council has agreed to help in improving the security of the school.
10. **Lack of Parking:** The only possible place for extra parking is the Royal Car Park. Avebury Taverns will be contacted with a view to easing this problem. The parish council will try to access funding for this through grants.
11. **Community Bus:** The Parish Transport Grant scheme of the Countryside Agency could help with this but it is felt that it would not be very convenient because of different hospital appointment times, or train times, etc. Taxi vouchers will be considered as a more appropriate facility.
12. **Bus shelter at Clawthorpe:** Initially the Cumbria County Council will be approached, with regard to providing a vandal-proof shelter. An application for a grant from the Parish Transport Scheme of the Countryside Agency could fund a more substantial shelter.
13. **Easier boarding of public transport for disabled:** The parish council is sympathetic to this request. Unfortunately this is not within the council remit but the relevant legislation comes into force in 2006.

14. **Poor utilisation of Recreation Ground and more sporting facilities:** Although only a minority of residents use the recreation ground, the frequency of use is high. A number of residents have requested a skateboard area. The Recreation Trust will be consulted with a view to exploring the provision of a skateboard area. More people should be encouraged to join bowls and tennis clubs. Significant interest has been shown by the children in providing more organised sports e.g. Rugby, Cricket and Badminton.
15. **Library van:** Many people are not able to use the library van as they are at work. The parish clerk will write to Library Service to try and obtain some improvement in access times.
16. **A soundproofed room in Memorial Hall:** This should be included in the specifications of an extension, and would enable meetings to be conducted in a better environment. The parish council will approach the BMH Users' Committee. An extension could provide room for a permanent exhibit of Burton's heritage.
17. **Low attendance at Parish Council meetings by residents:** It is thought that people only usually attend a meeting if they have an interest in a topic being discussed. The paragraph in Burton News will be expanded to explain that the minutes are available for inspection on the notice board. A light will be put above the notice board. Guest speakers will be asked to talk on subjects of interest to residents, to encourage attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting.
18. **Lack of sheltered housing and low-cost housing:** Information from the survey has been collated and passed to the relevant authorities and the Cumbria Rural Housing Trust.
19. **Extra post boxes:** The parish clerk will write to Royal Mail to ask for a box at the bottom of Vicarage Lane and Dalton Lane.
20. **Poor Lighting in Memorial Hall Car Park:** A request to improve the lighting will be passed to Memorial Hall Users' Committee.
21. **Unrepaired stone walls:** The parish council will write to landowners to ask them to maintain their walls.
22. **Overflowing drains:** The drain at the bottom of Vicarage Lane is on Capita's list for improvement. The drain at the bottom of Neddy Hill is reported frequently.
23. **Provision of a Lengthsman and Litter:** The parish clerk will write to Cumbria County Council to see if they will agree to partly fund a lengthsman. One of the main problems is litter and a litter awareness campaign will be launched with a piece in BN asking parents to tell their children not to drop litter.
24. **Appearance of Royal Hotel and Memorial Hall Car Park:** The Royal Hotel car park would be improved if it were resurfaced - see above. The Memorial Hall car park is the responsibility of the User Committee and they will be contacted. The problems here are partially blocked surface water drains, litter, weeds and brambles.
25. **Appearance of the Square and former garage:** The parish council own the east side of the Square and will explore the proposal to remove the tarmac and expose the cobbles underneath. The development at the garage is now being implemented and the site will be much improved once building has been completed.
26. **Activities in Youth Club:** The results of the youth club survey have been passed to the committee for their action. Already more trips have been organised.
27. **Road safety outside the school:** The school survey illustrated concerns by the children with regard to the safety of pedestrians and cyclists versus motorists. These concerns will be considered.

Acknowledgements.

Burton in Kendal Parish Council would like to thank the Countryside Agency for their generous funding of the Village Plan.

The Parish Council would also like to thank Voluntary Action Cumbria and their Rural Community Officer, Gail Knopfel for their support.

As author of this report I should like to thank Jane Hopwood and Janet Alderson, the other members of the working party, for their contributions in enabling the project to come to fruition.

Paul Rogers

Distribution: -

The Countryside Agency - 3 Copies
Cumbria County Council - 1 Copy
South Lakeland District Council – 1 Copy
Voluntary Action Cumbria – 1 Copy
Holme Parish Council – 1 Copy
Burton Parish Council – 4 Copies

N.B. Cumbria Constabulary and Cumbria Rural Housing Trust have been provided with the parts of the report relevant to their areas of concern.

Parish Council Members

Cllr G Isherwood (Chairman)	4 The Square, Burton, LA6 1LX
Cllr J Hopwood (Vice-Chairman)	Bell House Barn, Dalton, Burton
Cllr K Hayhurst	2 Station Lane, Burton, LA6 1HT
Cllr R Mason	Limestones, St James' Drive, Burton, LA6 1HY
Cllr P Rogers	15 Hollowrayne, Burton, LA6 1NS
Cllr P Rossi	5 Orchard Close, Burton, LA6 1PN
Cllr K Thorp	Hangings Barn, Cocking Yard, Burton, LA6 1LZ
Cllr K Unsworth	Edenhall, Vicarage Lane, Burton, LA6 1NW
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