THE HOWGATE WARD PLAN

(Lowca, Moresby and Parton Parishes)

A Vital Villages Project

(Funded by the Countryside Agency)

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Contents

1 Introduction

2 The Howgate Ward

3 The Development of the Plan

4 The Household Questionnaire

5 Transport and Traffic

6 Housing

7 The Environment

8 Community Facilities and Services

9 Social and Community

10 Employment, Economy and Regeneration

11 Sport

12 Health

13 Crime and Safety

14 Education and Training

15 Involvement in Local Affairs

16 The Village Schools

17 The Youth Survey

18 The Public Meetings

19 Conclusion

1. Introduction

1.1 The West Cumbria People and Communities Action Plan sets out to address long standing problems of joblessness and lack of economic activity in the most disadvantaged parts of West Cumbria. It aims to increase economic activity, stimulate entrepreneurship, and increase access to opportunities in the West Cumbria area. Copeland District Council nominated the Howgate ward as one area where the delivery of regeneration activity was required under Objective 2 of the plan

1.2 The Countryside Agency, a statutory body working to spread social and economic opportunity for people living in rural areas has introduced a programme 'Vital Villages'. This programme aims to help small rural communities to take stock of their village to identify what they need to revitalise it to ensure local people have a voice in their future. It aims to provide support to enable each village to make its own decisions and to implement some of the improvements needed locally

1.3 Voluntary Action Cumbria is the rural community council for the county and in the early part of 2001 they appointed a junior rural community officer to work with the district council to produce an action plan for the Howgate ward using resources provided through 'Vital Villages' which would assist the delivery of the Objective 2 programme. The action plan was specifically to develop a strategy required for what is known as Priority 2 'Peoples and Communities'.

2.The Howgate Ward

2.1 Until the reorganisation of the County Council ward boundaries which resulted in the 2001 elections being fought on new boundaries the Howgate ward was the name of the ward to the north of Whitehaven comprising the parishes of Lowca, Moresby and Parton. The name and the boundaries changed in 2001 to Distington and Moresby and now covers what was the old Howgate ward and Distington. For the purposes of this plan no account is taken of the reorganisation

2.2 The ward has approximately 3500 inhabitants occupying just over 1200 households mostly within the three main settlements of Lowca, Moresby Parks and Parton. There are smaller settlements at Howgate and Low Moresby. The ward is dissected by the A595 the trunk road through West Cumbria. The west of the ward is the coastline of the Irish sea and to the east is the Lake District National Park. No part of the ward falls within the LDNP The southern boundary of the ward meets the un-parished area of Whitehaven and the northern boundary is with Distington and Frizington

2.3 The parishes and their settlements are between 2 and 3 miles from Whitehaven yet are predominately rural. Most services are provided from the town of Whitehaven. There is a railway line running through the ward but is of no benefit other than to the villagers of Parton. The is a frequent bus service along the A595 between Whitehaven and Workington but again the inhabitants who are within walking distance of the route are in a small minority.

2.4 The village of **Lowca** is the most northerly of the three settlements and is in terms of the population the smallest of the parishes. It is reasonably compact with only a small number of dwellings outside the village itself. There is a post office/shop and a village junior school. There is a Methodist chapel. The parish church is outside the village but within easy reach. There are two social clubs namely the old miners welfare club and a newly built rugby clubhouse. The public house closed sometime ago. Other amenities amount to a small children's play area and a BMX track which is not in good condition. Buses run to and from Whitehaven Monday to Saturday but only until 6.00 pm

2.5 The parish of **Moresby** has the largest population and is the most widespread. There are centres of population based on Moresby Parks and Low Moresby but with smaller settlements at Howgate and Quality Corner and many outlying dwellings. In addition there are 31 households in Rannerdale Drive and Oak Crescent which are within the parish but realistically part of the outskirts of Whitehaven. There must be a historical reason why the land is part of Moresby but since house development in the last twenty years the boundary which may at one point have been obvious is now not clear and the continuing retention of these dwellings in the parish is certainly not justified.

2.6 Moresby Parks, the main village, has a post office/shop. A second shop closed some time ago. There is a junior school with about 100 pupils. There are two social clubs. These are the Rugby Union clubhouse and the old miners welfare club. There is a playing field and a children's play area in the centre of the village and a much smaller play area in one of the housing estates. There are a number of allotments and on the outskirts of the village reclaimed pit workings that have been transformed to a recreational area mainly used for the exercise of

dogs. Buses run to and from Whitehaven Monday to Saturday with the last bus at 5.23 pm The Methodist Chapel at Moresby Parks also fulfills the role of doctors surgery.

2.7 Recent housing development means that the parish boundaries will need to be re-drawn not simply to take into account the problem raised in 2.5 but to include a large number of houses that have been built and further where planning permission has been granted. In this latter category a development of approximately 40 houses is to be built. All the houses both built and planned are close to the centre of the village but at the other side of the parish boundary. Children from these dwellings attend the village school and the village post office is the most convenient.

2.8 The settlement at Low Moresby has no facilities but is an area where new houses continue to be built. There is a post box but little else. A county council supported bus service runs through the hamlet up to five times a day.

2.9 Howgate itself is a small hamlet on the A595 road. There is a hotel belonging to a national chain but otherwise little except the post box and telephone kiosk. It is however on the main bus route from Whitehaven to Workington albeit there are no bus shelters and only on the northbound side a bus sign. The A595 is a very busy road with heavy traffic continually passing the through the village. A by-pass is to be built within the next five years.

2.10 Other communities in the parish include that at Rosehill where a small theatre and bistro is situated and where the Church hall is sited. The Church hall has recently had money spent on the upkeep but suffers from it location which is some distance from all the other centres of population

2.11 **Parton** is the third parish. It is the nearest to Whitehaven and is basically on two levels. The old village is at sea level and is where the post office/ shop is situated. The village school with some 50 pupils is next door and the railway station close by. The newer part of the village mainly comprises council/housing association estates and stands beside the A595 main road. There are few facilities in this area although for many the bus to Whitehaven or Workington is within walking distance. There was a shop until fairly recently but no more. The football field is in this part of the village. There are two public houses and a village hall at sea level. The village hall has an active committee who have raised and spent considerable amounts in recent years to refurbish the hall. They accept that their task is not yet finished. There are two children's play areas. The parish council have spent a great deal in the past to maintain the play area beside the school and a second playing field with swings is on the site of the old bowling green and tennis courts nearer to the top of the village. Buses run through the village in addition to those on the main road. There is a Methodist chapel and the Parish Church of St Bridget is situated on the edge of the village. The foreshore is metalled at the point where a slipway for the use of small boats has been constructed and in recent months a model cars racing track has been painted onto the surface. The club appears to be thriving although few if any villagers are involved.

2.12 It would be a lengthy and perhaps ultimately futile exercise to list all the job opportunities that once existed within the ward. This was a mining area with pits in each village, steel works, brickworks and coal washing plants. There was heavy industry in abundance. The loss of these industries was partially offset by the expansion of the Sellafield and Windscale works of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd but these are all jobs outside the ward. Little or nothing has replaced the lost employment within the ward and at present other than a small industrial site on the edge of Moresby Parks and a garden centre close to Lowca there are only farm workers, a small number of care home workers, and those who work in the local schools or shops, who are employed within the ward.

3 The Development of the Plan

3.1 Kirstie Dennis, the junior rural community officer, took up post in the early part of 2001 and sought to make contact with those individuals, groups and organisations which were able to provide information and ideas as to how an action plan to take forward Priority 2 could be put together. She saw the head teachers of the village schools, the vicar of St Bridget's Parish Church, the minister of the Methodist circuit. She met officials from the rugby club at Moresby and village hall committee members at Parton .She spoke to officers at the county council with responsibility for the Copeland area and she had the benefit of guidance from officers of the district council.

3.2 Together with the Head of Economic Development and Local Plans at Copeland Borough Council, Kirstie attended the parish council meeting at Parton and she also addressed the parish councils at Lowca and Moresby.

3.3 Kirstie and her colleague Lorrainne Smyth from Voluntary Action Cumbria met a group of parish councillors in July 2001 when the question of how best to proceed was discussed and a further meeting held in August 2001 saw the formation of a steering group. The group met next in September 2001 when the draft of a questionnaire to be completed by householders in the ward was discussed.

3.4 In October 2001 Kirstie left her post with Voluntary Action Cumbria but prior to leaving she drafted an application to the Countryside Agency for a parish plans grant which together with a budget was submitted jointly by the three parish councils in December 2001

3.5 In January 2002 the award of a grant was given on the basis of the budget submitted and later in the month Chris Shaw, the clerk to the parish councils at Parton and Moresby, was appointed as the co-ordinator in effect taking forward the work that hitherto had been undertaken by Kirstie

3.6 At a steering group meeting held on the 18th February 2002 matters progressed with a decision to ask a sample group to complete the questionnaire on a trial basis to check how it would be received. Other decisions concerning such matters as financial arrangements and the logging of volunteer time were taken

3.7 The steering group met on the 6th and 19th March 2002 following which the questionnaire was agreed and printed. It was distributed to the parishes in April 2002 when councillors started the work of delivery and collection of the household questionnaire.

3.8 The steering group met on the 28th May 2002 and the 2nd July 2002 to monitor progress but also to discuss other aspects of the parish plan. They have continued to meet on a monthly basis and since the March meeting Cathie Fleming has joined Lorrainne Smyth in providing the input from Voluntary Action Cumbria

3.9 The head teachers of the village schools were seen by Kirstie in April /May 2001 but were not contacted again until the spring of 2002 when they were asked to become involved in a project to complement the other aspects of the consultation exercise. They agreed and were each given a budget of £250.00 to be used to assist the production of the schools action plan. The work undertaken by the schools is described at section 16.

3.10 Mobex an organisation based locally who work with young people gave a presentation in August 2001 to the steering group on how they could involve the age group 12 to 18. The budget has included an amount to be used to seek the views of young people. No decision to employ Mobex was taken and there the matter rested until Whitehaven Community Trust were approached in February 2002. They could not undertake the work and subsequently Connections Cumbria were asked to set out their proposals to undertake a youth survey. These were discussed at the steering group meeting in July 2002 but no decision was taken and Cumbria Youth Alliance were asked how they would tackle a youth survey.

3.11 Following the steering group meeting held on the 31st July it was decided to split the work with the young people and ask Connections to produce an action plan which Cumbria Youth Alliance could take forward. The results of the Connections work is produced at section 17.

3.12 Cumbria Youth Alliance were provided with a copy of the Connections report at the beginning of December 2002. Work undertaken by them is not a part of this plan but may be included in the action plan.

3.13 In October 2002 a meeting was held at Lowca Rugby Club when the parish plan in draft form was presented to parish councillors, district councillors and the county councillor. Thereafter three public meetings were held, one in each parish, when the work of the schools was shown and a presentation of the findings from the household questionnaire was given . Villagers were asked at the meetings what they considered were the priorities. These are set out at section 18.

4 The Household Questionnaire

4.1 The Questionnaire was delivered to **309** households in **Lowca**

to **411** households in **Parton**

to **528** households in **Moresby**

which amounts to **1248** households in the **Howgate Ward**

There were collected **185** from **Lowca** (59.87%)

206 from **Parton** (50.12%)

327 from **Moresby**(61.93%)

which amounts to **718** from the **Ward**(57.53%)

The Respondents

4.2 Answers to the first two questions on the form were from the person who completed the document and may give an indication of the make up of the parish by age and gender.

4.2.1 Gender of Respondent

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Male	77 (41.6%)	92 (44.6%)	160 (49.1%)
Female	108(58.4%)	114(55.4%)	166 (50.9%)

4.2.2 Age Group of Respondent

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
18-19	0 (0%)	1 (0.5%)	0 (0%)
20-24	7 (3.8%)	4 (1.9%)	5 (1.5%)
25-34	34 (18.4%)	25 (12.1%)	41 (12.6%)
35-44	38 (20.5%)	26 (12.6%)	67 (20.6%)
45-54	33 (17.8%)	43 (20.9%)	55 (16.9%)
55-64	34 (18.4%)	36 (17.5%)	56 (17.2%)
65-74	19 (10.3%)	49 (23.8%)	66 (20.2%)
75-84	18 (9.7%)	19 (9.2%)	29 (8.9%)
85+	2 (1.1%)	3 (1.5%)	7 (2.1%)

The Household

4.3 The answers to the remaining questions of the survey were completed by the respondent on behalf of all the members of the household and the next two questions are again intended to give a profile of the parish in so far as a questionnaire of this type will permit.

4.3.1 People in household by age group. The figures given below are extrapolated from the data provided by the answer to this question

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Households with 1 child			
under 15	60 (32.4%)	39 (18.9%)	94 (28.8%)
2 under 15	25 (13.5%)	17 (8.2%)	28 (8.5%)
3 under 15	2	1	3
4 under 15	1	0	0

These figures if read together with those shown below concerning older people do give a good indication that Parton has an older population than either of the other parishes.
% figures for rows 3 and 4 are not given

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Households with one person			
16/19	10 (5.4%)	13 (6.4%)	25(7.6%)
2 16/19	3	1	7
3 16/19	1	1	0

% figures are not given for rows 2 and 3

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Amongst older people			
households with one person			
55/75	28 (15.1%)	42 (20.8%)	51 (15.6%)
over 75	11 (5.9%)	12 (5.9%)	26 (7.9%)
with two persons			
55/75	34 (18.3%)	49 (23.8%)	81 (24.8%)
over 75	8 (4.3%)	10 (4.9%)	11 (3.3%)

There is little to be gained in attempting to analyse the households where the occupants are between 20 and 55 because whilst for example the husband may be in a range 35/54 his partner may be in the range 25/34 (*The raw data is available if required*).

4.3.2 Length of time resident in parish

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
0-6 months	4 (2.2%)	4 (2.0%)	4 (1.2%)
7-12 months	10 (5.4%)	5 (2.5%)	7 (2.1%)
1-2 years	12 (6.5%)	9 (4.4%)	16 (4.9%)
3-5 years	12 (6.5%)	10 (4.9%)	35 (10.7%)
6.10 years	14 (7.6%)	9 (4.4%)	48 (14.7%)
11-20 years	35 (18.9%)	32 (15.7%)	65 (19.9%)
21 or more	98 (53.0%)	135(66.2%)	151(46.3%)

This table can be looked at two ways. It may indicate that the residents who were anxious to assist in the return of the questionnaire were in the main those who had lived in the villages for many years or it may reflect accurately the fact that the parishes, especially Parton and to a lesser degree Lowca and Moresby have very static populations.

5 **Transport and Traffic**

5.1 Public Transport

Respondents were asked whether lack of public transport was a problem in their area.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	326
No Response to this question	25	42	48
Response Given	160	164	278
Answer Yes	76	19	132
	(47.5%)	(11.6%)	(47.5%)

A second question was 'How important is the bus service to you'

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Response Given	180	189	316
Essential	45	68	45
Important	51	50	76
Not Important	31	26	67
Do not use bus	53	45	128

A further question asked 'do you regularly experience transport difficulties in getting out of this area to other places'

Response Given	177	181	314
Answer Yes	106	109	113

When asked if the reason was poor public transport

Answer Yes	48	15	84

5.1.1 **Lowca**. There are three main issues concerning public transport to the village. Residents complain that there is no Sunday service, that the last bus reaches the village at 18.03 and leaves at 18.05 and there is no direct route to Harrington and onwards to Workington. A large number of comments were made of which the following illustrate the problem.

'Buses finish too early in the evening and none available on Sunday'
'lack of public transport after 6.00 pm and no buses going to Workington'
'No transport after 6.00 pm is a big problem for workers and the 14/17 age group'
'People now going to Workington need to catch two buses I do every day to get to work'
'A bus service on Sundays and early evening would assist with social links, access to recreational resources for many people particularly young people /children and those who do not have access to cars'

5.1.2 There are very many more comments in the same vein and clearly this is a real issue in Lowca. It is ironic that whilst there is no public transport from Whitehaven and through the village to Workington there is a huge concern that private cars use the route as a 'rat run'.The fact is not lost on the villagers.

5.1.3 **Moresby**. The main route from Whitehaven to Workington passes through the parish at Howgate and it provides a good service with buses running at regular intervals from early morning until after 11.00 pm at night. The main concern is the lack of bus shelters at Howgate. Whilst there is a pull-in area for the bus both northbound and southbound there is no shelter.

5.1.4 Route 222 is a service supported by Cumbria County Council which links Whitehaven and Workington through the villages of Low Moresby Pica and Gilgarran. There are three buses each way on Monday Wednesday and Friday and five buses on Tuesday Thursday and Saturday. This service appears to be used to a limited extent by those living on or near the route and no adverse comments were received.

5.1.5 Service bus 27 between Whitehaven and Moresby Parks is the subject of severe criticism. The bus runs from Monday to Saturday with the first bus at 8.35 am from the village to Whitehaven and the last bus arriving at Moresby Parks at 18.07 pm. There is therefore no Sunday nor any evening service. Residents also comment that whilst the morning buses seem to be spread at regular intervals ie from Whitehaven to Moresby Parks at 9.00 10.30 12.30 13.30 there is then no bus until 17.10. The same problem applies when travelling to Whitehaven. Comments of which there were very many included

'Not frequent enough into town, no direct bus service to hospital or Workington'
'I have a car but if there was a better public transport system I would be encouraged to use it'
'Link more Moresby buses with Red Lonning'
'Exceedingly poor public transport especially for those too old to drive'

5.1.6 Issues surrounding a school bus or to be more precise a lack of a school bus were raised by a number of people. They were not confined to residents of Moresby Parks although the majority of comments were from the village. Comments such as *'A school bus to Whitehaven school would be fantastic. That is a real miss'* or *'no school buses into town have to rely on family if I am at work'* were common.

5.1.7 It was encouraging to see that not all comments were simply addressed to the shortcomings of the public transport system and ideas such as looking at different routes and linking with other existing routes are suggestions that should be explored. One respondent came forward with the following proposition *'bus situated and run by parish council or private enterprise school rugby club days out for villagers more runs to town could improve community life within area and create employment'*

5.1.8 **Parton** The village is closer to Whitehaven and has more frequent bus services. Residents at the top of the village are able to use a convenient service between Whitehaven and Workington and route 1 between Whitehaven and Parton runs from early morning until quite late at night. Additionally there is a Sunday afternoon/evening service to and from the village. This is not to say that there are no concerns that need to be addressed. Comments such as *'The Parton Bus could pick up at Tesco'* and *'the 8.25 Lowca to Whitehaven is always overcrowded during school term due to children going to nursery at Bransty school'* are specific issues but there are more general matters such as the number of buses into and out of the village.

5.1.9 Only a minority of respondents mentioned the train and the railway station at Parton is not used to a large extent. There was one comment which ought to be followed '*I have been here 7 months and regularly visit Whitehaven town. Whenever my family try to catch the train to Whitehaven or Carlisle the train never stops even when we signal. This has happened six times*'

5.1.10 The views expressed in each parish indicate in varying degrees that there are real concerns with the public transport offered at the present time. Clearly there are financial restraints on both commercial operators and local authorities that seek to subsidize loss making routes but even so the case is made for a review of the way that the villages are served. The parish councils will need to look at ways that the Countryside Agency can assist through its Parish Transport Grant.

5.2 Speeding/Heavy Traffic

Respondents were asked whether speeding traffic and/or heavy traffic were problems.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	326
No Response to this question	25	42	48
Response Given	160	164	278
Speeding Traffic			
Answer Yes	122	105	152
	(76.3%)	(64%)	(54.7%)
Heavy Traffic			
Answer Yes	56	40	54
	(35%)	(24.4%)	(19.4%)

A second question asked 'do you regularly experience transport difficulties in getting out of this area to other places'

Response Given	177	181	314
Answer Yes	106	109	113
When asked if the reason was Traffic Congestion			
Answer Yes	73	101	40

5.2.1 The A595 Trunk road passes through the ward. It is single carriageway and carries almost all the traffic travelling along the coastal route from north of Workington to Whitehaven and beyond. It is busy throughout the day and of recent years has been plagued with carriageway repairs. There are plans for a relief road which when built will by-pass the village of Distington to the north of the Howgate ward and improve the flow of traffic through the area.

5.2.2 **Lowca** The village of Lowca has suffered to a very large degree by motorists using the minor road through the village as both a short cut to Workington and as away to avoid hold-ups on the A595. There have been a number of traffic calming measures introduced to slow vehicles entering the village but the highways authority have now conceded that more needs to be done. Residents would certainly agree that the present measures are inadequate and almost all those who commented were unanimous in their condemnation of all those who have permitted the situation to reach the present position. Views expressed include:

'Not happy with the traffic calming at the north end of the village speed cushions are a must'
'A speed camera would slow down traffic entering the village from the south.....'
'Needs more chicanes through and around the village'
'High volume of speeding traffic through village speed restrictions required'
'Top end of Ghyll Grove needs speed humps also mirror to see traffic coming from Harrington direction'
There were very many more comments of this type and perhaps more than any other issue the problem of speeding and heavy traffic with the road safety implications that are attached concern the residents.

5.2.3 An associated problem relates to the lack of a pedestrian path from the A595 to Moresby Church down Church Brow. This is a narrow road with stone walls on both sides and given the amount of traffic travelling from the A595 to Lowca it is becoming more and more dangerous for pedestrians. The parish councils will wish to explore whether grants are available to improve the problem.

5.2.4 **Moresby** The main road through Moresby Parks links Distington and the A595 to the north with Hensingham to the south and is used by a considerable number of vehicles. There are speed bumps through the village but not everyone considers they are able to stop speeding traffic. Comments include:
'The speed bumps on the main road are no deterrent.....'
'Speed ramps have not deterred the speeding traffic and the short cut when the A595 has road works'
'The speed reduction measures are not sufficient to reduce speed of through traffic'
There are many other similar comments

5.2.5 There are concerns that the speed reduction measures do not cover a long enough stretch of Moresby Parks Road and as soon as vehicles have passed the last one they speed away despite the 30 mph speed restriction. This is of particular concern to parents of children who need to walk along the road and over the old railway bridge where there is no pavement.

5.2.6 Residents in other parts of the parish are concerned about speeding/heavy traffic. Those who live at Howgate are faced with heavy traffic for a number of years and their situation is summed up by a resident who said '*Please please please speed up the commencement of the Parton-Lillyhall by-pass. Is not 2003 possible*' A resident of Low Moresby articulated the frustration of many with this comment '*it is sometimes difficult to get onto the main road from Low Moresby. It amazes me how few people turning in will help you and let you out*'
Many of the country lanes in the parish are narrow and again concern is expressed that motorists drive far too quickly '*there is a very dangerous bend on the corner of Low Moresby where people speed blindly.....Is this the only west Cumbrian village with no speed restrictions?*'

5.2.7 **Parton** For many motorists the problems associated with joining the A595 are of real concern '*The main difficulty is simply trying to join the main road from Parton. The increased volume of traffic makes it nearly impossible. The longest time that I have sat and waited for a gap is 7.5 minutes*' The speeding and heavy traffic on the A595 mean just as bad a problem for pedestrians '*....it is very difficult to cross on foot with a pram to catch the bus(you take your life in your hands)*' and '*.....crossing the road is very dangerous at times for children carrying bags*' These are three comments from the very many on this topic which is of real concern to Parton villagers.

5.2.8 Whilst speeding/heavy traffic associated with the A595 predominates there are other areas in the village where it is felt that anti-speeding measures could be put in place. Foundry Road is used by motorists travelling through the village to and from Lowca and whilst it is not viewed as a 'rat run' to the same extent as the road through Lowca it is undoubtedly some motorists chosen short cut '*Its like Brands Hatch on our road*' said one Foundry Road resident. It is a road that would benefit from traffic calming given that it is narrow with many cars parked and the chance of children running into the road. Brewery Brow is another dangerous road with no footpath and where vehicles are driven too quickly. Residents are concerned at a lack of warning notices that children leaving the village school may be walking in the road.

5.2.9 There is little doubt that the problem of speeding and heavy traffic is of concern to all residents in each of the parishes. The by-pass will bring a measure of relief but there are other problems that a new road will not solve. Traffic calming needs to be upgraded where it is at present in place but the other areas have been identified for measures and those together with better warning signs could improve the situation for residents. The highways authorities should be asked whether they will consider other routes where restrictions on heavy vehicles may be appropriate and the police need to look at the way they ensure road traffic laws are enforced. Speed cameras are one answer but a higher profile by the police seems to be the preferred option by many of those who responded to the questionnaire. However at the end of the day the real answer is with the motorist and it needs to be remembered that the majority of drivers are local people living in the Howgate ward.

5.3 Inappropriate Parking

Respondents were asked whether inappropriate parking was a problem.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	326
No Response to this question	25	42	48
Response Given	160	164	278
Answer Yes	56	88	96
	(35%)	(53.7%)	(34.5%)

5.3.1 The problem of inappropriate parking is of concern to the residents in each parish but within the parishes there are areas where it is clear that it is a serious problem with off street parking very limited.

5.3.2 **Lowca** Residents in certain parts of the village, Vale View is an example, said that because of a lack of parking spaces householders had no option but to park in inappropriate places. Some complained that motorists parked on the pavement by the telephone box causing an obstruction. One suggestion made was that grassed areas could be turned into parking bays. It is a matter that the parish council will need to consider.

5.3.3 **Parton** There are problem areas both on the estate and in the old village. Briscoe Crescent is one area where the road is simply too narrow to allow proper parking and householders park part way onto the pavement simply to permit other cars to pass. One resident said '*More garages to get people to stop parking outside their houses. There is plenty of room for garages behind Criffel road. There used to be about 18 garages ....now only three*' Other residents complained of a lack of parking in Ramsey Drive and Seven Acres. Foundry Road is a problem area in the

old village and here complaints were made that on street parking occurred even when car owners had an area to leave the car away from the road. There was concern expressed that cars were left untaxed and possibly abandoned on the small amount of off street parking there is in the village. Some residents highlighted the problem of cars with 'for sale' notices being left in inappropriate places. The end of Criffel Road and the end of Briscoe Crescent were mentioned as being places where the problem of joining the A595 road was bad enough without the added difficulty of having to see round parked cars. With the decriminalization of illegal car parking it may be that the district council through its enforcement officers will be able to improve matters for residents as over half of those who answered this question and 43% of those who returned the questionnaire saw this as a problem in Parton.

5.3.4 **Moresby** The problem of inappropriate parking is not seen as being limited to Moresby Parks although the majority of those who raised this issue were from that village. One resident from Low Moresby said that despite the majority of home owners having driveways there was still parking on the lanes near or on blind corners. In Moresby Parks the concern is with parking on Moresby Parks Road '*Poor parking facilities on main road through the village*' and '*car parking on kerbs- people unable to walk on footpaths.....cars blocking doors.....*' were two comments made by residents.

5.3.5 Clearly more off street parking is required in each parish. There is a problem with what might best be described as illegal parking, in some instances on double yellow lines, in some cases causing other road users difficulties when joining main roads, and in cases where untaxed cars are left for months on end. There is also just bad parking when the neighbours rights are simply ignored.

5.4 State of the Roads

Respondents were asked what they thought about the state of repair of the roads in this area

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	326
No Response to this question	7	5	7
Response Given	178	201	319
Answer Good	10	17	22
Answer Okay	88	117	144
Answer Poor	78	66	152
Don't Know	2	1	1

5.4.1 There was concern about the general state of road repairs in each of the parishes. Comments such as '*roads left unacceptable after road works eg cement in gutters*'(Lowca) and '*gas, water need to get their heads together to prevent roads being dug up more than once*'(Parton) and '*patched up repairs that do not last*'(Moresby) are typical.

5.4.2 Each parish has particular concerns and none more so than Moresby where a huge number of comments were received about the state of the 'Back Lanes'. It may be better to deal with this issue in the section looking at the Environment rather than in this section although the reason why the answer poor to the question about road repairs is much higher in Moresby than elsewhere is down to this issue.

5.4.3 **Lowca.** In the main residents comments described general concerns such as pot holes, inadequate patching and poor maintenance. There were comments about particular areas such as *'by the garage'* and *'road through to the village hall'* but the problem of road repairs is a minor issue when set at the side of the real and deep seated concerns about the amount of heavy and speeding traffic that passes through the village.

5.4.4 **Parton.** Foundry Road and Main Street are of concern to the residents. There have been constant road works as a result of which the road surface is a jumble of patches and holes and an uneven surface throughout its length. There are other areas on the Seven Acres estate where inadequate resurfacing work is said to have occurred. The unadopted lane by Smithy Cottages Brewery Brow is said to be in poor shape and the parish council will need to consider whether it can assist in any way.

5.4.5 **Moresby.** Leaving aside the very serious problem of the Back Lanes in Moresby Parks there are other areas where concern is expressed about the state of the roads. On the edge of the parish at Rannerdale Drive/Oak Crescent residents complain that the original developer never finished the road with a top surface and simply left them partially completed. It is said that as a result the local authority have never adopted these particular roads. At Eden Drive in Moresby Parks again it is said that the builder never completed the kerb. Around Low Moresby residents are concerned that the lanes need attention with soft verges poor drainage and pot holes mentioned as problems. A lack of footpaths and or when the vegetation is not cut back on a more regular basis *'briars and thorns one metre high with no pavements impeding the right to walk on busy roads'* and *'after residing here for 50 years our roads are becoming increasingly narrower'* is a complaint of those on foot

5.4.6 The county council who are responsible for all the roads in the ward with the exception of the A595 clearly have a limited budget and scarce resources do mean that not all the problems highlighted by parishioners can be tackled over a short period but there is room for a dialogue with parish councils when the issues and some sort of priority list could be discussed.

5.5 Transport to Schools/Nursery

Respondents were asked what was the main form of transport that they used to take children to school or nursery.
The largest response was to say that the question was not appropriate to them but of those that gave a positive answer the results were as follows.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Car	37	19	81
Bus	17	22	19
Train	0	1	0
Walk	13	10	15
Cycle	0	0	0
Taxi	0	0	1
Other	0	1	1

5.5.1 More use a car to take children to school than any other means and it may be that parish councils are able to assess whether school bus routes can be amended to assist parents.

6 Housing.

6.1 A series of questions were asked concerning the housing stock in the parishes and whether there were families where younger members wanted to leave or were looking for separate accommodation.

6.1.1 Respondents were asked two questions about their homes.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Is your property			
First Floor or above Flat	1 (0.5%)	3 (1.5%)	2 (0.6%)
Basement/Ground floor Flat	0	2 (1.0%)	1 (0.3%)
End of Terrace	19 (10.3%)	34 (17.0%)	25 (7.7%)
Mid-terrace	69 (37.3%)	62 (31.0%)	51 (15.7%)
Semi-detached	78 (42.2%)	70 (35.0%)	105 (32.3%)
Detached	18 (9.7%)	29 (14.5%)	141 (43.4%)
Is your home			
Privately Rented	11 (6.0%)	7 (3.5%)	3 (0.9%)
Rented from a local authority	14 (7.6%)	20 (9.9%)	39 (12%)
Rented from a Housing Assoc.	33 (17.9%)	33 (16.3%)	20 (6.2%)
Rented and tied to job	2 (1.1%)	0	0
Shared Equity	0	0	0
Part of a shareholding cooperative	0	0	0
Being bought with Mortgage	71 (38.6%)	56 (27.7%)	120 (36.9%)
Owned outright	53 (28.8%)	85 (42.1%)	141 (43.4%)
Other	0	1 (0.5%)	2 (0.6%)

6.1.2 Again the tables only reflect the responses to the questionnaire but it is likely that there is a sufficiently large return to ensure that statistically the first set of answers accurately show the different types of properties in each parish. The second set of answers may not be a mirror of the parishes as a whole and those who own their properties outright may be overstated when looked at together with the table at 4.3.2

6.1.3 There were three questions about 'Leaving Home'

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Is anyone looking separate accommodation?	5	6	12
Where?			
In the village	1	1	4
Whitehaven	2	3	3
Within 10 miles	2	1	2
Elsewhere in UK	0	1	3

	Lowca	Parton	Moresby
Would anyone like separate accommodation but cannot afford it	4	10	15

Perhaps all these figures show is that the parishes are no different from other settlements in that there are always a small number of households that for one reason or another are breaking up or if finances were to allow would break up.

7 The Environment

7.1 Respondents were asked how they felt about the environment where they lived.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	9	9	5
Response Given	176	197	322
Answer Good	43 (24.4%)	54 (27.4%)	157 (48.8%)
Answer Average	117 (66.5%)	118 (59.9%)	140 (43.5%)
Answer Poor	16 (9.1%)	25 (12.7%)	25 (7.8%)

7.1.1 Whilst the figures for **Lowca** and **Parton** are very similar indicating the type of the parishes which are basically compact settlements the figures for **Moresby** showing as they do a much higher 'good' response probably reflect the nature of the parish with more smaller settlements and larger areas of open land.

7.2 Poor Air Quality

Respondents were asked whether poor air quality was a problem in their parish.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	26	21	67
Response Given	159	185	260
Answer Yes	36	18	4

7.2.1 Normally in an area free from heavy industry and predominately rural with perhaps the added attraction of sea air it would be expected that there would be a negligible positive response and that is the case so far as the parish of **Moresby** is concerned. It is not so when the **Lowca** figure is considered and comments give the reason. They are many and all relate to sewage works which recently reopened '*We get an awful smell from the sewage works at Parton*' is typical of the large number of comments about this problem. The **Parton** figure indicates that for some and it is probably those households who live in the area of Foundry road the sewage plant is a concern '*Smells from the sewage works .....make it unpleasant to sit out on the lawn*' was one householder's view. Another comment '*sewage works need landscaped and hidden from both road and shore*' whilst not an air quality complaint does reflect a view held by a number that the plant is an eyesore. The parish councils at Lowca and Parton are represented on the liaison committee that was formed. There needs to be constant pressure placed on United Utilities to ensure they run the plant without causing inconvenience and upset to the local community.

7.3 Poor Water Quality.

Respondents were asked whether poor water quality was a problem in their parish.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	26	21	67
Response Given	159	185	260
Answer Yes	10	7	6

7.3.1 Whilst there were a small number in each parish who indicated that water quality was a problem there was only one respondent who commented and said '*Don't like fluoride in water*' It may be that others are like minded. It is understood that the District Council take the same view.

7.4 Litter/Rubbish Dumping

Respondents were asked whether litter and/or rubbish dumping was a problem in their parish.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	26	21	67
Response Given	159	185	260
Answer Yes	106	123	155

7.4.1 At **Lowca** 66.7% of those who answered this question and 57.3% of all those who returned the questionnaire said that litter/rubbish dumping was a problem. The comments were many and covered almost all areas of the area. They included the following:

'The whole village needs tidying up and made more welcoming'
' too much rubbish on road especially fast food packaging'
'fly tipping is a major concern we suffer from it but nothing gets done'
'the village would benefit by when the grass is cut it is picked up instead of blowing around and being thrown about by children'

7.4.2 **Parton** questionnaires tell a similar story. Exactly the same percentage (66.7%) of those who answered the question and 59.8% of all respondents considered litter/rubbish dumping a problem. Many sited the beach as an area that suffered from litter/rubbish dumping. '*Broken glass on Parton shore and recent spate of abandoned cars beach area*' and '*beach area filthy with rubbish*' are just two comments. Other areas were mentioned as being of concern ' *Ghyll needs cleaning up removal of litter etc*' whilst simple anti-social behaviour *'people who throw their rubbish such as beer cans, bottles and pizza boxes are left on the grass'* was said to be a problem. More specific problems were mentioned with one bungalow where abandoned cars in and around the back garden of particular concern. One respondent's comment was that '*there doesn't appear to be any decent litter bins*'

7.4.3 In the **Moresby** parish the figures were 59.6% and 47.4% respectively. One particular concern was that rubbish was put out for the bin men well before they were due to collect and that birds and animals had then an opportunity to attack the bin bags ' *When putting bin bags out the day before collection stray cats are pulling at the bin bags. Cats need sorting out big style'* and '*houses would benefit from wheelie bins- so much rubbish wouldn't be strewn on the streets due to cats getting into rubbish'* and '*bags put out day's before collection day and they are then attacked by birds dogs and cats'* are comments which highlight this problem.
There are many other concerns:
'fly tipping needs sorting'
'litter on roadsides'
'farm waste'
'cattle fouling on the roads'
'people throwing rubbish onto old railway line'
'people still dump bags of rubbish any where'

7.4.4 It can be seen that in the main the concerns in one parish are mirrored in both other parishes. Whilst more litter bins and the suggestion of wheelie bins will undoubtedly help the parishes will have to consider whether litter pick teams might be one answer and how they can be financed.

7.5 Dog Fouling/Stray Dogs.

Respondents were asked whether dog dirt/ fouling and stray dogs were problems.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	26	21	67
Response Given	159	185	260
Dog Dirt/Fouling			
Answer Yes	119 (74.8%)	148 (80.0%)	192 (73.8%)
Stray Dogs			
Answer Yes	51 (32.1%)	54 (29.2%)	45 (17.3%)

7.5.1 The problem of dog fouling is common to all three parishes. In **Moresby** areas highlighted were '*especially on the footpath where the children walk to and from school*' and the playing field where despite notices dogs are still allowed to foul the grassed area. At **Parton** the beach was mentioned as one particularly bad area and as one respondent said
'*too much dog fouling not just strays but people exercising their dogs people coming from out of the village to the beach and allowing dogs to foul despite a dog litter bin being provided. No evidence that this problem is being monitored*' There are other areas both in the old village and on the estates where concern is expressed that dog fouling is endemic. In **Lowca** comments included '*dog fouling and dogs allowed to wander*' and '*dog dirt is especially on the end and down Solway Road where children play. The green at the end of Solway Road is full of dog dirt. The children and adults walk down that piece of land and it is disgusting'*

7.5.2 The parish councils will need to consider whether asking the District Council's enforcement team to monitor each area and prosecute where necessary is one answer.

7.6 Joy Riding/Motor Bike riding

The questionnaire asked whether Joy Riding/Motor Bike Riding was a serious problem in the area

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	71	51	93
Response Given	114	155	234
Joy Riding			
Answer Yes	26	39	15
Motor Bike Riding			
Answer Yes	38	57	13

7.6.1 **Parton** suffers from this problem to a larger degree than the other two parishes primarily because these activities take place on the foreshore .A resident commented '*stop this joy riding cars and motorbikes-boys without insurance crash helmets and also you can't walk on the beach in case you get knocked down and they have been reported but don't care*' There were other comments in the same vein. In **Lowca** the problem of speeding vehicles rather than the particular one of motor bikes is the subject of almost all the comments although one resident did comment about *'motor bikes on roads when riding horses'* and the same could be said of comments from the **Moresby** parish albeit that one resident did say that ' *boy racers unqualified drivers and go carts on industrial estate every night*'. The police should be made aware of the problem in Parton

7.7 Cycle Paths

Respondents were asked whether a lack of cycle paths was a serious problem

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	71	51	93
Response Given	114	155	234
Answer Yes	6	17	65

7.7.1 There is a cycle path from Lowca northwards to Harrington and from comments it is clear that it is used by a number of villagers. It is probably for this reason that those who answered yes in the **Lowca** questionnaire were very limited. It is clear that there is a need in the **Moresby** parish. Comments such as *'there is a disused railway line which could be turned into a cycle path'* and *'could do with being networked into the cycle path so.....can cycle to work and Whitehaven safely'* and *'would like to cycle but impossible without cycle paths because of heavy traffic'* There were no comments on this topic in the **Parton** questionnaires although for some the lack of cycle paths is a problem..

7.8 Street Lighting/Pavements

The questionnaire asked whether Poor Street Lighting and Uneven Pavements were serious problems in the area

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	71	51	93
Response Given	114	155	234
Poor Street Lighting			
Answer Yes	46	55	94
Uneven Pavements			
Answer Yes	57	79	124

7.8.1 40% of those who answered this question in **Moresby** consider poor street lighting a problem. The problem is seen to be widespread and not limited to one area *'.....poor street lighting' (Low Moresby) '....no street lighting reported 18 months ago' (Rannerdale/Oak Cres.)* are two comments which represent a larger concern. 53% of those who answered this question saw uneven pavements as a problem. Those who complained about the state of the Back Lanes at Moresby Parks included the pavements or lack of them in the overall comments but there were many other areas where deficiencies in the provision of pavements was seen as a problem *'public footpaths possible water leak on footpath to Scilly Banks'*

7.8.2 Uneven pavements are commented upon by **Lowca** residents *'back of East Road and Croft Terrace footpath to swings' ' pathways at end of elderly resident's bungalow blocked'*
Parton residents commented about both issues *'No lighting back of bungalows Firth View' 'Moss on footpaths' 'we have been here 41 years and the pavements to my knowledge have never been tarmacked'*

7.8.3 The question of crime prevention is dealt with in another section but good street and footpath lighting is accepted as a deterrent to crime and both the county council who administer through agents the street lighting and the district council who look after footpath lighting should be asked to look at the problems in the ward.

7.9 Recycling

Two questions were asked. Do you use recycling facilities ? Would you be prepared to sort your refuse for recycling if separate collections were made (for example paper glass plastic)?

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	6	5	3
Response Given	179	200	324
Do you use recycling facilities			
Answer Yes	70	119	184
Answer No	109	82	140
Would you sort for collection			
Answer Yes	159	173	291
Answer No	19	27	33

7.9.1 Residents in **Lowca** commented that there were no recycling facilities in their village and this may be the reason why those using recycling facilities numbered fewer than at **Parton** where bins are sited. It has to be noted however that there are comments in the Parton questionnaires to the effect that the bins are not emptied often enough and that they are not replaced in the correct position. At present there are no facilities in Moresby Parks although there were plans at one time by the District Council to site bins in the village. There are no facilities in other settlements in the **Moresby** parish. It is clear that the idea of separate doorstep collections met with overwhelming approval and the District Council may consider an early implementation of this proposal.

7.10 Other Environmental Issues in the **Moresby** parish

7.10.1 The residents of the parish raised a number of other issues which fall to be dealt with at this stage. Some included the problem of nuisance neighbours and general anti-social behaviour but these are matters which are better considered under the section dealing with Crime and Safety. Others raised the general topic of facilities, available and desired, but again those matters are better dealt with under another heading

7.10.2. **The state of the Back Lanes at Moresby Parks** was highlighted by a very large number of respondents and their comments give a detailed picture of the problems that residents face. There are simply too many to list them all but those set out here cover all the issues that were raised.

' the road between the old houses is disgraceful and I don't even live there'
'the roads around the terraced houses need improving- upgraded wisely would create better parking therefore making it safer for children near the main road-the roads smell in summer'
'the pathway is a real problem. When I moved into the area I had 4 mudflaps on my car however because of the condition of the pathway 2 have been ripped off despite the fact that I drive extremely slowly'
'the back lanes between the rows of terraced houses have been a disgrace for years blocked drains overflow and run onto the main road.....'
'Council should adopt back lanes around terraced houses in the village and lay appropriate surface. The situation that exists currently is totally unacceptable and the residents should not have to tolerate the poor access to their homes'
'the lanes to the rear of the terraced houses -it is not only unsightly but dangerous and a health risk'

The problem of the back lanes was mentioned by more respondents than any other topic and it is for some the only issue that really matters. There is little doubt that complaints will continue as long as the lanes remain in there present condition and they with more and more vehicles using the lanes they will continue to deteriorate. Poor weather only exacerbates the problem with pools of water forming in the very many pot holes and uneven surfaces. The district and county councillors together with the parish council need to pursue every avenue to make finance available to improve this area.

7.10.3 For some poor drainage and flooding are real problems :

'drainage -gardens always damp-flooded during rainy spells'
'.....more frequent and more severe flooding during wet weather....there is an increasing problem with the general and surrounding drainage systems'
'the water course from Low Moresby to Howgate is oversubscribed and cannot cope with the quantities of storm water due to extensive building in the locality..... '
'road drainage requires clearing out to get rid of standing water'

The associated problem of culvert cleaning was raised by other residents

7.10.4 The question of power cuts and an interrupted supply of electricity was of concern to residents although it does seem from the comments made that this is a matter where an improvement has been seen.

7.10.5 For some there is a problem of dogs barking through the day and for others stray cats are a matter of concern

7.10.6 Residents highlighted the broken fencing around the playing field and the poor state of fencing surrounding some private houses. The damaged wall enclosing the playing field was mentioned as being in need of repair. The decor of houses and the state of some private gardens were for some areas that needed improvement.

7.10.7 For completeness it has to be recorded that a large number of respondents are entirely satisfied with the environment in which they live. 48.8% said that the environment was good. and very many made no adverse comments at all..One resident said *'a lot of lorries going up and down the road possibly delivering to building work further up the village . Not a real problem but just one thing that stands out in such a lovely environment'*

7.11 Other environmental issues in the **Lowca** parish.

7.11.1 Residents of Lowca raised a number of issues that have not been covered in this section and again the problem of anti-social behaviour was mentioned. It will be discussed in another section.

7.11.2 Flooding and drainage problems were of concern to residents *'rainwater-storm drain on south side below service and repair garage .....has been blocked for two years spills and overflows onto pavement and road during heavy rain freezes over during winter months obviously dangerous'* is one comment but there are others on this topic.

7.11.3 For some barking dogs and *'cats digging up gardens and cat muck on cultivated parts of garden which kill flowers etc'* are a problem .Whilst others complain that *' horse riders should be made to clear up after their animals'*.

7.11.4 A resident expressed *'concern regarding old rugby club building being allowed to fall into dereliction through neglect'* and a number of respondents mentioned the state of the bmx track which was said to be in a poor state.

7.11.5 Whilst there are real concerns about many issues surrounding the environment all of which have been set out in this section and do not need repeating here it has to be remembered that only a small number thought that the environment was poor. Three times as many thought it was good or in the words of one resident who said in answer to the question 'are any of the following problems in your area' replied *'none its okay'*

7.12 Other Environmental issues in the **Parton** parish

7.12.1 As with the other two parishes some residents raised the problem of anti-social behaviour generally in this section. There were also issues about the lack of facilities. Both matters are dealt with in other sections.

7.12.2 Of particular concern to residents in some parts of Parton are the state of the sea defences with some feeling that the defences were becoming less efficient. Certainly the very high tides in the spring raised fears that Foundry Road would be flooded with sand bags and other defence measures being provided by the district council.

7.12.3 The state of the railway embankment and the railway arches are a problem with a number of residents commenting about the untidy condition of both areas..Railtrack have been asked to keep the arches clear but seem reluctant to undertake the task on a regular basis. They have also been asked to advise the parish council of the owners of the embankment where the fence which surrounds this land is in need of replacement.

7.12.4 Barking dogs and *'the nuisance of cats'* were issues that concerned residents.

7.12.5 For some there is a problem with *'fencing and painting of the council owned properties'* *'There are many properties in need of renovation or at least tidying'*. Are two comments on this topic.

7.12.6 *'Our terrace is fine. Others might have problems'* was one positive comment but no doubt other would have been able to make the same point. Over a quarter of all those who returned the questionnaire believe that the environment in their area is good whilst only a small number considered that it was poor.

8 Community Facilities and Services

8.1. Respondents were asked to list what local facilities they used and as a second question were asked whether they used any of the following:

The Post Office The Shop The Mobile Library The Mobile Shop Services

None of the three main settlements have a post office that is separate from the shop. The post office is simply a counter within the shop. The mobile library may not visit every area within the ward and again whilst there may be mobile shop services in some part of the ward they do not cover every area.

8.1 1.What constitutes a local facility is a subjective matter and so whilst for some a bus stop for example may be a facility others would never describe it as such .That being the case the list in answer to the first question is long and varied and for some hopelessly inaccurate. The second problem when trying to analyse this question is to attempt to define 'local' By way of illustration some residents of Low Moresby consider the post office at Moresby Parks a local facility others did not.

8.1.2 The question attempts to draw out from residents of the ward the use made of what are generally accepted to be facilities and services and in addition to the shop, social clubs and pubs, the children's play areas and the village/community hall appear to meet this criteria.

8.1.3. Before looking in detail at the above it may be of interest to show how varied is the list of what for some is a local facility. Of course it must be remembered that as the ward is contiguous with Whitehaven for some it is easier to get to Whitehaven than it is to reach the centre of the main settlement of their parish. With that in mind the following were described as local facilities and services:

Lowca The post office, the shop, the swings, the bus, the refuse collection, the cycle path, Lowca social club, the children's play area, local pub, Lowca rugby league club, miners welfare, welfare hall, post box, mobile shop service, swimming pool, Senhouse centre. snooker club, park, wreck, sports centre, over 60 club, Workington and Whitehaven shops and leisure. (*Some of the above may be the same but under another name*)

Parton Bus, pubs, the post office, village hall, football pitch, school, community centre, footpaths, play group at St Bridgets, play park, railway, recycling facilities, boat ramp, sports centre, baths, bowling green field play area, chapel, (*some of the above may be the same under another name)*

Moresby Church, church hall, library, sports centre, swimming pool, buses, post office mobile library, school, shop, garage, social club, rugby club, newsagent, children's play area, post box, Roschill theatre and barn, Billy Bears Kells, doctors surgery at Methodist church, bingo, service station, Over 60 social club, walks, telephone kiosk, public footpaths, playing field.(*Some of the above may be the same under another name)*

8.2. The Post Office

Turning to the second question the following table indicates the use of the post office in Lowca, Parton and Moresby Parks

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Do you use the post office			
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	326
No Response	8	26	12
Response to Question	177	180	314
Answer Yes	164	160	263

8.2.1 A separate table for the use of the shop would not assist for the reasons given in paragraph 8.1.1. There were numerous comments relating to the post office/shop in each village.

8.2.2 For a large number in the **Moresby** parish it is simply not convenient to use the Moresby Parks post office and this point was made by many respondents. Some were concerned about the shops opening hours which were thought to be insufficient and a number -it might be thought rather unfairly - tried to equate the prices and variety of goods which one could expect in one of the supermarkets in Whitehaven with the village shop. For others though '*the post office is a valuable resource*' and ' *post office service is very good.....when you are disabled*'

8.2.3 Those who live near to the A595 the post office at **Parton** is not really convenient *'down steep hills with no footpaths'* and again the opening hours were mentioned. However the loss of the post office would be a devastating blow (*'po/shop very useful'*)

8.2 4 The **Lowca** post office has limited opening hours and this together with a total lack of an evening bus does mean that '*if I run out of milk it's tough*'. The overwhelming number of households who returned the questionnaire use the post office at some point in the week and its loss would greatly affect the village.

8.3. The Mobile Library

Dealing with the use of the mobile library the following figures apply

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Do you use the mobile library			
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	326
No Response	81	104	136
Response to Question	104	102	190
Answer Yes	10	11	16
Answer No	65	55	74
Unaware of service	26	28	51
Not Applicable	3	8	49

8.3.1 It is not obvious how these figures should be considered. Perhaps the best way is to add the 'no response' and the 'not applicable' together. If that is acceptable then the figures show that a small number in each parish use the service. A larger number but even so quite small were unaware of the service and at **Lowca** 35% at **Parton** 27% and at **Moresby** 23% know of the service but do not use it. That leaves a very large number who may know of the service but do not think it covers their area. Residents commented *'Not sufficient information on the library-do not know how to use it'* (Lowca) *'Have not seen mobile library on Criffel for yonks'*(Parton) *'The mobile library no longer visits'*(Low Moresby) The Parish Councils may wish to enquire from the library service the current route and day(s) in each area.

8.4. Mobile Shop Services

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Do you use the mobile shop services			
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	326
No Response	81	103	137
Response to Question	104	103	189
Answer Yes	16	12	6
Answer No	42	38	50
Unaware of service	41	40	89
Not Applicable	5	13	44

If one uses the same method of analysis as was adopted when looking at the mobile library figures then the conclusion reached is that only a very small number use the mobile shop(s). About the same percentage, in **Lowca** (22%) and **Parton** (19%), know of the service and do not use it and are unaware of the service. The largest proportion are those who may know of a service but do not think it covers their area. In **Moresby** the figures produce a slightly different result with 15% saying they know of a service but do not use it against 27% who were unaware of a service. Again the largest proportion may be those who know of a service but do not think it covers their area. As with the library service the parish councils could make enquires as to which mobile shops visit the areas and on what days with a view to circulating the information.

8.5 The Children's Play Areas

8.5.1 Most residents would treat the children's play area as a community facility and the issue is dealt with in this section rather than in the following section which looks at Social and Community issues on a wider basis. There was no direct question asked concerning the play areas but very many residents commented on this facility.

8.5.2 **Lowca** Comments concerning the play area included
'Children's play area requires more suitable ground cover grass at present is totally inadequate'
'the play park is not very big for the amount of children that use it'
'swings far too muddy.....over six swing park'
'.....a better all weather surface on the children's play park would be much better than it is'

The parish council may wish to consider whether any improvements can be made.

8.5.3 **Parton** There are two play areas in the village. One is sited next to the village school at sea level and the second smaller area is on the site of the old bowling green off Brewery Brow and is simply a set of swings about which one resident commented *'the swings on the bowling field are shabby, in need of repair ,toddler ones are dangerous'* The parish council spent a great deal of the precept in the year 2001/2002 on refurbishing the play area near the school and it is unacceptable for the older children and teenagers to seek to damage the items as is obviously the case. A number of residents commented on the minor vandalism that is apparent in some areas of the village.

8.5.4 **Moresby** In two areas, Low Moresby and Rannerdale, respondents made similar comments to the effect that when their developments were built the original plans indicated that there would be a children's play area *'We are supposed to have a play area We don't have one', 'recreational area at present undeveloped'* and *'the original plans for Manesty Rise there was a children's play ground. It never materialised'* There were other comments concerning the lack of a play area in Low Moresby *' need a play area in Low Moresby'* and *'more amenities required now that.... Low Moresby has a lot younger population'* The other side of the coin is *'there aren't any and we don't want any'* but perhaps this is a minority view.

8.5.5 There are two play areas in Moresby Parks and a playing field. The play area in the estate beyond the school has very limited facilities. Comments about the play area closer to the centre of the village included:

'Glass is often scattered around children's play area'
'add more facilities to the children's play area and move them further down'
'The play area for the children hasn't got much on it compared with other areas'
'the playground needs to be extended...'
'children's play area always muddy after any rain also slides etc far too far away from houses for safety'

The parish council are aware of the deficiencies at the play area and have sought to remedy some of the more obvious with new bark and by moving some items to make it safer for the young children. There is much more that can be done.

8.6 Other Community Facilities and Services

Respondents were asked two further questions. They were asked to make any comments concerns or ideas regarding the facilities in their area and secondly to say whether there were any particular problems with the local facilities. The responses were many and varied and where they have not been considered earlier in this section they will form part of the narrative in other perhaps more appropriate sections

9 **Social and Community**

9.1 In this section a series of questions were asked about social life in the villages, what if any community based activities the residents were involved in and how matters could be improved.

9.1.1 The first question sought a general view of the community and its residents and asked whether the area was friendly or not.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response	5	20	9
Response to Question	180	186	318
Answer Friendly	160	163	268
Answer Unfriendly	4	4	12
Answer Neither	14	13	34
Answer Don't Know	2	6	4

9.1.2 In each case the overwhelming majority believe that they live in a friendly community with a very small number saying that it was unfriendly and more but again a small minority who said it was neither. Perhaps to this last figure can be added the don't knows.

9.2 The second question was more specific and asked whether residents thought there were serious problems in the community. These were named and are listed below. Residents were not limited and could cite more than one issue

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response	88	77	150
Response to Question	97	129	177
Problems Answered 'Yes'			
Racial Harassment	2	0	1
Poor Relations between Neighbours	21	19	47
Lack of Community Spirit	54	55	89
Conflict between different Ethnic groups	0	0	1
Conflict between old and young people	31	85	62
Domestic Violence	5	5	11
People moving in and out of area	59	61	42
Empty housing	11	11	15
Other	3	6	16

9.2.1 Before turning to the specific comments that residents made and which are appropriate to this question some general points should be made. In **Lowca** 47.5% of those who returned the questionnaire did not consider there were any problems. The figures for **Parton** and **Moresby** were 37.7% and 45.8% respectively. This does mean that whilst there are a number of problems that do need to be addressed very many residents have no concerns in this area. It is also noticeable that save for the question on conflict between the old and the young the numbers in Parton and Lowca are remarkably similar.

9.2.2 The questionnaires from each village contained comments concerning what might be described as nuisance neighbours and at **Lowca** there is clearly a perceived problem of people moving into and out of the area as over 60% of those who answered saw this as a problem. At **Parton** similar comments were made and at **Moresby** 26.7% of those who responded to this question saw poor relations between neighbours as a problem. There were a number of detailed comments but it would not be appropriate to set them out in a document of this type.

9.2.3 Conflict between the old and the young is a worry with in **Parton** over 65% of those who responded to this question considering it a serious problem with '*troublesome teenagers*' and '*youngsters have no respect for elderly.....*' being two comments which may reflect the views of others. At **Moresby** there are the same concerns but perhaps to a lesser degree. Nevertheless many comments on the lines '*teenagers looking for trouble causing damage*' and '*unruly youths shouting drinking and being abusive.....*' were made

9.2.4 Very many residents believe the answer to what is seen as a problem with young people is for more and better facilities for young people. One comment was' *the village hall should be open every night selling soft drinks and crisps where the older children can sit and meet their friends perhaps a pool table or table tennis games for them. Some where they can listen to music by a juke box or something.....*'.There were other comments not as specific but in the same vein and the following were from different villages '*Could do with a youth club to keep the young ones from the corner*' and '*teenagers should have somewhere to hang out rather than on street corner*' Unfortunately these views represent what an older generation believes a different generation wants and perhaps the street corner is the preferred site. There are a number of firms who provide what are described as Youth shelters and the parish councils may wish to consider whether these if sited in an acceptable place, and that would have to be acceptable to the teenagers as well as the older residents, may be one answer.

9.2 5 In each village a lack of community spirit was seen by many as a serious problem. It is a moot point whether a lack of communal activities is the reason or whether people simply hanker after the old days when fewer people had their own transport and local events were in the main the only ones available.

9.2.6 The village hall at **Parton** has in recent years been renovated and although more work particularly to the outside is required it is used by a number of organisations. A number of comments were made of which ' *the village hall could may be used better ....better communications let people know if there is things going on or if they need help doing things*' reflects some residents views. It may be that better advertising of activities would assist but the opportunity to do so in the absence of a village newsletter is limited. One comment from **Moresby** again pointed to the lack of information about village events.'*It would be an idea for a leaflet to be published so people are aware of what is actually going on in the area*' Moresby School are to have an extension built which hopefully will provide facilities for communal activities and it may be that there can be a publication of the type described when the building works are complete.

9.2.7 A number of respondents raised the question of after school activities and child care generally and the issue is dealt with later in this section.

9.3 Residents were asked if they played an active part in a number of organisations which were listed. They were asked whether it was a village organisation or not. The organisations and the numbers who are involved are given below

	Lowca		Parton		Moresby	
	In Village	Outside	In Village	Outside	In Village	Outside
Residents/Tenants Assoc	3	1	5	0	3	2
Trade Union/Political Party	2	7	1	7	0	19
Self help support group/ Pressure group	2	4	1	1	0	5
School governing body/ P.T.A.	5	3	3	4	3	11
Parent and toddlers/ Play group	0	7	5	1	3	16
Community Centre	1	2	9	2	1	5
Youth Activities Club	3	3	3	3	4	15
Place of Worship	15	7	26	10	31	41
Sports Social Club	28	14	9	14	48	31
Other	3	8	4	8	4	25

9.4 Two linked questions followed. Would you like to be more involved in community activities ? and what prevents you being more involved

	Lowca	Parton	Moresby
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	22	37	39
Response	163	169	288
Would you like to be more involved			
Answer Yes	38	46	60
Answer No	125	123	228
What prevents you?			
No response to this question	30	38	45
Lack of time	81	74	139
Lack of child care	18	12	17
Caring for elderly/sick person	12	13	27
Do not know what is going on	53	46	66
Not Interested in community activities	12	13	24
Other	8	17	21
Not Applicable	22	31	51

9.4.1 The response shows that there is a substantial number of villagers who would be prepared to get more involved in community activities and that for some the barrier to being involved is simply that they do not know what if anything is going on. Clearly there are other issues and an already active lifestyle is the main reason given in each parish. What is of note is that simply being not interested in what is happening in the area is the answer of only about 7 or 8% of those who responded to this question.

9.5 The final question in this section relates to the problem of child care and it was framed in such a way that many residents would not consider it was a matter on which they were qualified to answer. It will be for this reason that there were a large number who did not respond.

With regard to child care are any of the following a problem in your area ? Respondents were not limited to one reason

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	132	149	218
Response	53	57	109
Too few nursery places	14	19	25
Too few child minders	6	5	12
Childcare is of poor quality	2	3	6
Childcare is too expensive	11	10	18
Nursery times are not convenient	3	2	11
Nurseries are not conveniently located	21	27	44
Other	4	2	11
Not Applicable	17	7	26

It would seem sensible to add the 'not applicable' answers to the 'no response' total.

9.5.1 There were very many comments on this topic covering the whole range of problem areas. In **Moresby** comments included:
'There is no child minding on the village I checked'
'I am not aware of any nursery in Moresby'
'There are no nursery places. The nearest is Distington and Hensingham which are hard to get to when there are no buses and unable to drive'
'I don't think there are any play groups in the area'
'No pre-school places have to travel to Distington Whitehaven Arlecdon'

There are nursery /play group/creche facilities at Rosehill but without transport it is not an easy place to reach. One resident who completed a Parton questionnaire indicated that the child care nursery facilities at Roschill were not well known

9.5.2 In **Parton** there is a mothers and toddlers group attached to the village school but there are no nursery facilities and a number of parents have to take their children to Bransty.
Comments included:
'To have a nursery for the mothers of Parton would be very special'
'Children going out of village because no nursery facilities'
'If there was a creche in the village I would take my daughter there but most creche/playgroups do not take children under two years old The ones that do are few and far between'
'Parton school should have its own nursery class'

9.5.3 There are the same concerns in **Lowca** and comments included:
'I would like to see the village get a mother and toddler group
'not able to get to nursery'
'.....why is there no nursery in Lowca. I have to travel to Bransty.....'

9.5.4 A number of residents raised the issue of after school activities and the need for some sort of enterprise that would interest and benefit the younger age group

'there is not enough activities for the younger children on the village age 4 to 10 ....fit kids class would be an idea'(Lowca)
'No where for the older children 5-12 to go outside school hours....' (Lowca)
'Need more safe space for children after school activities.....' (Lowca)
'The area could do with a nursery and an after school club'(Moresby)
'Brownies and cubs'(Moresby)

There were a number of comments made about the lack of facilities for teenagers and children but many were simply voicing there concerns of minor vandalism or a what they see as children loafing about and making too much noise.

9.5.5 There is a need for more community activities whether it is for children young people or adults. Generally speaking groups and clubs of whatever sort are run by volunteers and it may be that there are a number in the ward who are prepared to come forward if there is a lead given The question of nursery facilities is one that has to be answered otherwise parents will continue to take there children out of their own village and as often as not continue their education outside the village. This will certainly put at risk in the long term the viability of the village schools

10 **Employment Economy and Regeneration**

10.1 In this section respondents were asked about their jobs and those of members of the household, whether they were in employment, where they worked and how far they travelled to work. There were questions about seeking employment and about thoughts on self employment. Finally respondents were asked if they wished to comment upon employment matters generally in the area.

10.1.1 Some residents thought asking where people worked in what was an anonymous questionnaire was too intrusive and so far as some were concerned an impertinence. The questions were asked in order that some insight could be gained into the numbers who were in paid employment and whether it was very local or whether travel to work was extensive. The questionnaire also sought to identify the main employers. Most people who had reservations about the particular question simply did not answer it. If it caused offence then apologies are given.

10.2 Respondents were asked how many members of the household were currently employed.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	3	11	8
Response	182	195	319
Answer 0	63	95	132
Answer 1	59	43	76
Answer 2	48	44	96
Answer 3	9	11	15
Answer 4	3	2	3

10.2.1 Of those who responded to this question in **Lowca** 34.6% of households had no one in employment. The figure for **Moresby** was 41.4%and for **Parton** 49.2%. Whilst in each case there would be members of the households who were of an age where employment was feasible most of these responses are from the retired. **Lowca** figures showed the largest percentage of one worker households and **Moresby** the highest percentage of two worker households. They were the only parish that had more two than single worker households. Each parish had a relatively small number of households where more than two people were in employment.

10.3 The questionnaire asked how far members of each household travelled to work.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Answer 0 to 2 miles	34	56	79
Answer 2 to 5 miles	81	44	78
Answer 5 to 10 miles	39	30	71
Answer Over 10 miles	38	44	100

10.3.1 Whilst a questionnaire of this type cannot pretend to give complete statistics without a proper data base it can give a flavour of both the distances travelled and the main employers of workers in the area. Using 'Sellafield' as a generic term to include those who are directly employed by BNFL and UKAEA either on the site or who are out-stationed and those who work on the site but are not directly employed by the two organisations mentioned it is clear that by far the largest single employer is 'Sellafield' with many households having two members employed. In **Moresby** of the 160 questionnaires where respondents had given the name of their employer 78(48.75%) referred to 'Sellafield' in the terms outlined above. If nothing else this response shows to what degree the local economy is reliant on the nuclear industry in its broadest terms. The figures for **Parton** and **Lowca** are not as stark but even so many households have one or more employed by 'Sellafield'.

10.3.2 Other employers with noteworthy numbers of workers included the local authorities, schools and the health service. These together with those who work for central government departments mean that there are, as would be expected, significant numbers who work in the public sector.

10.4 Two further questions were asked. There were few responses to the first question which asked about setting up a business. It asked of those who were not in paid work but were looking for a job whether they would wish to set up their own business

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Answer Yes	12	10	9

The second question asked those who were not in paid work what they thought prevented them from obtaining the kind of job that they wanted. More than one reason could be given.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Don't have the skills/qualifications	4	8	5
Don't have the right experience	5	7	3
Don't have any work experience	1	1	1
No time to look for work	2	1	2
Family responsibilities	15	10	14
Don't know where to look for work	1	1	0
There are no jobs available	6	14	11
Can't find a job that pays enough	3	11	6
Can't find job with suitable hours	7	10	7
Other	11	3	10

10.4.1 Some categories link to others for example 'family responsibilities' and 'suitable hours' will in the main be related and it is here that the majority of those who responded found the answer that nearest met their problem. The issue of child care dealt with in an earlier section must be considered. Whilst unemployment has fallen in the area over recent years for some the answer is that there are simply no jobs available.

10.5 1 Comments on this section were varied and reflected many diverse opinions. Those from **Lowca** included:

'.....there is a need to train young people in construction skills'
'overall high unemployment, poor opportunities, low motivation particularly within village'
'jobs are not as easy to find like they were in the past'
'work is out there if you look'
'poor opportunities for work in this area'
'could the village pay someone to tidy the village and do minor repairs'
'....every application states 'experience required' How if kids aren't going to get the chance to gain that experience'
'more industrial type companies need to be encouraged into the area. Call centre service industries are unacceptable substitutes due to the low wages'

10.5.2 Few comments on this topic were evident in the **Parton** questionnaires. But again those that did comment reflected different views:

'there is very little employment round here with BNFL keeping all other businesses away'
'you need a job before you can get one'
'there is not enough permanent employment Most jobs are agency jobs. You can't get a mortgage or a loan with that.'
'Council should pay locals who are out of work to carry out beach clean once a month'
'.....those that are made redundant the employment office seem to run about to find them jobs instead of finding jobs for the young people'

10.5.3 There is a business park on the edge of Moresby Parks and comments relating to that site were made by some of the **Moresby** respondents

'some small and medium start up units on Whitehaven Industrial Estate similar to Haig Enterprise Park or develop a business park in area between Parton Lowca and Moresby. Kells /Woodhouse have one at Haig Hensingham have Sneckyeat'
'the Moresby business park should be better and more widely advertised to attract business development'
'factories were built on Moresby Parks industrial site but have remained empty for years'
'more industry should be encouraged to use our industrial site'
'the lack of proper jobs and proper training in this area encourages many of our social ills More thought should be put into attracting employers into this area. Those employers should be appropriate to the area ie BNFL should not have to look far and wide for technical or high tech. solutions to any problems They should be on their doorstep. At the same time simply building a business park that remains empty for years on end is not the answer. We have a shining example'

10.5.4 There were comments from Moresby residents on more general aspects of the employment and economy issue including:

'we need a greater variety of jobs -must attract full time well paid employment to the area. The Whitehaven call centre has proved unreliable and would it not employ mostly part timers We must attract by being an attractive area good road network quality personnel international companies or even national ones pull in from areas like ours in times of economic difficulty'
'there should be more diversity if Sellafield closes the area is finished'
'limited range of opportunities and lack of variety due to rural area'
'sparse opportunities for school leavers'
'some of the local unemployed could be used on parish projects seasonally.....'
'Should be left as a rural area for people to travel away from it to work'
'a Moresby community rugby club new building providing other facilities would create local employment'

10.5.5 Whilst the comments from all three parishes were diverse encompassing as they did peoples personal prejudices only one comment related to the transport difficulties that are endemic in an isolated and sparsely populated area such as West Cumberland. Nothing was said about the attempts by the district council to encourage tourism to a far greater extent than was formerly the case. It may be that the parish councils can with the assistance of WCVS provide a measure of employment as is suggested in comments from each parish but there does need to be a close look at this area if the benefits of European funding are to be realised.

11 Sport

11.1 The sports facilities in each village are very limited. There is an association football team in **Parton**. There is an amateur rugby league team in **Lowca** and there is a rugby union team in **Moresby.** The latter two have their own clubhouses. The Lowca clubhouse was built recently with assistance of grant aid from the lottery. The Parton football team have very moderate facilities with a porta-cabin changing rooms in one corner of the field. There may be darts teams associated with the social club in **Moresby** and the welfare club in **Lowca** as well as the pubs in **Parton** but there is little else other than sea fishing at Parton.

11.1.1 Respondents were asked if they used the sports facilities in their village.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	15	34	39
Response Given	170	172	288
Answer Yes	13	15	24
Answer No	157	157	264

11.1.2 It can be seen that only a small percentage (around 7/8%) use the facilities in the parishes. There are no organised sports for women and whilst the rugby union club in **Moresby** successfully runs youth teams it would appear that these too are boys only. Comments on this issue included *'only rugby union in the area should be something for girls* and '*it is rugby or nothing*' Others said *'rugby club in poor condition'* and *'rugby club needs refurbishment to attract new members....'*.At **Parton** the point was made that *'football is the only facility'* and *'there is only football....'* Comments concerning the football changing facilities included *'changing rooms for football teams on field instead of half mile away....* 'and *'changing facilities..... at the correct location'* A comment on the new rugby club at **Lowca** '*congratulations on the new rugby club and gaining lottery grant*' was welcome

11.2.1 A further question was 'do you think your area requires any additional sports facilities.'

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	29	44	56
Response Given	156	162	271
Answer Yes	57	82	115
Answer No	32	22	71
Answer Not Sure	67	58	85

11.2.2 It can be seen that only in **Parton** do a majority of those who responded to this question consider that additional sports facilities are required and this falls to 39.7% when taken as a percentage of all those who returned a questionnaire. Before looking at the suggestions and the views of those who favour additional sports facilities the comments of those who say 'no' or 'not sure' need to be reported. At **Moresby** they included *'we use Whitehaven sports centre and swimming pool walk the Lake District fells and cycle' 'being close to Whitehaven we use gym etc and find there is plenty of choice' 'Plenty of facilities that are under used'* From **Parton** there were similar views: *'Whitehaven sports centre is more than suitable for most needs' 'Nobody has any interest'* and at **Lowca** came the comment *'not enough people are interested on the village in running any kind of sport'*

11.2.3 The problem especially for younger people when suggesting that Whitehaven can meet the needs of people is that private transport is required for visits after teatime both to the sports centre and to the swimming pool .We have discussed the lack of evening public transport earlier.

11.2.4 When looking at the pro additional facilities comments it is noticeable that many return to the issue of keeping children off the streets *'there are a lot of children on the street with nothing to do'* **(Lowca)**, *'not enough things for children -why not have something in the village hall to keep them off the streets'* **(Parton)** *and 'more sports facilities would keep kids off the street'* **(Moresby)**.These may be laudable sentiments but they are the adults view and what they want and may not coincide with what youngsters want themselves.

11.2.5 Some views on what additional sports facilities are required look at providing classes in existing buildings and perhaps in the short term at least this is the way forward. *'preferably a gym or keep fit classes at Lowca Rugby Club or the social(welfare) club' 'we could do with a keep fit class' 'could do with keep fit classes the rugby club is big enough if anyone was willing to hold the lessons' '...ladies keep fit class fit kids class etc....'* These are from four households in **Lowca** and probably others would be only too keen to become involved if a start was made. It may be that the village hall at Parton could be used for a similar venture although in **Parton** comments were received that referred to the benefit that an all weather pitch would bring. **Moresby** residents raised the question of a community hall and others thought that a refurbished rugby club could provide the necessary indoor facilities *'keep fit classes could be held locally.....' 'need...local fitness class' 'I would like aerobics tai chi more readily available'* There were comments suggesting more ambitious projects such as Moresby having its own swimming pool and Lowca its own running track with gymnastic tennis and basketball facilities but realistically is there the population to support projects of this nature.

11.2.6 A third question asked what prevented residents from taking part in sports/leisure activities as often as they would like and gave a number of possible reasons. Respondents could give more than one reason.

	Lowca	Parton	Moresby
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	31	46	47
Response Given	150	160	280
Lack of time	59	46	105
Too expensive	3	6	13
No local facilities	35	43	74
Need support with child care	9	7	11
Caring for elderly/sick person	7	4	9
Illness/disability	27	27	36
Not applicable	41	44	85

11.2.7 Whilst for many a lack of time is the main reason, a substantial number say that the lack of local facilities is a reason. For some support with child care would assist but only a small percentage consider that existing facilities are too expensive. It is worth repeating that poor public transport means that many people will look to village activities as being their only realistic option.

12 **Health**

12.1 There are no doctors surgeries in any of the parishes but a doctor visits the Methodist Chapel hall at Moresby Parks twice each week when consultations take place. The nearest surgeries are in Whitehaven or Distington. West Cumberland Hospital is on the outskirts of Whitehaven and is closer to the Moresby parish than either Parton or Lowca. Dental practices are in Whitehaven and Workington

12.2 Two questions were asked concerning health issues. Respondents were asked if any one in the household had difficulties accessing health services

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	18	43	20
Response Given	167	163	307
Answer Yes	6	13	19
Answer No	161	150	288

12.2.1 The table shows that only a small proportion in the parishes have difficulties but there were comments which show for some it is not easy to get to their doctor. Again the problem of poor public transport is mentioned *' elderly parent difficult to attend appointments during day with no transport' 'without a car and needing to see the doctor urgently means two buses connections there and back and we have poor public transport' 'transport to and from main surgery in Distington taxis too expensive'* were all comments from **Moresby** residents. Whilst the problem of transport is not as obvious in **Parton** one resident made the point that... *'trouble taking the baby to the health visitors. I can't get the pram on the bus and have to walk if the weather is bad have difficulty getting to town'* In **Lowca** the problem of having to change buses to get to the surgery in Distington was raised *'only problem anyone in the Distington surgery having to catch two buses there and back' and ' two buses to get there '*

12.2.2 Transport problems were also raised in relation to Hospital visits and these referred not only to the journey but for those with cars to parking difficulties *'distance then parking whether at health centre or at hospital'*(Moresby) *'travelling to and from hospital appointments'*(Lowca) *'No bus direct to hospital'*(Moresby)

12.2.3 A problem raised by some residents concerned appointments and times when a doctor was available *'there is no after work doctors surgery in village' 'clash with working hours' 'we require an evening surgery in village'* were comments from Moresby. On the more general question of waiting times for appointments comments included *'lack of early appointments with G P* (Moresby) and *' amount of time to wait for appointments often over one week'* (Parton) Similarly there were comments of this type directed against hospital appointments *'in most cases long waiting lists for treatment'*(Parton) and *'extremely long waiting times.....'and 'too long waiting times for hospital appointments.....'* (Moresby)

12.2.4 Two residents mentioned the problem of getting on a dentists list *'I cannot find a dentist'* (Parton) and *'NHS Dentists'*(Moresby).

12.3 A second question asked whether anyone in the household had a long term illness or dis- ability that placed limitations upon their daily life

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	19	47	28
Response Given	166	159	299
Answer Yes	43	36	76
Answer No	123	123	223

12.3.1 The not inconsequential numbers who have limitations through illness or disability in each parish may reflect the aged population referred to earlier but even so 25% in **Moresby** of those who answered this question and 23% of all who returned the questionnaire is a substantial figure. The percentage figure at **Lowca** and at **Parton** was lower

12.3.2 When asked for general comments about health matters issues such as *'there should be more awareness of individual responsibility eg more encouragement for healthy lifestyles* (**Lowca**), *'better sports faciluties would improve health and community life'*(**Moresby**) and *'could do with disabled ramps around the village for the disabled people'*(**Lowca**) were highlighted. The question of a surgery in Lowca on the same lines as the one in Moresby was also raised.

13 Crime and Safety

A series of questions were asked and comments were requested on these issues beginning with a question on the fear of crime.

13.1 Do you ever feel unsafe where you live ?

	Lowca	Parton	Moresby
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	10	34	19
Response Given	175	172	308
Answer Yes	30	46	61
Answer No	145	126	247

13.1.1 Whilst in each case it is very much the minority who answered Yes to this question it remains a concern that more than 17% in each village and in **Parton** 27% said they did feel unsafe.

13.2 A second question listed a number of activities either criminal or anti-social and asked whether any or more than one were a serious problem in the area.

	Lowca	Parton	Moresby
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	63	61	122
Response Given	122	145	205
Serious problem			
Burglary	8	17	78
Vandalism to property/cars	73	80	120
Drug abuse/drug dealing	33	93	35
Theft of and from cars/vehicles	31	31	97
Street robbery (mugging)	0	0	1
Sexual harassment	1	0	0
Racial attacks and abuse	0	0	1
Gangs of youths hanging about	82	105	100
Prostitution/kerb crawling	0	0	0
Noise and nuisance from drunks	27	51	33

13.2.1 It can be seen that for some **Lowca** (34%) **Parton** (29%) and **Moresby** (37%) there were no serious problems or certainly none that were listed but that does leave the majority in each parish who believed that there was a serious problem with some issues attracting the concern of very many Conversely there were some activities listed that either no one or only one in each area saw as a problem. Prostitution/kerb crawling is not seen by any resident as a problem but otherwise at least one person sees sexual harassment, racial attacks and abuse, and street robbery as a problem. That cannot be ignored and one comment may reflect the views of others *'I don't have to walk alone through the village when been out in evenings. I drive.*

13.2.2 Burglary was seen as a serious problem by more residents in Moresby than in the other parishes and that may well be because it is a more wide spread area with more isolated properties.

13.2.3 Vandalism to property/cars was seen as a problem in each area. Comments included from **Parton** *'during dark nights there are young boys going around throwing eggs at pensioners windows. This in itself is not a serious crime but for old age pensioners living on their own the hang that is caused is very frightening' 'occasionally get loud knocks on door in the early hours' 'I have had my car vandalised and groups of youths causing a disturbance and trespassing on my property'* In **Lowca** comments included *'.....local garage had car windows smashed no longer trading this doesn't encourage local enterprise' 'had our car vandalised..'* and at **Moresby** *'damage to vehicles parked next to garages on Walkmill Close.....'*

13.2.4 The **Parton** questionnaires revealed a real problem with drug abuse/drug dealing. 92 households that is 64.3% of those who answered this question and 45.1% of all who returned the questionnaire believe there is a serious problem A large number of comments on this issue were made *'Drugs - selling of drugs on the estate' 'stop putting drug addicts among good tenants' 'drug and drug users a danger to people.....' '.....might deter drunks and drug addicts' drug dealing done regularly .....'* There were other comments in the same vein. What makes this matter more worrying is that whilst some in both **Moresby** and **Lowca** see this as a problem there was only one comment on the topic from Lowca and none from Moresby.

13.2.5 Theft of and from cars and vehicles is seen as a problem especially in Moresby. Again being a more rural area with more unlit lanes and less street lighting may be a reason.

13.2.6 Gangs of youths hanging around cannot in itself be described as a crime but it can be in its worst form anti social behaviour and it may lead to crime. Many residents in each parish see it in this light *'gangs of youths only hanging around because they have nowhere to go or transport in the evening to do any thing else'* (**Lowca**) *' the children's play area should be used for children instead of drunken youths hanging around'* **(Moresby)** *'gangs of youths can be a nuisance at times especially at the play park area also.... on the railway'* **(Parton)** were comments on this matter.

13.2.7 Noise and nuisance from drunks can be linked to the question of youths hanging around and many residents did just that with *'drunks are the same gang they sit on seats shouting.....'* **(Moresby)** *'.....keep things safe and people being bothered from youths hanging around drinking and being insolent' 'on Ramsey Drive we get all the lads with drink....' 'children drinking alcohol in public places .....'* **(Parton)** and *'there should be police coming round at night to keep a look out for teenagers drinking'* (**Lowca**)

13.2.8 Whilst it was not in the list of serious problems some residents returned to the question of road traffic matters relating this to the question of safety and how the police deal with the issue *'speed cameras would make the village safe to stop joy riding etc' 'speed of traffic passing through the village at peak times -measures already taken are not enough'* **(Lowca)** *'speeding drivers do not seem to realise a car can be a dangerous weapon'* **(Moresby)**

13.3 The next question asked residents whether they believed certain options would help reduce crime in their area.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
More neighbourhood watch schemes			
Answer Yes	71	86	126
Answer No	7	8	13
Answer Maybe	29	24	44
Don't Know	4	2	4
Stronger locks on doors and windows			
Answer Yes	50	55	102
Answer No	10	9	19
Answer Maybe	26	17	37
Don't know	5	4	6
Better brighter street lighting			
Answer Yes	77	80	131
Answer No	6	7	12
Answer Maybe	23	13	32
Don't know	2	3	3
Harsher sentences for offenders			
Answer Yes	98	116	184
Answer No	8	3	12
Answer Maybe	5	8	18
Don't know	5	1	5
More police on foot patrol			
Answer Yes	123	152	227
Answer No	3	3	10
Answer Maybe	20	10	19
Don't know	2	2	3
More leisure facilities for young people			
Answer Yes	117	116	159
Answer No	2	6	7
Answer Maybe	19	13	31
Don't know	2	3	6

Jobs for young people			
Answer Yes	115	120	160
Answer No	2	1	5
Answer Maybe	13	16	25
Don't know	3	3	5

13.3.1 These figures can be interpreted in many different ways and whilst the overwhelming response to each question was 'Yes' it is noticeable that fewer were enamoured with certain options than with others. By way of illustration whilst in total 574 responses were entered for the question on police foot patrols only 320 were entered on the question concerning stronger locks. The locks option was also the one where more people believed that it was not an answer.

13.3.2 There were comments relating to a number of the options. Two comments from Moresby residents on neighbourhood watch schemes were *' I am neighbourhood watch coordinator considerable apathy in area....' and 'a more pro active neighbourhood watch scheme'*. This may indicate that there is a relatively low crime rate and or that more work needs to be done to publicize the benefits of these schemes.

13.3.3 There were no comments either for or against stronger locks on doors and windows but one resident of Moresby did point to *'better street lighting'* as being a benefit. It is said that good street and pathway lighting is an accepted deterrent to criminal behaviour.

13.3.4 There were a number who commented upon the need for harsher sentences and one respondent who said *'fear of being caught is more of a deterrent than fear of harsher punishment.....'*

13.3.5 More leisure facilities and jobs for young people were commented upon by a number of residents in each parish. Two comments taking parents to task were *'if parents weren't so naive and opened their eyes maybe they would see how their kids behave and do something about it'* and *'children are influenced by role models, parents are the principal models and the problem. The spotlight should be turned on the parents.....'* but by and large residents made the point that young people with too much time on their hands, few organised activities and no means of transport were more likely to behave in an anti social manner than otherwise would be the case.

13.3.6 There were very many comments concerning foot patrols by the police but before detailing some of these comments it makes more sense to look at the final question that was asked in this section

13.4 Residents were asked how they would describe the services of the police in their area.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	7	8	17
Response Given	178	198	310
Answer Good	10	15	17
Answer Okay	40	56	118
Answer Poor	106	108	135
Answer Don't know	22	19	40

13.4.1 It can be seen that in each parish the largest figure was to the answer poor and in both Lowca and Parton that was more than half of those who returned a questionnaire. Few thought the service good and whilst in Moresby, over a third thought the service was okay the percentage in both Lowca and Parton was less than 30%.

13.4.2 Many people wish to see the return of old style policing with each village having its own 'bobby' and it can be assumed a police house in the village. This is one end of the range with comments such as *'bring back the village policeman'* **(Moresby)** *'a village policeman kept people in check'* **(Parton)** and *'parish policemen with regular visits'* **(Lowca)** being made.

13.4.3 Other perhaps accepting that police can no longer be based in each village still want to see foot patrols. That is evident from the answer to the previous question. Comments included *'not enough police on the beat to be there when crimes are committed. Cars are visible foot bobbies aren't '* **(Lowca)**, *'more patrol on foot would encourage communication and reduce crime'* **(Parton)** and from **Moresby** *'more foot patrol police'*.

13.4.4 The issue of simply more patrols is clearly the answer in many peoples view. *'We need more police on patrol'* and *' not enough police presence '* were comments from **Moresby** *'More police patrols'* and *'.....never seen any police patrolling our area'* from **Parton**. **Lowca** comments included *'more police officers checking the village'* and *'need more police patrols'*

13.4.5 The police operation is now said to be intelligence lead which would seem to be at odds with what villagers want which is a more up front presence whether crime is prevalent and recent or not. Comments supporting this view included *'only see a policeman when there is trouble'* and *'.....never seen a bobby except when someone was being arrested then it was like 'The Bill' '*. A number of respondents made the point that the policy that is being followed is either not clear or simply not known, *'no allocated police officer to relate to direct' 'do we have a police man/woman responsible for Moresby Parks' 'unsure of police policy for policing Moresby'* were all comments made.

13.4.6 Some respondents understand and accept that there manpower limitations and resource implications in policing the area and comments on this aspect included *'lack of policing probably due to lack of manpower'* and *' police do their best but they are reactive rather than pro-active because of lack of manpower'*.

13.4.7 A number of houscholders made the point that a few people cause all or almost all the trouble. There are known troublemakers and law breakers and it is said if these people were dealt with by the police and the courts in a more robust fashion then crime and anti social behaviour would drop or cease. Theories and motives are attributed to the police as to why there is not in the respondents view a strong enough attitude towards these families and groups.

13.4.8 Whilst comments in the main are about perceived failings there are some points made which the police ought to pick up relating to how they ensure that villagers better understand the crime and safety strategy that Cumbria constabulary are pursuing.

13.4.9 Finally it would be wrong to end this section without noting that for some the police are already doing a good job *'the police in this area give a first class service'* and *'police do a good job all round'* A comment from a newcomer to the area perhaps sheds a fair light on the policing of the ward. *'Having only lived here a short while I may not have experienced the things others have but compared to where I lived before its great. Peaceful!!!'*

14 Education and Training

Residents were asked three questions about education and training. In what training were they interested. If they were undertaking training where and the activity involved. They were asked if they had any general comments on education and training in the area.

14.1 The questionnaire asked whether any member of the household wished to undertake any training in the future.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	19	40	36
Response Given	166	166	291
Answer Yes	36	36	67
Answer No	130	130	224

14.1.1 There is a substantial minority in each parish that are interested in further training. Of those that responded to this question 27% in **Lowca** 28% in **Parton** and 29% in **Moresby** gave a positive response.

14.1.2 When asked in what training they were interested the answers were as to be expected very varied, but computer courses were by far the most sought after especially if courses could be held locally preferably in the village where the respondent live.

14.2 A second question listed a number of areas of assistance and asked which would help most. Only one response was allowed

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	76	109	165
Response Given	109	97	162
More money	7	6	6
Cheaper courses	2	3	5
Support with child care	4	5	4
Support caring for elderly/ sick person	0	0	1
More information	7	1	9
Better transport	4	1	13
Locally based courses	42	41	64
Other	2	1	2
None of above	41	39	58

14.2.1 Noticeably the responses from Parton and Lowca were almost identical and those from Moresby whilst numerically more were in percentage terms very similar especially in relation to the main area of assistance namely locally based courses. The problem of poor transport was raised in Moresby and to a lesser extent in Lowca.

14.2.2 Computer courses held locally are raised by a number of householders *'if the school were to do computer training for adults.....I would be very interested'* **(Moresby)**, *'many elderly villagers would like I T skills local village course would help overcome shyness ie everybody would know each other'* **(Lowca)** and *'school and village hall could be used for courses'* **(Parton)** were comments from each parish.

14.2.3 West Cumbria college at Lillyhall was mentioned by a number of respondents as both supplying a good education facility but unable to provide a wider range of courses. The problem with public transport to evening classes at the centre was raised. *'bus from village to college?'* **(Lowca)**

14.2.4 Two residents commented upon the need for a university in the county *'.....Cumbria is one of the few counties without its own university'* and *'hopefully the new Lillyhall college will gain university status to encourage more people to gain degree level education and prosper'* and others raised the benefits generally of adult and further education and training *'generally greater access/opportunities would be beneficial and incentive for adults.. enhanced use of monitoring schemes with children and young people would be beneficial'*

14.3 The final question asked if anyone in the household currently attended adult education or evening classes

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	15	43	39
Response Given	170	163	288
Answer Yes	13	4	24
Answer No	157	159	264

14.3.1 Clearly there are only a small minority who presently undertake adult education with the Parton numbers especially small .Of the three one person travelled to Carlisle There was a somewhat larger number in Lowca and 5 of the 13 attended West Cumbria college. Only in Moresby was there a response indicating that a resident attended a course within the parish with mention of painting classes at the Rosehill barn.

15 **Involvement in local affairs**

The final three questions related to local matters and enquired of parishioners whether and to what extent they would be prepared to get involved in village affairs.

15.1 Respondents were asked if they would be prepared to get involved in any future projects in their village

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	10	29	22
Response Given	175	177	305
Answer Yes	19	26	40
Answer No	75	79	160
Answer Maybe	81	72	105

15.2 They were asked if they were interested in being a parish councillor

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	11	33	21
Response Given	174	173	306
Answer Yes	6	5	15
Answer No	152	151	261
Answer Maybe	16	17	30

15.3 Residents wee asked if they would be prepared to pay more annually on their council tax in order to enable the parish council to implement schemes to improve the area and if so how much each month.

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Questionnaires Analysed	185	206	327
No Response to this question	18	27	27
Response Given	167	179	300
Answer Yes	52	61	98
Answer No	115	118	202
Amount each month			
£1	11	8	15
£2	16	25	19
£3	6	7	19
£4	2	4	6
£5	13	14	33
none specified	4	3	6

16 The Village Schools

16.1 Earlier in this document (para 3.9) the decision to provide a grant to each village school to undertake work contributing to the parish plan is recorded. This section sets out what was undertaken and how involvement of the children of the parishes has widened the scope of the exercise. Each school produced an exhibition of their work which was displayed at the public meetings

16.2 **Lowca** The head teacher at the Lowca Community School said that there is a real sense of community in the village and the children took part in the project with enthusiasm. She reported as follows:

'The children really enjoyed having disposable cameras to use for a couple of afternoons and we wandered about the village taking photographs of things that we didn't like the look of. Not long after we took the photographs were taken a great deal of the ugly mess was removed although we didn't realise this was going to happen at the time. There are still areas which need tidying and beautifying but these are getting fewer. The project was able to focus the children to look at these areas and also to question why this might be. Who knows, if they see someone dumping unsightly litter in future they might question this'

16.3 **Moresby** What follows is the note Mrs Polly Langstaff a teacher at Moresby school prepared:

'When first confronted with the Vital Villages project I was a bit nonplussed. What do they want from our class? What can we do? Well, not familiar with Moresby Parks apart from the main street I decided the best thing to do would be to let the children show me the village, so cameras in hand and local residents to help off we went.
'We looked at the old railway station/station master house where some of the children live and discussed the village having a railway when it was a mining community and how that brought the Club into the village as it was originally built as the 'miners welfare'. We looked at all the different houses from the miners' cottages on the main street to the new estate developments on the edge of the village and how Moresby was growing and changing all the time. We used the photographs to make collages of the different type of buildings.
'As we explored we noticed the garage and how the petrol station had closed and one of the local shops. We discussed what amenities we still had in the village such as the rugby club, the doctor's surgery, bus service, mobile library, Churches, recycling centre, local shop, club etc.
'The children were asked to talk to their families and ask them what they liked and didn't like about the village. The results were very positive. Many people thought Moresby was a nice quiet rural village to live in and many had extended families around them. They also liked the village school where people knew everyone.
'The few criticisms were at the few unruly families that had moved into the village, poor play areas, and litter in the streets.
'When we looked at the small play area near the school we spoke to a resident pensioner and asked her how she liked living near a playground. She replied she didn't have any problems with the children , just the litter that blew into her garden and when we looked round the children noticed there wasn't any bin.
'On our tour we also looked at local signs and why they were up. We decided they were there

15.3.1 It is clear that there is a fund of goodwill in each village. Many people want to improve the area in which they live either by giving assistance in helping to organise and run a project or by taking an active role in the running of their parish by sitting on the parish council or by increasing the amount that is collected by way of council tax. Looking at the last table and always accepting that for many there are strict parameters within which the parish council would need to spend, it is interesting to see that basically one in three in each parish would be prepared to pay more by way of parish precept.

15.3.2 Of course there are very many more who believe that they pay more than enough already by way of council tax and a large number of the more unrestrained comments were from residents who considered they saw very little by way of services at the present time without adding to their burden. There were those who made the very valid point that their budgets were stretched to the very limit now and although they may be in favour in principle financial considerations ruled out the possibility of extra payments.

15.4 A number of respondents asked how much the parish council received from residents and how they spent the money. This is perhaps an area where more information could be disseminated and it is for parish councils to look at the means they adopt to provide residents with local news. It may be that the district council are able to assist with an inset in Copeland News.

to make life better for us, such as Neighbourhood Watch, no dog fouling, traffic calming on the roads.
'Wish lists I asked the class what they would like for our village not just for them but also for the whole community. They came up with ideas like a playgroup for the little ones. More benches for the old folk to sit and have a 'crack' with their neighbours and friends as they had noticed how one on the main street was often used by three old men of the village. More play equipment was requested and a big favourite was a skate park. More litter bins to keep the place 'looking nice and clean' was also asked for.
'I feel the Vital Villages project has done some good. It has made the youngsters in the village think about where they live and value it and take a pride in it. As one of our class said ' Its where people are nice to each other'

16.4 **Parton** The head teacher said that the children in the school filled in the questionnaire that had been used when the households had been surveyed. They had collated the evidence from the survey and analysed the findings. The children had discussed what they liked about the village, what they disliked, what they thought could be improved and what is lacking in the village. The children photographed areas of the village to highlight and illustrate issues which had been identified. They wrote about what it was like to be a child growing up in Parton. The children saw dog dirt litter damage graffiti and unkempt areas as problems and highlighted the beach the play park and plenty of space as being good things about good things about the village

16.4.1 When the school presented their work at the open meeting Briar Adair, Liam Jackson Jordan Baillie and Lauren Sirkett introduced the display and said:

'All the children in the class have taken part in the Vital Villages project

'The first thing we did was to divide into pairs and get a disposable camera. We went around the village taking pictures of things we thought were good about the village and parts of the village which we felt were not so good and needed improving.

'We talked about the village:

- What the village has
- What is lacking in the village
- Which parts of the village are pleasant
- Which parts need improvement

'We discussed problems and possible solutions

'We all completed the vital villages survey:

Health

There is no doctors surgery in Parton. Everyone even the elderly and people with young babies have to go into Whitehaven.

Transport and Travel

The village has good transport links with a railway station and a cycle path

Community

In our community there is a school, a post office, bowling green, beach, and play park. We would like a fish and chip shop, a mini market, a swimming pool and a nursery

Environment

Problem areas are: The beach - broken glass and rubbish. Bowling green and football field - dog dirt and rubbish. Play park - graffiti, rubbish and damage. Ghyll footpath - glass, people dumping rubbish.

'Causes for concern are: Fast motorbikes, Poor lighting, Uneven pavements, Heavy traffic, Too much digging up roads, Joy Riding, Difficulty getting out of village.
'Solutions: Repairing and painting fences etc., Clearing away rubbish, Fencing off playing fields, Poop Scoop and rubbish bins.

'Thank you for listening to our talk. Please read the display boards to get abetter idea of our work. See how we identified problems and came up with solutions. We all agreed on what were the good things about our village and also what the problems were. We think that quite a lot of the problems could be quite easily solved while others may be more difficult.'

17 The Youth Survey

17.1.1 Two personal advisers working for Connexions Cumbria undertook the work of surveying young people in the Howgate ward. They had both trained as professional youth workers and brought their experience in this field to the work.

17.1.2 Their approach was to identify those young people aged 13/19 in the ward from the Connexions database. They worked through the 2 main secondary schools. They saw the young people in groups in school. For those who were not at school a telephone interview was carried out but the interviewers reported that these were not always as thorough as would have been the case had it been a face to face interview

17.2.1 The following information has been extracted from the survey. *(The raw data is available if required)*

17.2.2 The Respondents

	Lowca	Parton	Moresby	Howgate ward	
Age					
Under 13	13	16	20	49	
13-15	19	24	33	76	
16 and Over	14	20	24	58	(183)
Sex					
Male	16	28	36	80	
Female	30	32	41	103	(183)
Education/Work					
FT Education	32	43	47	122	
FT Work	7	10	17	34	
PT Education	0	0	0	0	
PT Work	0	2	0	2	
In Training	6	5	13	24	
Not Given	1	0	0	1	(183)

17.2.3 Accommodation

The majority of respondents would like to stay in the area (67% in **Parton**) (86% in **Moresby**) (82% in **Lowca**)

17.2.4 Employment

The two main reasons given in response to the question 'What would stop you getting the job you want?' were :

Moresby 'Lack of skills / exam grades' and 'There are no jobs'
Lowca ' Lack of experience' and 'There are no jobs'
Parton ' Lack of skills /exam grades' and 'lack of experience'

Overall the perception that there are no jobs for young people was mentioned more than other reasons but in addition to the lack of experience or skills /exam grades a number gave a lack of transport as their major reason for limited job opportunities.

17.2.5 Sport and Leisure

Of those who answered the question 'do you use the sports/leisure facilities in the village' 35% answered yes in **Moresby** 45% in **Lowca** and 24% in **Parton**. This certainly reflects the fact that only in **Lowca** are there modern facilities but even so the variety of activities is limited. When asked the two most popular sport/leisure facilities that had been used in the last six months by respondent they were:

Moresby and **Parton** The cinema and the swimming baths
Lowca The sports centre and the swimming baths
None of the facilities are available in the ward but are within easy travelling distance if private transport is available. It is not so easy for those who rely on public transport.

17.2.6 Social and Community

When asked what the area needs for young people a wide variety of suggestions were made but more respondents mentioned a youth centre than any other idea. It was noticeable that almost half of the **Moresby** and **Parton** youngsters mentioned a youth centre whilst only a quarter at **Lowca** raised this as a requirement.

17.2.7 Health

One question asked in the youth survey that was not part of the household questionnaire concerned advice on drugs, alcohol, and sexual health. The young people were asked where they would go for advice. The response were as follows:

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Schools	7	10	19
Friends	19	22	24
Family	16	19	28
Doctor	5	28	26

It is not clear whether any conclusions can be drawn from these answers. It may be that the lack of a surgery in the village causes fewer by far of Lowca youngsters to mention this option than in the other parishes.

17.2.8 The Environment

96% of respondents in **Lowca** who answered the question thought that the environment was either good or average. At **Parton** the figure was 80% and at **Moresby** 75%. When asked what concerned them most about the environment dog fouling was highlighted by **Lowca**(46%) and **Moresby**(35%) and litter/rubbish dumping(34%) at **Parton**. Recycling facilities were said to be used by 20% of respondents in **Lowca** 38% in **Parton** and 42% in **Moresby.** In each of the villages poor street lighting was said to be a problem. Uneven pavements was mentioned and joy riding was raised as a problem in **Parton**. This latter issue was raised in the household questionnaire by **Parton** residents and clearly refers to activities of some on the foreshore.

17.2.9 Transport

The issue for the young people was the problem of the lack of public transport. In **Lowca** 49%considered public transport to be a problem when leaving the village. At **Moresby** the figure was 37% and at **Parton** 28%. When asked whether the bus service was either important or essential 78% in **Parton** 75% in **Lowca** nd 47% in **Moresby** answered yes

17.2.10 Crime and Safety

As with the household questionnaire the young people were asked about criminal/anti-social problems in the area. The one question left out when the youth survey was undertaken concerned gangs of youths hanging about which was considered inappropriate. The results were as follows:

	Lowca	**Parton**	**Moresby**
Burglary	5	10	26
Vandalism	23	34	38
Drug abuse/dealing	11	33	21
Car theft	10	12	17
Mugging	2	5	6
Sexual/Racial harassment	2	8	3
Kerb Crawling	11	5	7

Whilst clearly these figures must be treated with some caution it is interesting that mugging, kerb crawling and sexual/ racial harassment which hardly figured in the household questionnaire are raised as a problem albeit to a much lesser degree than vandalism. The drug problem in **Parton** is again a worrying matter. When asked what they thought would reduce crime in their village the highest response was more police patrols..

18 The Public Meetings

18.1 Meetings were held in each village school during the last week of November and the first week of December 2002. Villagers had the opportunity to see what the schoolchildren had achieved and each school displayed their work.

18.2 A short presentation taking a selection of statistics from the results of the household questionnaire was given and following which those who attended were asked to list what they saw as the three most important issues. The results were collated and are shown in the table below

	Lowca	Parton	Moresby
School Bus Service	-	-	4
Transport Initiative	-	-	6
Improvement to Sewage Works	**5**	3	-
Rubbish Problem	3	3	4
Dog Fouling	3	**8**	4
Recycling Facilities	3	2	-
Improvements to the back roads	2	-	**11**
Youth Facilities	**5**	3	3
Village Newsletter	-	2	2
Facilities for Pre-School Children	**4**	1	7
Employment Initiatives	-	-	1
Awareness of Jobs Available	-	-	-
Less Formal Non-Team Activities	-	1	1
Surgery Scheme for Lowca and Parton	-	1	-
Crime Initiative	1	**6**	3
Village Hall Community Development Centre	2	2	**11**

18.3.1 As can be seen the main issues in **Lowca** considered by those who attended the meeting are improvements to the sewage works and the development of youth facilities. Facilities for pre-school children, the rubbish problem, dog fouling, and recycling were also mentioned.

18.3.2 Projects focussing on dog fouling and a crime initiative were considered as the most important in **Parton**. Other issues included improvement to the sewage works the rubbish problem and youth facilities.

18.3.3 The key concerns in **Moresby** are improvements to the unadopted Back Lanes and a village hall community development centre. Facilities for pre-school children and a transport initiative were also given high priority. When asked if there were other issues that had not been highlighted in the presentation the following matters were raised:

Better electricity supplies(too many power cuts)
A pavement to Sunny Hill
Footpath Improvements on Walkmill
Footpath Improvements on old open cast site
Playground Improvements in Moresby.

19 Conclusion

19.1 These then are the views of the householders, school children and young people of the Howgate Ward taken in the middle of 2002. They cover a very wide range of issues and they represent varying views. What is clear is that in order to change and improve it is the villagers themselves that need to become more involved. Cumbria County Council, Copeland District Council and the parish councils at Lowca Parton and Moresby all have a part to play and there are a number of agencies in the area that will assist both with professional advice and funding. However what is needed above all is the active involvement and enthusiasm of those who live in the various settlements which make up the Howgate Ward

19.2 The Steering group was made up of the following members:

Frank Hollowell (Lowca Parish Council)
Brian Ennis (Lowca Parish Council)
Alan Lawson (Moresby Parish Council)
John McAdam (Moresby Parish Council)
Ted Fox (Copeland District Council Moresby Ward)
Billy Stewart (Parton Parish Council)
Benny Quayle (Parton Parish Council)
Lorrainne Smyth (Voluntary Action Cumbria)
Cathie Fleming (Voluntary Action Cumbria)
Chris Shaw (Project Coordinator)

January 2003

Action Plan

The objectives and priorities for action have been developed into a practical application that prioritises the proposed action, estimates the timeframe required and identifies the delivery partners.

Priority = Short = within 1 year Medium = 1-2 years Long = 2-5 years-

Issue	Action Required	Possible Funding Partners	Priority	Delivery Partners
1. Transport to School from Moresby	Investigate the possibilities of a new bus service or an existing service being modified.	➢ Parish Transport Grant	Medium	➢ Senior Schools ➢ County Council ➢ Parish Plan Steering Group
2. Transport initiative – lack of school buses in evenings and Sundays	Investigate the possibilities of additional bus services.	➢ Parish Transport Grant	Medium	➢ County Council ➢ Parish Plan Steering Group
3. Environmental Improvement Scheme	Produce a Mini Green Plan.		Medium	➢ Groundwork West Cumbria ➢ Parish Councils ➢ Parish Plan Steering Group

4. Improvements of sewerage works	Parton and Lowca Parish Council to continue liasing with United Utilities.		Short	➢ Lowca and Parton Parish Council
5. Rubbish problem	Parish Councils need to pursue this, may need to buy more bins.		Short	➢ Parish Councils ➢ CBC Enforcement Team
6. Dog fouling	Parish Councils need to pursue this, may need to buy more dog fouling bins.		Short	➢ Parish Councils ➢ CBC Enforcement Team
7. Recycling facilities	In contact with Keith Parker from Copeland Borough Council regarding kerbside recycling scheme.		Long	➢ Parish Councils ➢ CBC Enforcement Team
8. Highways improvements 8a. Improvements to the back lanes in Moresby	Initial research into the possibility of Groundwork carrying out an environmental scheme in Moresby that includes improving the	➢ North West Development Agency ➢ County Council	Long	➢ Local Residents ➢ Groundwork West Cumbria ➢ County Council

	back lanes.			
8b. Other Highways issues	Improvement of pedestrian access when leaving the A595 to go to Lowca.		Long	➢ Private land owner ➢ Groundwork West Cumbria ➢ Parton/Lowca Parish Council
9.a Youth Facilities	Potential for MOBEX and VOICES to work with the youth in parallel with an environmental scheme.		Long	➢ MOBEX ➢ VOICES
9.b. Youth Club	Investigate the possibility of setting up youth clubs in each Parish.		Long	➢ VOICES ➢ Local Residents ➢ Parish Council
10. Play Area	Groundwork have recently completed a play area scheme in Lowca. Moresby Parish Council have budgeted to renovate parts of the play area that are considered dangerous.	➢ Moresby Parish Council	Medium	➢ Moresby Parish Council

11. Village Newsletter	Discussed possibility of each parish supplying half a page of information to include in Copeland Matters. Contacted appropriate officer from CBC, there is not enough space in the publication for this.	➢ Community Services Grant	Medium	➢ Parish Councils
12. Facilities for pre-school children	Explore possibility of a nursery school facility in either Moresby, Lowca or Parton.		Long	➢ Early Years Partnership
13. Outreach Community Development Centre	Potential for Moresby School Hall to be used as an outreach Community Development Centre for St Beghs.	➢ ERDF funding ➢ Community Services Grant	Medium	➢ Moresby School ➢ St Beghs CDC ➢ West Cumbria CVS ➢ Voluntary Action Cumbria
14. Employment Initiatives	Outreach CDC needs to be in place first. Training and advice from relevant agencies.		Long	➢ Business Link ➢ Connexions ➢ Enterprising Communities

15. Awareness of jobs available	Outreach CDC needs to be in place first. Outreach service provided by local job centre.		Long	➢ Whitehaven Job Centre
16. Less Formal Non Team Activities	Liase with CBC Sports Officer – Phill Sutton		Medium	➢ Parish Councils
17. Surgery Scheme for Lowca and Parton similar to the one in Moresby			Medium	➢ Parish Councils ➢ Parish Plan Steering Group
18. Crime Initiative	Parish Councils to arrange to meet the Police with results from Parish Plan.		Short	➢ Parish Councils ➢ Cumbria Constabulary