



CAMERTON

Parish Plan

2005



Camerton Parish Plan.

Introduction

The idea for a Parish Plan was first proposed to the Parish Council about three years ago. A presentation by Sarah Mitchell of Voluntary Action Cumbria was given to Parish Councilors in April 2004 and a number of completed plans shown as examples. As more information filtered down to the council the benefits of having a Parish Plan became clear. Using the format for the formulation of a Parish Plan provided by VAC the council then arranged the first stage in producing a Parish Plan, that being a public meeting.

This was held during April and members of the Parish Council explained to villagers what a Parish Plan was and how it could be of benefit to the whole community. The people who attended that meeting along with councilors discussed numerous topics regarding the village and community. A list of nine of the most popular issues was drawn from these discussions; these are listed in the following section. This led to the second stage in formulating a Parish Plan, a questionnaire asking every household in the parish for opinions regarding these nine issues and asking for suggestions on any other issues.

Parish Councilors then compiled the questionnaire and, with the help of others distributed 74 copies throughout the parish in October 2004. Thirty three completed questionnaires (44%) were handed in or collected after about two weeks. This was an encouraging start, the degree of apathy was less than expected. The information received was evaluated and the results formulated into two documents. One listed every answer given to each question, the other gave the number of returned and completed questionnaires, the number of replies to each question and the number of households which gave the same or very similar answers and suggestions expressed as a percentage of the replies to that section.

As an example, Question - Road Safety What Improvements Can You Suggest?

28 returns out of 33 shown as (28/33)

No. of households % of replies

(There were 13 suggestions in total

For this question) the top three being

Speed limit in the village	9	32%
Parking restrictions	9	32%
Speed humps	7	25%

Both of these documents can be found as appendices at the back of the completed Parish Plan.

The third stage of compiling the Parish Plan was to arrange a second public meeting to discuss the results of the questionnaire this was arranged for 19/10/04.

The members of the Parish Council reminded everyone that this was their plan. The topics that would go into the plan were topics and issues raised by the villagers and any further development of these issues would have to be done by the villagers forming working parties to take individual projects forward. This would be with the full support of the Parish Council. At this stage councilors reminded the members of the public that by having a plan, funding for projects could be sought by individual working parties rather than by the Parish Council who are unable to apply for or receive funding other than the parish precept.

Much discussion from the members of the public and Parish Councilors took place and many suggestions made.

It was decided that the plan should be based on the most frequently expressed views given in the replies to each of the topics in the questionnaire. These would be the subjects of most concern to the villagers that would potentially provide nine or ten projects for the community, with the support of the Parish Council to take forward.

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As an example, Question - Road Safety What Improvements Can You Suggest?

Topic	No. of households	% of replies
Speed limit on the village	9	27%
Parking restrictions	9	27%
Speed bumps	7	21%

(There were 33 suggestions in total)
 (18 replies out of 33 shown as (55%))

Both of these documents can be found as appendices at the back of the completed Parish Plan.

The third stage of compiling the Parish Plan was to arrange a second public meeting to discuss the results of the questionnaire. This was arranged for 19th June. The members of the Parish Council reminded everyone that this was their plan. The topics that would go into the plan were listed and voted upon by the villagers and any further development of these issues would have to be done by the villagers forming working parties to take individual projects forward. This would be with the full support of the Parish Council. At this stage councilors reminded the members of the public that by having a plan, funding for projects could be sought by individual working parties rather than by the Parish Council who are unable to apply for or receive funding other than the parish precept.

Topics for Village Plan Questionnaire

1. **Road safety**
 - Speed limit through village
 - Provision of parking space
 - Installation of speed bumps / sleeping policemen
 - Roadside bushes & trees affecting visibility & restricting road width
 - State of Camerton to Great Broughton road
2. **Playing area(s) for children**
 - Possibility of children's playground
 - Siting goal posts on level area of Brickworks
3. **Footpaths and bridleways**
 - Improvement in condition existing footpaths
 - Improvements to stiles
 - Re-opening of rights of way through RNAD site
 - Re-opening abandoned footpaths
 - Provision of additional footpaths and bridleways
 - Improvement of condition of roads to the Church
 - Improvement of condition of village pavements
4. **Appearance of Village**
 - Litter removal
 - Access to part time village handyman / litter picker (as in Broughton Moor and Great Broughton)
 - Provision of dog fouling bins
 - Flower beds & sowing of more wild flowers in hedgerows & open spaces
5. **Village Hall**
 - Additional uses
6. **Services to Village**
 - Improvements to bus service
 - Provision of mains gas supply
 - Replacement of remaining overhead electricity lines by underground lines
 - Access to Broadband Internet
7. **Brickworks**
 - Maintenance and wildlife management
 - Village "ownership" committee to manage site
8. **Housing**
 - Provision of additional housing for sale or rent to villagers.
9. **Donations to charities & voluntary organisations**
10. **Any other suggestions**

1. Road Safety

What improvements can you suggest?

The most numerous replies, nine in each case, were requests for a 20 or 30 MPH speed limit through the village and for more parking provision backed up by parking restrictions and yellow lines. Areas that were specifically mentioned in the replies were Vale View, The Mount and the vicinity of road junctions.

There were 10 suggestions in total, see Appendix 1 and 2

These issues have been raised and discussed many times at Parish Council meetings. There has been discussion with the police and the highways department regarding speeding vehicles and the introduction of a 30 MPH speed limit and the problem of parking in some areas of the village.

A survey has been carried out to monitor traffic speeds through the village this showed that though the average speed at the two points monitored was only 17 MPH over 50 vehicles exceeded 30 MPH during the 7 day period of the survey. Neither the highway authority nor the police considered that these results justified the cost of imposing a 30 MPH limit as no one has yet been killed or seriously injured.

When parking and yellow lines have been discussed with police officers attending Parish Council meetings the officers have always advised that yellow lines could only be put in areas with 30 MPH restrictions. If anyone in the village felt that a vehicle was parked illegally or in a dangerous place they should inform the police who would attend the scene and assess the problem. Police officers also said that members of the public could take and pass on registration numbers of alleged speeding vehicles. Highways have indicated to the Parish Council that the infrequency of accidents and the results of the speed survey show that the risk of accidents is low and that they would not be pursuing any form of traffic calming or slowing measures. Funding prioritized to areas where fatal accidents have occurred.

This is a very emotive subject within the village, the vehicle population is rising and parking spaces are getting fewer, everyone who owns a vehicle or vehicles wants it or them as near to their property as possible for security reasons, this is understandable.

What can be done?

As **individuals** everyone in the village with a vehicle or vehicles should ensure that they park in a safe place not obstructing the highway or the vision of other road users. They should also ensure that vehicles are not parked on corners or at road junctions and that they ask personal visitors to park safely when in the village. Individual residents could write to The Highways Agency giving their personal concerns with regard to road safety.

As a **community** a working party could be formed to support the Parish Council and individuals in the quest for road safety improvements and to look at safer parking schemes (see questionnaire answers at the back of the plan).

The **Parish Council** can continue to liaise with the Police and Highways Agency in the pursuit of speed restrictions within the village.

2. Play Areas

Twenty two households answered this section of whom eleven (50%) answered that a play area was required in the village, the other eleven replied either that no play area was required or that they did not know whether one was needed. Of the eleven who wanted a play area seven wanted it to be in the Brickworks and four preferred a more central location such as the village green.

Only five suggestions were received on the question as to how such a site would be managed. Of these, four considered parents / volunteers would run it; one thought it should be run by the Parish Council.

The legal, safety and insurance implications of setting up a play area on either of the proposed sites, and how it would be funded and managed would obviously be the first priorities for any group set up to consider this development. However at the public meeting held to discuss the results of the plan questionnaire, no one, parent or otherwise volunteered to be part of such a group. This is understandable as the safety requirements are particularly onerous. Reference can be made to the RoSPA website (www.rospa.com/playsafety/) for details.

3. Footpaths & Bridleways

What improvements and / or additions do you consider are needed?

Twenty-four households answered this section, making 12 suggestions. The most frequent suggestion (50% of those answering) was to improve the condition and cleanliness of existing footpaths and pavements. Additionally there were several suggestions for reopening footpaths and bridleways, which had fallen out of use or had been blocked or had access restricted.

Footpaths

Background Information.

The highway authority is ultimately responsible for "*asserting and protecting the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment*" of paths in their area. The highway authority is the County Council. District Councils and Parish Councils may take over some of this responsibility.

The local authority is responsible for the maintenance of any surface, such as Tarmac, gravel or chippings, overlaying the soil of the path. Ploughing and other cultivation and any farming activity that causes problems of drainage are the responsibility of the landowner.

The local authority is responsible for clearing any growth, except a crop, from the surface of the path. This includes, for example, nettles or brambles that grow in the line of the path and block it. Any overhanging growth from trees, hedges, shrubs, nettles or other herbaceous plants adjoining the path is the responsibility of the landowner. The local authority can require the landowner to carry out this work, and if necessary, they can do it themselves and recover costs.

Many authorities have set up Parish Paths Partnerships, which are partnerships between highway authorities, local councils and voluntary groups, to keep rights of way open and in use. The highway authority gives a grant to Parish Councils or local groups, to cover the costs of work over a three year period. Eligible work includes path condition surveys, developments and improvements, publicity and promotion.

Voluntary groups who want to work on public rights of way must arrange to do so with the relevant authority, which is then responsible for dealing with any claims for damages which may arise. The landowner must also be consulted either by the authority or directly by the group.

In the case of the paths in the Brickworks, the landowner is Allerdale Borough Council.

Initial actions on identifying and re-opening paths that have fallen out of use, and improving existing paths could be:

- a) In consultation with the Parish Council, Allerdale Borough Council and the Highway Authority form a voluntary footpaths / bridleways group on the lines of the Parish Paths Partnerships referred to above.
- b) Obtain a copy of the current definitive rights of way map of the parish from the Highway Authority.

- c) Assess the condition of the paths and bridleways shown on the map and decide whether any improvements are necessary.
- d) Confirm whether or not all known currently known &/or used rights of way are indicated on this map and that all indicated rights of way are still open and that their classification as footpaths or bridleways is appropriate.
- e) By consulting longer-term residents and from old O.S. maps define those footpaths / bridleways, which have fallen out of use, have been made inaccessible or are not shown on the definitive map.
- f) In consultation with relevant landowners and local authorities define the objectives and priorities for further actions.

Pavements

The physical condition of pavements is the responsibility of the County Council who operate a free, 24 hour, 7 days per week "Clearway Hotline" (0845 6096609). This helpline takes calls on all problems regarding roads and footpaths such as road lighting, road signs, flooding, snow & ice and overgrown verges and hedges etc. The County Council's "Rapid Response Teams" do not always live up to their name and may need a second call or a letter from the Parish Council. It is important to make a note of the date of any calls and to make a note of the complaint reference number that is given.

4. Appearance of the Village

Does the appearance of the village need to be improved?

The appearance of the village is very important to many people, it is felt that with a little effort and planning some areas could be improved. The main concerns are hedges and verges not being maintained and cut back allowing them to become overgrown and sometimes causing a hazard to pedestrians and drivers.

What can be done?

As **individuals** we can all look to our own property or land and see if it could look better with a little tidying up or cutting back. If you do not have the tools, ask a neighbour or member of the Parish Council if they can help. Regarding roadside verges, overgrown field hedges and street lighting individuals can contact the County Council Highways Dept., which is ultimately responsible. Their local rate "Highways Hotline" which is manned 24 hours a day can be reached on 0845 6096609. Allerdale Borough Council (01900 326333) is responsible for street sweeping, litter or fouling problems. The more people who call on any particular issue, the more likely that some action will be taken.

As a **community** we can support each other and give encouragement and help if needed or requested. Not everyone will ask for help even if they need it, so an offer to help could be appreciated.

The **Parish Council** is able to talk to or write to individuals and request that hazardous hedges or verges are cut back and that untidy properties are tidied but it has no authority to compel any action. The Parish Council can also write to the relevant County or Borough Council departments but is unlikely to be more successful in achieving the desired result than is an individual making a telephone call.

Other suggestions

There were numerous other good suggestions to this question, These can be found in the summary of the questionnaire results at the end of the plan. Brightening up the village by planting more wild flowers on verges and providing flower tubs for various points in the village were suggested as was replacing derelict seating around the village. The Parish Council and some individuals have already made progress in this direction. More volunteers would be welcome.

5. Village Hall

What further use could be made of it?

The suggestions could be divided into two classes, social and leisure (55% of those replying and adult education / talks (32%)

The total number of suggestions made in these categories was 25

Because there is already an established village hall committee the suggestions put forward in the questionnaire have been passed to this committee. The village hall committee welcomes villagers' proposals and suggestions and is open to meet anyone interested in using the hall for new groups and projects. There are already a number of organizations from outside the village who hire the hall for private use.

Anyone interested or willing to join the committee would be particularly welcome as the committee is now very short of members which has resulted in some of its previous activities being curtailed.

For any new projects or to discuss the hire of the hall for private functions or hire of furniture and equipment please contact any member of the village hall committee.

All other suggestions for further use of the village hall can be found at the back of the plan in the results of the questionnaire document.

6. Services to the village

Suggestions to improve services

There were eight suggestions; by far the most common was the provision of mains gas by 63% of the 17 households that requested this service

Mains gas is an issue that has been raised numerous times at Parish Council meetings. The council have contacted all major gas suppliers going back as far as British Gas prior to deregulation regarding Camerton being connected to mains gas. The answer that is always given is that the cost of supplying gas to Camerton is so high that it would be uneconomic for the suppliers and the cost to individuals would run into thousands of pounds. The nearest gas main is apparently at the crossroads above the village.

What can be done?

As **individuals** all members of the community who want gas can write to mains gas suppliers and request information and reasons why Camerton cannot be supplied with mains gas. The addresses of gas suppliers can be found in the telephone directory or yellow pages.

As a **community** a small group could be formed to gather information regarding mains connection from gas suppliers, make contact with other rural communities who are finding it difficult to get connected to a mains supply or contact other rural communities that have been connected and ask for advice.

The **Parish Council** can continue to make requests to suppliers for the connection of mains gas to Camerton.

The second most frequent suggestion was to extend Broadband Internet access to Camerton, as many were unaware that it has been available for some time.

The burying of overhead power cables around the center of the village was another frequent request, which was also made in the "Appearance of the Village" section. The Parish Council has been in contact with United Utilities on several occasions recently and has always received the reply that funds were not available.

All other suggestions of how to improve services to the village can be found in Appendices at the back of the plan.

7. Brickworks

Twenty seven households answered this section making 16 suggested changes or improvements, the majority of which were concerned with improvements to the paths, clearance of scrub, management of the trees and more frequent grass cutting.

Background information

The Brickworks belongs to Allerdale Borough Council, which is currently responsible for its upkeep. (Local volunteers installed the limestone seat). Since Allerdale "resurfaced" one of the paths just prior to the last local elections the only maintenance it has received has been the clearance of some saplings, which were too close together, and annual mowing of a strip alongside the paths. The grassed areas have not been mown for about three years and no scrub has ever been cleared. This is in accordance with Allerdale's policy, stated on their website that "... *Wildlife Areas have been and are being created simply by leaving selected areas unmown and allowing wild flora to establish.*" Consequently much of the Brickworks are now inaccessible due to briar, brambles, broom and overgrown willows, which are falling over, the knapweed, Japanese Knotweed, ragwort and Indian balsam are also flourishing.

Prior to the last local elections the Local Authority made encouraging noises about leasing the brickworks for a nominal sum to a local group and picking up the bill for insurance. Since that time they have shown no interest.

The Parish Council have approached Cumbria Wildlife Trust about taking over the Brickworks as one of their Nature Reserves but, after inspecting the site and offering advice on its management they decided it was too small to be of interest to them.

In July 2004 the Parish Council showed the site to the Local Nature Reserves (LNR) Officer of Groundwork West Cumbria (who is responsible for Allerdale's two existing Local Nature Reserves, Siddick and Harrington ponds). He proposed to Allerdale's Environment Officer that Camerton Brickworks be considered as a LNR but has had no reply. He returned in October accompanied by an official from English Nature who was very enthusiastic about the site, the industrial history was very important, even though few signs of it remain, and two red squirrels showed up on cue. She gave much useful advice about the steps which a local group should take, with the support of English Nature and Groundwork West Cumbria, to present a case to take over the improvement and maintenance of the site to Allerdale Borough Council (who would retain ownership). She also suggested other local organisations that could provide advice and possible sources of funding for an initial survey of the site and for any equipment requirements

The first step is therefore to form a group of volunteers (funding is not available to Parish Councils as such) and to obtain assistance in mapping and surveying the site. Following this and in conjunction with English Nature and Groundwork West Cumbria, a case would be made to the local authority for the designation of the Brickworks as a Local Nature Reserve.

8 Housing

Twenty-seven replies were received to the question on whether additional housing was required and if so, where and of what type. Of the respondents fifteen answered yes, eleven answered no while one did not know.

Twelve of the fifteen who answered yes suggested that bungalows or houses be sited in the area of the Brickworks.

This site, adjacent to the road, was proposed some years ago for pensioner's bungalows but there was insufficient interest at that time. Those villagers who now have a firm interest in relocating to possibly smaller housing should write to the Parish Council who will take it up with the local authority and relevant housing associations.

9. Charities and Voluntary Organisations

How should they be funded?

Of the twenty four households who replied to this section, sixteen (67%) thought that they should be funded by a mix of self funding, sponsorship and community support, three (13%) said they should be supported and assisted by the Parish Council, two (8%) thought they should be funded by the parish precept, one said they should be funded by the community while two (8%) didn't know or were not interested.

What can be done?

As **individuals** people can choose to support or not to support any or all voluntary organisations and charities in the village.

Support can be given by taking an active roll in individual organisations, by organising fund raising events for individual or a number of organisations, by supporting fundraising events, by offering suggestions on how to fund raise.

As a **community** the village can advocate community based activities and show that there is strong support for all organisations that are of benefit to all the community.

The **Parish Council** can show support by considering all applications for funding and by giving all organisations the opportunity to use the knowledge, experience and interaction with Allerdale Borough Council.

The survey has indicated that the a majority of people who replied feel that **voluntary organisations** should be self funded, this can be done in many ways, for example applications to other organisations who give funding to local community projects such as the "Allerdale Community Fund" also by raising funds locally with events such as garden parties, fayres and raffles.

For voluntary organisations to continue to provide the services to the village and community, then local support is essential, not only financial support but support in raising funds that needed to sustain individual groups that benefit the community as a whole, the volunteers that man these groups should not be expected to have to do all the fund raising as well, these are community groups that offer a service to all the local community.

10. Any other suggestions.

These are listed verbatim in Appendix 2; "Answers to the Parish Plan Questionnaire"
Some coincide with the topics already listed, e.g. parking.

Some have been or are being attended to by the Parish Council, e.g. litter bins.

Some are beyond the powers, remit or budget of the Parish Council, e.g. the provision of a shop, while on others, e.g. bus shelters, car parking area in the vicinity of Vale View and speeding traffic, the Council have so far failed in their efforts to achieve a solution.

Footnote

The Parish Precept (currently £1500) was referred to more than once in the answers to the survey. This is largely dependent on population size, however the annual cost per head (£8.72) and per household (£21.13) in Camerton is well below the average of the precepts charged by the thirteen other Allerdale villages having populations below 300. These are £10.04 and £24.72 respectively, (per head costs range from £3.48 to £22.30, and per household £9.24 to £52.38). Subtracting insurance, the clerk's payment and rent leaves the Parish Council with £500 per year for all other support and projects.

To make progress on any of the plan projects, which might incur significant costs and which the Borough Council cannot or will not support it would be necessary for a local group or groups to be formed who could then apply for external funding.

Appendix 1, Results summary of Parish Plan Questionnaire.

20/10/04

33 completed questionnaires returned.

(44% of Households in Camerton)

	No. of Households	% of those Who replied
1. Road Safety (28 replies)		
What improvements can you suggest		
20 or 30 MPH limit	9	32%
Warning signs	5	18%
Speed humps	7	25%
Parking restrictions/yellow lines	9	32%
At Vale View	3	11%
At The Mount	2	7%
At Road junctions	1	4%
Car park on Village Green	2	7%
Parking recess in pavement at School House	1	4%
Improve state of Broughton road	4	14%
Road Mirrors	2	7%
Trim hedge at road ends to improve visibility	1	4%
Road gritting / salt bins	2	7%
2. Playing area (22 replies)		
Is playing area required? ? Where? & how managed?		
Yes	11	50%
At Brickworks	7	32%
At village Centre / Village Green	4	18%
No / Not required	6	27%
Don't know	5	23%
Managed by Parish Council	1	5%
Managed by parents/ volunteers	4	18%
Management not stated	8	36%
3. Footpaths & Bridleways (24 replies)		
Improvements & additions required.		
Improve footpath conditions & cleanliness	8	33%
Keep horses off footpaths / Brickworks	5	21%
Keep motorcycles off footpaths/ walkways	3	13%
Improve cycleway maintenance	1	4%
Poop scoop bins	1	4%
Improve signposting	2	8%
Improve surface of church lanes	1	4%

Increase No. of bridleways	1	4%
Improve stiles & dog lets	3	13%
Greengill access (gate) & bull in field Demesne	2	8%
Reinstate footpath Stud Farm to Brick Dubs	1	4%
None required	2	8%

4. Appearance of village (29 replies)

Does the appearance of the village need to be improved?

Keep verges / hedges cut	11	38%
Keep pavements clear of weeds	9	31%
More flowers in gardens, on verges & village green	9	31%
Place flower tubs beside seats, at Village Hall etc.	7	24%
Remove overhead cables	3	10%
Obtain litter bins	3	10%
Tidy up & plant flowers in front gardens	3	10%
Keep pavements free of dog mess	2	7%
Change times of road sweeping	2	7%
Add / Improve seating	2	7%
Re-instate village green / remove driveway	1	3%
Keep dustbins off roadside & pavements	1	3%
Stop vehicles from damaging verges, by e.g. rocks	1	3%
Re-site glass recycle bins	1	3%
Stricter planning controls	1	3%
No / OK as it is	3	10%

5. Village Hall. (22 replies)

What further use could be made of it?

Social / leisure	12	55%
Parties	2	9%
Coffee mornings	2	9%
Bingo	2	9%
Sales	1	5%
Monthly Disco for children	1	5%
Youth club	2	9%
Age Concern / Drop in centre for elderly, chat, coffee	2	9%
Play group	1	5%
Clubs	1	5%
Flower / Vegetable shows	1	5%
Christmas get together, drinks / mince pies	1	5%
Talks / Adult education	7	32%
Craft work	1	5%
Cookery	1	5%
Dance lessons	1	5%

Bridge club	1	5%
Keep fit	2	9%
Talks (local interest/ wildlife / historical / dog training)	3	14%
WEA courses	1	5%
Use as venue to raise funds for Voluntary Organisations	2	9%
Advertise availability more widely.	6	27%
Don't know	2	9%
None / too small	1	5%
Does it have disabled access	1	5%
Replace by a larger one with bar	1	5%

6. Services to village (27 replies)

Suggestions to improve services

Mains gas	17	63%
Broadband	7	44%
Bury electricity &/or telephone cables	5	33%
Later buses to Camerton in evening / weekends	4	26%
Keep drains clear	3	15%
New water pipes	1	7%
Grit on roads / in bins	1	7%
Improve postal service	1	4%

7. Brickworks. (27 replies)

What changes / improvements / management to our leisure facility

Improve path surface & / or drainage	8	30%
Manage trees better / clear scrub	5	19%
Cut grass more regularly	3	11%
Develop as wildlife sanctuary / Local Nature Reserve	6	22%
Leave as it is	3	11%
Keep out horses	2	7%
Allow horses	1	4%
Keep out motorcycles	1	4%
Obtain Poop scoop bins	2	7%
Play area (Swings / football area)	1	4%
Increase car parking area (at entrance?)	1	4%
Plant more flowers	1	4%
Use part of for building land	1	4%
Allerdale to maintain	3	11%
P C or other group to supervise	3	11%
What leisure facility? / Didn't know there was one	2	7%

8. Housing (27 replies)

Is additional housing required?

What type and where?

No	11	41%
Yes	15	44%
Houses in Brickworks	4	15%
Bungalows in Brickworks	8	30%
Sheltered housing below Home Farm	2	7%
Anywhere with planning approval if required for locals.	1	4%
Executive houses (e.g. Camerton Hall land)	2	7%
Suitable Infill only	2	7%
Don't know	1	4%

9. Voluntary Organisations (24 replies)

How should they be funded

Self funded / sponsorship / community support	16	67%
Supported / assisted by PC	3	13%
Funded by PC precept	2	8%
Paid for by the community	1	4%
No interest / don't know	2	8%

10. Any other suggestions

Hedgerows & verges cut more regularly
Bus shelter a must
Car park, Vale View area
Litter bins at phone box & bus stops
Village Social / Amenity committee to be formed
to help implement improvements and obtain funding.
Black Tom to supply "basics" or just milk
Poop Scoop bins
Regular litter picking service
Reduce / Keep parish precept down
Reclassify Kitty's Went as bridleway
Stone bench(s) and trees on Village Green.
We Lack a shop and eating establishment,
Shame that Black Tom not bigger
Bimonthly / quarterly newsletter, including adverts
A request that results of this survey be circulated.

Appendix 2, Answers to Parish Plan Questionnaire

(List of all answers received)

33 replies (44%)

1. Road Safety.

What improvements can you suggest?

1. Sleeping Policemen
2. Better parking for Vale View
3. 20 MPH limit
4. 30 MPH signs
5. Steep Hill signs to warn cyclists from cycle way, not on top of hill.
6. Stop parking cars on road junctions
7. Regular cleaning of Broughton road after cows - Dangerous when wet
Road resurfacing by Village Hall
8. Speed limit. Road safety signs. Double yellow lines on bends. Parking recess by school house. Safety warning to cyclists at cycleway exit.
9. Difficulty caused by all the cars parked at Vale View
10. Speed bumps at Vale View bend
11. 30 or 20 MPH signs above Uplands, top of Seaton Brow, Camerton sign on Broughton road.
12. Warning signs for cyclists not to speed through village, suggest speed bumps. Make bells compulsory.
13. Camerton Road needs a reduced speed limit, Road is used as a racetrack. The Harrans leading to the church needs a speed limit i.e. 20 MPH and weak bridge sign at entrance as bridge was constructed for horses & carts.
14. A speed restriction should be imposed within the village! Speed humps (sleeping policemen).
15. A mirror opposite the Black Tom for traffic seeing cars coming from Broughton.
16. The corner of Road End hedge thinned out to give view of Meadow Croft coming down hill.
17. Keep Ribton Road clean, daily brushing etc.
18. Better hazard signs on the approaches, perhaps a speed bump on the road from Great Broughton. The two hills tend to slow vehicles on the other approaches.
19. Road markings. Example "Slow" and 30 MPH. Road salt bins placed at the Mount.
20. We do not believe that there is a problem, however we believe that the Camerton - Broughton road should be kept clean by the farmer.
21. 30 MPH limit. Double yellow lines on bends. Convert "Village Green" into a car park to clear cars from Vale View and The Mount.
22. 30 MPH speed limit. Speed bumps on road past Home Farm.
23. Parking cars carefully and not in dangerous places, especially on corners, and forcing drivers to turn blind corners on the wrong side of the road. Car owners should have safe parking places.
24. A mirror on the wall so that traffic from Seaton can see up the road towards the Black Tom.
25. Sleeping policemen.

26. Over spill parking on village green. Condition of road between Camerton and Broughton, requires frequent cleaning.
27. No parking on corner at The Mount.
28. Gritting all access roads to the village (all steep gradients) in winter months. Improvements - widening; extra lane; speed limit, rumble strips at Flimby crossroads. Better parking by pub bus stop and through rest of the village.

2. Playing Area

Is a play area required in the village? If so what form should it take, where could it be located and how could it be managed?

1. Yes, in Brickworks, managed by volunteers.
2. Yes, on the green by the phone box
3. Swings and football area in Brickworks area
4. Not that many kids.
5. Playing area in Brickworks, swings etc.
6. Should be considered, would it be possible to lease the piece of land between Mr. & Mrs. Harkness and Mr. & Mrs. Brown. Funding would be a requirement of the village as any other small village facility.
7. No. (the rest of this reply is indecipherable).
8. This has been discussed many times before and is difficult to resolve due to cost.
9. Yes, if sufficient children. Should be close to centre of village for security / safety. Managed by Parish Council.
10. We could hold fund raising events, sponsored walks etc. A secure playground for the young of Camerton would be a great idea and could be maintained and monitored by all parents on a rota basis.
11. Play area would be nice. Maybe a swing / activity park similar to Whinlatter but smaller. Could be located in the open area near the Millennium seat, wood chip base and fenced. Managed twice a year. Maintenance? Not sure - rota?
12. Small play area in Brickworks, swings, slide.
13. Yes, small selection of children's' play equipment. Brickworks would be suitable location.
14. Don't know if a play area required if so should be located at top end of village so parents could watch children.
15. The parents could get together to decide whether one is required and, if so, where and how managed.
16. Good idea but who would pay for it and where would it be?
17. The village may be too small to manage this project.
18. No, a play area is money wasted. Too few children in the village and would be ideal place for vandalism.
19. No.
20. Adventure playground for young (under 10's) in Brickworks. Not swings and roundabouts.
21. Play area not needed.
22. To be discussed.

3. Footpaths and Bridleways.

What improvements and / or additions do you consider needed?

1. None
2. Footpaths to be kept in good condition
3. Keep horses off cycleways and where people walk.
4. Keep gates secure to Brickworks and cycleways to keep off motorcycles, horses and traps.
5. Keeping clean after dogs and horses.
6. Need to be clearly marked with restrictions if any.
7. Just better maintenance such as trimming.
8. Take down the useless "no horses" barrier on the pink path at the bridge. They're using it anyway.
9. Footpaths kept open, not allowed to grow over.
10. Better management of cycleway (whose responsibility is it?). Used by cars and motorbikes causing danger to pedestrians. Better drainage is required, recent heavy rain caused flooding of Camerton Road from cycleway.
11. Better signposting would be beneficial.
12. Keep horses off the footpaths and out of the brickworks.
13. The addition of two dog poo bins, one central in the village and one at the end of the minor road near the river footpath.
14. Pot holes filled in on the way to church roads.
15. We would welcome more bridleways. We feel the current footpaths and bridleways are well maintained.
16. Proper stiles and dog gates for the new fences.
17. Footpaths through Brickworks need to be brought up to standard. They would not be accepted in Workington. Proper stiles and dog lets on riverside paths.
18. All footpaths should be open and accessible at all times. Landowners should be made to keep paths clear.
19. The gate at Greengill lane should not be locked during daylight hours.
20. No improvements needed if the public treat them with respect - meaning horse and dog owners.
21. Keep the existing ones clear and try to gain access to those that have been blocked off.
22. Better signage, undergrowth control.
23. Stile needs to be built again on Church Hills as it has been burnt down. Path along river edge.
24. Improvements to existing footpaths- stiles / access / bulls in field etc. - Demesne! Re-instatement of footpath from Stud Farm to Brick Dubs.

4. Appearance of village.

Does the appearance of the village need improving? How could this be achieved?

1. Yes, like having competitions like Village in Bloom.
2. Yes, have flowers like Village in Bloom. Grass verges coming into the village cut and maintained.
3. Approach road down hill from Seaton could be tidied. Seat at top should be kept clear and bulbs etc. planted on the banking. Other verges should be cut more regularly. Pavements should be cleared and free of dog fouling. Some dog owners need to be more responsible.
4. Plant flowers shrubs etc. approaching village at all three entries. Flower tubs at seating areas making the village attractive.
5. Remove overhead phone and electricity cables. Plant daffodils on village approaches.
6. Flowers planted at entrance to village.
7. Yes, putting flowers in tubs round the village. Cleaning up after dogs. Litter bins.
8. Control of hedges and grass verges, in particular both sides of the road below Vale View. Weeds growing on pavements.
9. All garden hedges should be cut back and not hanging over footpaths. Dustbins shouldn't be on the footpaths all week. Weeds need clearing from pavements.
10. Weeding round kerbs and pavements. Otherwise fine.
11. Remove amateur seats and replace with good quality eye-catching design "sit on me" seats. Stop busses driving over verges with concrete spheres or large stones etc. Put pressure on scruffy frontages to improve.
12. Weeds, gravel and moss growing on pavements making the village look untidy and unkempt. Over grown hedges. Over grown on roadsides.
13. More seating / flower tubs.
14. Can't really fault the appearance of the village though trimming of hedges would make a difference.
15. Keep hedges cut back and sweep up off roads.
16. Appearance OK but bulbs / flowers along the approaches always looks nice. Could have a planting / donation day.
17. Join Britain in Bloom. More colour throughout the village.
18. No.
19. Village is fine as it is.
20. Road sweeper always comes out early in morning when lots of parked cars in village so gutters rarely fully swept leading to weeds.
21. Appearance OK.
22. Yes, hedges and verges have to grow over pavements and roads. Flowers could be planted on roadside & in tubs. Remove overhead electricity cables
23. Litter bins, flower tubs, hedges cut, weeds killed. Individual and civic responsibility would all make Camerton nicer.
24. The sight of four bins at the entrance to the village does not do much for its appearance.
25. Camerton needs a tidy and clean up, partly by property owners and mostly so by the council.

26. Encourage everyone to remove / report litter / dumped litter.
Encourage everyone to plant flowers in gardens; inexpensive pots of flowers in front of the Village Hall would help.
27. Sort out drains up the hill to avoid flooding. Road sweeping service at a time when cars are not in the way. Removal of weeds either by hand or weed killer from the gutters and pavements.
28. Too much dog muck.
29. Stricter planning controls to prevent erosion of village. Reinstatement of village green i.e. removal of private drive, planting with flowerbeds etc.

5. Village Hall.

We have an excellent village Hall. What further use could be made of it?

1. Dance lessons
2. Bridge club, keep fit lessons.
3. Use it for funding of organisations i.e. e charity concerts, meetings, tombola, flower and vegetable shows with a minimum, if any charge.
4. Too small.
5. Let people know that it can be hired out for birthday and Christmas parties etc.
6. Meetings, Parties etc.
7. The hall is almost limited to being a meeting hall. It could be advertised outside the area for education / leisure / hobbies / clubs / classes etc. Perhaps in keeping with the 21st century it should be disposed of and a massive village effort be made to replace it with a larger purpose built hall complete with a bar for social occasions. Village pub has a limited life.
8. Should there not be a little disco for the kiddies, say once a month.
9. Advertise it in local papers regularly. Have fortnightly coffee mornings, bingo etc. for villagers + Seaton etc. Arrange guest speakers & advertise.
10. Not sure.
11. Nothing to add.
12. Drop in centre for elderly for chat and coffee. Youth club, festive gatherings and celebrations.
13. Play group for babies / toddlers, keep fit. I'm not sure what goes on in there. Talks wildlife / historical / local interest / dog training.
14. Youth club.
15. Does it have disabled access?
16. The activities already occurring need to be better advertised.
17. Village Hall should advertise itself, at least in "The Villager" as does Seaton Village Hall. It could be used by voluntary organisations to hold fund raising events e.g. coffee mornings, sales, pea & pie suppers etc.
18. Advertise this facility more, making everyone aware of its potential.
19. Educational classes - craft work cookery etc.
20. A village get together at Xmas for a drink and mince pie.
21. Try adult education classes.
22. Workers Educational Association - various training courses. Dog training classes, Age concern & other voluntary groups. Highham Hall "extension". Leisure and recreational courses.

6. Services to village.

For example transport, gas, electricity, sewage, water, telephone & Internet.

What can you suggest to improve services?

1. Gas please.
2. Get gas in the village.
3. We need gas installed in the village.
4. Gas.
5. Mains gas would be good.
6. Options for people to use gas or electricity. Telephone and electricity lines to be put underground in one stage.
7. Gas would be nice.
8. Broadband, gas. More grit on roads for bad weather.
9. Maypole type services need going underground. Poor postal service, delivery frequently lunch time. No indication on collection box if post has been lifted. Mouth of letterbox too small for business mail. Broadband would be welcome. The last bus is early each evening.
10. Getting BT to get a bend (?) on so that the Responders can buy their pagers.
11. Non other than put them underground including the dodgy electricity supply to the village.
12. Gas would be useful. Blocked and grown over road drains.
13. Council very reluctant to clean drains and leaves which are another source of flooding. Cleaned by us regularly (this should not be expected of us). Gas to village.
14. Gas would be brilliant. Broadband too! An extension of bus times would be beneficial to a lot of non-drivers.
15. Transport, late evening bus service from Cockermouth at weekends so could be used for socialising.
16. We would like broadband.
17. Gas supply.
18. Gas supply needed.
19. Mains gas would be good.
20. Electricity cables should all be put underground at one go rather than bit-by-bit as at present. Broadband Internet. Later buses from Workington and Cockermouth.
21. Drains and sewers should be maintained better to stop flooding - landowners should be made to be responsible for drainage.
22. Gas would be an advantage.
23. Existing provision of services is partly related to size, e.g. lack of gas. Broadband provision is essential in all rural communities
24. Mains gas.
25. Broadband.
26. Gas would be good.
27. Mains gas! New water pipes / underground power lines.

7. Brickworks.

What changes, if any would you like to see to improve our community leisure facility? Possibility of village management and maintenance.

1. No horses. Make the footpaths better to walk on; attention is needed to the footpath that floods in the Brickyard.
2. All trees should be managed properly.
3. Footpaths to be kept in good condition.
4. This could do with a general overhaul. Grass needs cut more regularly, trees thinned and pruned, the lane cleared of overhanging trees and brambles and dog fouling bins erected and used.
5. Council (Allerdale), to maintain, council (Parish), to supervise. Swings and football area.
6. Leave alone.
7. Grass used to get cut at top end; this has not been done for the past few years. Style erected by East House to stop motorbikes entering. Make space for vehicle parking.
9. Footpaths made fit for people to walk on.
10. This wonderful facility needs developing into a nature reserve of some description, with designated walks & possibly hides to observe activities of animals and birds. There is a need to tidy up the woodland & perhaps introduce a still pond or marsh area to attract other birds. Permission if possible to incorporate the river bank with a footpath along the water edge - grants for such an activity are likely.
11. What leisure facility? Didn't know there was one.
12. None. Leave it to the council - proper equipment / expertise.
13. No changes.
14. Brickworks and Greenghyll locked to prevent all forms of riding. Could any exception be made for horse riders?
15. ?
16. I'm not sure what this is.
17. No change other than play area.
18. No changes required, but a wildlife sanctuary could be a good idea.
19. No changes needed, could develop into a wildlife sanctuary as badgers already live there.
20. Establish it as a Local Nature Reserve with Allerdale Council, Groundwork and English Nature. A village-based committee should be involved to help secure funds and assist with maintenance. If left as it is, it will all become as impenetrable as much of it has already become.
21. That the District Council should take more responsibility for maintenance of the Brickworks or hand it over to the village.
22. Use part of it for building land.
23. Nice for a stroll and only needs to have attention, grass cutting and good paths, not left to grow wild.

24. Left as a reserve. With a planting programme for bulbs and wild flowers involving if possible the village children. Bird boxes and feeding stations for animals.
25. Undergrowth clearance. Better paths. Encourage wildlife.
26. Path needs improving to stop flooding in some areas. No horses.
27. Nature Reserve, dogs to be kept on leads, poop scoop bins.

8. Housing.

Is additional housing required, what type and where should it be sited?

1. We have enough houses in Camerton.
2. More houses in Brickworks.
3. Executive housing, Camerton Hall land.
4. Brickworks !!
5. No.
6. Yes, bungalows in Brickworks area.
7. None
8. OAP bungalows.
9. No objection to individual properties being built to fit in with the current surroundings. Would object to a new estate if it were ever suggested. This village has a particular charm that needs to be sustained.
10. I don't think that the village needs any more houses - just keep it as a small village, don't spoil it with too many houses as others have done.
11. Additional housing would ruin the village. It depends on whether there is a demand. The first question to ask is whether we need more people in the village?
12. No. Sheltered housing / bungalows on level ground e.g. road end past Home Farm.
13. Pensioners bungalows. Site difficult to find.
14. Are children in the village becoming adults and marrying catered for? If not, anywhere where planning permission is obtained and land is available.
15. The only additional housing would have to be individual houses - each having its own separate character - no flats or the like.
16. Not sure, is there a demand for housing in Camerton? Do people want to move here beyond what is available?
17. No more housing.
18. No more housing, especially housing association properties.
19. No additional houses required or wanted.
20. No additional housing needed, could spoil character of village, excess housing available at Clifton 1/4 mile away.
21. Pensioner's bungalows (3-4) on land between road ends and Brickworks or on waste land beside Home Farm. Certainly no more housing association purchases, which prevent locals from buying.
22. A small number of OAP bungalows (4) should be available to free up rentable accommodation. Where - within the planning boundary.
23. Additional housing is required, a mixture of 3 bedroom houses and bungalows, up to 10 properties

24. No, additional housing is not required. More houses would spoil the old country village.
25. Limited expansion of bungalows and family houses would be an asset. Possible sites - Brickworks, existing large plots of private property.
26. Small executive type housing development would bring in new families.
27. Additional housing is required. Bungalows would be good.
28. No need identified.

9. Voluntary organisations in the village.

How should they be funded?

1. They should raise their own money.
2. By sponsors
3. By the community and sponsored events.
4. Fund raising events & parish council support.
5. Self funding, by using village hall (refers to 5.(3))
6. No interest.
7. Self funded.
8. It should not be the responsibility of the parish council to fund activities that are not relative directly to the village or this would lead to some organisations being favoured and others not. A contribution to the brickworks project if it came alive would be acceptable being a part of the village structure.
9. By getting their own sponsors. Don't spend the precept on them. Shouldn't allow members of the P.C. with an interest in V.O.s to vote on financing them.
10. Each organisation to raise its own funds.
11. Depends what they do and funding may be available through neighbourhood forums / community chest etc.
12. Sponsorship (i.e. walks, cycling etc.) Discos.
13. Cake / garden produce sale / plant sale spring and summer.
Xmas / New Year mulled wine daytime event at Parish Hall / pub. Pay to get in.
14. By sale of goods from all households, auctions in Village hall. Coffee mornings.
15. Voluntary organisations that are for the good of the whole village should definitely be assisted by the parish council.
16. Any organisation that could benefit anyone in the village should receive financial support from the parish council.
17. Voluntary organisations should be voluntarily funded. Not by a compulsory precept / tax. Such organisations should arrange fund raising events to allow and encourage villagers to contribute as they wish.
18. Organisations like Village Hall and Responders should be funded by the village precept, as they are facilities that are there for all the village to use.
19. They should be prepared to work in ways to raise funds that give people a choice of parting with their money, not being forced to pay through community charge.
20. Depending on the organisation. Government help in some way through the council, also sales, drawings, garden parties etc.
21. V.O.'s should be self-funding.
22. Self funding.

23. Services that benefit the whole community, i.e. Responders should be paid for by the community. Services that benefit sections of the community should be self-funded.
24. First Responders, this is a local service provided to parishioners in need of emergency treatment, possibly life saving. I think it should receive full support from the parish via the precept.

10. Any other suggestions. ?

1. Bins for dog and horse litter.
2. Hedgerows in village and verges to be cut and kept tidy. Car park area Vale View. Litterbins erected at bus stop and phone box. Road to Broughton to be cleaned up regularly by Allerdale sweeper.
3. Bus shelter a must.
4. Additional parking for top end of village.
5. A social committee to be formed to attempt an improvement of community spirit in the village. A referendum to seek out ideas similar to this document. If successful it could become the source of funding for the village voluntary organisations.
6. What about seeing if Black Tom could sell some basics, for instance milk (even if only milk !!). Need a "corner shop" facility. The van is useless for emergency supplies.
7. Write to the council and ask them to get Focsa to pick up litter they drop when emptying bins. Regular litter picking service. Don't spend left over precept moneys - use the excess to reduce next years. Put a bench (in brickworks), or two on the village green and a few trees. Make it an attractive focal point, village pond etc. Nice to be asked.
8. Parish Council should be aware of the traffic using the Harrans to the church every evening (all hours. even through the night). They should inform the police, as we cannot imagine people visiting the churchyard! We don't believe it is courting couples.
9. We lack a shop! And an eating establishment, - it's a shame that Black Tom wasn't bigger. Meals would be a nice change and would attract a little interest into the village.
10. Bimonthly / Quarterly newsletter. On a rota to contribute something. Advertise any village trades.
11. A village social / amenity committee needs to be formed in order to help implement improvements and attract funding (which is not available to the parish council).
12. A reduction of the precept to bring our community charge in line with other villages.
13. I am pleased that the PC has surveyed village opinion. Please circulate the results of the survey and consequent decisions made by the PC.
14. Poop scoop bins. Kitty's Went to be reclassified as a bridleway to allow for safe horse riding area and access to cycleway.

