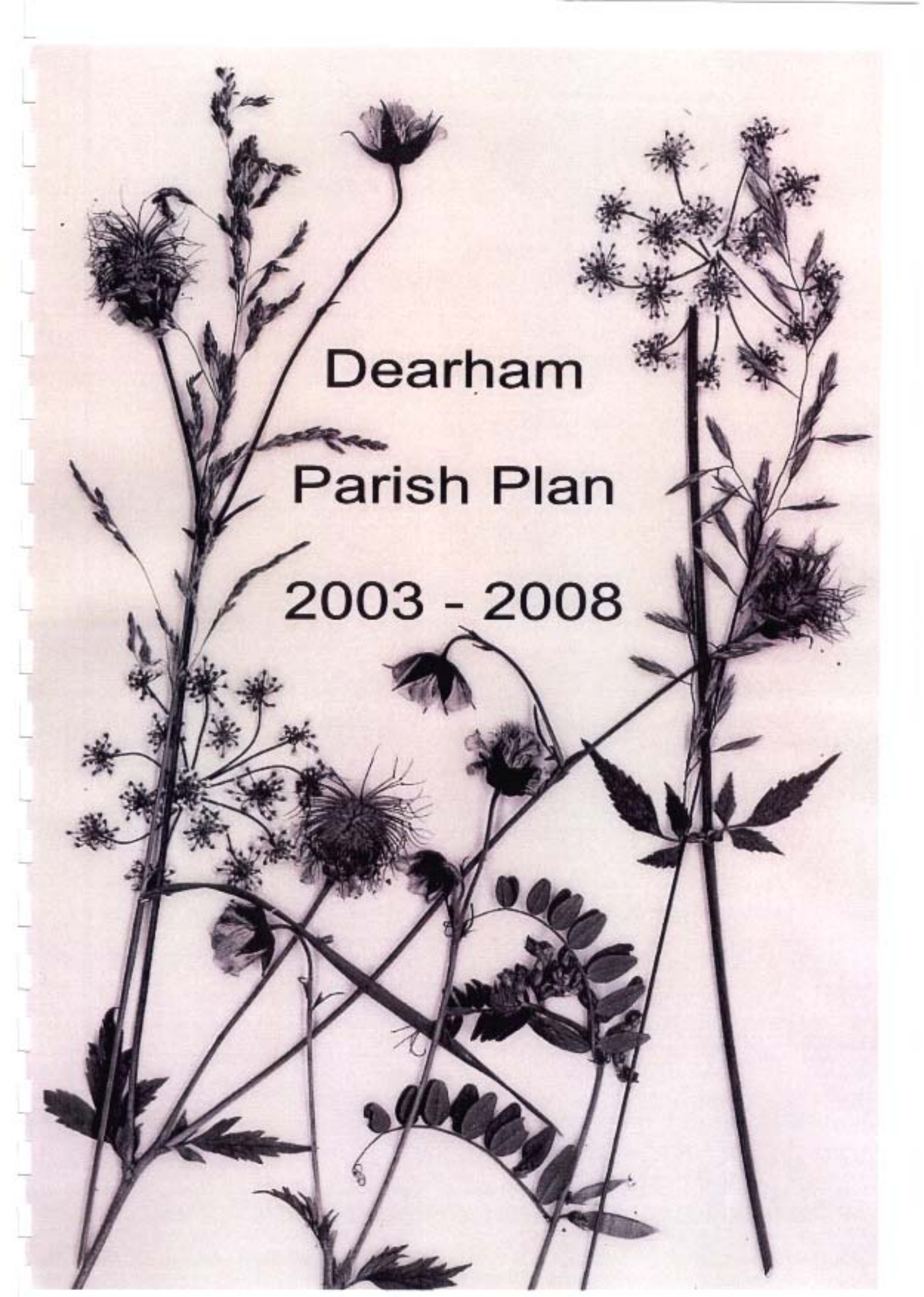




Dearham

Parish Plan

2003 - 2008

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The Parish of Dearham

Dearham is located in an attractive rural area with easy access to the Solway Firth and North Lakeland Hills. Originally a mining community with strong agricultural links, Dearham has emerged from its mining past without the dereliction and deprivation suffered by many mining communities with the closure of the areas' mines. Following the ending of deep mining Dearham became one of the open cast mining sites that provided employment for some residents for a number of years. Today, like most village communities, the majority of people seek employment in surrounding towns.

Dearham is situated in West Cumbria, within the Allerdale Borough Council area. Allerdale broadly covers the area between the Solway Coast in the north and west to the northern Lake District fells in the south. To the east it borders with Carlisle City Council and Eden District Council, and with Copeland Borough Council in the south.

Dearham is located 2 miles to the east of the town of Maryport and approximately 6 miles north east of Workington. The parish covers an area of 816 square hectares, and has a population density of 0.4 per hectare. The population count in the 2001 census was 1960. There are approximately 900 properties with several more under construction.

The closure of mines in the area and the ending of open cast mining brought about a great change in employment opportunities. There are some small businesses in the parish but the majority of residents now commute to jobs in various towns throughout West Cumbria. There are a number of services available in the parish

- *Bus service and shelter*
- *Chapel*
- *Play areas*
- *Post Office/stores*
- *Cottage Pie bakery*
- *Telephone kiosks*
- *Village Hall*
- *Two playing fields, one of which belongs to the primary school and is unavailable for community use.*
- *Church and cemetery*
- *Notice boards*
- *Post boxes*
- *Filling station and shop*
- *Five public houses*
- *Fishing rights managed by the Angling Society*
- *Dearham Primary School*

The post office/store, the filling station and bakery provide important facilities for people in the village although many residents travel to nearby towns for their main shopping. To reach a large shopping centre one has to travel 30 miles to the city of Carlisle. Health care is provided by doctors' surgeries in Maryport and Cockermouth and regional hospitals are situated in Carlisle and Whitehaven 22 miles away. The A594 road runs through the parish.

Dearham School building dates back to Victorian times, externally it has changes little but has undergone extensive changes inside. The school has about 180 pupils plus a nursery for 26 children and is an important and well respected facility for children up to the age of eleven years. Most children then go on to their secondary education at Netherhall School, Maryport although a significant number elect to attend Keswick, Cockermouth and Wigton Schools.

There are a number of clubs and organisations which provide leisure opportunities in the village hall, chapel rooms, mission room or one of the public houses in the village.

Plan Objectives

To set out a vision of what is important, how new development can best be fitted in, how to preserve valued local features and to map out facilities which the community needs to safeguard for the future.

Rural White Paper

❖ To secure the adoption as planning guidance of the measures identified by the community to improve and enhance the quality of the built environment.

❖ To provide a voice for the community in the prioritisation and implementation of measures to improve the living environs.

❖ To provide mechanisms to inform and influence the decisions of statutory bodies, agencies, individuals and organisations with due regard to community priorities and local needs.

❖ To set out an achievable and long-term vision for the future and to establish priorities for action both within and outside the community.

Once a parish has produced a plan, its contents can be used to influence the decisions of the wide range of organisations which provide support and services to rural communities. In fact, the production of a parish plan can be a major benefit to all local organisations seeking funding for individual projects or for buildings.

Thus we seek to:-

- identify local community needs and improve community awareness, thereby influencing the decisions of statutory bodies, agencies, individuals and groups
- set out an achievable vision for the future of the parish, taking into account the views of the community
- identify the use and sustainability of the Dearham Village Hall and set out the need for improvement of the village hall building, including considering its future potential
- improve facilities for youth
- liaise with Cumbria Police and take all possible steps to improve parish safety
- improve community spirit in the parish and involve all residents in parish concerns
- make every effort to improve communications
- liaise with Dearham School to improve services for young children
- improve village facilities including Pottery Park
- improve the parish environment
- seek additional employment opportunities.

Plan Objectives

Why produce a Parish Plan?

Fifty years ago Dearham was a village with two railways stations, a variety of shops and a number of businesses. Local people found work in the immediate area and the village had a thriving economy. Today, Dearham is largely residential offering few opportunities for employment.

Where are we going to be in ten years time?

Transport and communications are increasing problems for all in the community. The reduction in rural services, - shops, health services etc are difficult for the whole community but especially for people seeking employment, for the elderly and for those with young children. It is a sad fact that most employment, amenities and opportunities are developing in the larger towns at the expense of rural areas.

To combat this, rural communities like Dearham need to be pro-active in order to achieve and maintain equality of opportunity and living conditions and this is the reason why this plan is produced. As part of the plan initiative we want all the community to help identify parish needs and suggest ways of improving the parish so we can build on them and revitalise Dearham.

It is a fact that economic influences outside our control will play a part in shaping the future of Dearham just as they have always done. If we are to maintain, preserve and develop the environment and our village traditions, we need to have an active management with a vision and targets of our own. We need to preserve and develop what is good in the village and upgrade substandard areas to improve the quality of life for us all.

This plan is a consensus of what the people of this village have said so far. Publication of this plan is not the end of the exercise, it is the beginning and we need the people of Dearham to help us as well as the larger councils and statutory agencies.

These are the issues

- impact of traffic
- revitalising economic life in the community
- improving access to services and facilities
- acquiring high speed tele-communications
- developing opportunities for the elderly and young people
- identify and preserve the traditions of the village and features of interest.

This your opportunity to influence the way in which Dearham Develops - please get in touch with your parish councillors.

Plan Preparation, Consultation and Community Involvement

The parish council first produced a parish plan for Dearham parish in 1999 and this current plan is produced to update the information in the first plan and to discuss issues which have been raised since that time. Dearham has a number of problems which in part are due to the changes brought about by modern day living. Traffic speed and congestion, escalating costs of maintaining public areas and a need to protect and preserve the environment are all issues which led members to agree to undertake a parish plan setting out the needs of the parish over the next five years. It was also felt that the decision to prepare a parish plan might improve community spirit and inform residents of the needs of the area and what improvements can be made. One important aspect of this plan is therefore to involve all elements of the village and this has been achieved by the following activities.

Having registered an interest in preparing a plan with the Countryside Agency in January 2002 and applied for approval in July 2002, a decision was made to prepare a plan and consultation was undertaken by the parish council. Two questionnaires were circulated to all homes in the parish and a regular parish newsletter carried information which advertised these activities and published the survey results. Once this information had been collated and considered a consultant was appointed to assist in the final preparation of the plan and exhibition. The initial research and consultation was undertaken by a steering group comprising members of the parish council and volunteers some of whom represented other village organisations. A detailed programme of consultation was agreed to ensure that all sections of the Community were reached.

The programme undertaken was as follows

- parish councillors surveyed the village in small groups and encouraged people to point out problems or other matters requiring attention
- the replies to the questionnaires contained some very useful comments and confirmed much of the survey work carried out by parish councillors
- residents were encouraged to put forward their views about the needs of the village at two public meetings
- the plan was publicised through newsletters delivered to each house in the village
- the local primary school has used the plan as an education opportunity to involve all their pupils in the action for youth strategy
- local organisations were invited to add their views into the plan
- older children were approached and requested to complete a questionnaire
- the results of the surveys, villagers comments and potential ways forward were displayed in the village hall giving all residents the opportunity to become involved
- this plan was the subject of an exhibition in the village hall that was open to all residents to attend over two full days.

A member of the parish council discussed the plan with the school council who took responsibility for relaying information to their own classes. The resulting views were expressed by children from all groups in drawings, plans and written work. We are grateful to the Headteacher and staff of Dearham School for taking on board this task and to the children themselves. Their views on sport, leisure and environmental issues showed thought and imagination and is a valuable contribution. It was particularly pleasing to see many written comments within the questionnaires where people had taken the time and trouble to identify village issues, many of which have been considered and accepted in the preparation of the plan.

Housing and Planning

Housing

The village is a mix of traditional properties, social housing and owner-occupied new build. The housing stock has been enhanced in recent years through development and property improvement. Throughout the 1940 – 1960's period provision of housing was in the hands of North Housing (now Home Housing) who built three estates that gave much-needed rented homes to the community. The "right to buy" legislation led to many tenants buying their homes and subsequent sale of properties has changed the profile of these estates considerably. Since the 1970's three privately owned estates have been built, the largest of these containing 93 houses. Current building is confined largely to one-off homes being built on in-fill sites. Thus the nature of the community has changed considerably, the village is much bigger but this increase in size has not been matched by an improvement in, or expansion of, facilities that would help to foster community spirit.

Allerdale Local Plan

Within the Allerdale Local Plan Dearham is designated as a "Local Centre". These are described as larger villages which have some facilities such as public transport, shops church, school, post office or hall. Within defined limits some growth is acceptable in such villages subject to there being no environmental or infrastructure constraints.

The development limits in Dearham have been drawn quite tightly around the existing built up areas of the village in order to limit development to infill plots within the boundaries and sites near Towncroft and Browside Road are included within these limits and this could provide additional housing, including low cost or rented housing if the need can be proven. There is also a site off Craika Road which has been allocated planning permission for up to 15 properties and a development at Row Brow for 5 executive style houses.

At the time of the last review, the parish council did not feel that the village development boundaries should be extended and this remains their view within this plan.

Local Needs/Affordable Housing

Local housing associations which provide the majority of rented accommodation in the village are currently satisfied that the supply of vacant properties is sufficient to maintain the demand from local people at an acceptable level and on some occasions tenants are brought into the village from outside to fill vacancies.

Review of Allerdale Local Plan

Starting in 2004, Allerdale Borough Council will begin to review the current local plan and, within this plan, the parish council is keen to reconsider its views regarding the future of the village in terms of development, future needs, affordable housing and the scale and design of any further housing development.

It is the duty of the borough council to assess housing circumstances in its area during a review of local plans and decide which land if any might be released for new housing and the parish council wishes to set out its views at this early stage.

Housing and Planning

Future Development Land

In general terms, the parish council does not feel that further large scale development is necessary at this time. There is a limited amount of developable land already allocated within the village environs and any major new estates would encroach on the surrounding countryside which is enjoyed by residents.

Scale and Design

The majority of the roads through the village are quite narrow and there are often problems where vehicles are parked on both sides of the roads. The parish council is keen therefore to ensure that any new housing has at the very least its own parking or garage within its curtilage.

The parish council is also anxious that any new housing in the village does not interfere with the rights of existing property owners to enjoy their homes by taking away open views or overshadowing smaller properties. This will ensure that development is not of too high a density.

In some local villages, the whole character of the village has been spoilt by large scale estate type development being crammed into former farmsteads at the expense of existing owners losing the views and space which they had previously enjoyed. The parish council has therefore produced the following guidelines which they hope will be taken into account by the borough council when the local plan is reviewed.

Recommendations/Actions- Planning Guidelines

- *no extensions to the existing village development boundary is appropriate*
- *further estates of uniform standard housing other than those currently allocated are considered inappropriate for Dearham parish*
- *new landscaping should blend in with the surrounding landscape*
- *existing building lines should not be altered without due consideration of the resulting spatial effect*
- *old plot shapes should be retained unless there are good reasons for change*
- *new housing should have regard to local vernacular style and local characteristic features with local materials incorporated wherever possible*
- *appropriate traditional buildings should be restored rather than demolished*
- *when undertaking alterations, owners should seek to preserve local features whenever possible*
- *garden boundaries should be in local materials and the use of inappropriate hedging is to be discouraged*
- *garages should be unobtrusive, set back and behind the house if possible and all new properties should have off road parking.*

Heritage Features

The Parish of Dearham has a rich and varied history with connections to mining, agriculture, and the railways. Many of its roads and buildings have historic names which have fallen into disuse but illustrate the diverse nature of the parish.

For some years research was undertaken by a local heritage group and the parish council believes that their findings should be published in order that future generations will know about the parish's past and will be able to protect the village heritage.

Features identified so far:-

St Mungo's Church - Grade I listed building

The Methodist Chapel

Milestone - Maryport Road - Grade II listed

Dearham Village Hall

Victorian Post Box at Road End View

Road sign at junction of Station Road and Row Brow. This needs new directional arms in keeping with the post

Last red phone box in village at Row Brow.

Old walls at Old Mill, Janet Bridge, Row Brow/Station Road and The Went.

Village school

Chestnut tree at Old Mill

Chestnut tree opposite Row Beck, Station Road.

Store on lower Main Street with stone carvings to walls.

Schedule of ancient monuments.

Birkby Colliery conical spoil tip west of Rose Ghyll Mill.

The Natural Environment and Wildlife

Dearham is a large parish with a wide diversity of habitats and the surrounding areas have many trees, hedges and wild places. There are several small watercourses, as well as the River Ellen, which provide important wildlife sites. The natural environment around the parish also provides the setting for the built environment.

In most areas there are bats, reptiles, small mammals and numerous species of birds. Barn owls are occasionally seen in the parish. The parish council believes that wildlife habitats, corridors and islands should be protected and enhanced; this includes hedges, trees and water features such as ponds and the watercourses that feed them. The valley of the River Ellen provides an attractive walk with an abundance of wildlife for all to see.

One reason people move to Dearham is its pleasant rural setting. Residents do not wish to see this threatened by inappropriate development of any kind and this is reflected in the views expressed in the questionnaire.

The pattern of development in the village is such that most properties have views over the surrounding countryside and the rural farmland around the village. Attractive hedgerows, natural woodlands and meadows add to the quality of life.

Recommendations/Action

- *wildlife habitats and corridors should be protected and enhanced; this includes former pits, hedges, trees and water features such as ponds, and the springs and watercourses that feed them*
- *the two named large horse chestnut trees are considered worthy of protection and the parish council will work towards this as well as identifying other native species which require similar protection*
- *the River Ellen and its tributaries should be kept clear of pollution to maintain a healthy environment for birds, fish and other aquatic creatures, such as otters. Particular attention to be given to Sepulchre Beck upstream from Row Beck and downstream through Beck Botts where some form of management is required*
- *any new developments should be sensitive to existing wildlife and natural habitats, in particular with regard to protected species*
- *any future community map will incorporate important wildlife habitat and corridors for future protection.*

Employment Needs and Opportunities

Dearham is ideally situated for people who work in Maryport and West Cumbria although there are some small businesses in the parish which employ a number of local people. For many, part time working in retail outlets is quite common. It is felt that working within the parish, whether at home or in small local businesses, should be encouraged. This is in accordance with current government policy aimed at reducing the impact of the motor car upon the environment.

The parish council will support opportunities for additional employment in the parish with horticulture, small craft workshops and tourism and leisure as the main suggestions although permission should only be granted if due consideration is given to the amenity and visual impact on the village environment. The traffic generated and effects of development upon general road safety must also be addressed.

On the issue of home working, the parish council feels that the promotion of at-home working is both important and worthwhile. To this end access to broadband technology would be an undoubted asset. The provision of educational and technological facilities would also allow villagers to gain the necessary expertise to take advantage of these opportunities.

Local businesses need the support of the community and any possibility of friction should be eliminated at the planning stage. Particular care needs to be taken therefore about the siting of businesses that may generate extra traffic on country lanes. The impact of heavy vehicles on such lanes can be considerable.

Recommendations/Action

The parish council will:-

- *support the principle of the conversion of existing buildings into small workshop premises in suitable locations in the countryside with the object of generating employment within the parish and surrounding areas as in Allerdale Local Plan Policy*
- *support home working where appropriate*
- *monitor the siting of business premises to ensure that their usage and traffic generated are acceptable*
- *support the initiative to provide IT training in the village hall*
- *proactively encourage and support measures to introduce broadband to the area as soon as possible*
- *support the promotion of tourism in Allerdale where possible, providing that it does not have an adverse effect on existing local features.*

Traffic Speed and Volume, Transport Issues

Background

Within Dearham, the majority of households rely on the car for transport. However, this very reliance on the car is producing more and more problems. In the consultations a number of views were expressed about parking, traffic and highways problems and it is clear that residents have a number of serious concerns which need to be considered. One of the main concerns is that of vehicles speeding along village roads. In particular the speed of traffic along Craika Road, Central Road and Main Street is a major cause for concern as along some stretches of these roads parking on both sides greatly impairs visibility.

Parking, especially during the evenings, is at a premium as an increasing number of households have two or more cars. The parish council feels however that there would be a general reluctance by car owners to park their cars on communal car parks if such were available. The problem of on road parking is one which should be investigated further in conjunction with the County Highways Authority.

Opinion about traffic calming measures was divided but a significant percentage of those who replied thought measures should be put in place to reduce the speed of traffic on village roads.

The increasing number of heavy goods vehicles using some roads in the parish as a cross route was also identified and in particular it was pointed out that verges could not cope with these vehicles passing each other or cutting corners. The parish council believes more should be done to divert these vehicles to more suitable routes.

Residential Parking

The consultations echoed the parish council in showing overwhelming support for the view that all new dwellings should have parking for vehicles within the curtilage of the dwelling to reduce street parking to a minimum.

Additional Paved Footpaths

The Went is an important route to school for many village children and is a popular walk for residents. A footpath runs from the school part of the way along The Went but where this ends pedestrians have to walk on the road or verge. This is considered dangerous and there was support in the parish for this path to be extended up to the A594.

The footpath connecting The Went to Browside Road has already been improved and the extension of The Went footpath to the A594 would complete a circular walk from Browside along the A594. The adoption by Cumbria County Council of the path from the A594 to Lonsdale View is currently in hand, thus creating a link with the Pottery Park path and Browside. This would also provide a safe route for children walking to and from school thus relieving congestion in The Went. There is also a need for a footpath in lower Main Street especially if the proposed development at Wilson Farm goes ahead.

Crosshow

This road is in urgent need of attention and the parish council will seek discussions with the Highways Authority about this road as a matter of urgency.

Traffic Speed and Volume, Transport Issues

Recommendations/Action

The parish council will:-

- *give appropriate support for suitable measures to reduce unsatisfactory or inappropriate on road or pavement parking*
- *support the promotion of car sharing schemes within the community*
- *continue to seek improved bus service links to the major towns and will consult with neighbouring parishes on this issue*
- *support sensitively designed and locally acceptable measures to secure reductions in traffic speeds, improve road safety, and promote responsible driving*
- *discuss the state of Crosshow with Cumbria County Council highways department*
- *request that the footpath from the school up The Went is extended to the A594 as a safe route to school, and to complete the circular walk*
- *continue to press for an additional footway on lower Main Street.*

Village Environment and Services

One of the attractions of living in Dearham is its pleasant rural environment. This needs to be protected from inappropriate development of any kind, and the parish council supports this in the planning guidelines outlined earlier in this plan.

For several years the parish council, with the help of the community, have taken various steps to enhance the environment. The verges along Maryport Road have been considerably improved and are now starting to mature into a pleasant setting along one of the major roads in the village. In the spring many of the roadsides are alive with daffodils, planted over the years by volunteers and funded by the parish council.

The village handyman has maintained public areas and kept the village tidy. There are, however, a number of issues which the plan consultation identified which the parish council feel should be improved to enhance the environment.

It is interesting to note that the four main issues which residents felt most strongly about were dog fouling, litter, eyesores and recycling with suggestions to improve the environment coming next in peoples thoughts. The reduction or elimination of these problems can only be achieved with the co-operation of parish residents and the parish council will make every effort to continue to publicise these issues in their newsletters.

The issues identified in the plan consultations are as follows.

Signage

The increasing number of signs within the village is a cause for concern. The parish council believes in carefully monitoring their use so that they do not become an unnecessary visual intrusion.

Lighting

We are fortunate in that we live in an area where the night sky is relatively free from light pollution and the need to maintain this is acknowledged. The parish council is aware of the irritation caused by light pollution, especially that created by security lights on private dwellings. The careful siting and positioning of such lights, combined with the use of lower wattage bulbs and ensuring that the light is directed to where it is needed, not upwards to the night sky, and making full use of sensors and time controls can often alleviate problems of this nature. Any new or replacement street lighting should use screened, low-pressure sodium lamps.

Litter

For many residents litter found within the settlements and along the roadsides was a major irritation. The parish council will monitor the situation and, where appropriate, will arrange for additional litterbins to be provided and emptied more frequently. Allerdale Borough Council have signified that the parish already has its full quota of bins and any additional ones will have to be paid for by the parish council. The real answer to this problem rests with each individual and the parish council will continue to encourage residents to address this problem.

Litter is everyone's problem - Take yours home

Village Environment and Services

Public Seats

Dearham has a number of public seats located around the parish and these are well used by residents. However, a number of residents felt additional seats should be put in some new locations and the parish council will consider any such suggestions for additional seating subject to the siting being agreed with neighbouring properties.

Overhead Wires

The question of unsightly overhead cables has been raised during discussion of the parish plan. This is especially relevant to the roads running through the village. The parish council believes that all new cabling should be underground and pressure should be put on the utility companies to bury the existing cables when they need replacing.

Dog Fouling

Despite the efforts of the parish and borough council in trying to eliminate the problem of dog fouling, this still continues to be the major cause for concern as expressed by residents.

The parish council reminds residents that, within the 30 mph speed limits, all dog fouling on public areas including the greens, playground, roadside verges and pavements, is illegal and dog owners can be fined. We strongly support Allerdale Borough Council's enforcement of the penalties for dog fouling. Both councils are particularly concerned about dog fouling on the school path along The Went and on Pottery Park where games are played. These facilities are used by many children and animals fouling these areas is a health hazard.

Several new bins have been provided during the last few years and others will be considered. However there is a limit to the number of bins which can be installed, due not only to the cost of provision, but to the increasing cost of emptying these bins. The number of responsible dog-owners is increasing and we appreciate their efforts. We will however, continue to press home the message.

Tubs & Planters

Some residents felt that tubs and planters around the village improve the environment and several suggested that "village gardens" should be planted on Smithy Hill and Janet Brow. Such measures would have a cost implication and will need careful consideration. Any such planting would need to be low maintenance, as are the concrete planters, in order to keep costs down.

Old Village Names

Dearham has a number of roads and lanes which have historic names, many of which have fallen in disuse. These names are part of the heritage of the village and many feel they should be recorded in some way. Dearham has a rich history and this should be recorded for future generations.

Village Environment and Services

Re-cycling

The present re-cycling facilities in the village are limited to a bottle bank at the Globe Inn and the collection of paper and garden waste by Allerdale Borough Council. Nationally there is a need to increase the amount of refuse which is re-cycled and the parish council will discuss how best to increase the amount of re-cycling with the borough council seeking a larger site where storage facilities can be installed.

Garden Competition

The annual garden competition continues to interest village gardeners and the parish council will continue to support this popular event. In future years, the council will also consider introducing new categories for young people, such as "a best sunflower" competition, to stimulate further interest.

Gardening Club

In many parishes there are successful gardening clubs which provide opportunities for gardeners to meet and discuss their hobby and to enjoy talks by local experts. Many of the clubs hold spring and summer shows and the parish council feels such a club in Dearham could prove to be popular with residents. The parish council will provide initial support for such a venture by providing a small donation for administration purposes and allowing the use of the village hall for an initial steering group meeting. The formation of such a group might provide the input towards the formation of village gardens as set out elsewhere in this plan.

Newlands Park/Lonsdale View Path

This path is now being considered for adoption by the county council. This is an important link to Maryport Road for residents of these estates. It is also important that the path is kept in good order for use by elderly persons and parents with prams etc.

Bus Shelters

Several of the bus shelters in the village are now reaching the end of their useful life and require replacement. The replacement of bus shelters is not easy as new shelters cost in the region of £2500 and each shelter has to be chosen to fit the site it will occupy. As a first step, the parish council will survey all the shelters to see if any can be modified to improve their appearance and at the same time resolve problems of water ingress. The village handyman will continue to clean the shelters on a regular basis.

Band Room

A number of residents commented on the band room site which they felt should be tidied up and improved. The parish council will discuss this matter with the band to determine whether this could be done by an outside agency with grant assistance.

Black Lonning

The condition of this lane continues to be a problem particularly for children who use it as a safe route to school. The parish council will continue to press for improvements to this lane.

Village Environment and Services

Village Handyman

Perhaps of all the projects undertaken by the parish council from the last parish plan, the village handyman scheme has been the most successful. The improvement to the village environment has been welcomed by many residents. Public footpaths have been kept clear and safe to use, bus shelters kept clean and safe and regular inspections have been carried out on play equipment. This scheme will continue to operate in the future.

Bus Services

A better bus service to allow people to travel to Cockermouth between 7.30am and 9.00am and a bus at 10.00am instead of 10.45am to Cockermouth would be beneficial and also an afternoon service to allow the collection of prescriptions without having to wait two hours.

Recommendations/Action

The parish council will:-

- *monitor the use of signs to prevent any unnecessary visual intrusion.*
- *support measures to reduce unnecessary light pollution*
- *take action to reduce litter and dog mess*
- *consider providing additional public seats if acceptable sites can be agreed*
- *seek to ensure that new and existing utility cabling is buried underground in the future*
- *support measures to improve the environment including village gardens and further daffodil planting*
- *seek to research and record historic place names and erect signs where appropriate*
- *support any re-cycling opportunities in conjunction with Allerdale Borough Council*
- *add an additional category for young people to the annual garden competition*
- *sponsor a gardening club*
- *survey all bus shelters to determine condition and consider replacing or improving them*
- *continue to press for the improvement of Black Lanning as a safe route to school for local children*
- *request more convenient bus services to Cockermouth in the morning period.*

Dearham Village Hall

Background

Dearham Village Hall, on Main Street, was built in 1921 as a Miners Welfare Hall. Like many halls built at this time it is beginning to show its age and, whilst the parish council has undertaken regular maintenance, major improvements are required to see the hall well into the 21st century.

The parish council has agreed to undertake a programme of works to the building, installing facilities and equipment which will attract new users. It is envisaged that these works will be done at an economic cost which will allow the leasing charges to remain affordable for local clubs and organisations.

Ownership

The village hall is a trust property held in trust for the inhabitants of Dearham in accordance with a deed drawn up when the property was transferred from the local coal authority.

Objectives

The trust deed sets out objectives which are that the hall is for the use of the inhabitants of Dearham Parish, without distinction of political or religious opinions, for use for meetings, lectures, classes and for recreation and leisure with the objective of improving conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

Trustees

There are provisions within the trust deed for a representative committee to be appointed and conditions relating to the management of the hall are set out. In reality this committee ceased to function many years ago and the parish council now act as trustees on behalf of the residents.

Hall Management

The parish council manages the hall and precepts for management and maintenance in the annual parish precept. Minor repairs are done by the village handyman and volunteers have recently redecorated the main hall. The caretaker is responsible for the security of the hall and for taking bookings.

Dearham Village Hall

Proposed Improvements

The parish council has drawn up a scheme which will bring the hall up to the standard that is required and it is proposed to seek funding for the project as soon as possible.

The proposals are to:-

- reduce the size of the kitchen enabling new toilet facilities to be installed, which will include disabled user facilities.
- create a new storage area which will provide space for all users
- bring the smaller room back into use as a meeting/committee room. Additional power points will be installed with a view to future Information Technology training
- install a new gas heating system
- widen doors to accommodate disabled users
- renew the floor of the main hall and tile the kitchen floor
- examine ways of improving the fire exit
- carry out roof repairs
- replace all furnishings to the main hall and furnish the small room.

The estimated cost of refurbishment is in the region of £46,000 which the parish council hopes to raise by seeking funding from various sources. If successful the hall will meet current requirements, provide a more comfortable venue for users and, with a marketing strategy, attract new users thus ensuring the continuation of a valuable facility.

Recommendations/Action

The parish council will:-

- seek to improve the village hall as set out in the plan
- support efforts to increase the use of the village hall.

Media and Communications

Parish Newsletter

The parish newsletter plays an important role in informing residents about the activities of the parish council. It is published by the parish council and a copy is delivered to every house. The newsletter keeps residents up to date with parish council affairs, as well as items of general interest to parishioners. There is no doubt that a parish newsletter improves communication. The parish council is resolved to continue this service to the residents and will also consider how best to involve other organisations in the publishing of a joint newsletter.

Parish Web Site

A parish web site is already in place but up to now does not contain enough information. Its future will be considered when the plan is published as it is important that this facility is kept up to date if it is to be retained.

Notice Boards

The parish council has notice boards at Row Brow, Midtown and Commercial Corner. In addition, notices can be posted in the post office, village hall, Cottage Pie, filling station and local public houses. These facilities are well used and provide an essential service to the residents. The parish council is considering a further notice board outside the village hall as this building is often the venue for the events advertised.

Community Map

The parish council considers that the production of a community map would be of great benefit. Such a map would identify every property or group of properties in the parish by name as well as showing street names where appropriate. There are in fact a number of areas where clearer numbers and names would assist the post office and emergency services. Copies of this map would be distributed to the emergency services and other bodies and would also be available to the community.

Welcome Pack

It is felt that a welcome pack giving information about the village to new residents would be useful and would help people to settle in the village.

Recommendations/Action

The parish council will:-

- continue to support and finance production of a parish newsletter*
- seek ways of maintaining the parish web site*
- support the production of a community map*
- consider providing welcome packs to new residents.*

Parish Safety

Under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act, the parish council has a duty to consider the impact of all its functions and decisions on crime and disorder in its area. This is not a new concept and central government is now keen to ensure that local police forces and the rural communities are working together to try to reduce crime and improve safety generally.

In Dearham there was a Neighbourhood Watch scheme which had the support of the parish council but this no longer functions. The parish council has a good relationship with local police who are available to discuss and act on matters of concern. For example, the police have provided targeted patrols in response to vandalism problems with a successful outcome.

In this parish plan, the parish council has considered ways in which the general safety of the residents can be improved. To assist in this, local police officers have been consulted as any initiative would need their support in order to succeed. The consensus of opinion is that if the fear of crime, whether real or perceived, and actual crime problems are to be reduced more practical measures are necessary. These measures would cover the protection of property, education and personal safety and involve working together with the police.

Parish Safety Group

It has been proved that, if an active parish safety group can be established which has the benefit of police support and advice, real progress can be made in respect of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. Such a group can be given statistics of incidents relating to their parish and, from this information, identify areas of concern and obtain advice on how to improve a situation. Often simple measures such as erecting a fence, improving lighting, or even taking out bushes where criminals could hide, are effective. For householders, a Crime Prevention Officer can undertake a survey and give guidance on crime prevention matters for an individual property. Cumbria Police have indicated that they will support any parish forming a parish safety group and will provide a liaison officer to work with them.

The recommendation of the parish council is that a parish safety group should be formed to work with the police to improve overall safety. Such a group would incorporate the work currently being done by Neighbourhood Watch and would be formed from a cross-section of the community. Financial support towards administration costs could be given by the parish council if necessary. Nearby, the villagers of Broughton have formed a parish safety group and already measures are being undertaken to reduce crime and disorder problems. The parish council believes that increasing the awareness and responsibility of parishioners in this way can only be to the benefit of everyone.

Assist the police by reporting incidents even though you may feel nothing can be done.

Recommendation/Action

The parish council will:-

- *actively encourage the formation of a parish safety group and will provide appropriate financial support if necessary.*

Public Rights of Way

Dearham is fortunate in having a good number of attractive footpaths and bridleways throughout the parish. Many of these footpaths are ancient ways used by miners or farm workers which linked the villagers with their place of work and the former railway stations in the village. These, together with the quiet lanes, provide a variety of enjoyable and peaceful walks. Their historic significance is important to the parish.

For many years these paths have been watched over by willing volunteers and the village handyman who have kept overhanging branches and brambles to a minimum and reported serious problems.

The responsibility for public rights of way is that of the Rights of Way Section of Cumbria County Council whose responsibilities include the inspection and maintenance of public rights of way including the requirement to ensure safe access for users. In the recent past, little has been done in Dearham by the county council due to financial constraints and in 2001 due to the problems of foot and mouth disease.

Public rights of way are however an important facility and it is the parish council and users who keep the county council informed of problems of access or repair affecting a particular path.

Paths Survey

It is now some years since the parish council deliberately undertook a full survey of parish paths to determine their condition and the council has agreed that this is a task which needs to be carried out as soon as possible and the results passed on to the County Council Rights of Way section.

New Path Browside - The Went

A new path has recently been installed, improving the route from Browside Road to The Went. The parish council acknowledges and thanks the owner of the land for his support. Initial reaction to the improvement has been positive and we will continue to maintain and improve this facility.

Recommendations/Action

The parish council will:-

- undertake a survey of all parish paths to determine their condition and ease of access for residents*
- continue to work with the Cumbria County Council Rights of Way Section to keep all the paths in good order*
- seek ways of producing a map of village paths for the benefit of residents and visitors.*

Clubs and Organisations

Despite the lack of a large community hall there are a number of active clubs and societies. These are -

- Three play groups for pre-school children
- A long established Boys Brigade
- A youth club based at the Methodist church
- A brass band
- A 60 Club
- Weekly bingo which helps to support the "Old Folks" group
- Carriage Driving Club
- Homing Society
- R.A.O.B.
- Line dancing
- Literature appreciation group
- Children's dancing class
- An adult education course has recently been run in the village hall
- Dearham Angling Society
- Football club
- Cricket club.
- Dearham Carnival Committee
- Dearham Gun Club for clay pigeon shooting.

Amenities for clubs and organisations

Traditional centres for the community, the miners welfares, have long since closed although one is still in use as the village hall. Other meeting rooms are at the church and Methodist church but all three venues offer limited facilities. The school has a small hall that is not currently available to village organisations. The Bandroom, possibly the largest hall that is available, is dilapidated and out dated. The village pubs provide meeting places for various clubs and societies and the owners of these establishments generally welcome village clubs and offer their facilities free of charge.

In the long term, for a village the size of Dearham to maintain its community services, consideration will have to be given to the provision of a community hall capable of providing the facilities needed to serve the residents of the parish.

Pottery Park

Pottery Park, the only large recreational area in the parish is leased from Allerdale Borough Council. The park is centrally located and currently houses a football pitch but it could be sympathetically developed to provide an excellent sporting and leisure complex. If suitable changing facilities were provided Dearham teams would be eligible to join local leagues and thus provide opportunities for villagers.

The need to develop Pottery Park received strong support in the recent parish survey and the future of this important asset is discussed in the following chapter of this plan. In the meantime, the parish council will continue to support local organisations in the provision of leisure activities for young and old whenever the opportunity occurs.

Clubs and Organisations

Youth Shelter

Naturally, young people meet to talk but the lack of a suitable space, especially in poor weather, makes it difficult for them to enjoy themselves. Bus shelters are often used as meeting places simply because they provide some cover. In all other respects they are inappropriate as they are too close to the road and have no windows or lighting. A purpose built youth shelter or building in which they could meet would provide a valuable amenity.

In Dearham, as in many other parishes, play equipment is provided for younger children but there is a gap in recreational facilities covering the adolescent years which can cause problems and this has already been demonstrated. Young people need somewhere to "hang out" together that is accessible and free.

A youth shelter is "a structure designed to meet the social needs of young people – a sheltered place to sit and talk". It would have a roof, but would be open on all sides enabling all round visibility, 'natural policing' and safety for users. If necessary, partial screening can be provided on one or more sides as extra protection from wind and rain. Careful siting is essential as is involving the young people in the decision making process.

The parish council believes that young people would welcome and benefit from a meeting place and will give due consideration to such a project.

Recommendations/Action

The parish council will:-

- consider the use of the village hall as a venue for recreational opportunities for young people providing adequate supervision is available*
- seek to develop Pottery Park to cater for more leisure opportunities for young people*
- consider further the provision of a "youth shelter"*
- support additional efforts by any groups to increase leisure opportunities for young people*
- investigate the provision of better transport links with nearby towns. If necessary, these will link with other parishes and enable older children to spend time with their friends outside school hours.*

Pottery Park

Background

Pottery Park is comprised of two areas of land under the effective control of Dearham Parish Council, the total area being approximately 3 acres. The larger area is leased from Allerdale Borough Council for a peppercorn rent. In its village plan of 1999 the parish council recognised the need for an improved sustainable development project on this land. To further this goal, in 2002, an adjacent, smaller piece of land was purchased outright by the parish council to be held in trust for the people of Dearham. This land is the site of the Jubilee Pottery which closed around 1900 and from which the land and project take their name.

Momentum for improvement to Pottery Park has been building for some time. The parish council has instigated some preliminary enquires and at the beginning of 2003, circulated two questionnaires which were designed to establish

- a) if there was support for the project
- b) what residents would like to see on Pottery Park.

Of those residents who returned the general village survey, over 90% strongly agreed that there was a need to develop Pottery Park to provide a sport/recreational area for all.

The survey that concentrated specifically on the development of Pottery Park prompted a 25% return with residents identifying the following needs

- a) improvement of the drainage of the land
- b) creation of a play area with seating for young families
- c) upgrading the entrance and install some lighting
- d) installation of a multipurpose all weather area
- e) re-instate the footpath from Lonsdale View to Greenlands Rd
- f) creation of a play area/roller skating area
- g) improvement of the existing football pitch and provision of a changing facility
- h) general tidying and securing of boundaries and provision of limited parking.

The conclusions drawn from these consultations are

- a) there is a desire within the community for an improved facility
- b) any development should provide opportunities for sport and recreation for all
- c) a new development should encompass the young by providing an area for healthy, active, safe recreation coupled with the development of sporting opportunities which are inclusive of all.

The development of Pottery Park, the only recreational area of any size in the village, will provide a suitable home venue for the football and cricket clubs and, with the will of the clubs and the co-operation of residents, be the basis of a structured coaching/junior teams venture for the youngsters of Dearham.

It was felt that a focus group would be the best way forward hence the inauguration of ***The Pottery Park Regeneration Group.***

Pottery Park

The Pottery Park Regeneration Group

This was formed in February 2003 with the aim of creating a sporting and recreational facility for the community. The vision is to turn this under-used tract of land into a viable facility that will provide for communal needs for the present and future inhabitants of the village.

The mission of **The Pottery Park Regeneration Group** is to increase the number and improve the standard of Dearham people participating in sport and healthy recreation by extending the opportunities available. It's long term aims are to use the area's community resources to the greatest advantage of its residents and to make Dearham an even better place to live, work, grow up in or visit.

To that end **The Pottery Park Regeneration Group** will set itself the following objectives:

- a) develop Pottery Park so that it can be put to better use, taking account of the differing needs of different age groups and sectors of the community
- b) plan development in such a way that Pottery Park is sustainable for the long term and does not impose a financial burden on the community in the future
- c) provide possibilities for coaching, learning, training, volunteering and other opportunities for personal development
- d) cultivate the social aspects of participation in sport, and build a friendly and welcoming sporting community
- e) promote an appreciation of the local environment.

In pursuit of those objectives, **The Pottery Park Regeneration Group** will especially target:

- a) children and young people, inside and outside school
- b) older and more sedentary people and long-term residents
- c) disaffected people and those suffering the effects of deprivation
- d) people with mental and physical disabilities and those who (for whatever reason) are not mobile
- e) people without paid work, particularly those suffering long-term unemployment.

Conclusion

The development of a sustainable, properly equipped area for sport and recreation is greatly needed in Dearham and will be a major step forward in bringing people together to participate in healthy recreation within their own community.

Recommendation/Actions

The regeneration group on behalf of the parish council will seek funding for a feasibility study. A business plan is to be prepared to set out in detail how Pottery Park can be developed as outlined above and the potential costs.

Summary of Issues raised through consultation

During the plan preparation and consultation process a number of issues were considered and the action plan which follows seeks ways of dealing with them in the future. A summary of the main issues is listed below.

- The consultation process indicated there is a strong feeling that the housing development boundaries as set out in the Allerdale Local Plan should remain as they are at present and not be extended in future Allerdale Local Plans.
- There is strong support for the protection and preservation of wildlife habitats.
- The parish council has produced planning guidelines indicating its views on planning issues to be considered when the Allerdale Local Plan is reviewed.
- Traffic concerns in respect of speeding along the narrow roads; heavy goods vehicles using the roads as short cuts; parking and damage to verges; were raised by many who replied to the questionnaire with parking and traffic speed in narrow parts of the village as the a major concern.
- There is strong support for the parish council's efforts to publicise and maintain public rights of way.
- The residents will support employment initiatives in Dearham.
- Residents and young people support the development of Pottery Park to provide sports and leisure facilities.
- There is strong support for the improvement of the village hall.
- It was clear from the issues raised that residents support the improvement of village services.
- Better communication by the parish council was requested by residents.
- Residents will support measures to improve village safety.
- Additional facilities are need for young people.

Action Plan

The Recommendation	Action to be taken	Priority	Partners	Start Within	Lead	Resource Implications
Planning Guidelines No extensions to the existing village development boundary is appropriate Further estates of uniform standard housing other than those currently allocated are considered inappropriate for Dearham Parish New landscaping should blend in with the surrounding landscape Existing building lines should not be altered without due consideration of the resulting spatial effect Old plot shapes should be retained unless there are good reasons for change. New housing should have regard to local vernacular style and local characteristic features with local materials incorporated wherever possible. Appropriate traditional buildings should be restored rather than demolished. When undertaking alterations, owners should seek to preserve local features whenever possible. Garden boundaries should be in local materials and the use of inappropriate hedging is to be discouraged. Garages should be unobtrusive, set back and behind the house if possible and all new properties should have off road parking.	Parish council will submit these guidelines to the Planning Department of Allerdale B C as suggestions for inclusion in the next review of the Allerdale Local Plan to be commenced in 2004. If accepted these guidelines will be taken into account when the parish council considers planning applications for development in the parish.	Medium	Parish council Allerdale B C	3 months	Parish council	None

Action Plan

The Recommendation	Action to be taken	Priority	Partners	Start Within	Lead Group	Resource Implications
Wildlife Wildlife habitats and corridors within the parish should be protected and enhanced, this includes former pits, hedges, trees and water features such as ponds and watercourses that feed them. The two large horse chestnut trees at Row Beck and Station Road are considered worthy of protection. The River Ellen and its tributaries should be kept clear of pollution to maintain a healthy environment for birds, fish and other aquatic creatures, such as otters. Any new developments should ensure protection of existing wild life and natural habitats in line with the Wildlife and Countryside Act. Developers should seek opportunities for enhancement. Any future community map will incorporate important wildlife habitat and corridors for future protection.	Parish council will monitor any new developments in the parish to ensure that the natural environment is protected and water courses are not polluted. The parish council will work towards this as well as identifying other native species which require similar protection. Future planning applications will be examined to ensure the environment is protected and enhanced. Parish council will include wildlife information in a community map where disclosure will not endanger wildlife.	Medium High High High Medium	Parish council Community Parish council Parish council Environment Agency Parish council Environment Agency Parish council Community	Ongoing 3 months 12 months Ongoing 18 months	Parish council Community Parish council Parish council Parish council Parish council Community	None None None None None
Employment The parish council will:- Support the principle of the conversion of existing buildings into small workshop premises in suitable locations in the countryside with the object of generating employment within the parish and surrounding areas in the Allerdale Local Plan Policy. Support home working where appropriate. Monitor the siting of business premises to ensure that their usage and traffic generated are acceptable. Support the initiative to provide IT training in the village hall. Proactively encourage and support measures to introduce broadband to the area as soon as possible. Support the promotion of tourism in Allerdale where possible, providing that it does not have an adverse effect on existing local features.	Parish council will monitor planning applications to ensure any new business does not impinge on residents privacy and enjoyment of home. Parish council will discuss use of the village hall for IT training. Parish council will support efforts to introduce broadband to Dearham.	Medium High Medium Medium	Parish council Parish council Parish council Allerdale B C Parish council Community Parish council Allerdale B C Cumbria C C Parish council Allerdale B C	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing 12 months 12 months Ongoing	Parish council Parish council Parish council Parish council Community Parish council Parish council Allerdale B C	None None None None None None

Action Plan

The Recommendation	Action to be taken	Priority	Partners	Start Within	Lead Group	Resource Implications
Heritage features The parish council will support measures to protect important heritage features in the parish and will support any heritage group to further this aim.	Parish council will canvass support in the parish newsletter and may provide initial funding to support the formation of a local heritage group	Medium	Parish council Community	12 months	Parish council	Possible starter grant of £100
Transport and Traffic The parish council will:- Give appropriate support for suitable measures to reduce unsatisfactory or inappropriate on road or pavement parking. Support the promotion of car sharing schemes. Continue to seek improved bus service links to the major towns and will consult with neighbouring parishes on this issue. Support sensitively designed and acceptable measures to secure reduction in traffic speed, improve road safety and promote responsible driving. Discuss condition of Crosshow with Cumbria C C Highways department. Request that the footpath from the school along The Went is extended to the A594 as a safe route to school and to complete the circular walk. Continue to press for an additional footway on lower Main Street.	Parish council will seek a meeting with Cumbria C C to review the issues raised during the plan consultation and request a traffic survey to determine what issues can be resolved. Parish council will approach local bus operators to try to obtain a bus service to Cockermouth that is more convenient. Parish council will meet with school governors and Cumbria C C to discuss safe routes to school.	Medium High High	Parish council Cumbria C C Parish council Local bus companies Parish council School governors Cumbria C C	6 months 3 months 6 months	Parish council Parish council Parish council	Not known but Cumbria CC would be major funders Not known Not known
Media and Communications The parish council will:- Continue to support and finance production of a parish newsletter. Seek ways of maintaining the parish web site. Support the production of a community map. Consider providing welcome packs for new residents.	Parish council will seek advice from local agencies about how to proceed.	Medium Medium High	Parish council Local groups Parish council Community Parish council Parish council	Ongoing Ongoing 12 months 3 months	Parish council Parish council Parish council Parish council	Not known Not known Not known £1000 to be funded by a grant

Action Plan

The Recommendation	Action to be taken	Priority	Partners	Start Within	Lead	Resource Implications
Village Environment						
The parish council will:-						
Monitor the use of signs to prevent any unnecessary visual intrusion.	Discuss with Highways department.	Medium	Parish council Cumbria C C	6 months	Parish council	Not known
Support measures to reduce unnecessary light pollution.	Publish concerns in parish newsletter.	Medium	Parish council	6 months	Parish council	None
Take action to reduce litter and dog mess.	Co-operate with Allerdale B C to inform residents of associated problems. Request suggested sites from residents in time for 2003/4 budget.	High High	Parish council Allerdale B C Parish council	Ongoing Before 2004 budget	Parish council Parish council	Bins are approx £250 To empty is £144 pa Seats are approx £390
Consider providing additional public seats if acceptable sites can be agreed.						
Seek to ensure that new and existing utility cabling is buried underground in the future.	Approach United Utilities with parish council concerns.	Medium	Parish council United Utilities	12 months	Parish council	None
Support measures to improve the environment including village gardens and further daffodil planting.	Discussion by parish council.	Medium	Parish council	No set timescale	Parish council	£100 start up grant from parish council
Seek to research and record historic place names and erect signs where appropriate.	Seek support for heritage group.	Medium	Parish council Volunteers	18 months	Parish clerk	Not known
Support any re-cycling opportunities in conjunction with Allerdale B C.	Discuss possible measures with Allerdale B C.	Medium	Parish council Allerdale B C	18 months	Parish council	None
Add an additional category for young people to the annual garden competition.	Parish council will arrange new category for 2004 competition.	Medium	Parish council	12 months	Parish council	£100 start up grant from parish council
Sponsor a gardening club.	Parish council will sponsor club.	Medium	Parish council	6 months	Parish council	None
Survey all bus shelters to determine condition and consider replacing or improving them.	Survey will be undertaken by parish council during village walks.	High	Parish council	3 months	Parish council	Not known
Continue to press for the improvement of Black Lanning as a safe route to school for local children.	Parish council will contact Cumbria C C Highways	High	Parish council Cumbria C C	6 months	Cumbria C C	None
Request more convenient bus services to Cockermouth in the morning period.	Parish council will contact local bus companies.	High	Parish council Local operators	6 months	Parish council	None

Action Plan

The Recommendation	Action to be taken	Priority	Partners	Start Within	Lead	Resource Implications
Dearham Village Hall The parish council will:- Seek to improve the village hall as set out in the plan. Support efforts to increase the use of the village hall.	Prepare improvement scheme and costings to enable grant submissions to be made. Marketing strategy developed after improvements effected.	High Medium	Parish council Parish council Local groups	Ongoing 24 months	Parish council Parish council	Budget cost of £46,000 Publicity when ready
Parish Safety The parish council will:- Consider setting up a local safety group.	Arrange for lecture by established safety group. Publicity in newsletter	High	Parish council Cumbria Police	Ongoing	Parish council	Not known yet
Public Rights of Way The parish council will:- Undertake a survey of all parish paths to determine their condition and ease of access. Continue to work with Cumbria C C Rights of Way section to keep all the paths in good order. Seek ways of producing a map of paths around the parish.	Parish council will organise a survey of all public rights of way to determine their condition and accessibility. Results will be reported to Cumbria C C Rights of Way Officer Parish council will seek funding and consultant to update paths leaflet published in 1998	High High Medium	Parish council Cumbria C C Parish council Consultant	18 months 18 months 18 months	Parish council Parish council Parish council	None None Not known yet

Action Plan

The Recommendation	Action to be taken	Priority	Partners	Start Within	Lead	Resource Implications
Clubs and Organisations						
The parish council will:-						
Consider the use of the village hall as a venue for recreational opportunities for young people providing adequate supervision is available.	Parish council will consult with young people to discuss the issues raised by them in the plan consultation.	High	Parish council	6 months	Parish council	Not known
Seek to develop Pottery Park to cater for more leisure opportunities for young people.	Parish council will continue to work with Pottery Park Regeneration Group on development plans.	High	Parish council Pottery Park Regeneration Group	Ongoing	Pottery Park Regeneration Group	Not known yet
Consider further the provision of a "youth shelter".	Parish council will carry out consultation process.	High	Parish council Youth	3 months	Parish council	Youth shelter could cost £2500
Support additional efforts by any groups to increase leisure opportunities for young people.	Parish council will publicise projects and actively encourage volunteers.	High	Parish council Residents	6 months	Parish council	None
Investigate the provision of better transport links with nearby towns. If necessary, these will link with other parishes and enable older children to spend time with their friends outside school hours.	Parish council will consult with operators.	Medium	Parish council Bus operators	12 months	Parish council	None

Acknowledgements

Production of this parish plan is a major achievement and everyone who was involved is to be congratulated.

The parish council gratefully acknowledges the support and assistance of the following groups and individuals in the preparation of this plan.

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