# Culgaith

## Parish Plan

## 2004 - 2009

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# Introduction and Background

This Parish Plan was commissioned by Culgaith Parish Council to update its database on resident's needs and views. A pilot survey was undertaken in Culgaith village in early 2003 to gauge the likely level of support and to identify the priorities for a fuller survey. Reassuringly the pilot was well supported with some 70% or those contacted responding; of these 80% indicated support for a more detailed survey. The vast majority of respondents found Culgaith to be a good, healthy and safe place in which to live and the following topics were identified for further review:

- Housing,
- Transport,
- Environment,
- Community facilities and activities,
- Communication,
- Highways,
- Businesses, and
- Young People's needs.

In June 2003 the Countryside Agency awarded the Parish Council a grant under the Vital Villages Scheme and a steering group of local representatives and appropriate external agencies was formed; details can be found at Annex A.

*Victory Hall and War Memorial, Culgaith*

Three survey questionnaires were developed - General, Young People and Business. During January 2004 each household across the parish area was visited by a volunteer and handed an envelope containing survey questionnaires appropriate to the household, a newsletter describing the project, a form for individuals to complete if they were willing to volunteer their services for various community needs. Completed questionnaires were collected two weeks later in sealed envelopes to provide anonymity if wanted.

*Blencarn Lake*

The level of support for the project was excellent – thanks largely to the commitment the team of volunteers:

*General Survey*

| | Electoral Register | Returns | % |
|---|---|---|---|
| Culgaith | 341 | 197 | 58 |
| Skirwith | 147 | 97 | 66 |
| Blencarn and Kirkland | 108 | 61 | 56 |
| **Combined totals** | **596** | **355** | **60** |

*Young People Survey*

- 19 males and 25 females responded

*Business Survey*

- 39 businesses responded

With help from Voluntary Action Cumbria and two volunteers identified by the survey, the returns were collated and analysed. Some 426 suggestions were offered for specific inclusion in the Parish Plan – sometimes quite opposing views were offered.

The Steering Group considered the analysis and produced the various recommendations contained in the following report. The Plan therefore contains the consensus views of the residents of the parish and is therefore 'owned' by the residents of the Parish of Culgaith.

The Parish Council now has the responsibility for co-ordinating future action on behalf of the community.



# The Parish of Culgaith

To set the scene Culgaith Parish is briefly outlined as follows.

It comprises 4 communities – Culgaith the largest village, Skirwith, Blencarn and the hamlet of Kirkland. Bounded on the West by the River Eden, to the North by Ousby and Langwathby, the South by Crowdundle Beck and on the East by Cross Fell the Parish is attractively and rurally located on the Cumbrian East Fellside and within the North Pennine – an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Each of the 4 communities has its own discrete character and range of services and facilities. Many residents of the Parish commute to jobs in various locations within and beyond Cumbria – the majority working in and around Penrith. With little or no public transport provision the vast majority are dependent on private cars for all transport needs. A larger than expected number of small businesses and associated employment opportunities was identified during the surveys, most operating from home bases.

**Culgaith** is the largest village and includes:

- All Saints Church.
- A Methodist Chapel
- Culgaith Victoria Institute.
- Culgaith Primary School
- Recreation Ground with outdoor swimming pool and children's play facilities.
- The Tarn Village Green comprised of a 3 1/2 acre field area and a further 1/2 acre roadside area.
- The Flodder Village Green of 1/2 acre
- The Pinfold
- Hazledene Nursery – the largest business within the parish
- The Black Swan Inn
- An Antiques shop
- A number of home based businesses including a number linked to the tourist industry.
- A number of farms.
- A Recycling Centre.

*All Saint's Church, Culgaith*

Culgaith does not have any other shops and does not have a Post Office, but is served by a weekly visit by a mobile Post Office service. The railway station closed some years ago and the nearest access to the service is at Langwathby. Public Transport facilities are limited to the services provided by the voluntary Fellrunner Village Bus Company.

**Skirwith** is the second largest community and includes:

- St John the Evangelist Church
- Skirwith Social Institute
- A large Village green of some 5 1/2 acres and associated children's play facilities.
- A number of home based businesses including a number linked to the tourist industry.
- A number of farms.
- A Recycling Centre.

Skirwith was designated a conservation area in 2002. The former Sun Inn closed some years ago and there are no shops or Post Office.

*St. John the Evangelist Church, Skirwith*

**Blencarn** is the third largest community and includes:

- Blencarn and Kirkland Recreation Rooms.
- A large Village green of some 2 1/2 acres.
- Children's play facilities.
- A number of farms and an agricultural/ seed/contracting business.
- A Recycling Centre.
- A man made Fly Fishing lake.
- The Rigg of some 33 acres over which commoners exercise grazing rights.
- A number of home based businesses.

*Blencarn from the Rigg*

Blencarn has a Lord of the Manor and a Post Office but no other shops or services. Like Culgaith, Blencarn only has access to public transport services provided by the voluntary Fellrunner Village Bus Company.

**Kirkland** is a small hamlet community and includes:

- St Lawrence's Church
- A Village Green of some 1 1/2 acres
- A number of farms
- A number of home based businesses some serving the tourist industry.

*St. Lawrence's Church, Kirkland*

The Parish also includes Skirwith, Kirkland and Blencarn Fells and Cringle and Stubmire Moors in all totalling some 7,000 acres of common land.

The Parish is divided into three electoral wards – Culgaith Ward with 5 Councillors, Skirwith Ward with 2 Councillors and Blencarn and Kirkland Ward with 3 Councillors.

# Housing

The Local Planning Authority (Eden District Council) controls housing development against planning policies with the Parish Council asked to comment on all proposals on behalf of the local community. The Parish Council is also asked to comment on policy changes and as such can influence the shape and content of local development policies and plans.

Concurrent with the surveys significant changes were taking place with new housing developments restricted to urban locations. Consequently the surveys took place against a scene of rapidly rising prices. The survey identified 17 households from which 19 members of the family had moved because they could not afford to buy or rent a house locally. 8 households indicated that these family members would like to return if cheaper housing was available. Additionally, 15 individuals were living at home because they could not find alternative accommodation and a further 19 individuals were seeking alternative accommodation; 7 were registered with Eden Housing Association. 3 individuals sought weekly rents of between £60 and £80. 8 people/families sought houses/bungalows to buy at prices between £90,000 and £170,000.

The survey identified variations in village character; Skirwith valuing its conservation status with Blencarn and Kirkland seeking protection of existing village characteristics, whereas at Culgaith there was support for sympathetic future development and especially provision of affordable housing. In all villages there was a strong desire that all developments to be closely scrutinised and controlled.

*Blencarn*

It is therefore recommended that:

- The Parish Council work in partnership with Eden Housing Association to identify ways and means of meeting the need for affordable housing both to rent and to buy.
- The Parish Council advises Eden District Council of the need for affordable housing and identifies potential development sites for inclusion in evolving Local Development Plans.
- Culgaith be treated as the prime target for affordable housing – the village having a school and more potential for developing sustainable new facilities and services.
- All future developments be closely scrutinised against the strong desire to protect existing village characteristics.
- The Local Planning Authority is encouraged to enforce planning conditions.

*Skirwith High Street*

# Transport

The transport needs survey utilised questions suggested by consultants to the Countryside Agency. The aim was to identify principle travel arrangements and to establish areas of need.

Penrith was by far the prime location for main (251) and local shopping (106) with Carlisle (48) and Langwathby (72) the second preferences respectively. Similarly, Penrith was the main travel location for most journeys; the notable exceptions being Temple Sowerby (190) for visits to the doctor and Langwathby (111) for visits to the Post Office. Also notable was the low numbers travelling to Appleby for any requirement.

As to be expected the result confirmed that the large majority (324) were car drivers with 29 being non-drivers. Alternative means of transport included motorcycles (10) and bicycles (76). 41 indicated use of the Fellrunner Village Bus service with 59 making comments on the service including need for a more frequent service (26) and timetables to be available to all homes (11). Pleasingly, 8 people indicated a willingness to join the team of volunteer drivers. With no other public transport servicing the parish, the survey sought to identify likely uptake if the authorities could be convinced to reopen Culgaith Railway Station.

*The Fellrunner Bus*

249 indicated a willingness to board trains at Culgaith; 214 occasionally, 28 weekly and 6 daily. Some respondents identified a need for appropriate car parking.

There was no significant grouping of other transport comments/needs (54) other than a general wish for improvements to all types of public transport.

The survey sought to identify the scale of mobility access to transport needs. 19 responses indicated some form of disability all relating to difficulty with walking; 3 using wheelchairs.

The survey addressed existing use and likely uptake of formal and informal car share schemes. 17 people took part in informal car share schemes with a further 29 willing to offer lifts either on a regular or infrequent basis primarily to and from Penrith (or other places of work). 4 already took part in the existing voluntary car scheme as passengers with a further 27 willing act as volunteer drivers, and 33 as potential passengers.

26 people identified a transport need; Penrith (16) Carlisle (4), both at various times, with a further 6 indicating a wish to use public transport more often.

Based on information gained from the interim survey the Parish Council worked in partnership to seek funding for a new bus and expansion of services and routes provided by the Fellrunner Village Bus Company. The partnership included Voluntary Action Cumbria, Cumbria County Council, the Fellrunner Village Bus Company and the Parish Councils at Ousby, Langwathby and Ainstable. Successful funding was secured and the new bus and services were launched in June 2004.

It is recommended that:

- The Parish Council appraise Cumbria County Council of the potential support for and use of voluntary community car schemes. The Steering Group especially wishes to ensure that future developments, if any, do not compromise existing voluntary transport schemes and especially the Fellrunner Bus Services.
- The Parish Council continues to support and work in partnership with the Fellrunner Village Bus Company to further develop services to meet identified needs and to improve general knowledge of existing routine timetables and other services.
- The Parish council advises Cumbria County Council and the Friends of the Settle Carlisle Railway of the community wish to reopen Culgaith Railway Station with available car parking for potential users.
- The Parish Council advises Cumbria County Council of the wish for enhanced access to public transport.

## Highways and Footpaths

With the exception of the B6412 road that routes through much of the village of Culgaith, the rest of the parish is served by unclassified narrow rural roads. The B6412 also acts as a 'rat run' for vehicles and especially HGVs wishing to link between the A66 and A686 particularly when there are traffic delays. In winter the B6412 is the only road to receive regular gritting – the route being priority 2 on the County Council schedule; all other roads are priority 3 and receive treatment when funds and time permit.

Respondents identified speeding traffic (99), HGVs (53), damage to road verges (44) and inappropriate parking (44) as principle concerns. Winter road maintenance was addressed separately. 20 thought that work should be locally contracted with 11 suggested a need more grit bins. Various comments were made suggesting a need for residents to grit near to homes and problem areas. 200 would not wish to pay more for improved services with comments making adverse comment when comparing perceived levels of service in rural areas to towns.

22 thought the parish footpath network required better maintenance. 27 comments related to inappropriate parking and parking needs.

*Culgaith*

It is recommended that:

- The Parish Council asks the Cumbria Safety Partnership to undertake random speed checks where speeding traffic is a problem.
- The Parish Council works with Cumbria County Council to find ways and means of restricting use of local roads by HGVs (especially The Pea, Culgaith)
- The Parish Council encourages residents through repeat reminders in newsletters of the need for neighbourly parking.
- The Parish Council pursues and completes the proposed parking scheme on the Flodder.
- The Parish Council encourages residents and especially local farmers to protect local verges.
- The Parish Council continues efforts to convince Cumbria County Council to add the road near to Culgaith Primary School to the priority gritting programme.
- The Parish Council considers reintroducing a footpaths sub committee to oversee regular inspection of and reporting problems associated with the parish path network.
- The Parish Council reviews the siting of the grit bins and where necessary to provide additional bins to aid more self-help.

*Stile at St. Lawrence's, Kirkland*

## Environment

The Parish Council protects and maintains the village greens in each of the four villages – a total approaching 14 acres and significantly more than most parishes. A balance has to be struck between the varying needs across the parish with some asking that for regular grass cutting and others asking that wild life be protected through minimum maintenance. Others ask for all village greens to be fully available for a range of recreational pursuits. In a like manner some ask for minimum light pollution through streetlights, whereas others seek good lighting for safety and security needs.

The timing of the survey coincided with the Eden District Council announcement of revised refuse and recycling arrangements. Refuse collection would be limited to "two blue bags" per household. Additionally, residents in Culgaith (but not Skirwith, Blencarn and Kirkland) would receive Green Wheelie bins for collection of garden rubbish and boxes for roadside collection of paper for recycling. Local recycling centres are provided at Culgaith, Skirwith and Blencarn with derived income used to benefit the respective Village Hall.

The survey invited respondents to identify satisfaction or otherwise with a range of environmental matters.

*Skirwith Village Green*

The majority (579 to 109 comments) were satisfied with the upkeep of the Village Greens with roughly equal numbers stating quite opposing views e.g. cut more regularly or cut less often. 12 specifically asked for the Tarn, Culgaith to be returned to grazing whereas 3 asked for the fence to be removed and the area used as a village green/community activity area. 28 comments related to parking of cars on the Flodder, Culgaith with comments generally supportive of the Parish Council plan to regularise the situation. 272 (compared to 71 in favour) would not wish to pay more to improve upkeep of the greens.

Looking at specific headings:

- The vast majority (312) used the local recycling centres with only 36 saying No.
- 40 would support a plastic recycling scheme.
- 23 wanted the recycling centres emptying more frequently.
- 8 wanted a doorstep recycling collection scheme.
- 27 complained about the standard of street cleaning.
- Farm dirt on roads and damage to verges was specifically mentioned.
- 25 required more lighting with 9 asking for better maintenance. 8 wanted less or no lights (mainly Blencarn and Skirwith).
- Litter – 13 complained at roadside litter.
- Fly tipping along with fears of an increase consequent to revised rubbish collections was a worry to some.
- Dogs. Fouling was a problem across the parish with identified needs for more bins, notices, education and fines for owners.
- Street lighting was reported to be regularly defective.

*Crossfell in Winter*

As a result of early analysis an embryo partnership was formed with Eden Community Recycling Company to review ways of providing plastic recycling services to the Parish. The Parish Council agreed to allocate £500 towards the purchase of a facility (£1,300) and supporting funds (£300) were granted by the Neighbourhood Forum. Eden District Council was unable to support the project.

It is recommended that:

- The Parish Council advise Eden District Council of the need to improve the maintenance of the services – the common complain being infrequent emptying. A review of the bin numbers and types was also required; plastic recycling facilities being required by many and clothing bins of questionable need.
- The Parish Council establish with Eden District Council the inspection periodicity of streetlights with the aim of providing a better maintained service.
- The Parish Council to consider with Eden District Council ways and means of improving the education of dog owners and thus minimising the nuisance of dog fouling.
- The Parish Council liases with local farmers to minimise the nuisance of waste black plastic materials.
- The Parish Council continue existing maintenance and grass cutting plans for village greens.
- The Parish Council pursues and completes the proposed parking scheme for the Flodder.
- The Parish Council reviews and produces an acceptable long term maintenance plan for the Tarn, Culgaith

*Footbridge at Blencarn Lake*

## Communication

A recurring theme throughout the surveys was a reported lack of knowledge of parish facilities, opportunities and events. The survey – especially the work within the steering group - highlighted opportunities and benefits of partnership work with other agencies.

Respondents were specifically asked to indicate support for introduction of Broadband access to Internet facilities. Support was significant in both the general (129) and business (12) surveys and subsequently British Telecom has advised that such services will be available when the Culgaith Exchange is upgraded during November 2004.

It is recommended that:

- The Parish Council considers supporting the introduction of an annually produced information booklet for distribution to every household and business within the parish.

- The Parish Council continues to support the local Memo Newsletter including production of regular inserts and reports on matters of interest.
- Parish Council meeting reports continue to be published in the Herald newspaper.
- The Parish Council considers ways and means of attracting more public attendance at Parish Council meetings, and especially the involvement by young people.
- The Parish Council continues the existing partnerships with external members of the Steering Group (Eden Housing Association, Eden Youth Work Partnership and Voluntary Action Cumbria). Consideration should also be given to joint involvement and action with other potential partners including the Penrith Market Town Initiative, neighbouring Parishes, District and County Councils.

*Culgaith Station*

## Business

The Steering Group identified a lack of knowledge of the business base of companies and individuals working within the parish. A survey form was devised to fill this gap in information and to establish if and how the Parish Council might best support local businesses. As part of the general survey questions were included to establish the likely level of support for local shops and post offices. The business survey was completed by 39 businesses with farming (16) the top category. 28 businesses identified as operating within the turnover band with the majority falling in the £10 - £500k band. One was identified with turnover in excess of £1 million. Local employment opportunities within the parish included 52 full time posts and 30 part-time posts; of these parishioners filled 21 full time and 11 part time posts. There were 3 seasonal part time posts.

23 respondents saw their businesses staying roughly the same. Growth was forecast by 8 businesses (average 70% growth). 2 forecast reductions – one by 33% and another due to retirement. Barriers to achieving forecast plans included loss of Blencarn Post Office, lack of workshop/Storage space, lack of affordable housing for staff, signage on the A66 and the poor telephone system. Suggested help from the Parish Council included:

- Ensuring arrival of Broadband (3)
- Liasing with District and County Councils for the good of the parish and provision of support and encouragement when needed.
- Provision of information re funding and other opportunities.
- Help with securing improved telecommunications. This was a significant problem to one business – the 5 digit numbers being the principle matter with numbers sometimes being unavailable to callers.
- Housing.
- Re-opening Culgaith Station – which was suggested could create extra employment opportunities.

When looking at provision of new facilities 284 would support a local shop if started – 92 identifying a need in Culgaith and 38 in Skirwith. 77 would support or help run a community shop. Suggested locations were Culgaith Village Hall/Community Centre (28) or the Black Swan Inn (11) and Hazledene Nursery (7). 24 used the mobile Post Office Bus. Reasons for not using it included inconvenient time (20) lack of knowledge (20) or more convenient use of other locations. Suggested locations for a post office facility in Culgaith were primarily the Black Swan Inn (16) and the Village Hall/Community Centre (15). Blencarn Post Office was not known to exist by many respondents with 2 looking and not able to find it. It was also not on the appropriate route for travel – Langwathby being favoured by many respondents from Skirwith and Culgaith. Significant support (55) was identified for potential community shops – preferred locations being the existing village halls.

The Steering Group noted the differing perception and needs identified in the 4 villages. Culgaith was considered the only village with potential capacity to support a Shop or Post Office but the Steering Group recognised that many residents from all of the villages utilised services at Langwathby and questioned whether successful business could concurrently survive within both parishes.

It is recommended that:

- The Parish Council continues work with the Post Office to identify appropriate ways to improve services in Culgaith and Skirwith.
- The Parish council advises the Blencarn Post Office of the lack of knowledge of the facility.
- The Parish Council advises the Black Swan Inn, Hazledene Nursery and the Culgaith and Skirwith Village Hall Trustees of suggestions that they provide potential locations for a shop, community shop and Post Office.
- The Parish Council seek help from Voluntary Action Cumbria to explore possibilities for promoting and providing increased shopping facilities.
- The Parish Council considers the production of a business directory for parish businesses. This might form part of the suggested Parish Information booklet.
- The Parish council reviews ways of communicating with businesses to pass on funding opportunities and other appropriate information.

*Hazel Dene Nursery*

## Community facilities.

Three Village Halls each serve the parish with discrete and independent management committees. In addition there is a Recreation Ground and associated management committee at Culgaith and a Children's Play committee at Skirwith. Each of these facilities receives occasional financial support from the Parish Council. The surveys invited comments on the need for additional facilities and opportunities. 86, 35 and 19 suggestions were offered for new activities and community facilities in the village halls at Culgaith, Skirwith and Blencarn respectively. A very broad array of ideas were submitted for each location with more social/leisure events (26) Yoga (22) Keep fit (21 and evening classes (17) being the most popular. A visit by a mobile cinema/film club (10) is perhaps an interesting idea that could easily be followed up. 38 indicated a willingness to get more involved with community activities and events with 269 saying No. 20 asked for either rebuilt or refurbished village halls at Culgaith and Skirwith.

Through the survey the Church Authorities sought to obtain views on potential alternative use of their places of worship.

119 thought that churches might be used for additional activities with 38 offering suggestions including Music Events/Concerts/Arts related activities (20). Some suggested coffee mornings/drop in centres and others highlighted the lack of toilet and other facilities.

*Blencarn Village Hall*

Chances were offered for respondents to advise of any needs for local education opportunities. 122 indicated a wish to take part and an array of suggestions on course topics was provided with Computer Training (46), Languages (21), Art/Craft/Painting (16) and various sports/fitness related opportunities (30) being the top choices. 9 individuals offered a mixture of skills to help with any local provision.

It is clear that the existing community centres – in the absence of other opportunities (e.g. community shop) – provide the potential social hub of each village and community. Many respondents recognised this and stated clear wishes for the centres to fully engage this commitment.

It is recommended that:

- The Parish Council works with Village Hall Committees to meet achievable and sustainable needs and suggestions and through these help to to develop improved social opportunities.
- The Parish Council advises Culgaith Recreation Ground Committee of the collected comments and suggestions and especially the concerns raised about safety and cleanliness of the swimming pool.
- The Parish Council advise the Church Authorities of the comments and suggestions concerning possible alternative use of Church premises.
- The Parish Council advises the Village Hall Committees and Education providers of identified needs and suggestions.

*Recreation Ground, Culgaith*

## Young People

The pilot survey clearly identified there to be a wide consensus on the need to increase the activities and support for young people of the Parish. Consequently within the general survey adults were asked about their potential support towards these needs and a separate survey questionnaire was produced for completion by young people. From the general survey 13 people identified a variety of skills or hobbies that they would share with young people. More importantly 21 individuals were willing to help with youth activities including cover for a variety of needs (clubs, arts, sports etc).

Analysis of the young people's survey revealed that many of the results matched those of the general survey with the lack of access to public transport and consequent reliance on family or friends for lifts to various needs heading the list of concerns. Similarly many wanted an increase in available local community facilities. Many expressed plans to leave the area to follow up career paths – some predicting probabilities to return to Cumbria later in life. As with their adult counterparts most used Penrith as their prime focus for activities with Carlisle a second choice; visits to Appleby were, as with the general survey, low.

*Play Area*

All but one felt the parish to be a very safe or fairly safe place in which to live. Only a small minority identified with problems associated with bullying, drugs, older people's attitudes and traffic. All but one felt that the local community viewed them either OK or better. One justified her response of the community having a high regard for young people by citing the proof being in the young people's survey itself.

A great deal of spare time activity was spent in and around homes. However, the responses identified an impressive range of sports or hobbies with no single or dominating activity.

Only 2 identified membership of a youth club.

Whilst "visiting friends" (14) was the majority individual activity a wide range of sports and outdoor activities featured in 61 responses. Cinema visits (10) was the next highest with arts related activities undertaken only by small numbers.

Remoteness, lack of transport and expense were prime barriers cited in the 23 responses to the question "*I would like to but cannot*". Lack of suitable locations (e.g. skateboarding, netball and rounders) and lack of youth activities and clubs also featured strongly.

Top items of "*Facilities I would like to see*" were Village Shop (13) Tennis Court (9) and Skate Park (8). Other responses included a Skate Park, Youth Club, Internet Café, Music Venue, Rugby Pitch, Ice Rink, and Bowling Alley etc. Two responses specifically mentioned the poor upkeep of the Culgaith pool and one at Skirwith sought a modernised Village Hall.

When responding to "*Do you plan to live and work in the village/Locally?*" answers were evenly divided (21:22) over working or living in the villages with a similar balance (13:14) for those who saw it being possible (13:14). Lack of jobs, career opportunities were the predominant reasons for seeking employment elsewhere. The ratio changed in favour of living and working locally (27:12) with (20:7) seeing it as being possible. A lack of job and career opportunities again featured as reasons for moving away. Most respondents did not expect to change their minds in future.

"*Two things that would make the village a better place*" produced 38 responses with 26 providing a second suggestion. Extra youth facilities and clubs featured as by far the top priority with 49 mentions, 12 of which related to provision of some form of youth club/group/events. A shop was the second priority (8) with Transport matters raised 7 times.

It is recommended that:

- The Parish Council follows up the Young People Survey quickly and to actively engage with the young people so supportive of the project.
- Given the identified need for additional facilities and clubs along with the identification of 21 volunteers willing to become involved, the Parish Council arranges an early open meeting to move youth matters forward.
- The Parish Council continues to work in partnership with the Eden Youth Work Partnership and its member youth organisations.

The Parish Council considers working in partnership with neighbouring communities as some of the identified needs might best be satisfied by joint action.

## Composition of Steering Group

| | Representing |
|---|---|
| Mrs Barbara Blenkinship | Parish Council and Blencarn and |
| | Kirkland Recreation Rooms |
| Mrs Jill Hay | Parish Council, Fellrunner Village |
| | Bus Compan, and Primary School |
| Rev Elaine Froggatt | Parish Council and Churches |
| Mrs Marylynne Winder | Parish Council |
| Mr Andrew Morton | Parish Council, Skirwith Social |
| | Institute and Commoners |
| Mrs Jenny Davies | Herself |
| Mr Mike Graham | Fellrunner Bus Village Bus |
| | Company |
| Mr David Witney | Culgaith Victoria Institute |
| Mr Alan Harryman | Culgaith Victoria Institute |
| Mr Paul Davies | Eden Housing Association |
| Ms Alison Ross | Eden Youth Work Partnership |
| Mrs Anna Scamans | Voluntary Action Cumbria |
| Ms Viv Lewis | Herself |
| Ms Kay Foster | Herself |
| Mr Derick Cotton | Parish Clerk and Co-ordinator |

KIRKLAND
THE BLACK SWAN

## The Action Plan

| *The Need* | *The Action* | *Priority* | *Partners* | *Timescale* | *Lead Agency* | *Resource Implications* | *Comments* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Housing:** There was a clear need for more affordable housing both to rent and to buy. | Partnership work be continued with Eden Housing Association to identify ways and means of meeting the need | Low<br><br>See note 1 | EDC, PC, Eden Housing Association, Cumbria Rural Housing Trust | Long term | PC | Will require time input from PC, possibly a working group. Funding requirement for the provision in the future. | In future reviews of the Parish Plan, there may be an opportunity to change the Lead Agency to the Eden Housing Association as they take on board our aspirations. |
| Potential development sites for affordable housing were needed. | Eden District Council to be advised and potential sites to be identified for inclusion in evolving Local Development Plans. | Low | EDC, PC | Medium Term | PC | Time input from the PC; possible resources needed for further consultation | The PC will need to think about working with residents on this |
| Affordable housing needed to be within sustainable communities. | Request agencies to treat Culgaith as the prime target for affordable housing – the village having a school and more potential for developing sustainable new facilities and services. | Low | EDC, PC, Eden Housing Association | Short Term | PC | Letter only | |
| Residents wished to protect existing village characteristics. | All future developments to be closely scrutinised against the strong desire to protect existing village characteristics. | High | PC, EDC | Ongoing | PC | Ongoing PC work; potential for a Village Design Statement in future? | Perhaps a working group of interested parties might be interested in producing a Village Design Statement for the settlements. |
| It was felt that planning conditions were not adequately enforced. | The Local Planning Authority to be encouraged to enforce planning conditions. | Medium | PC, EDC | Ongoing | PC | Time input from PC | |

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| **Transport:**<br>Significant numbers of potential supporters and users of voluntary car schemes were identified. | Cumbria County Council be appraised of this potential support.<br>(The Steering Group especially wishes to ensure that future developments, if any, do not compromise existing voluntary transport schemes and especially the Fellrunner Bus Services.) | Medium | PC, CCC, Fellrunner | Short term | PC | Letter only | |
| There was a lack of knowledge of existing bus services and wishes for changes to the services. | The Fellrunner Village Bus Company be encouraged and supported to further develop services to meet identified needs and to improve general knowledge of existing routine timetables and other services. | Medium | PC, Fellrunner | Medium term | PC | Time input from PC | |
| The community wish to see Culgaith Railway Station reopened with available car parking for potential users. | Cumbria County Council and the Friends of the Settle Carlisle Railway to be advised | Medium | PC, Friends of Settle Carlisle Railway, CCC | Long term | PC | Letter only | |
| The community wishes to see enhanced access to public transport. | Cumbria County Council be advised and asked to assist. | Medium | PC, CCC | Medium term | PC | Time input from PC | |
| **Highways and Footpaths:**<br>The community expressed concern over speeding traffic through villages. | Cumbria Safety Partnership to be asked to undertake random speed checks where speeding traffic is a problem. | High | PC, Cumbria Safety Partnership, Cumbria Constabulary | Short term | PC | Time input from PC; volunteer input from residents | |
| The community expressed concern at inappropriate use of local roads by HGVs | Cumbria County Council be asked to find ways and means of restricting use of local roads by HGVs especially transit via The Pea, Culgaith. | High | PC, CCC | Short term | PC | Time input from PC and support from residents | |
| The community complained about un-neighbourly parking | Residents to be encouraged through repeat reminders in newsletters of the need for neighbourly parking. | Medium | PC, newsletter, PCC | Short term | PC | Time input from PC and newsletter | |
| Residents asked for car parking on the Flodder to be tidied. Off road parking provision was considered essential. | The proposed parking scheme on the Flodder to be completed. | High | PC | Ongoing | PC | Time input from PC and funding for planning and build | |

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| Concerns were expressed over the damage to roadside verges | Residents and especially local farmers to be encouraged to protect local grass verges and only to drive on them when absolutely necessary. | Low | PC, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, CCC | Medium Term | PC | Time input from PC; volunteers, potential 'verges' project | |
| Concerns were raised over the lack of gritting near to the primary school | Effort to be made to convince Cumbria County Council of the community wish to add the road near to Culgaith Primary School to the gritting programme. | High | PC, CCC | Short term | PC | Letter only | |
| Some parish paths were found to be difficult to use. | A forum to be considered to oversee regular inspection of and reporting problems associated with the parish path network. | Medium | PC, East Cumbria Countryside Project | Medium term | PC | PC time, working group time, funding for footpaths work (figure unknown) | |
| Some residents required more grit bins to aid more self-help. | A review of the siting be undertaken and additional bins provided. | Medium | PC, CCC | Medium term | PC | PC time | |
| **Environment:** Residents complained that recycling centres were often full. | Eden District Council to be advised of the need to improve the maintenance of the services. | Medium | PC, EDC | Short term | PC | Letter only | |
| Residents asked for the recycling bin types to be reviewed. Plastic recycling was a significant need. Clothes recycling was not well supported. | A review of the recycling bin numbers and types be undertaken; plastic recycling facilities being required by many and clothing bins of questionable need. | Medium | PC, EDC | Medium term | PC | PC and/or working group time | |
| Street lights were reported to be defective for lengthy periods. | Eden District Council to be advised and asked to improve the inspection frequency of streetlights. | Medium | PC, EDC | Short term | PC | Letter only | |
| Dog fouling was of significant nuisance. | Eden District Council to be asked to advise on ways and means minimising the nuisance of dog fouling. | Medium | PC, EDC | Short term | PC | Letter and PC time | |

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| Waste black plastic was of concern. | Liaison with local farmers to be carried out to minimise the nuisance. | Low | PC, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Farm Plastics Recycling Scheme | Long term | PC | PC time | |
| Existing maintenance of village greens was supported with the exception of the parking situation at the Flodder, Culgaith | Existing maintenance and grass cutting plans for village greens be continued. | Low | PC | Ongoing | PC | PC time and ongoing funding of managemen t options | |
| Conflicting views were found concerning the use of the Tarn field. | A long-term maintenance plan be developed for the Tarn, Culgaith that is acceptable to the majority of Culgaith residents. | Medium | PC | Long term | PC | PC time, working group time, potentially funding needed for managemen t options | |
| **Communication:**<br>Many residents felt poorly informed on village activities and opportunities. | 1. An annual information booklet to be produced for distribution to every household and business within the parish.<br>2. Parish Council meeting reports continue to be published in the Herald newspaper.<br>3. Meeting reports and other articles to be submitted for use by the Memo newsletter.<br>4. Ways and means of attracting more public attendance at Parish Council meetings be considered, and especially means of increasing the involvement by young people. | High<br><br>High<br><br>High<br><br>High | PC, Newsletter<br><br>PC, Newsletter<br><br>PC, Newsletter<br><br>PC and EYWP | Medium term | PC | PC time, working group, potential funding for village activities, funding for information booklet<br><br>PC time | |

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| Significant value had been experienced through working with external partners. This partnership approach must continue. | 1. Existing partnerships be continued with external members of the Steering Group (Eden Housing Association, Eden Youth Work Partnership and Voluntary Action Cumbria).<br>2. Consideration to be given to joint involvement and action with other potential partners including the Penrith Market Town Initiative, neighbouring Parishes, District and County Councils. | Medium<br><br>Medium | PC, EHA, EYWP, VAC, Penrith MTI, EDC, CCC | Ongoing | PC | PC time, working group input | |
| **Business:**<br>A need was identified for improved post office services at Culgaith and Skirwith | Work to be continued with the Post Office to identify appropriate ways to improve services in Culgaith and Skirwith. | Medium | PC, Post Office Limited, VAC | Medium term | PC | PC time, potentially funding need for improvements | |
| Many respondents did not know of the Post Office at Blencarn. | Blencarn Post Office to be appraised of the lack of knowledge of the facility and its location. | Low | PC | Short term | PC | Letter only | |
| Various locations were suggested as possible sites for a Post Office at Culgaith. | The Black Swan Inn, Hazledene Nursery and the Culgaith and Skirwith Village Hall Trustees to be appraised of suggestions that they provide potential locations for a shop, community shop and Post Office. | Low | PC | Short term | PC | Letter or meeting only | |
| Many – especially young people – identified a need for a local shop. | Help to be sought from Voluntary Action Cumbria to explore possibilities for promoting and providing increased shopping facilities. | Low | PC, VAC, Penrith MTI | Medium term | PC | PC time, working group input, funding required for improvements and promotion | I've put Penrith MTI in this one, as they are working on a Marketing Strategy for the area, which fits in with the promotion side of things. |

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| The surveys identified a significant and previously unmeasured business base within the parish | Consideration to be given to the production of a business directory for parish businesses. This might form part of the suggested Parish Information booklet. | High | PC | Medium term | PC | PC time, booklet production | |
| Businesses sought improved communication and support from the Parish Council. | A review to be undertaken of ways of communicating with businesses to pass on funding opportunities and other appropriate information. | Medium | PC | Medium term | PC | PC time, potential funding requirement for actions arising from review | |
| **Community facilities:** The surveys identified a wide variety of needs for improved social activities and opportunities. | Work to be undertaken to consider ways and means of meeting the many suggestions to develop improved social activities and opportunities. | High | PC Village Hall Committees | Medium term | PC | PC time, funding for activities. | Use identified volunteers |
| Comments and suggestions were offered about the Culgaith Recreation Ground and especially the concerns raised about safety and cleanliness of the swimming pool. | Culgaith Recreation Ground Committee to be appraised of the comments. | High | PC, Culgaith Recreation Ground Committee | Short term | PC | Letter only | |
| Comments and suggestions concerning possible alternative use of Church premises were collected. | The Church Authorities to be appraised of the findings. | Medium | PC, Parochial Church Council | Short term | PC | Letter only | |
| A wide variety of local educational needs were identified. | Village Hall Committees and Education providers to be appraised of identified educational needs and suggestions. | Medium | PC, Village Hall Committee Local Education providers | Short term | PC | Letter only | |

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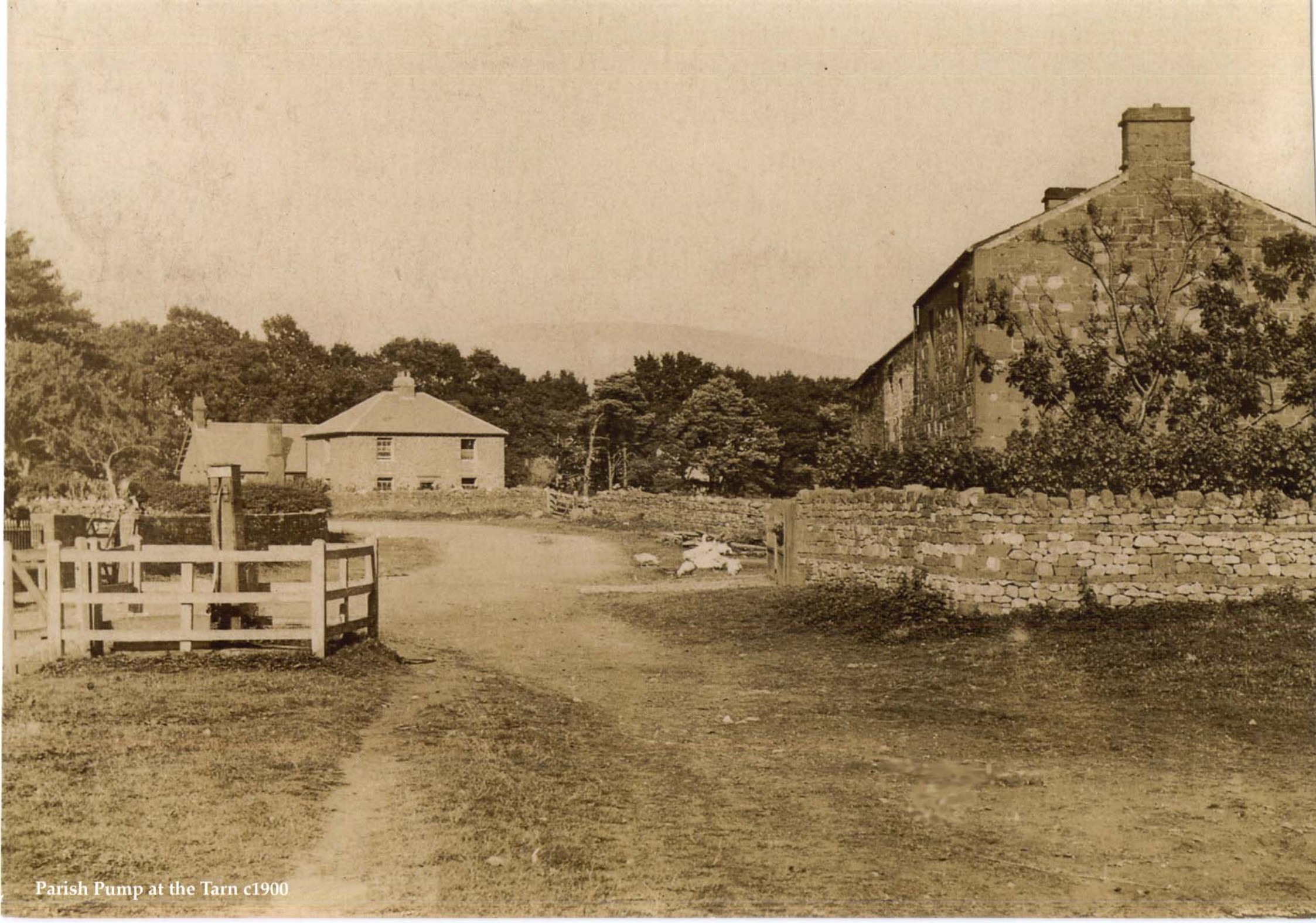
| **Young People:**<br>Young people identified a wide array of potential needs. | 1. The findings of the Young People Survey be quickly followed up and work initiated to actively engage with the young people so supportive of the project.<br>2. Partnership work be continued with the Eden Youth Work Partnership and its member youth organisations.<br>3. Partnership with neighbouring communities be considered given that some of the identified needs might best be satisfied by joint action.<br>4. An early open meeting to move youth matters forward and especially to engage with the 21 volunteers willing to become involved with youth needs. | High<br>High<br>High<br>High | PC, EYWP, Other PCs/communities | Short term | PC | PC time, working group input, funding requirement for actions identified | Use identified volunteers. |

Note:

1. Although provision of Affordable Housing is a high priority need, no immediate action is possible at this time and until the Eden District Planning Policy is significantly revised. Hence associated actions are at this stage given only a low priority for action.

We wish to acknowledge:
The funding and support provided by the Countryside Agency
The funding and support provided by Culgaith Parish Council
The advice and assistance provided by Voluntary Action Cumbria
The support of Eden Housing Association
The support of Eden Youth Work Partnership
The support and commitment of the Steering Group.
And especially the support of the many residents who completed the questionnaires.



Parish Pump at the Tarn c1900