Embleton and District Parish Plan

Spring 2013

www.embletonparish.com

CONTENTS

Subject	Page
Map of Parish…….....	3
Introduction……	4
A Brief History of the Parish……	5
Of Specific Interest Our Parish……..	6
Place Names……...	7
Demographic and Survey Details……..	8
Household Composition and Population Survey…….	8
Everyday Life in the Parish…….	11
The Village Halls……..	13
Churches……	14
Getting About in the Parish…….	16
Road Safety and Parish Maintenance……..	18
Crime and Security……	19
Farming……...	19
Tourism……...	20
The Parish Council and Communication……..	22
Likes and Dislikes…….	22
The Long View……..	23
Acknowledgements……..	23
Action Plan…….	24-31
Useful Contacts……..	32

Schematic Map of th

Embleton and District Parish Plan

Introduction

Embleton and District is a civil parish with a Parish Council in the Allerdale District of Cumbria and lies entirely within the Lake District National Park, where it is classified as a village in the North Distinctive Area. It was formed from three existing parishes, Embleton, Setmurthy and Wythop. It is bordered by the River Derwent in the North, the Cockermouth Town boundary to the West, Long Fell and Lord's Seat to the South and Bassenthwaite Lake to the East. It has several small clusters of population around Dubwath, the Ruddings, Wythop Mill, Beckhouse, Routenbeck, Stanger and Shatton, as well as the larger ribbon of homes along the route of the old A66 through the Embleton Valley. There are single farmhouses and homes along the many minor roads in the parish.

The total population as shown in the 2011 census was 442 people living in 193 households.

Embleton Valley from Wythop

It is an area of special scenery of lakes, mountains and fells typical of this area of the National Park and is popular with visitors as a centre to explore the Northern Lakes, with the attractions of Keswick and Cockermouth almost equidistant, as well as being enjoyed by those who live and work here.

The Parish Plan was put together following a canvassing of local opinion through the delivery of a questionnaire to every household in April 2011. 106 (57%) were returned with comments. A sub-committee of the Council met regularly to analyse the responses and collate the information. A number of volunteers also contributed sections which, together, provide a picture of the area at present with some ideas about how the residents view its future. It is intended that this document will be used as supporting evidence whenever planning decisions or developments are being considered in the parish. The Parish Plan is therefore very much a forward-looking working document.

All neighbourhood statistics for the charts have been taken and combined for Embleton and Setmurthy from the 2011 Census as published by the Office for National Statistics.

A Brief History of the Parish

Human settlement began here at least 5,000 years ago. Celts, Romans, Angles and Vikings settled here in succession, as in the rest of the Lake District, and left their mark on the landscape and language, especially the Vikings who came via Ireland in the 10th century and probably also introduced the iconic Herdwick sheep. (Herd vik = sheep farm in Old Norse).

During Roman times dairy products, meat, hides, wool and skins from the Embleton valley would have supplied the Roman fort at Papcastle (Derventio). For hundreds of years after the Roman occupation (the Dark Ages) there are no written records of our part of Cumbria. From about 43 to 1300 AD settlers in the area made their own clothes, built wattle and daub houses and ate seasonal food. In common with the whole border area, Embleton is recorded as having suffered raids by the Scots – the last in 1322 when 12 of the 24 peasant holdings were burnt to the ground.

As the forest was gradually cleared and times became more settled farming, the deerpark and woodworking became the chief employment. Embleton fulling mill and Wythop paper mill, built in the 14th century, also provided work. From the 18th century the paper mill became a corn mill and was later used for woodworking. As the valley further opened up a money economy was gradually introduced. Because villagers were involved in more varied activities they provided scope for such businesses as Gibson's shop (a general store) and several public houses. The outbuildings of Wythop Mill became a cloggers and bootmakers. Farming also increased and small scale tourism began in the 19th century.

Wythop Mill

The first half of the 20th century saw the establishment of the successful Embleton Close Granite Quarry, which was worked until 1950 and employed many local men. Close to Embleton Station a railway siding was put in to serve the quarry. It became an "industry now known all over the country for its unequalled road materials".

The Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith railway line opened in 1865. Sunday evening excursions from the surrounding towns to Bassenthwaite Lake station at Dubwath became very popular, and in summer the Lakes Express brought tourists from as far as London.

The line closed in 1966 when the railway stopped operating, Embleton Station and the other buildings having closed in 1958, now converted to a private dwelling house. The ruins of Bassenthwaite Lake Station and other station buildings are still visible in the parish today.

Station Terrace Embleton

Of specific interest in our Parish

Replica Celtic Roundhouse
Dubwath Silver Meadows

In Neolithic times the Lake District was a major source of stone axes and several have been found in modern times. One found at High Side is today in the Tullie House Museum in Carlisle. At Elva Plain in Setmurthy there is a late Neolithic stone circle, one of many in Cumbria believed to have been associated with the local trade in stone axes. It is an almost perfect circle around 125 feet in diameter. Only half the original 30 stones remain, none rising more than 3 feet above the ground.

The name Elva (Elf How) means “Elf Hill” and is reputed to be a fairy hill.

Dating from the late Iron Age (50 BC-50 AD) is the Embleton Sword. Made of iron in the Celtic style, nearly 58cm long, it is beautifully decorated with enamel in a red and yellow chequer-board effect, as is the copper alloy scabbard. It was found near Wythop Mill probably in the early 19th century. It was originally in the Crosthwaite Museum, but when the museum closed in 1870 it was bought for £32 by the British Museum.

The Embleton Sword

In 1985 a replica made by Workington apprentices at British Steel was presented to Embleton Parish on the occasion of a flower festival in the church.

Castle How, at Peil Wyke, Wythop, a scheduled ancient monument, is an Iron Age, possibly post-Roman hill fort, rising steeply from the shores of Bassenthwaite Lake. It was possibly only used for short term refuge, as no masonry, bones or pottery have been found there. It is also reputed to be the fairy hill where the last fairy was seen in Cumberland.

Stanger, a small hamlet in the "township and chapelry of Embleton" is home to a Spa, an ancient holy well (St Anna's Spa), one of a very few saline wells in England. Once frequented by hundreds of visitors, the waters were reputed to be good for the treatment of skin diseases in particular. The 18th century roofless building around the spa has been restored in recent years.

Stanger Spa

Place Names

The first mention of **Embleton** is in 1195. The name is thought to derive from 'Eanbald's tun' (Eanbald's settlement).

The name **Wythop** (along with Beckwythop) is mentioned from the 13th Century, and means 'willow valley'.

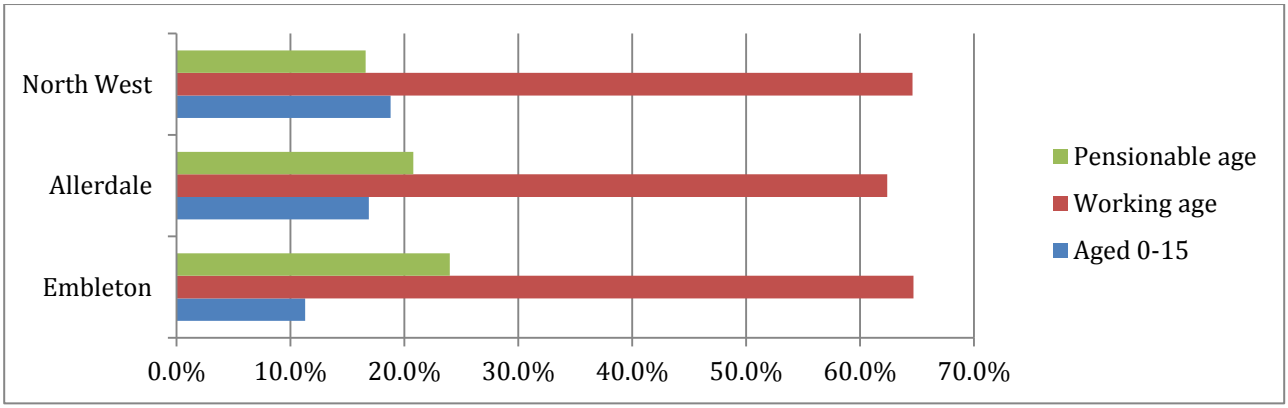
Dubwath, first recorded in 1292 as Dobwra, may have originally meant 'the nook by the pool' (dub = pool, often muddy or stagnant, vra = nook). Its position by a stream may have encouraged replacement of 'vra' by 'wath' = ford.

Setmurthy, first mentioned in 1195, is 'Murdoch's shieling', or summer pasture. **Shatton** is thought to come from Sceat Tun meaning a farm at a corner of land. **Stanger** comes from the old Norse Stang Ra meaning boundary post.

Dubwath from Sale Fell

Demographic and Survey Details

According to the 2011 census there were 442 people residing in Embleton and District Parish, out of nearly 100,000 in Allerdale and over 7 millon in the North West of England. There were slightly more males than females, with fewer children, and more people of pensionable age as a percentage of total population than in Allerdale and the NW as a whole.



There are fewer lone parent and one person households but more pensioner and married households than in Allerdale as a whole and in the NW.

Household Composition and Population Survey

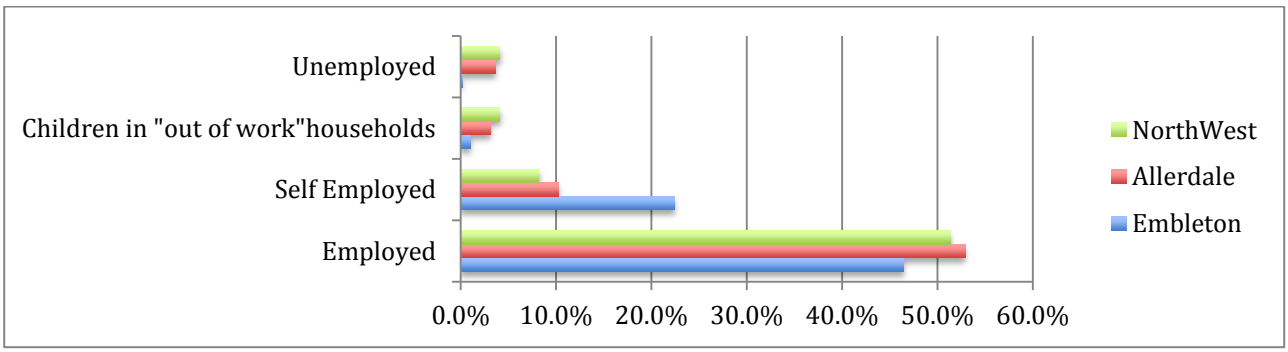
Respondents to our survey thought that a younger population would enhance our community (73%) but were less sure that there was anything wrong with the current mix (40%) and were more negative about a population increase. 62% thought the current socio-economic mix was healthy.

Outcome/Actions

The Parish Council will support appropriate planning applications that would help housing for families in the parish.

In Work

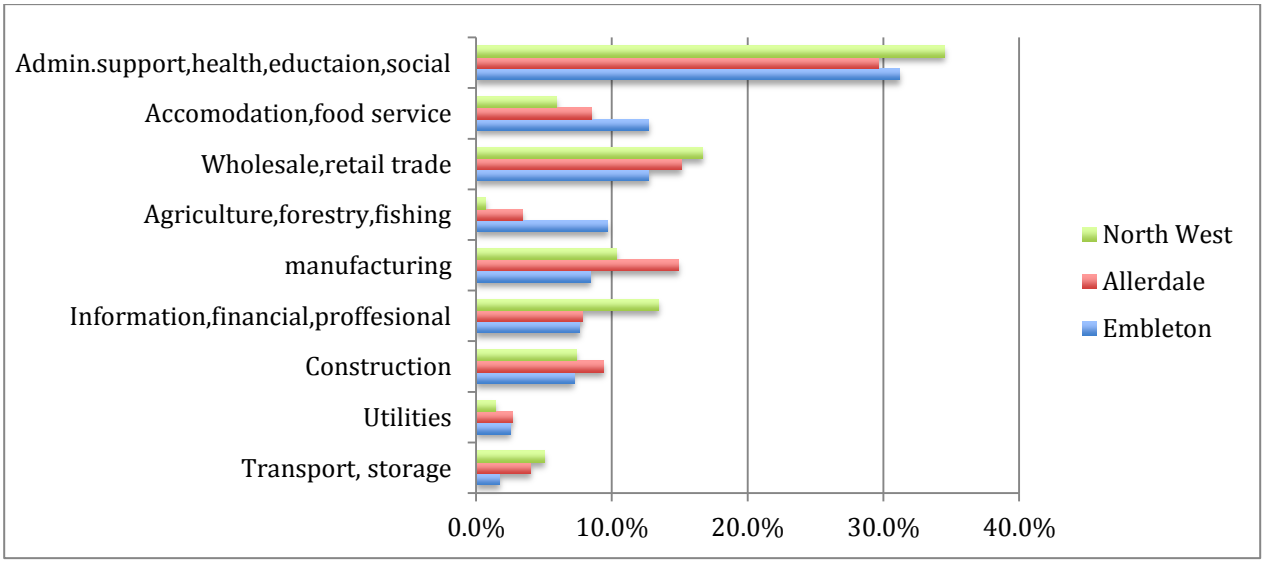
There are fewer people unemployed and fewer children living in “out of work“ households and more of us are self-employed than employed compared with Allerdale and the NW in general.



Jobs

Although the majority (74%) of respondents to our survey would be content to see additional job-providing businesses established in the community, there was a divided view regarding a strong need to have more jobs available (46% yes, 42% no, 12% don’t know). Preference for the type of job creation opportunities was more definite, with the majority wanting to limit the businesses to small units, in keeping with the rural nature of the area. There was a significant number of comments showing reservations about the effect of increased traffic on the peace and quiet of the area, which was valued.

Table shows the number of people employed in the categories listed in the 2011 Census.



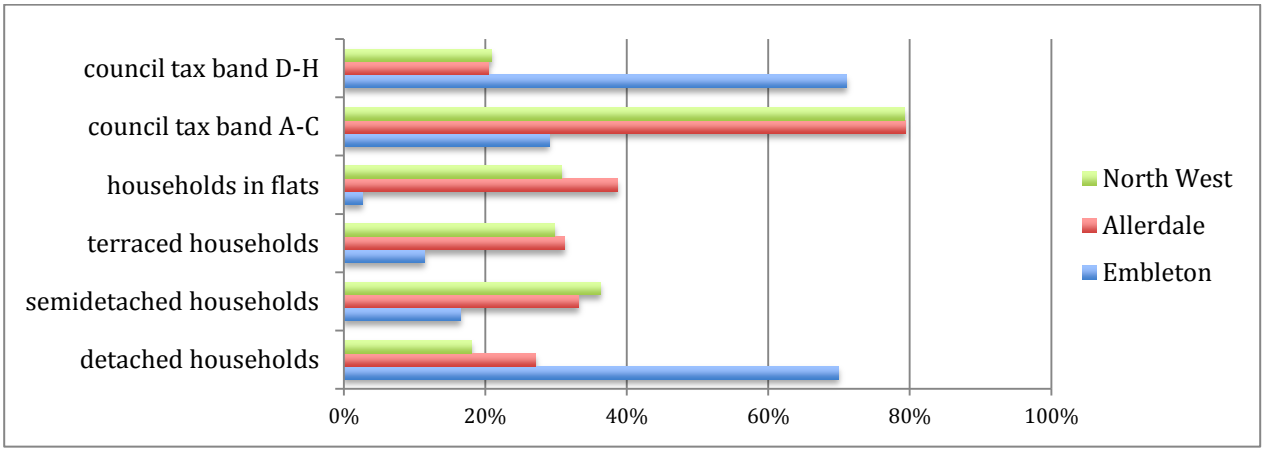
Outcome/Actions

The Parish Council will support appropriate planning applications but try to ensure that the rural character and peace of the parish is kept.

Housing Tenure

At 77% the proportion of owner occupied houses is higher than Allerdale (69%) and the NW (64%). The number of social rented houses (1%) is significantly lower (19% Allerdale, 18% NW), and private rented (16%) higher than Allerdale (10%) but about the same as the NW (15%). We have 6% rent-free households, which is higher than Allerdale and NW (1%).

Most of the housing stock is detached (70%) with fewer being semi, terraced or flats than in Allerdale and the NW. There are considerably more in council tax bands D-H than in Allerdale and the NW and considerably fewer in bands A-C.



Housing Survey

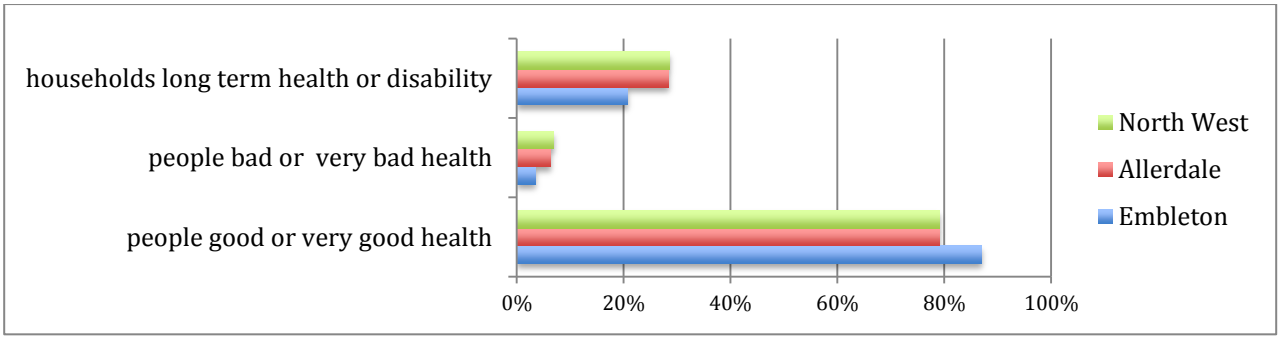
Respondents to our survey were neutral about the number of houses and families in our community and did not express a need for more houses. There was a resistance (57%) to increasing the number, but respondents were positive (62%) about the need for "affordable houses" and "starter" houses. The price of housing is an issue, with many comments received about better off outsiders pushing up house prices and an increasing number of second homes.

Outcome/Actions

The Parish Council will support appropriate planning applications with local occupancy clauses to try to maintain the rural nature of the parish.

Everyday Life in the Parish

Health



There are fewer households with a person with long term illness or disability, fewer people reporting to have bad or very bad health, and more with good or very good health (86%) than Allerdale (79%) and the NW (79%).

There are no health facilities in the parish although some residents are trained emergency "First Responders".

There are cottage hospitals in Cockermouth, Keswick and Maryport providing a limited range of health services.

Cockermouth Community Hospital (4 miles) is an 11 bed GP/nurse led unit for adult patients, which provides medical, nursing, rehabilitation and end of life care. The hospital also provides outpatient medical, nursing and therapy services. It is an Integrated Care Organisation where both health and social care services work together. A new purpose built hospital is being developed on the same site and is due to open in 2013.

The Mary Hewetson Cottage Hospital in Keswick (8 miles) is a 15 bed GP/nurse led unit for adult patients which provides medical, nursing, rehabilitation, therapy and end of life care. There is also a 24/7 Minor Injuries Unit based at the hospital.

Victoria Cottage Hospital in Maryport (13 miles) is a 13 bed GP/nurse-led unit providing medical, nursing, rehabilitation and end of life care to the local adult population. The hospital also provides a nurse-led Minor Injuries service, which is open seven days a week. Minor surgical procedures are also provided.

In general, GP and dental services for residents of the parish are provided from the practices based in Cockermouth. Here there are three clinic-type GP practices and the same number of dental surgeries. The Great North Air Ambulance serves the area.

NHS acute services are available in hospitals in Whitehaven (20 miles) and Carlisle (25 miles). These are local hospitals with a less than complete range of services and capabilities.

Accordingly, for 24-hour adult care and treatment for many serious conditions or for specialist children's medicine or for complete-service trauma or acute or specialist surgical, medical and neurological services, residents must rely upon the Royal Victoria Infirmary in

Newcastle (88 miles) or the James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough (108 miles).

Against this background, residents have concerns about the quality and availability of health care in the region as well as about emergency response times and capabilities. There are also concerns about transportation practicalities and costs associated with treatment at the more distant facilities.

Outcome/Actions

Monitor community health needs, particularly in relation to transport to and from hospital. Encourage more First Responders across the parish. Work with other rural parishes to try to ensure that local health services meet local need.

Youth

There are no schools in the parish. However, there are primary schools in Lorton, Bassenthwaite, Cockemouth and Eaglesfield and secondary schools in Keswick and Cockermouth. There are a number of activities in the parish for young people and these include a regular Youth Club night in Embleton Village Hall, the Play Area at Lambfoot, Sunday School at Embleton Church every Sunday and various activities organised by the local Young Farmers Group. Bassenthwaite Sailing Club also organise regular sessions for young people. In Cockemouth and Keswick there is a much wider range of activities available.

Outcome/Actions

Ensure that young people in the parish are aware of local activities and help to provide support for those who wish to develop further activities.

Elderly/Retired

Similarly, there are numerous groups and organisations active in and around the parish who support and provide activities for elderly people. These include the Duke of Lancaster's (Border) Regiment Regimental Association, Age UK and the University of the Third Age. Regular coffee mornings are held in Embleton Village Hall and, as a spin off from the development of this Parish Plan, it is hoped to set up a local history group in the parish.

Outcomes/Actions

Provide regular updates on local activities and events through the newsletter and website and help to provide support for those who wish to develop new activities.

The majority of people felt that they were not active participants in community life (38% yes, 61% no) and were happy to leave it that way. 59% said they would not like to be more involved and 65% said there wasn't anything discouraging them from taking part. Embleton Village Hall and its committee were mentioned as a positive influence on community social life in various comments. Our community largely values its peace and quiet and wants to enjoy wider involvement in community life on a take it or leave it basis.

The Village Halls

The Parish has two village halls which host a variety of activities and can be hired out by contacting the relevant hall administrators. Information on these activities can be found on the various Parish Notice Boards and on the Parish website, www.embletonparish.com

Outcome/Actions

Ensure that all local events are promoted via the Parish Council newsletter and the Parish website.

Embleton Village Hall

The new hall was opened in 2011 after three years of fund-raising saw the total of over £300,000 reached, the main funder being the National Lottery. The facilities are some of the best in Cumbria with a main hall, kitchen, changing rooms and disabled access. The hall is well used with a wide variety of activities taking place on a weekly basis. All the Parish Council meetings take place in the hall and a council notice board is placed outside the Hall, by the car park.

Setmurthy Parish Hall

The Hall is a well-maintained and comfortable venue that is used for parties, meetings, training and other events. It is set in private grounds on the Barkhouse to Cockermouth road, overlooking the River Derwent. Facilities include a meeting room, kitchen, toilet, a BBQ area and parking. It holds an important place in local history and was built by public subscription in the 19th century as a school. Local residents have worked hard to maintain the building over the years and it is now available for bookings from groups and individuals.

Churches

There are three churches in the Embleton and District area; all are small country churches but well loved and charming. Local monthly publications are available with all the local information on parish churches and relevant church services.

St Margaret's Church at Wythop

Today's St Margaret's Church sits in a beautiful elevated location, overlooking the Embleton Valley and Bassenthwaite Lake, on land which belonged to Sir Henry Vane. The Church is unusual in having the porch on the north side because of the fell-side location.

It is dedicated to St Margaret of Antioch, depicted in the North Chancel window, and was consecrated by the Bishop of Carlisle on July 31st 1866. The Church is noted for its beautiful windows, in particular the west windows depicting the Adoration of the Magi and the Entry into Jerusalem and the east window depicting the Crucifixion. The font is dedicated to the memory of the Rev. Joseph Lowther and the oak lectern to the memory of Isaac Dixon, a significant benefactor.

The Altar cross was made from wood taken from the ruins of the old church, and was covered in brass at the Keswick School of Industrial Arts. The memorials in the Church speak of the prominent families of this small community; principal among these are the Vanes.

In the year 2000 a time capsule was buried in the graveyard. This contains information and photographs about the church and life in the local community.

St Margaret's

The church was designed by Bruce of Whitehaven and replaced the old church, which was located at Chapel Wood at Kelsick, which is believed to date back to the 14th century and was of plain appearance. The floor was not laid until 1842, the bell hung in a nearby tree and there was no font and no burial ground as christenings, marriages and burials took place at Lorton. An open-air service is held annually in the ruins of the old church at Chapel Wood on the third Sunday in August.

St Barnabas' Church, Setmurthy

The ecclesiastical Parish of Setmurthy is one of the smallest in the Diocese of Carlisle, with a total adult population of only 43. There has been a Church here since before 1225.

However, the present Church was erected in 1794 at a cost of £107, the whole of which was subscribed by the inhabitants. Restored and modified in 1870 when the tower and belfry were added, it contains a charming and distinctive interior that features extensive and unusual pitch pine decorations dating from 1880.

St Barnabas'

In 1903 the baptistery was added and this houses the old font dating from 1661. Originally a Chapel of Ease in Brigham parish, the church has several excellent stained glass windows, all memorials to the Fisher family of nearby Higham Hall.

In 1835, when Setmurthy was in the far north-west corner of the old diocese of Chester, the burial- ground was consecrated for interments by Dr. Sumner, then Bishop of Chester and later Archbishop of Canterbury. Services are held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

St Cuthbert's Church, Embleton

The first mention of St Cuthbert's Church at Embleton is in the parish registers of St Bees in 1210. Tradition suggests that churches dedicated to this favourite northern saint mark places where monks from Lindisfarne rested his remains on their journey to protect them from desecration by marauding Danes. No trace of such an ancient building is left but in 1564 the Inventory of Church Goods for Cumberland states that the parish of Embleton was so poor it had no vestments!

St Cuthbert's

The present building dates from 1806 with further restorations carried out in 1883, 1869 and 1892 [and ongoing] - possibly as the 'poor' parish gained in prosperity.

The building is in the form of a simple rectangle with a projecting south porch of Lakeland stone and small bell tower at the west end. It nestles in the tranquil farmland where valley meets fell and has

served the local farming community well for many years.

There is nothing pretentious about St Cuthbert's; pine pews and choir stalls which seat over 100, a fine oak pulpit and an inspiring east window depicting the Resurrection with multicoloured side panels, beneath which is a mosaic reredos and at either side two decorated commandment boards. Records deposited with the diocese clearly show entries from 1626 and include a vestry book beginning in July 1771. The registers for confirmation and baptism, still in use, began in 1899.

Outside the open graveyard holds numerous imposing headstones, the most famous being that raised by public subscription in memory of servant girl, Anna Sewell, who was brutally murdered at the nearby farmhouse. The neighbouring building known as The Sunday School still provides a handy meeting place with many local tales of good times and good gatherings.

Outcome/Actions

The Parish Council has agreed to help maintain the parish churchyards.

Getting About in the Parish

5% of households do not have a car or van at their disposal, which compares with 24% for Cumbria as a whole. The whole community is more than 5 miles from the nearest Job Centre, which is in Keswick (8 miles), compared with 30% for Cumbria, and no households are more than 5 miles from the nearest secondary school or nearest GP, which is better than for Cumbria (8% and 2%).

Respondents thought the present public transport to and from our community to be satisfactory (64%) and did not especially want to see improvement or have any concerns (65%) but did think that a car was essential to our lives in the community (94%), but not the need for more local car parking facilities (66%).

The X4/5 Bus Service

Roundclose Hill

The comments on this topic were varied, as might be expected, depending on the household's proximity to the X4 and X5 bus routes. Those that were near thought it a good service. However, for a large number of households using a bus is not a practical option. There were a number of sugges-

tions to provide parking near bus stops as a park and ride option and that there should be more use of the various community transport schemes supported by the County Council.

There was much mention of a community bus service using small buses with flexible stops. There were also requests for improved foot and cycle paths.

Roads

Embleton and District Parish is well served for major and minor roads. One of Cumbria's major trunk roads runs through the parish, this being the A66. This very busy road does cause safety concerns, most notably the problems associated with trying to turn right off the main road into either Wythop or Embleton, depending upon the direction of travel.

There have been a number of incidents and accidents on the stretch of the A66 that runs through the parish and over the past two years the Parish Council has lobbied the Highways Agency to address the various safety concerns. During autumn 2012 a number of works were undertaken to increase awareness of the junctions to both Embleton and Wythop Mill, and these will hopefully reduce the number of incidents occurring around these junctions.

The network of B and C roads, together with numerous unclassified roads in the parish is relatively extensive. The major concerns regarding these roads are potholes and flooding due to blocked gullies, drains and culverts. The Parish Council regularly monitors potholes and flooding issues on the roads and works with Cumbria Highways to get good outcomes for the public who report faults via the Highways Hotline number. The Council also works closely with the local County Counciillor on other issues such as lighting, litter, gritting and signage. A number of grit/salt bins have now been strategically placed around the parish for local people to use. The Highways Hotline number should be used to get the bins refilled.

Littering along the side of roads in the parish is a concern and in one part of the parish, Dubwath, a group of local residents have come together to hold regular litter-picks. This example of community action is one that could be undertaken elsewhere in the locality and would be supported by the Parish Council. There is a Litter Hotline run by Allerdale Borough Council.

Outcome/Actions

The Parish Council will continue to liaise with the County Council on highways issues and will also promote the use of the Highways Hotline number, **0845 609 6609**, to encourage local residents to report concerns.

The Parish Council will work with local people who wish to organise litter-picks along road verges in the Parish and encourage the use of the Allerdale Litter and Fly-tipping Hotline.

The Parish Council will continue to lobby and work with the Highways Agency to ensure that the A66 becomes a safer road for local people to use.

Footpaths

The network of public footpaths throughout the parish is reasonably well maintained, with some being very popular with both local people and visitors, Sale Fell being a particular 'hot-spot'. The Allerdale Ramble, a long distance circular route, passes through the parish, coming over Watch Hill and along the perimeter of the Setmurthy Common plantation. There are some concerns that have been brought to the attention of the Parish Council regarding dog fouling and the dropping of litter.

Footpath to Sale Fell

Outcome/Actions

To ensure that the network of paths within the parish is well maintained and accessible.

Public and Community Transport

The Parish Plan questionnaire showed that, overwhelmingly, people living in the parish depended upon their own private transport for getting about, most households having at least one car and many owning two or more.

However, the public transport that serves people living in the part of the parish that lies to the north of the A66 is one of the best in the entire county. The X4/5 service, which runs from Workington to Penrith, is both regular and reliable. The service runs the entire length of the parish and is a genuine asset.

Outcome/Actions

The Parish Council will promote the Bus Service X4/5 and community transport schemes through the website and newsletters and lobby the County Council for additional bus stop infrastructure.

Road Safety and Parish Maintenance

Whilst most people did not have concerns about road safety (72%) most thought that they would like to see traffic calming measures (64%) but were divided about the need for additional speed or vehicle access restrictions on local roads (53%, 49%). There were many comments about the 40 mph speed limit not being respected and generally people driving too fast for our country roads. Most comments made were about excessive speed on narrow country roads.

The maintenance of road markings, the control of hedges, repairing of potholes and maintenance of footpaths and kerbs were all concerns expressed in the questionnaires.

More lighting at junctions and the use of cats eyes were also suggested a number of times. However, most respondents thought that the current level of street lighting was adequate.

The A66 junctions for Embleton and Wythop Mill were considered dangerous and central reservation/road widening are needed. (The Highways Agency have recently undertaken work on these junctions).

Litter and the provision of bins in various places is mentioned repeatedly in the comments, with roadside litter seen as a big problem. Some multiple requests for specific bus shelters at the Wheatsheaf and Brathay Hill were received. Grit bins were an issue but these have largely been dealt with already.

Outcome/Actions

Work with the County Council, Allerdale Borough Council, the Highways Agency and the Police to ensure that roads are well maintained, hedges are cut, road/street lighting is appropriate and to reduce speeds on our country roads. Arrange for speed indicator/radar control regularly to reinforce the 40 mph limit.

Crime & Security

Statistics show that our area is considered a low crime area, which is confirmed by our survey, showing a lack of concerns about crime in our community (76%). Opinion is less clear about the Police arrangements being adequate (45% yes, 34% no, 24% don't know). The visibility of the Police is an issue as is the lack of enforcement of the 40 mph speed limit through Embleton.

Neighbourhood and Farm Watch schemes operate in parts of the parish.

Outcome/Actions

Encourage more Police activity and visibility in the area. Extend the coverage of Neighbourhood and Farm Watch schemes in the parish.

Farming

Land in the parish varies from the fells down to lowland areas. Some land is given over to forestry, primarily Forestry Commission; the remainder is farmed, predominantly stock rearing of cattle and sheep, with very little dairy or arable crops.

Farming in the parish has changed dramatically since Common Agricultural Policy reform and Environmentally Sensitive Area schemes restricting cultivation and stocking rates. These, together with the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 2001, have led to farms amalgamating, creating larger units farmed by fewer farmers. Of the approximately 47 traditional farms in the parish supporting families, there are now only around 17. Traditional estates have been divided up, houses and land let separately or taken in hand and managed, reducing opportunities for young people to start farming.

Some landowners and retired farmers live in the farmhouses and let out their land, being encouraged to do so by high rents and the Single Payment Scheme. Some farms are split up and sold, leaving blocks of land with no house or buildings. The remaining working farms have taken on more land to make their businesses more viable. Some of this land has been taken on by young people trying to make a start in farming who have to travel from outside the parish.

Agriculture is an important sector of the local economy and a large number of people are employed in agricultural activities.

It is encouraging to note that at the moment there are many young people in the farming community in this parish wanting to continue farming in the future. As many of the farmsteads have been split from the land there is limited housing for this next generation of farmers.

Outcome/Actions

The Parish Council will support appropriate planning applications from agricultural holdings to help ensure sustainable farming thrives in the local area.

A sheep on Sale Fell

Tourism

Bassenthwaite Lake

The parish is located in the North-West corner of the Lake District National Park known as the Western Lake District or Northern Lakes. This is a quieter and less commercial area than other parts of the National Park. However, its outstanding mountain and Lakeland scenery as well as its popular attractions ensures an influx of year-round visitors.

The local community benefits from the revenues and employment that tourism generates and in the continuation of lower cost transport links and municipal services that we

enjoy. The status of National Park ensures that authorities oversee the development and protection of our environment now and for future generations.

The two towns that service our area are Keswick and Cockermouth each with its own, different attractions for visitors. Within and around the parish is a wide range of holiday accommodation, hotels, pubs and restaurants, leisure facilities and the tranquility of Bassenthwaite Lake.

The wide range of outdoor recreational facilities within the parish provide important visitor attractions. These include Cockermouth Golf Club which has an interesting, testing and panoramic 18 hole course opened in 1896, and Bassenthwaite Sailing Club established in 1952, dedicated to encourage sailing and racing at all levels of competence in beautiful surroundings and excellent facilities. Game fishing on the River Derwent and coarse fishing on the Lake, as well as canoeing and kayaking, are popular and easily accessible.

But it is the walking which attracts most to the spectacular neighbouring fells with the opportunity to see the wild flora and fauna which is less disturbed in this part of the Park. An added attraction is Dubwath Silver Meadows wetland reserve at the head of the Lake. The network of bridle-paths and ways is valued by orienteering clubs and the numerous and relatively quiet country roads are often used by cyclists.

Outcome/Actions

To support appropriate tourism development in the Parish to benefit the local community.

A stiff breeze on Bassenthwaite Lake

The Parish Council & Communication

Three Parish Councils, Embleton, Wythop and Setmurthy, came together in the 1990's to form one council. The Council consists of 13 members and meets every month except for August and December. Meetings are held in Embleton Village Hall and members of the public are always made welcome, with an item for public participation included early in every Agenda. Minutes of all Parish Council Meetings are displayed on four parish notice boards around the parish and are available on the website, www.embletonparish.com and can also be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk (see contacts list).

Respondents are aware of the extent (80%) of the parish of Embleton and District and know what the Parish Council is supposed to do (88%). Respondents also felt that its work was relevant (73%) and the Council was effective (65%). The Council is encouraged by the comments to keep producing the Newsletter, as it was important in effectively communicating, and to be pro-active on issues which are important to the parish.

Although 59% were aware of the website, 80% did not make use of it. There were a number of comments about households without a computer. However, the number of households without a computer will surely decrease year on year.

Outcome/Actions

Increase awareness of Parish Council activities within the local community and ensure that all council seats are taken.

Councillors and Clerk to undertake regular and appropriate training.

Ensure that the community are aware of whom to contact for community matters of concern and of local events through regular newsletters and website up-dates.

Ensure our area is well represented in any initiatives which improve communications, such as "Connecting Cumbria".

Parish Council noticeboard Wythop

Likes and Dislikes

The overwhelming feeling gained from the consultation process is that this is a nice place to live and people were generally satisfied with the services, surroundings and quality of life.

Whereas there is a conscious feeling that the area has changed, with less farming, more tourism and newer people moving in, this is not seen as a bad thing in itself, with a high level of occupancy of the housing stock and a good community spirit.

The Long View

1. Present and future residents must be able to enjoy living in a safe, familiar and timeless environment.

2. All generations must be able to pursue the lifestyle they choose, at ease, without inconveniencing or being inconvenienced by others.

3. The entitlement to urban benefits must be preserved while maintaining the feeling of being in a rural setting.

4. Visitors should feel welcome and be given every facility to ensure their enjoyment of this unique area without compromising its special qualities.

5. The area must be allowed to evolve whilst maintaining its essential characteristics.

Acknowledgements

The Parish Council acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the enormous contribution made by Mrs Barbara Petecka to the production of this Plan, Mike Turner for the excellent photography and Geoff Downham for his encouragement and support through ACT.

The involvement and commitment of the Parish Plan sub committee of the Parish Council is gratefully acknowledged as are the efforts of all those involved, not least all those who took the time and trouble to respond to the questionnaire.

Thank You.

Osprey fishing Bassenthwaite Lake

Red Squirrel, Setmurthy

ACTION PLAN

ISSUE	ACTION	ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED	SHORT TERM ACTIONS	MEDIUM/LONGER TERM ACTIONS	FUNDING (if required)
Housing: *it is felt that more young families living in the parish would be a good thing.*	**The Parish Council will support appropriate planning applications with local occupancy clauses that would help housing for families in the parish and try and maintain the rural nature of the area.**	**Lake District National Park Authority** **Allerdale Borough Council** **The Parish Council**	**The Parish Council will work with the LDNPA to try to ensure that the planning process is more responsive to local needs.**	**See Short Term Actions**	
Jobs: *small-scale job creation would benefit those living in the parish.*	**The Parish Council will support appropriate planning applications whilst trying to ensure that the rural character and peace of the parish is kept.**	**Lake District National Park Authority** **Local employers** **The Parish Council**		**Monitor applications to ensure that the rural character of the parish is maintained.**	

ISSUE	ACTION	ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED	SHORT TERM ACTIONS	MEDIUM/LONGER TERM ACTIONS	FUNDING (if required)
Health: help *ensure that existing services and support meet the demands of the community,*	**Monitor community health needs, particularly in relation to transport to and from hospital.** **Encourage more First Responders in the parish.** **Work with other rural Parish Councils to try and ensure that local health services meet local need.**	**NHS Cumbria** **NW Ambulance Service** **First Responder Group** **The Parish Council**	**Raise community awareness of existing services via the Parish Council newsletter.** **Support the development of a First Responders group in the parish.** **Lobby local politicians to ensure that Health Service provision remains local.**	**Encourage more members of the community to volunteer as First Responders and Voluntary Car Scheme drivers.**	**Small-scale funding might be required for First Responder Group via the Parish Council**
Youth: *a small number of young people live in the parish but it is felt to be important that there is adequate provision.*	**Ensure that young people in the parish are aware of local activities and help to provide support for those who wish to develop new activities.**	**Village Hall Committee** **Play Area Committee** **The Young Farmers** **Embleton Church** **Bassenthwaite Sailing Club** **The Parish Council** **Young Cumbria**	**Parish Subgroup to meet with Youth & Young Farmers to determine what needs of the young people are.** **Promote sailing courses aimed at young people.**	**Ensure that both funding and volunteers are in place to support activities.** **Monitoring of Play Area equipment and site.**	**Funding will be required to support the ongoing provision within the parish.**

ISSUE	ACTION	ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED	SHORT TERM ACTIONS	MEDIUM/LONGER TERM ACTIONS	FUNDING (if required)
Elderly/Retired: *the recent census figures show that, as elsewhere in Cumbria, there are a growing number of elderly and retired people living in the parish.*	**Provide regular updates on local activities and events through the newsletter and website and help to provide support for those who wish to develop new activities.**	**Village Hall Committee** **The Parish Council** **Age UK** **University of the Third Age**	**Ensure that there are good links between the website manager, newsletter editor and local organisations.**	**Support the creation of a local history group.**	**Some small-scale funding will be required.**
Village Halls: *there are two halls in the parish and it is important that they are both financially viable.*	**Ensure that all local events are promoted via the Parish newsletter and website.**	**Village Hall Committees** **The Parish Council** **ACT**	**Determine what activities are required by specific groups and what activities are well supported.**	**Help ensure fabric of buildings is fit for purpose.**	**Funding will be required as and when specific issues arise.**

ISSUE	ACTION	ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED	SHORT TERM ACTIONS	MEDIUM/LONGER TERM ACTIONS	FUNDING (if required)
Roads: *the parish is well served by both major and minor roads. However, concerns regarding the safety of the A66 (old and new) and many other roads in the parish continue to be raised.*	**The Parish Council will continue to liaise with the County Council on highways issues and will also promote the use of the Highways Hotline number, 0845 609 6609, to encourage local residents to report concerns.** **The Parish Council will support community litter picks along road verges.** **The Parish Council will continue to lobby and work with the Highways Agency to ensure that the A66 becomes a safer road for local people to use.**	**Cumbria Highways CCC** **The Highways Agency** **The Parish Council** **Individual members of the public** **Allerdale Borough Council**	**Develop a highways sub group or an individual councillor to become highways portfolio holder.** **Publicise the Highways Hotline number for use by members of the public together with litter collection and fly-tipping numbers and faulty streetlight numbers.**	**Develop good working relations with Cumbria Highways and Highways Agency through personal contact of portfolio holder.** **Develop and maintain a parish highways 'hot spots' list.**	**Mainstream funding in place.** **Local funding may be required to support community litter picks.**

ISSUE	ACTION	ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED	SHORT TERM ACTIONS	MEDIUM/LONGER TERM ACTIONS	FUNDING (if required)
Road Safety & Parish Maintenance: *Speeding vehicles on country roads, the condition of these roads, poor lighting and overgrown hedges are causing some concerns.*	**Work with local councils, the Highways Agency and the police to ensure that roads are well maintained, hedges are cut, road/street lighting is appropriate and that speeds on country roads are reduced. Arrange for the use of speed indicator devices to reinforce speed limits.**	**Cumbria Highways CCC** **The Highways Agency** **The Parish Council** **Cumbria Police** **Allerdale Borough Council**	**Encourage the police to be more active and visible in the parish.** **Ensure that Speed Indicator devices are used on a regular basis in the parish.**	**Monitor road accident reports within the parish.** **Arrange regular meetings with Cumbria Highways officers.**	**Small-scale funding may be required relating to Speed Indicator Devices.**
Public Footpaths: *there is a good network of public footpaths within the parish though there are some specific needs for additional paths*	**To ensure that the network of paths within the parish is well maintained and accessible.**	**Local land-owners** **Lake District National Park Authority** **The Parish Council** **Cumbria County Council**	**To undertake an annual survey of the public footpaths in the parish.** **To identify where new paths are required and, working with partners, develop new paths.**	**Develop footpath leaflet and promote the health benefits of walking.**	**The Parish Council will seek to attract additional funding for the further development of the footpath network.**

ISSUE	ACTION	ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED	SHORT TERM ACTIONS	MEDIUM/LONGER TERM ACTIONS	FUNDING (if required)
Public & Community Transport: *it is felt to be important that public transport is not lost and community transport is further developed.*	**The parish Council will promote the Bus Service X4/5 and community transport schemes through the website and newsletters and lobby the County Council for additional bus stop infrastructure.**	**Cumbria County Council** **Transport providers** **The Parish Council**	**Ensure that updated bus timetables are visible at all bus stops and on the website.** **The Parish Council will lobby for additional bus stop infrastructure improvements.**	**Ensure that the parish has adequate bus stop infrastructure.** **Review the condition of existing bus shelters and determine if any maintenance is required.**	**Funding may be required to support the mainstream funding, via CCC, that is already in place.**
Crime & Security *this is a low crime area by whichever statistics are used. The only real concerns expressed related to speeding vehicles (see above).*	**Encourage more police activity and visibility in the area.** **Extend the coverage of the Neighbourhood and farm Watch schemes in the parish.**	**Cumbria Police** **Local Neighbourhood Watch groups** **The Parish Council**	**Recruit more volunteers for local Neighbourhood Watch schemes.**	**Encourage more engagement by the police with the Parish Council.**	

ISSUE	ACTION	ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED	SHORT TERM ACTIONS	MEDIUM/LONGER TERM ACTIONS	FUNDING (if required)
Farming: *still important in the parish though with a declining number of working farms.*	**The Parish Council will support appropriate planning applications from agricultural holdings to help ensure sustainable farming thrives in the area.**	**Local land-owners and farmers** **Lake District National Park Authority** **The Parish Council**	**Support the activities of local Young Farmers groups.**	**Work closely with local farmers to better understand the economics of agriculture in the locality.**	
Tourism: *it is felt that this sector could be further developed as part of small scale job creation.*	**To support appropriate tourism development in the parish to benefit the local community.**	**Tourism providers** **Lake District National Park Authority**	**The Parish Council will monitor associated planning applications**	**Work with tourism suppliers to develop the sector while maintaining the rural character of the area**	

ISSUE	ACTION	ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED	SHORT TERM ACTIONS	MEDIUM/LONGER TERM ACTIONS	FUNDING (if required)
Parish Council & Communication: *as is the case elsewhere in the country, many local people are unaware of what the Parish Council does and what is happening in the locality.*	**Increase awareness of Parish Council activities within the local community and ensure that all council seats are taken.** **Councillors and Clerk to undertake regular and appropriate training.** **Ensure that the community is aware of whom to contact for community matters of concern and of local events through regular newsletters and website updates.** **Ensure the area is well represented in any initiatives which aim to improve communications such as Connecting Cumbria.**	**The Parish Council** **Cumbria Association of Local Councils**	**Councillors to become portfolio holders and/or sub-group members for specific areas of activity, e.g. Highways, Young People etc.** **Support the regular and appropriate training of Councillors and Clerk.** **Further development of the Parish Council newsletter and website and better promotion of website.**	**Encourage more members of the public to attend Parish Council meetings and in particular the Annual Parish Meeting.** **Engagement of young people with a view to developing future Parish Councillors.** **Parish Councillors to ensure more engagement with local communities.**	**Funding for training and further development of the newsletter will be required from the Parish Council.**

Useful Contacts:

Parish Council Clerk	David Smith	016973 23296 davidsmith@tinyworld.co.uk
Embleton Village Hall	Chris Ostle	017687 76697 chris.ostle@sky.com
Setmurthy Parish Hall	Edith Wise	017687 76381
Highways Hotline	Cumbria Highways	0845 6096609 betterhighways.allerdale@cumbria.gov.uk
Lighting	Allerdale Borough Council	01900 702770 footway.lights@allerdale.gov.uk
Litter and Fly-tipping	Allerdale Borough Council	01900 702800 cleansing@allerdale.gov.uk
Stagecoach Bus		0870 6082608 www.stagecoachbus.com
Voluntary Community Transport	Pat Newton- Murray	01900 827293
Cockermouth Cottage Hospital		01900 822226
Mary Hewitson Cottage Hospital, Keswick		01768 245678
Police: Non–emergency		101
Young Farmers	Ruth Watson	07788 543424

To view the full results for the parish from the 2011 census visit the website for The Office for National Statistics
www.ons.gov.uk

The Parish Council website is
www.embletonparish.com