

VRLP002772 NW

PARISH OF CUMWHITTON

PARISH PLAN

SPRING 2004

COUNTRYSIDE AGENCY
20 OCT 2004
HAWSWATER ROAD
PENRITH
CUMBRIA CA11 7EH

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PARISH OF CUMWHITTON

We acknowledge the financial support given to this project by the Countryside Agency through its 'Vital Villages' Scheme. Without this help the plan would not have got off the ground.

The assistance of the team from Voluntary Action Cumbria was also greatly appreciated.

Finally, we thank the many parishioners who have contributed their thoughts and ideas towards this plan.

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION TO THE PARISH PLAN

There is a government initiative to improve the quality of life of those who live in rural areas. Through the Countryside Agency and its 'Vital Villages' scheme the government aims to support rural communities to take stock of their parish, identify what they need and ensure local people have a voice in their future and make their own decisions about local improvements.

The Parish Plan aims to obtain local views on environment, social, transport and housing needs and to prepare plans for the development of the parish in line with these views.

METHOD

Cumwhitton Parish Council agreed to ask for the help of Voluntary Action Cumbria (VAC) through the Countryside Agency to develop a Parish Plan.

A group of parishioners representing different aspects of the community were brought together to form a working group. This group decided to obtain the views of all the parishioners by way of a questionnaire. The questions were wide ranging and allowed for individual responses on the most important subjects. Both closed and open questions based on software provided by VAC were included. The closed questions could be analysed directly by the computer and the open questions assessed individually before being included in the overall analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Each residence was visited and the questionnaires were given to residents personally when that was possible. Two weeks later they were collected in a sealed envelope. The replies were anonymous and unidentifiable.

Analysis was carried out over a period of two months after which time the results were presented to the parishioners at an open meeting held towards the end of November 2003.

Responses were obtained from 206 (75%) of residents and 74 (68%) of householders.

INTRODUCTION

The following headings are an attempt to highlight the most important features that the questionnaire has produced. Identifying such features is of little point unless action is taken to rectify them. Some of these factors such as roads, transport, communications and the Parish Hall are the responsibility of the Parish Council and it will be prevailed upon to respond. Others, for example, youth and children's activities, social, educational and recreational opportunities are not really in the remit of the Parish Council. It is suggested therefore that another group (without the legal and other restraints of the Parish Council) should be formed to take on these aspects of development in the parish. This could be called the 'Community Partnership' and could bring together and co-ordinate all the resources in the parish to develop these recreational and other services.

A separate heading under Community Partnership, takes this idea further.

'Action Plans' are included which are suggestions as to the way forward but they are not written in stone and are open to discussion. However, not everything is possible and it would be wrong to raise expectations beyond that which can be achieved.

The priorities for action decided by the parishioners are as follows:-

- Facilities for young people
- Planning and environment
- Parish Hall refurbishment
- Communications
- Leisure, education and sporting facilities
- Transport and highways
- Local heritage

INTRODUCTION

The first stage is to create a plan, the second is to implement the proposals put forward.

The response to the questionnaire was fantastic. All we need now is the help and support of those who responded so enthusiastically to make things happen for the benefit of everyone in Cumwhiton Parish.

A summary of the findings of the questionnaire has been circulated to every household in the parish. However, should anyone wish to see the results in more detail, they may be obtained from any member of the working group.

The Parish Plan Working Group:

Tony Brown
Tony Fenton
Ian Macfadyen
Raymond Potter
Jenny Robley
Martin Rook
Tracy Watt

Elaine Watson and Leah Cameron acted as clerk.

We should like to acknowledge the help of John Hinchliff and Deirdre Brown in the production of this plan.

THE PARISH

"Cumwhitton Parish lies on the east side of the River Eden and is bounded on the north by Great Corby, on the south by Leath ward, on the east by Cumrew and Carlatton and on the west by the above named river."

"...the soil is light and stony, producing barley, oats, a little wheat and excellent potatoes. The climate is cold but invigorating and healthy."

"...formerly on the village green were two artificial mounds which had been used as butts when the stout yeomen of Cumberland prided themselves upon their skill in archery."

Extracted from 'the
Directory of East
Cumberland'
T F Bulmer. 1884

The Parish of Cumwhitton lies to the east of the River Eden and this river acts as it's boundary between Brocklewath in the north and Holmwrangle in the south. The Cairn Beck is the border of the northwest aspect of the parish and it flows from Hazelgill to the most northerly point at Cairn Bridge. The north easterly and south westerly borders wind in a largely random manner between these points.

The parish is rural and the main industry is agriculture and related businesses. In recent years the number employed in agriculture has declined but there has been a considerable increase in those who live in the area but work in Carlisle and surrounding areas.

The largest centre of population is the village of Cumwhitton with smaller residential areas in Hornsby and Moorthwaite.

The 1991 census (the 2001 results are not available) showed that there were 132 residences and 261 adults in the parish. This has increased as a result of new building in Cumwhitton and Hornsby and the conversion of some agricultural buildings for residential use elsewhere in the parish.

The village has the attractive and ancient Church of St Mary's, a Parish Hall that is over 100 years old and a thriving pub 'The Pheasant Inn'. Sadly the village shop and post office closed several years ago.

There is an irregular and largely inconvenient bus service and most people travel by car, bicycle and foot.

THE PARISH

"I like everything about living in this area..."

"I think the preservation of our unique cultural and historic sites should form a major part of any Parish Plan..."

Parish Questionnaire
2003

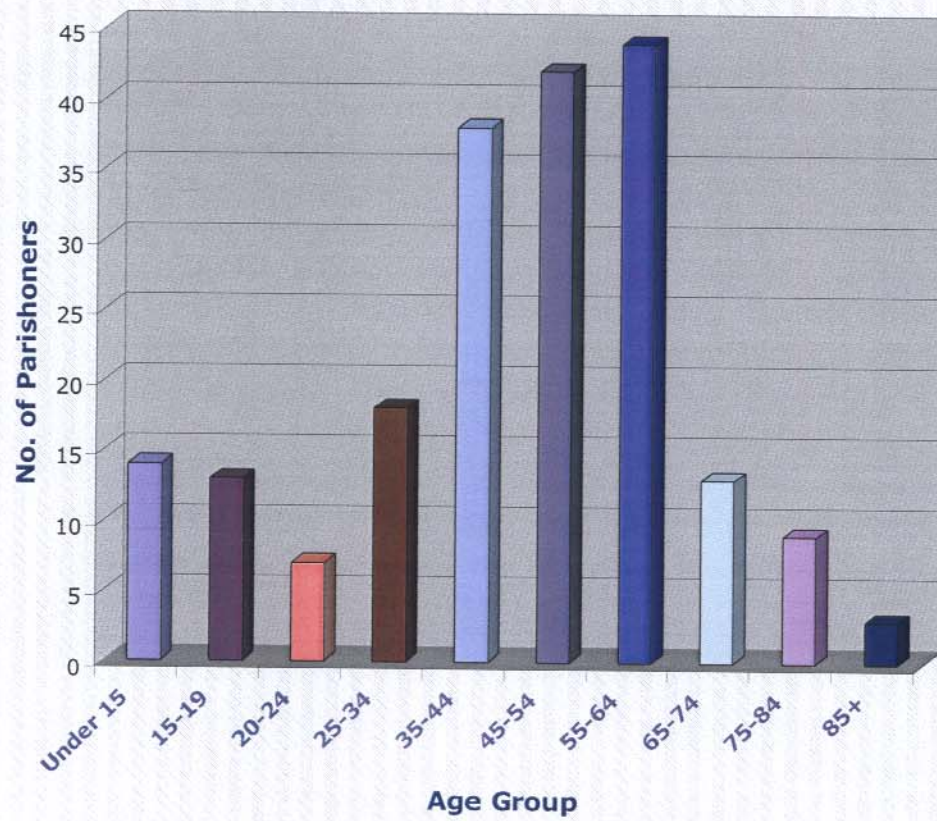
"The villages that lie in the Eden valley include a few which are more like fell side villages. Cumwhitton is one of these. It's red sandstone houses and farms would seem to breed good darts players if the number of certificates hanging in the 'Red Lion' are anything to go by..."

'Cumbrian Villages'
Kenneth Smith. 1973

In those households that responded to the questionnaire the age groups of the occupants show that the major number of parishioners are in the 25 to 65 group but with a significant number of young people. The older people are an important minority in the community. Figure 1 shows this more clearly.

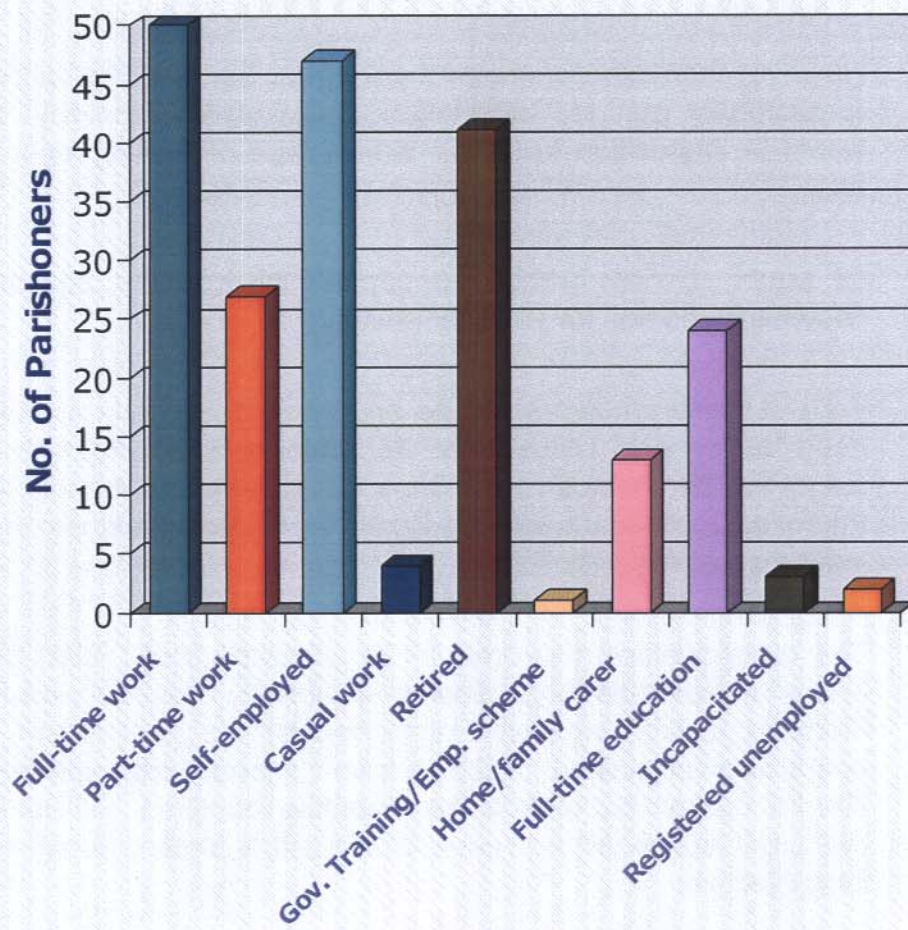
Employment in the parish is high with the great majority self employed or in full or part-time work. The number of retired people and those in full time education reflects the age groups in the parish. A small but valuable number are those who have a full time occupation looking after home and family. These results are shown in figure 2.

Fig. 1 AGE GROUP



November 2003

Fig. 2. EMPLOYMENT STATUS



November 2003

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

A great majority of those who responded to questions on the environment enjoy living in the area because of the rural atmosphere, the attractive scenery and the tranquillity of the parish.

However there was some concern about the new residential building (presumably that in Cumwhitton and possibly Hornsby) and there would be opposition to further similar type of development within the area.

Of equal concern within the community was the absence of low cost/starter homes for younger adults.

Both of these problems can be approached by firstly establishing the need for low cost houses and determining those areas which are at risk of further development. Once this knowledge is available the City Planning Department and the Cumbria Housing Trust can be involved in future residential building.

The questionnaire also brought up concerns about litter, dog fouling and anti social and illegal tipping of rubbish. Voluntary clearing up of roadside rubbish was well supported by the parishioners and only needs to be organised. Rubbish from old landfill sites will require more effort to remove but these sites should be identified. Co-operation with the City Council will be required and extra funding found to achieve this objective.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

Recycling was mentioned by many who responded and again the City Council would need to be approached for skips and the necessary funding to provide and service them.

Some concern was expressed about the poor state of some of the hedgerows. It was suggested that a plan for tree planting in hedgerows over the next 5 years would produce a substantial improvement. Undoubtedly this would cost money but there appears to be grants available for this task which have been applied for successfully in other parts of the country.

Comments have been made quite correctly about the use or misuse of public funds in attempts to maintain areas of special scientific interest within the parish. It is suggested that a group of interested parishioners be formed to establish links with these bodies and co-ordinate the management of these sites. This should not require funding!

ACTION PLAN – PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT

Action	Method	Priority	Partners	Time Scale	Leader	Cost
Define need for low cost Starter homes	Carry out formal survey to establish accurate need	High	Cumbria Rural Housing Trust	1 year	Parish Council	Nil
Preservation/ Protection of current surroundings	Establish and define boundaries for areas considered at risk	Medium	City Planning Department	2 Years	Parish Council	Nil
Clean up litter	Establish volunteer group. Obtain sacks, pickers, gloves etc	High	City Council	Ongoing	Parish Council	Nil
Removal of old fly tip rubbish	Liaise with Landowners and Countryside Agency. Remove to landfill site	Medium	City Council Countryside Agency DEFRA	2 Years	Parish Council	Nil
Recycling facility	Carry out formal survey to establish need	High	DEFRA City Council ?	Ongoing	Parish Council	Nil
Tree planting of verges	Establish plan to replace trees in hedgerows	Medium	The Tree Council English Nature DEFRA	5 Years	Parish Council	10% Parish Budget
Improved Traffic and Directional Signs	Lobby Highways Dept.	High	City Council Highways Dept.	2 Years	Parish Council	10% Parish Budget
Conservation of Cumwhitton /Moorthwaite Mosses and other wildlife habitat	Identify key areas, prepare conservation plan for development and maintenance	Medium	English Nature Environment Agency DEFRA	Ongoing	Parish Council	Nil

THE PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall

The Parish Hall is a solidly built single storey building over 100 years old. It contains a single large hall, kitchen and toilet facilities. The last upgrading of the hall was carried out 25 years ago, since when the condition of the hall has deteriorated. In particular the toilets are now of a poor standard. Recent investigations have shown that the ceiling is in a dangerous condition.

Over the years the hall has been used by playgroups, W.I. Young Farmers, Parish Council, Luncheon Club and for private functions. However, recently its use has declined and it is now used perhaps four or five times a month.

The cost to the parish in insurance, water maintenance and electricity is now approximately £1200 per annum and has become a burden to the community.

The Parish Plan shows clearly that there is a demand for the hall for social and educational functions. There were over 300 positive responses from the parishioners who said they would support functions in a refurbished hall.

Young parishioners need a centre for gathering after school and during the holidays – at present the hall is not suitable for this function.

The development of activities for older residents, such as afternoon clubs etc. would also be enhanced by a redeveloped and upgraded hall.

THE PARISH HALL

The building is Victorian and is struggling to provide services for the 21st century. It is in need of total upgrading in order to serve the community and its current needs.

Therefore it is proposed that additional support be given to the Parish Hall Committee to oversee the development of the hall. Based on the results of the questionnaire the group would draw up a list of the priorities. It would apply for funds for an initial assessment of the structural changes required to make it more attractive and usable for all parishioners.

Once the proposed costings have been obtained these would be brought back to the Parish Council who would invite residents in the parish to an open meeting to discuss these future developments.

No major funds, except for maintenance and running costs, should be spent on the hall until members of the parish have had an opportunity to give an opinion on these future proposals.

The Parish Hall

ACTION PLAN – PARISH HALL

PHC – Augmented Parish Hall Committee

Action	Method	Priority	Partners	Time Scale	Leader	Cost
Establish a working party	Group formed which would have a rep. From the P.C. (PHC)	Top	W.I./ Church/ Community Partnership	Immediate	Parish Council	Nil
Assess requirements for hall report	Through Parish Plan Questionnaire	Urgent		Immediate	Parish Plan	Nil
Apply for funding for initial assessment of the building	Contact VAC and other funding agencies	Soon	VAC? CALC	Three months from outset	Parish Hall Committee	Minimal
Examine other Parish Halls / New Halls	Visit halls in Cumbria	Soon	VAC?	Within same three months	Parish Hall Committee	Travel costs
Get professional advice re. Structure / alterations	Contact appropriate Architects	Soon	?	Six months from onset	Parish Hall Committee	?£100's
Write a report based on the above	Produce a report on the above	Soon		Nine months from onset	Parish Hall Committee	Printing & Professional
Raise funds		Ongoing	P.O. / C.C.C.	Twelve-twenty-four months	Parish Council / Parish Hall Committee	?

PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PARISH

Play Area

"facilities for young and teenagers are generally lacking although with a small parish it will be necessary to travel...consider co-operation with other small parishes..."

"...there is nowhere for us children to play and it would be nice to have a shop..."

Parish Questionnaire 2003

The questionnaire highlighted strong demand for facilities for the growing band of children and young people in the parish. Currently there are no resources or provision for this sector of our community.

It has been suggested that all the young people in the parish be invited to a meeting in order to find out exactly what facilities they would like. In the meantime, the working group have looked at the three main ideas taken from the questionnaire.

➤A Play Area

Parishioners asked for somewhere for children and young people to play. It was felt important that this was to be more than just a few swings and a slide. It was stressed that we need an area where children can play football, rounders and cricket. Not only the children would benefit – we could even put together a village/pub football or cricket team if we have the space!

A suitable piece of land needs to be acquired – either purchased or leased and then we can begin to look at developing this idea.

We will need to form a group of interested parishioners to oversee this project. This group, together with the Community Partnership, would be responsible for liaising between the various agencies involved in the purchase or lease of the land and would take on the task of sourcing grants to fund the project. There is a lot of money available from numerous charities, agencies and associations.

PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE PARISH

"...it seems like no-one cares about kids..."

"...take the bus shelter down..."

"...children often go to different schools. No central area for them to meet..."

Parish Questionnaire 2003

➤ **A Youth Club**

A weekly Youth Group has been suggested. If this was a success it could be extended to school holiday periods to provide daytime 'drop in' sessions.

If this were opened up to children in neighbouring parishes it might make it more financially viable. If we could make this attractive enough to a reasonable number of young people then there would be a possibility of employing a Youth Leader who could be helped by parents on a rota basis.

This project would need a committee with an official 'constitution' to set it up and run it. This committee would have the responsibility for deciding on a venue, gaining equipment grants and the general running of the club/group. Again, there is a huge amount of money available in terms of grants for equipment and support.

➤ **Mother and Toddler Group**

A small demand was highlighted in the survey and our first step towards this would be to establish whether there is a need within our community or if there is sufficient provision in the surrounding villages. This could be done through further consultation with parishioners.

ACTION PLAN – PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Action	Method	Priority	Partners	Time Scale	Leader	Cost
Play Area	■ Steering Group to be formed ■ Secure piece of land (either buy or rent) ■ Investigate grants ■ Open meeting for all young people to listen to ideas	High	■ P.C. and Community Partnership/ ■ Steering Group ■ Land owner ■ VAC	12-18 months	Parish Council, Community Partnership and Steering Group	■ Rent or purchase price of land ■ Solicitor's fees ■ Equipment costs
Youth Club	■ Form a Steering Group ■ Decide venue ■ Contact youth agencies: Cumbria Youth Service ■ Liaise with other parishes ■ Investigate grants ■ Appoint a paid Youth Leader who would work with parents on a rota basis ■ Open meeting for all young people to listen to ideas	Medium/ High	■ P.C./ ■ Steering Group ■ Cumbria Youth Service ■ VAC	12-18 months	Parish Council, Community Partnership and Steering Group	■ Equipment costs ■ Cost of employing a Youth Leader ■ Hire of venue
Daytime/ Holiday Youth Club	As above	Medium/ High	As above	12-18 months	As above	As above
Mother & Toddler	■ Establish need: ■ Another questionnaire ? ■ Note in Parish Newsletter asking people to register ■ Support/offer help in forming a committee ■ Investigate grants	Medium	■ Committee ■ VAC	12 months (if a need is established)	?	?

LOCAL HERITAGE

Every parish, every village has its own history and heritage. Cumwhitton, which is a name derived from Norse origins, was probably established in the days after the Viking invasions in the 8th and 9th centuries. However little is recorded of its history and there has been little attempt to look into it.

Perhaps this is the time to do it. It is proposed that parishioners who may be interested should get together and form a local history group. This group could pursue different aspects of the past; the history of St Mary's Church; the origin of King Harry's Plantation; what are the 'standing stones'? Who was the Piper of Piper Wicket? And so on.

The group could have a newsletter, invite speakers, investigate the history with the Archives Department and local newspapers, eventually writing a local history pamphlet.

The only requirement is enthusiasm.

Would you believe that there is a 'Local History Initiative' which has funds to spare to support such a development!

ACTION PLAN – LOCAL HERITAGE

Action	Method	Priority	Partners	Time Scale	Leader	Cost
Develop Local History Group	■ Advertise ■ Await volunteers/interested parties ■ Monthly article in Newsletter ■ Invite speakers ■ Get advice on research methods ■ Write a local history pamphlet		■ Parishioners ■ Archives, local newspapers ■ Members of group			■ Nil

COMMUNICATIONS

The Questionnaire revealed that the majority of parishioners felt there was a lack of communication about events that occur in the parish. They felt that improved communications would result in increased participation in the community.

This is not a surprise. At the present time the Parish Council produces a Parish Newsletter and this will become a quarterly publication.

The Parish Council also has notice boards that are available for advertising local events.

It is suggested that the Parish Clerk keep a diary of the parish events to avoid clashing of dates and to help publicise events and that the use of local radio and newspapers be investigated.

A website has already been established. The address to contact is www.UKVillages.co.uk Typing in '**Cumwhitton**' will then open the door to all the news and views.

ACTION PLAN – COMMUNICATIONS

Action	Method	Priority	Partners	Time-scale	Leader	Cost
Quarterly or more Parish Newsletter	■ Set up by P.C. ■ Distribution by local division within parish	High All ready to go	■ W.I ■ Pub ■ Church ■ Existing Parish Magazine	Immediate	Parish Clerk	Minimum cost taken up by P.C.
Events Board – P.C. Notice Board keep specifically for events & future events. Other venues?	■ Central figure for reporting events ■ Parish Clerk?	High	■ P.C. or Community Partnership	Immediate	Parish Clerk	■?
Use local newspaperf or events e.g. Cumberland News	■ Monthly letter of events?	Medium/ High		Immediate	Parish Clerk	
Local Radio	■ Ad. Hoc					
Setting up web site	■ P.C. ■ Community Partnership	Medium	■ P.C./ Community Partnership	1-2 years	Parish Council, Community Partnership	■?

LEISURE, EDUCATION AND SPORT



The Questionnaire revealed that many parishioners would like to participate in locally organised social and educational groups and, in sporting/keep fit activities.

The suggestions include courses in computer training and local history and suggested activities included: keep fit, dancing classes, an indoor bowls team, sporting and football teams.



Whilst the Parish Hall is not presently suited or equipped for all of these facilities, a dance class started in January 2004 and a resident has volunteered to lead football training or keep fit classes. By coincidence, an art class is also starting in the village hall. A local history group is also being formed. Further resources are needed to progress further and a 'playing field' is still being sought.



Investigations into the most appropriate form of providing I.T. and/or other classes are underway. It is hoped that either a visiting I.T. bus could be arranged, or suitable premises could be arranged in partnership with neighbouring parishes. Other options may come to light following an appraisal of the village hall.

LEISURE, EDUCATION AND SPORT

Other facilities requested were: a local shop, a visiting fish and chip shop, a takeaway food service and a regular quiz night. A quiz night is currently held on the first Thursday of each month at the Pheasant Inn and help in writing questions would be welcome from any volunteers! Preliminary discussions have also been held over the possibility of providing a food takeaway service. A local shop presents greater difficulties at this stage.

Yet another suggestion made by residents in the questionnaire was improvement of the local footpaths. Following a survey by the Parish Council a report was presented to the East Cumbria Countryside Project and a plan for improvements to both the paths and signposts has been agreed, although restricted funds mean that work will be phased in over the next two or three years. It may be possible to offer guided walks along some of these paths in the future.

ACTION PLAN – LEISURE, EDUCATION AND SPORT

Action	Method	Priority	Partners	Time Scale	Leader	Cost
Dancing Classes	■ Ask D Fenton to undertake advertising and booking	High	■ Parish Hall Committee	Immediate	Diane Fenton	Nil
Keep Fit Classes	■ Seek local trainer	Medium		Immediate		Equipment
Indoor Bowling Club	■ Ask community who would wish to form a team	Medium	■ Parish Hall Committee ■ Indoor Bowls League	1-2 years	T.B.A.	League Fees
I.T. Training Classes	■ Advertise to determine the level of interest and then seek trainer/equipment	Medium	■ Local College & Schools ■ Great Corby and Wetheral P.C's ■ Castle Carrock P.C	Immediate		Minimal Cost
(Mobile) Fish & Chip Shop	■ Discuss with community ■ Seek location ■ Provide litter bin(s)	Medium	■ Village Pub ■ Mobile Shop provider ■ Volunteer tidiers	Immediate		■ Litter Bins ■ Volunteers
Young Persons Disco etc.	■ Ask young folk for ideas then try to meet the needs ■ Advertise in the Parish Newsletter	High	■ Young parishioners	2004	Parish Council	Cost of play equipment
Local Footpath Guided Walks Club	■ Improve footpaths in parish by adding way markers and safety measures ■ Advertise in Parish Newsletter	High	■ East Cumbria Countryside Project ■ Carlisle City Council ■ City Council	Immediate	Tony Fenton Raymond Potter	Nil

ACTION PLAN – LEISURE, EDUCATION AND SPORT

Action	Method	Priority	Partners	Time scale	Leader	Cost
Produce a plan of local places of interest	Arrange with East Cumbria Countryside Commission	Low	■ ECCO ■ Records Office ■ Museum	2 years	Tony Fenton	Cost of employing expert in producing laminated maps
Provide sports facilities for outdoor activities	■ Seek lease of land from landowners ■ Seek grants	Medium	■ Local landowners ■ Sports Council ■ City Council	?	Parish Council Local Leader	■ Land rental/ lease ■ Layout ■ Marketing ■ Goal posts
Quiz Night	Already available in the Pheasant Inn on first Thursday each month					

TRANSPORT

PARISH OF CUMWHITTON

For any rural community, transport is an important factor in life. This is a long-standing problem in the parish, once again highlighted in the response to the questionnaire.

Over 90% of adults in this community use the car as their regular means of transport. One in ten use the bus and one in five cycle. Those who would consider public transport say that it takes too long, the routes are not convenient and that they come at the wrong time.

However there is a need for those who do not or cannot drive, the young in particular for transport for their social and educational needs. One in five respondents also say they have some difficulty in getting access to health, banking and other essential services.

To try and respond to these comments requires investigation and perhaps the development of a partnership with local bus services and possible schemes aided by volunteers such as a local car/taxi service. Is the best use being made of the local post service transport?

This is a small parish. Should the Parish Council be co-operating with neighbourhood parishes to try and create a viable and user friendly transport service?

The Countryside Agency has recently published plans to improve rural transport. Co-operation with this agency and Voluntary Action Cumbria could produce worthwhile benefits for parishioners.

ACTION PLAN – TRANSPORT

Action	Method	Priority	Partners	Time Scale	Leader	Cost
1a.Develop partnership with local services 1b.Investigate co-operation with adjacent parishes	■ Investigate schemes of transport elsewhere ■ Voluntary ■ Royal Mail ■ Bus Companies		■ Other P.C.s ■ G.P.O. ■ Bus Companies ■ Countryside Agency ■ VAC	Soon		Time

HIGHWAYS

"road maintenance, very poor edges crumbling and water collecting..."

"...feel there should be a speed limit in the village..."

"signposting to Cumwhitton and Heads Nook required at Cairnbridge especially for emergency services..."

"...mud on roads is very dangerous..."

"...slow signs on both sides of village..."

Parish Questionnaire 2003

Perhaps the biggest concerns of the community are the poor state of the roads and verges, the speed and size of the vehicles using the roads and the dangers caused by inconsiderate and occasional illegal parking.

The condition of the roads and verges is the responsibility of the Parish Council and the Highways Department of Carlisle City Council. It is suggested that these bodies get together and inspect and record all the deficiencies in the roads, particularly the condition of direction, safety and warning signs in the parish. Priorities can then be decided and the work done in an ordered way. The work should be monitored, recorded and acknowledged in the local newsletter.

This would be an ongoing scheme and a means of recording faults as they appear, possibly with the Parish Clerk, should be set up. It should be appreciated, however, that the Highways budget is limited and that competition for these funds considerable.

HIGHWAYS

"...it is time to assess whether the very large commercial and agricultural vehicles are appropriate for the currently poorly maintained roads in the parish..."

"the junction of Cumwhitton road and Burnrigg is very dangerous... often impassable in bad weather..."

"I feel some of the farm vehicles are getting too big for these roads..."

I feel there should be a 30mph speed limit through most villages..."

Parish Questionnaire 2003

Safety on the roads in this parish is everybody's responsibility. Many of those who responded to the questionnaire are worried about the excessive speed of vehicles on narrow country roads and also through the more built up areas. The increase in size of both heavy goods and agricultural vehicles results in dangerous conditions on the road and verges and increases the risk to other road users.

It is suggested that a survey of the parish roads in co-operation with the local traffic police could be carried out.

Danger spots could be looked at again and perhaps a 30mph speed scheme should be considered. The difficulties of parking vehicles in rural communities should be ignored no longer.

There should be a person who can be informed of all road traffic accidents including 'near misses'. This information would be useful in obtaining funds for the improvement of the roads in the parish.

ACTION PLAN – HIGHWAYS

Highways and transport have always been the responsibility of the Parish Council and should probably remain so. However assistance from the members of the Parish with an interest would be welcome.

Action	Method	Priority	Partners	Time Scale	Leader	Cost
Develop a plan for the care of the roads and verges	In co-operation with highways department inspect roads and verges & record deficiencies	High	■ Carlisle City Council (Highways) ■ Parish Council	Within 6 months		Time
Decide priorities	Discuss with C.C.C. Highways	After above	■ Highways	After above		
Monitor & record work needed & work done	With C.C.C.					
Publicise what has been done	Parish Newsletter					
Publicise where faults could be recorded ?Parish Clerk	■ Local Directory ■ Newsletter		■ Parish Council			
Inspect danger areas in the parish	■ Inspect with local traffic police	High	■ Police			Nil
Discuss with police method and management		After above	■ Police			

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

PARISH OF CUMWHITTON

Whilst the Working Group, with the help of the members of the parish have been identifying the main areas of concern, it has become increasingly aware that preparing action plans is only the first step to achieve progress. There has to be a mechanism by which these action plans can be activated. We need therefore a body that can bring all the individuals and institutions together to work for the benefit of everyone in the parish.

This group could be called the 'Cumwhitton Parish Community Partnership'.

Membership of the partnership would be available to all individuals, bodies and institutions of the parish. It would have a status that would be acceptable to all the local and national grant awarding bodies. It would need to demonstrate that it was above board and that its management was clearly democratic, all inclusive and totally community based.

The functions of the group would be firstly to support applications for grant aid for community projects by members of the partnership and secondly to co-ordinate the support required by members of the partnership in the conduct of community projects.

Preparation of this plan has clearly shown that there is enthusiasm and willingness to contribute within the parish.

For the plan to achieve anything it will need individuals to come forward to help.

PARISH OF CUMWHITTON

PARISH PLAN SPRING 2004

This is a summary of the Cumwhitton Parish Plan. A copy of the full Plan can be obtained from the Parish Clerk, from the web on UKVillages.co.uk or from members of the working group.

It is based on a questionnaire sent to everyone in the Parish in the Summer of 2003. A response was received from 75% of residents and 68% of households.

The aim was to obtain local views on environmental, social, transport and housing needs and to prepare a plan for the development of the parish in line with these views.

PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

- To establish the need for low cost housing and determine those areas which may be for further development. To use this information to influence the City Planning Department in future planning of residential building.

- To encourage the recycling of household rubbish and the voluntary clean up of roadside litter.

- To establish a plan to replace trees in broken down hedgerows.

- To establish links with those bodies responsible for conservation of the mosses and other wildlife areas.

THE PARISH HALL

- To respond to a clear demand to refurbish the hall to make it more attractive for social and other events. To help the Parish Hall Committee to upgrade the fabric of the building and to support the committee in raising funds for this purpose.

PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

- To continue to seek appropriate areas for a play area for youngsters and also a larger recreational area for school children and young adults.

- To develop a 'youth group' and 'drop in centre' for young people with the possible employment of a youth leader.

LOCAL HERITAGE

- To study and record the history of the Parish by the formation of a local history group.

COMMUNICATIONS

- To improve communications within the parish by the use of regular news letters, the local media and the internet.

LEISURE, EDUCATION AND SPORT

- To encourage the organisation of social and educational events, especially in computer skills, keep fit classes and recreational events.

- To improve the quality of local footpaths and bridleways and the access to them.

TRANSPORT

- To co-operate with local transport services. To investigate with other local parishes the development of a car/taxi service possibly with voluntary input.

HIGHWAYS

- To address the concern about the poor state of the roads and verges, the speed and size of some vehicles and the dangers of inconsiderate parking.

- To arrange, in partnership with the Highways Department, an inspection and to record all the deficiencies.

- To decide the priorities and to monitor the work as it is done.

- To set up a complaints procedure whereby the general public can inform those responsible of faults as they appear.

- To survey the roads with the local traffic police. To note danger spots and advise on parking.

- To arrange for a record to be kept of all road traffic accidents in the parish to include 'near misses'.

AND FINALLY

It is all very well sending out questionnaires and making plans but someone or somebody has to ensure that action takes place!

The Parish Council is responsible for environment and planning and, over the years has represented the parish in transport and highways affairs. It should continue to do so perhaps in a more active manner. It should also aim to improve communications within the parish.

The Parish Council is restricted in the funds for which it can apply.

The Parish hall Committee has maintained the Hall and will continue to do so.

However there needs to be another group to stimulate activity in leisure and sport. To organise activities for young people and co-ordinate other voluntary groups within the parish. It should be properly constituted, with charitable status and be able to apply for funds to benefit everyone.

This group could be called the 'Cumwhiton Parish Community Partnership'.

These plans will come to nothing unless you come forward to help. It is your community – it can develop if you want it to develop.

The Countryside Agency funded this plan and this help is acknowledged. The working group comprised Tony Brown, Tony Fenton, Ian MacFadyen, Ray Potter, Jenny Robley, Martin Rook and Tracy Watt. Help was also willingly given by John Hinchcliff, Deirdre Brown and Jayne Ford.

The Parish Clerk is Leah Cameron on 01228 562525