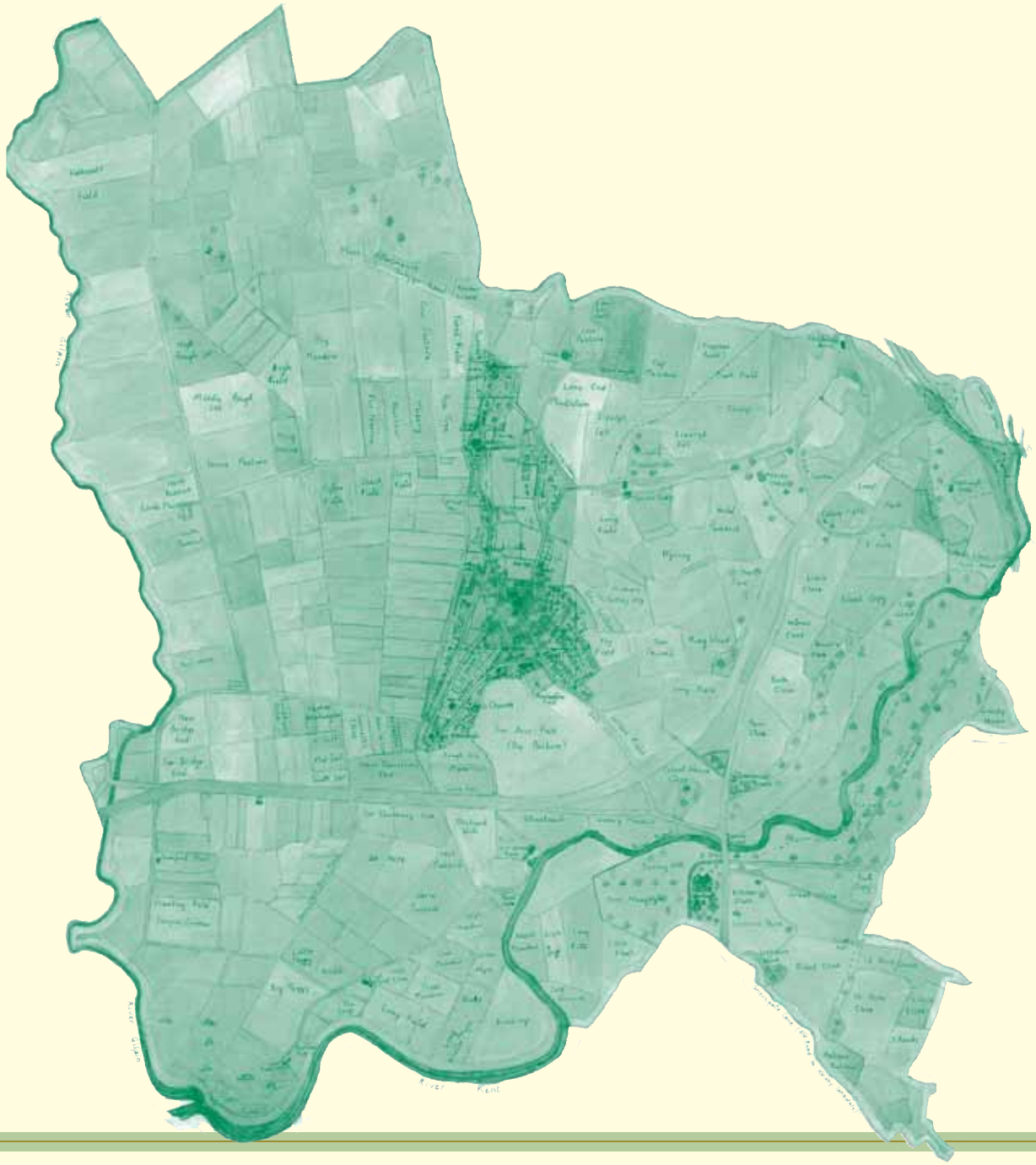
LEVENS VILLAGE PLAN 2008

Location, Location, Location

INTRODUCTION

The Village Plan seeks to reflect the wishes of those who participated in our survey and to identify areas for action that can be passed on to Parish, District or County Council. We know that not all those requirements can be achieved immediately, some may take several years to come to fruition, and some may only happen in the future. However, it is very constructive to have this record of the wishes of those who live in Levens Parish at this time.

It is our hope that this plan will make a major contribution towards the sensible and manageable provision of facilities and future developments in Levens Parish.



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Levens is a Friendly Village

Peace and Quiet Friendliness

HISTORY

The name 'Levens', recorded as Lefuenes in the Domesday Book, only began to come into popular usage after the creation of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Levens in 1836. Whilst the name was not unknown, each of the constituent hamlets now amalgamated and known as 'Levens', were usually known by their own name. The Parish boundaries have changed over the years, but the original hamlets consisted of the large village of Beathwaite Green, (which comprised the whole of the present village centre), the south part of Brigsteer, the north part of Leasgill, Sizergh Cottages and Sizergh Fell Side, Causeway End, Cotes and the hamlet previously known as Newby Bridge but now known as Gilpin Bridge.

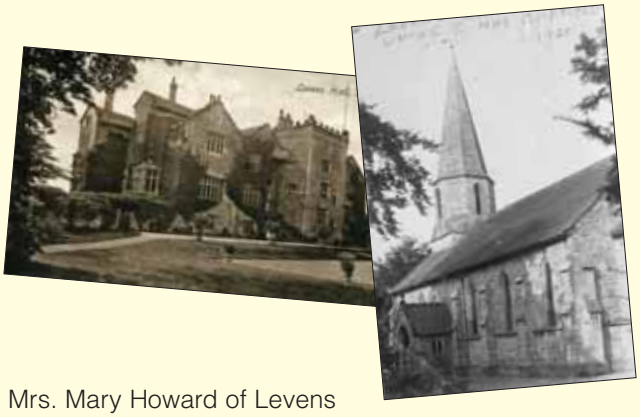
Lefuenes was the manor of Levens owned by Levens Hall, but there was also the smaller manor of Nether Levens, which was held by Family called de Levins, which later became part of the Dallam Tower estate. The etymology of the name Lefuenes is generally accepted as being from the Saxon 'the habitation of Leoffwine', although there are other suggestions that it is a shortening of the description for 'Leafs headland'. There have been many finds of ancient relics from Iron Age, Bronze Age, Viking and Romano-British times, some as recently as 2002.

Nether or Low Levens and Levens Hall are the oldest recorded buildings in the parish and have remains of defensive walls and towers. Other buildings can be dated to the late 17th century and Underhill retains the layout of an old Westmorland longhouse.

Census records show that the 2001 population increased by only 14 from the 1841 figure of 993, whilst the number of households increased from 180 to 453. The population and household totals have both significantly increased since then.

The economy of Levens has always been based on agriculture, mainly a subsistence type of farming, but this was greatly changed by the enclosure of the commons in 1815. Many inhabitants either owned or rented a strip of moss for cutting peat & growing some oats. It was called a 'moss-end'. The supplementary income obtained from selling peat in Kendal slowly came to an end with the construction of the Kendal canal in 1819, allowing the import of coal, although there was still a peat dealer in the village as late as 1909.

Levens was originally part of the Parish of Heversham, but the church, St John the Evangelist, was built between 1824 and 1827 and held its first service in 1828.



Mrs. Mary Howard of Levens Hall met the construction cost, and she also funded the building of the parsonage, demolished in 1964. A Wesleyan Chapel had been founded in 1795 with a replacement being built in 1888.

Education was first recorded in the Parish in 1810 when Mrs Howard founded a school for girls. In 1819 a National School was opened for boys with a new boys' school being built in 1824, again provided by Levens Hall. The boys' school ceased to be used in 1907 when boys, girls and infants came together to be educated on the present school site. The school has recently celebrated that centenary. The village has had two previous reading rooms with the present Village Institute being bought following fund raising as part of the celebration of the coronation of Edward VII.

The playing fields are laid out on land belonging to Dallam Tower and were opened in 1938. The Parish includes three public houses, the Hare & Hounds, first documented in 1714, the Strickland Arms and the Gilpin Bridge Inn. There was previously an inn, the Duke of York, at Sizergh Fellside, and a beer house, the Royal Oak, in Main Street, the latter being closed in 1912.

Levens was in the former South Westmorland Rural District in the county of Westmorland, which became South Lakeland District Council and Cumbria County Council following local government reorganisation in 1974.

LOCATION

Situated about 5 miles south of Kendal, overlooking the start of the Lyth Valley just north of the main A590, Levens is ideally situated to enjoy good communications without suffering the inconvenience of through traffic. The A6 north/south road is close by and the M6 motorway is about 5 miles away. Main tourist attractions include Levens Hall with its famed topiary gardens, Levens Park, Brigsteer Woods and the National Trust's Sizergh Castle.

FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Levens Village has a Village Institute and Playing Fields with a pavilion, bowling green, two tennis courts, football pitch, all weather multi-use games area (MUGA) and children's play equipment. All of these community facilities are well used.

Levens Church of England Primary School is well regarded and highly rated by Ofsted. St John's Church and the Methodist Chapel are integral to the Village and both hold regular services. The Village Institute, a room at the Methodist Chapel and the Pavilion are available for hire. They are also used for meetings of the Parish Council, clubs, groups and fund-raising activities. Levens is served by a bus service to Kendal, Barrow and Milnthorpe. A Doctors' surgery takes place once a week on an appointment basis. The Mobile Library visits monthly. Other facilities in Levens include a Village Store, a Post Office, a Hairdresser and three public houses.

Levens Hall and Gardens are located within the Parish and their tearoom and gift shop are often open. Levens Park has designated footpaths and is popular with walkers. Heaves Hotel is another asset where events organised by groups within the Village are often held. A garden nursery is based within their grounds. Levens is surround by open countryside and country lanes and is therefore very popular with ramblers and cyclists.

BUSINESSES

Serving the Parish is a Post Office, Village Store, Hairdresser, three Pubs, a Dairy, a Joiner/Undertaker, several Builders, Levens Hall and Gardens with Tea Room and Gift Shop, an Hotel, a Garden Nursery, Sampool Caravan Park and a number of small-scale home-run businesses. The main nature of the economy is agricultural and a major supplier of tractors is located within the village. The same family own a Garage and large Car Showroom at premises at Gilpin Bridge.

SOCIAL EVENTS AND ORGANISATIONS

A wide range of social events take place within the Parish on a regular basis. These range from events open to all, clubs for specific age groups or sections of the community, and educational activities. The Playing Fields provide the facilities for Levens Bowling Club and Levens Tennis Club and are very well used by Levens Primary School. St John's Church and the Methodist Chapel hold regular services and are both well supported.

Events held within the community include:-

Coffee Mornings in Levens Institute are held frequently in support of local organisations and a wide range of local and national charities:

- Over Sixties Club
- Parent and Toddlers
- Crossway Crafts
- British Legion (Women)
- Various Church Groups
- Womens Institute
- Church Services
- Quiz Nights
- Brownies
- Levens Quilters
- Levens Local History Group
- Bowling Competitions
- Tennis Matches
- Friday Forums
- Art Group
- Appalachian Dancers
- School Open Days
- Yoga and Pilates classes
- Talks, Slide Shows and Exhibitions
- Kent Estuary Young Farmers Club

Annually: Car Boot, Family Fun Day, Open Gardens, School Christmas Fair, The Big Bike Ride and a Bi-annual Book Fair

A Rural Working Village

Strong Sense of Community and Social Responsibility

DEVELOPMENT OF THE VILLAGE PLAN
THE STEERING COMMITTEE

This was initiated by the Parish Council who wanted to explore the possibility of creating a Parish Plan, which would provide accountable facts and figures to support the views and actions of village residents and businesses when consulting with local government. The Parish Council approached each main group within the community and asked them to put forward a representative to join a committee to explore a way forward. A Chair, Secretary and Treasurer were nominated and the Committee was formed. Funding was applied for and granted by DEFRA via Voluntary Action Cumbria, the Neighbourhood Forum, Russell Armer and the Parish Council.

Once the Steering Committee was established and the funding obtained, the next step was to consult the people within the Parish. The Steering Committee agreed to call the plan a 'Village Plan' in preference to a Parish Plan (which could have been associated with the Church) and in preference to a Community Plan (which felt more urban than rural). It was highlighted that 'the plan' would incorporate the people within the Parish and not solely within the Village, but as the Village is the core of the Parish this title seemed favourable. So the Levens Village Plan was born.

THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

The consultation process began with a public meeting, attended by over 200 residents of Levens Parish, where the benefits of producing a Parish/Village Plan and the processes involved were explained. All those who attended were asked to highlight what they wanted to know and what was important to them i.e. what questions should we ask the Parish? The opportunity was taken to ask people if they would like to help in the process and fortunately a number of those present were keen to be involved.

Taking advice from Voluntary Action Cumbria (VAC) the Steering Committee decided the best way forward was to create a questionnaire incorporating all the information gathered from the first public meeting and putting it into a simple format which would then be circulated to everyone within the parish in order to gather accurate views and opinions.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Voluntary Action Cumbria provided us with software produced specifically for Parish/Village Plans. This gave lists of suggested questions and the basis for data gathering and analysis. It was felt to be important to utilise skills from within the Parish wherever possible and we were fortunate enough to find someone locally who had marketing and analysis experience. They helped with the questionnaire design. Once the five areas of main concern were decided upon, the expert advised us on length of questionnaire and how to ask the questions to obtain the most concise responses. This took some time but once it was organised we sought help with producing and collating the questionnaire. The Parish boundaries had to be clarified, the number of households calculated and a system organised to ensure that every household received a questionnaire. It was also important to achieve the highest possible response rate in order to assess the truest level of opinion within the Parish.

It was decided that a team of Distributors/Collectors would hand deliver and collect the questionnaires, each with a small number of households to cover in order to ensure a high return rate. The team of Distributors/Collectors were found from the list of volunteers and with the help of the Parish News circulation team.

525 households were visited and everyone over eighteen was offered a questionnaire. A period of three weeks was given for delivery and collection. A £50 prize draw was offered to anyone who chose to complete and return his or her form. This was done as an incentive to encourage a high response rate. Each distributor had approximately 20 households to call on and was asked to get as many returns as possible. Members of the parish were free to choose whether they wanted to respond or not, and some did choose not to. However the majority did complete and return their questionnaires and the result was an outstanding 76% response rate.

OBTAIN THE VIEWS OF EVERYONE

The Steering Committee wanted to ensure that no one within the Parish was excluded, therefore opinions were sought from:-

The under 5's	via the Parents and Toddler Group.
The under 11's	via Levens School, from class feedback.
The 11 - 17's	via a Young Persons Questionnaire.
The over 18's	via a Household Questionnaire.
The Business Community	via a Business Questionnaire.

Each group was asked to give an overview of what in the Parish of Levens they thought was best, worst and what they would most like to see.

1. SURVEY OF HOUSEHOLDS/ADULTS IN THE PARISH

A questionnaire covering the most important issues, as identified by those attending the initial meeting, was drawn up and circulated to every household within the Parish.

The questionnaire gave every adult, in each household, an opportunity to indicate how important they thought each issue was and to add comments or raise issues. 857 questionnaires were distributed and 651 were returned. Over 2000 comments were written on the questionnaires.

2. SURVEY OF UNDER 18s

Pre-school Children

Thank you to those parents who contributed

Parents were consulted at Parents and Toddlers. General comments and observations were:- road safety concerns, more footpaths suitable for pushchairs, tricycles and ride-ons, a better Village Hall which was light, airy and less damp with some carpet and more storage. In the Playing Fields a fenced off area is needed to contain toddlers and separate them from equipment for older children.

Children attending Levens Primary School – 5 to 11 Year Olds

Thanks go to the children, staff and teachers of Levens School for their help

The School helped by running a project where each child attending the school was invited to say what they liked best, what they like doing and what they would most like to change about their village. Each class provided a sheet giving overall comments, and the results were as follows:

What they like about the village

- Shops with lots of goods and friendly staff
- Playground and playing fields
- Friendly place with lots of friends
- Quiet village without traffic jams
- Safe and welcoming, cosy and small
- In the countryside with nice views

What they like doing

- Walking to the shops
- Getting sweets and posting letters
- Bike rides
- Playing with friends on the playground and playing fields
- Finding new places by exploring
- Hobbies - running, roller blading, sport, cycling, horse riding
- Walking in the woods

What other facilities they would like and what to change

- Running track
- Cycling track
- Skate board area
- Swimming pool
- Music group or band
- Cinema
- More playing field equipment
- Youth club
- Car park for school

11 to 17 Year Olds

Thank you to the young people who came to the special event held on the Playing Fields

A young persons social evening was held in September 2007 organised by the Steering Committee held on the Playing Fields where we gave the young people a chance to 'have their say'. BBQ, rounders, games and a £10 draw all contributed towards a well-attended fun evening. Those who attended completed questionnaires to let us know the following:-

Schools attended were Dallam, Queen Katherine, Kirkbie Kendal, Queen Elizabeth, St Anne's. Colleges attended were Barrow, Kendal, Lancaster & Morecambe and some worked.

92% would like a place in the village where they could meet.

Activities outside school/work time

- Swimming
- Cycling
- Athletics
- Netball
- Football
- Hockey
- Horse riding
- Table Tennis
- Rugby
- Cricket
- Air Cadets
- Young Farmers
- Scouts
- Guides
- Helping at Brownies

Good School

Position and Size

Facilities and Activities in Village if they were available

Youth Club, Sports Club, Badminton, Cricket, Basketball, Rounders, Field Archery, Kick Boxing, Kiting, Golf

Disco, Mountain Boarding, Bike Tracks, Skate Park, Rugby Field, Games Night, Toilets, Café, more Buses

Bigger Hall with a stage

Best things about the Village

Spacious	Tennis Courts
Quiet	Playing Fields
Clean	Friends
Relaxing	Shop
The park	Local Community
The woods	

How to contribute to Village life

Do more for the locals and help to run activities Participate in groups playing sports

Organise exciting things

Take care of the environment.

52% said they would know whom to contact if they had an idea for an activity or event in the village

3. SURVEY OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

All businesses based in Levens Parish were invited to complete a separate Business Questionnaire asking them about business expansion and what additional features in the area would encourage them to expand?

Comments and suggestions were:-

- A large Community Centre/Sports Hall
- More commercial land made available for businesses
- Leave it as it is
- More child activities & traffic calming measures
- More office space
- Postal collection arrangements could be developed

Business Constraints

- Government regulations /red tape/constant unnecessary change
- Suitable premises
- More commercial land made available for business
- Planning restrictions
- Better signage on A590 Levens or Heaves would be better and more appropriate than Sizergh, which can be confusing for visitors.

Other comments concerning your business or the economic well being of the Village as a whole?

- Problem of property prices & affordability for the young
- Local support for business is sometimes disappointing
- It's a very nice village
- It's OK as it is
- A better Police presence would make it feel safer
- We appreciate those local customers who support us
- Hope Levens Parish Council can help with signage
- Maintain the bus services we have – they are needed

COLLATING THE DATA

Once all the data was gathered expertise was sought for the accurate and consistent data inputting. Again someone in the village with marketing experience was found to do this.

On completion of the data input, and after consultation with the software specialist from Voluntary Action Cumbria, it was possible to generate the relevant reports and data for analysis. Once this was completed the initial findings were reported to the Parish. It was decided to do this at a Public Open Day where the findings were displayed and the winner of the prize draw was announced. Again, over 200 people chose to attend and the feedback was mostly positive.

THE VILLAGE PLAN

The Steering Committee then had the onerous task of putting the information gained into a workable and valuable document, the Action Plan being the backbone of the whole project. Again, fortunately the skills that were needed for the data analysis and formulation of the action plan were found within the community, and the plan, which fully reflects the opinions gained, was created, agreed and finalised. Back up information and commentary were then put together from the analysis data, incorporating background information from the history of the parish, its boundaries, facilities, social events, etc. together with photographs to illustrate points of emphasis – problem areas, different types of housing, road conditions, traffic issues and so on.

THE FINDINGS

857 questionnaires issued

651 questionnaires returned (76%)

45% male respondents

55% female respondents

Age Groups for 18 years and above

18 - 24	5%
25 - 44	18%
45 - 64	40%
65 - 84	32%
Over 85	5%

Time lived in Levens

Over 21 years	242
11 - 20 years	146
6 - 10 years	110
1 - 5 years	108
less than 1 year	45

FACILITIES

The Parish has a School, 2 churches (Anglican and Methodist) and a Catholic establishment at Brettargh Holt

98% of respondents use the Village Shop and Post Office

72% use the Village Institute, which is used by various groups: eg. Parent and Toddlers, Brownies, Over 60's, WI, Dance, Local History and others

74% use the Playing Field facilities: eg. bowls, tennis, football, multi-use games area (MUGA) and children's play equipment

95% think the Parish needs an improved community hall/institute

68% think a larger capacity hall on a different site is needed

73% would support the need for a notice board/ website facility

92% feel there is a need for an annual fete or event of some kind

59% might or would be interested in First Responders

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS/OBSERVATIONS

44% thought village sports teams would be welcome

58% felt there was a need for more school open days

74% would like more outside seating

60% would like to receive parish/village notices by email

HOUSING

88% considered affordable housing to be important

69% thought day care for the elderly was important

86% considered building design should be controlled

76% think there should be limited expansion of village housing

(The Rural Housing Trust carried out a Housing Needs Survey in early 2008. The results have been published and Levens Parish Council holds a copy)

Peaceful Quiet and Safe

FROM LEVENS PARISH COUNCIL

A Summary of the Cumbria Rural Housing Trust Report for Levens 2008

576 survey forms were issued in the Parish with 217 forms returned. The return rate of 37.67% is above the average for Cumbria of 28.9% and a National Average of 35%.

27 respondents identified a housing need.

Of these 12 households would be in need of affordable housing within the Parish of Levens.

A breakdown of the 12 is 2 now, 1 within 12 months, 3 within 3 years, 6 within 5 years

Of the remaining 15, 3 would be considered in need of affordable housing, but outside the Parish, stating another area as their preferred place to live.

The remaining 12 do not fit the criteria of being in need of affordable housing in the Parish.

The current household types of the 12 households in housing need are:

The current household types of the 12 households in housing need are:

Household	Now	within 12 mths	within 3 yrs	within 5yrs
Adult children in family	1	1		3
Couple			1	1
Single			2	
Young children in family	1			2

We believe one family with young children, whom needed housing 'now' (at the time of the survey) have recently moved into local housing.

Location, Location, Location

VILLAGE APPEARANCE/TIDINESS

2 major issues were dog fouling (43%) and dropped litter (37%)

78% suggested using social pressure to discourage offenders on both issues

33% suggested a volunteer 'task force' to gather litter

57% thought the recycling area needs a better hard surface

59% would like all overhead cables to be put underground

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

89% felt that green spaces should be preserved

73% wanted wildlife habitat to be preserved

60% wanted flower verges preserved

TRANSPORT MATTERS

83% indicated that they 'never or almost never' used a bus

99% use 'own transport', mainly cars or motorcycles

22% sometimes use a bicycle

65% walk (presumably around the immediate area)

Reasons given are:
68% prefer to use own transport

34% felt bus times and routes do not meet their needs

TRAFFIC SPEEDS

52% think traffic needs to be slowed down

48% see no need for further controls

73% think speed limits in Main Street and Brigsteer Road are acceptable

89% agree that the speed limit at the school and playing fields are correct

76% think there is a need for an off road footpath down Levens Lane to Levens Bridge

62% would like more off-road footpaths

62% felt no need for more amenity signs

MATTERS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN IDENTIFIED ON OUR SURVEY

Village Tidiness

- Empty and/or derelict buildings
  Dog fouling on on footpaths/pavements
- Surface/state of pavements
- Horse droppings in road
- Overgrown and untidy verges;
  Dumped, rusting vehicles/equipment
- Damage to verges caused by building traffic and other large vehicles
- Litter - various locations
- Bad/inconsiderate parking

Pollution

Air: Fires, garden waste, builders/trade waste, vehicle engines idling, silage

Light: Street lights on all night

Noise: From A590, cars/motorbikes revving or racing

Through village, agricultural traffic on narrow lanes.

Micro-lite aircraft and low-flying military planes

Improvements to bus services

- Make more affordable – use mini link at quieter times to provide more frequent service
- More stops in village and more buses needed in afternoon
- School bus to Kendal Schools – minilink if more efficient
- Services to Grange, Kirkby Lonsdale, Milnthorpe, Natland
- Reinstate 9am Kendal bus in School holidays
- Better, up-to-date and easy to read timetables

Major Danger Spots

- Crossroads by Institute
- Outside School
- Junction/slip road from A590
- Heaves Hotel turn-off A590
- Parking on bend in Church Road
- Cars parked both sides near School and/or institute
- Traffic entering (fast) from Brigsteer Road
- Access to A590 requiring crossing carriage way to turn right
- Acute angle of junction by post office (mirrors?)
- Poor visibility on narrow lane junctions if verges/hedges not trimmed

Highways and related problems

- Grit boxes - some need replacing, also needed in Levens Lane
- Drainage - attention/improvement needed in various locations
- Off-road parking needed near playing fields and School
- Obstructive parking near Dairy/Institute
- Paths/pavements are cause for concern in Main Street, Vicarage Drive, Beathwaite Close, past Hyning Court towards Brigsteer
- Footpath/pavement needed on Church Road from School entrance towards Church

Road surfaces

Levens Lane
Main Street
Greengate and Greengate Crescent
Around bus stop
Church Road junction near School
Lowgate
Numerous locations throughout the village

Street Lighting

- Some people don't want any more!
- Some would like daylight/white lamps instead of yellow sodium lamps

Ideas for more Leisure/social activities

- Bigger village hall, cafe/drop-in/meeting place
- Badminton, table tennis, bridge/chess club, youth club
- Village website
- Tea dances, more village social events (all ages), indoor bowling

What would you most like to preserve?

- Post Office and Village Stores
- Peace/tranquility and community spirit
- Size, green spaces, scenery
- School & recreational facilities
- Churches

What new thing would you like in future?

- New Village Hall/Community Centre
- More affordable housing
- Coffee shop
- Improved shopping facilities
- More clubs & group activities, including youth club
- Presence in Village of – Police, Medical facility, First responders
- Improved car parking and footpaths
- Some respondents like the village just as it is

The Post Office

Shop and Park

Friendliness and Quality of Life

NEXT STEPS

Now complete, it was agreed by the Steering Committee and the Parish Council that the Levens Village Plan would be most workable if the Parish Council were to take ownership of the document on behalf of Levens Parish. They have the authority to oversee the Action Plan and can determine the most beneficial ways to move forward, working in partnership with other groups and organisations and engaging the support of the local community over the next few years.

The Parish Council will:-

- lead the task of implementing the priorities set out in the Action Plan.
- undertake to balance the needs of local residents, businesses and visitors.
- work to fulfil the clear wish to preserve the environment whilst addressing the areas of concern.
- be aware of local housing needs.
- endeavour to meet the aspirations of everyone in the community.
- encourage improved communication and greater involvement in order to draw on local talents and interests.
- finally, seek to retain the sense of community within Levens Parish.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The progress of this Village Plan and in particular the Action Plan will be monitored and reviewed by Levens Parish Council and also by the residents of Levens Parish at the Annual Parish Meeting.

WHO ARE YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS?

Roger Atfield	David Knipe
Susan Bagot	Roger Mason
Helen Burrow	John Thacker
Chris Hammond	John Watson

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact the Clerk to Levens Parish Council

Details:

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ACTIONS FROM LEVENS VILLAGE PLAN

Project No.	Issue	Response score	Action No.	Actions	How to tackle it	Lead organisation and partners	Timescale	Update
ACCOMMODATION								
1	Control of Building Design	89%	1.1	Apply relevant standards to building and planning application to meet the needs and wishes of the community	Parish Council to consider all future applications against the back ground of desires of parishioners and to meet their needs.	Parish Council	Ongoing	
2	Limited expansion of village housing stock	76%	2.1	To monitor and actively seek control to meet the needs of the village	By continuing to communicate views of parish to SLDC Planning department.	Parish Council	Ongoing	
3	Affordable Housing	67%	3.1	Arrange Rural Housing Trust survey	The Parish Council will arrange for survey to be carried out by Rural Housing Trust.	Parish Council Rural Housing Trust	09/08.	***Update 19/05/09 - Survey instigated report awaited***
			3.2	Identify and quantify the need	They will consider the needs of the community and then determine how to take the issue forward	Parish Council Rural Housing Trust	01/09.	
			3.3	Prepare action plan to achieve result	An action plan will be prepared and owned and monitored by the Parish Council	Parish Council Rural Housing Trust	03/09.	
4	Sheltered Housing	33%	4.1	Arrange Rural Housing Trust survey.	The Parish Council will arrange for survey to be carried out by Rural Housing Trust.	Parish Council Rural Housing Trust	09/08.	***Update 19/05/09 - Survey instigated report awaited***
			4.2	Identify and quantify the need	They will consider the needs of the community and then determine how to take the issue forward	Parish Council Rural Housing Trust	01/09.	
			4.3	Prepare action plan to achieve result	An action plan will be prepared and owned and monitored by the Parish Council	Parish Council Rural Housing Trust	03/09.	

It's small - nice to stroll around

Friendly relaxed atmosphere

Project No.	Issue	Response score	Action No.	Actions	How to tackle it	Lead organisation and partners	Timescale	Update
5	Provision of day care	36%	5.1	Consult interested parties.	The Parish Council will explore the need with the 'Over Sixties Club'.	Parish Council Over Sixties Club		
			5.2	Obtain input from Social Services and voluntary organisations.	At the same time obtain feed back and funding potential from South Lakeland District Council and voluntary organisations.	Parish Council		
			5.3	Determine whether funding is available	Above will determine next steps.	Parish Council		
ENVIRONMENT								
6	Landscape map	63%	6.1	Parish Council to support the production of a landscape map.	This is a long-term development and Parish Council will continue to lend its support to the coordinator and the working party	Parish Council Project Coordinator	Ongoing	
7	Preservation of green spaces, flower verges and wildlife.	75%	7.1	Communicate via village plan to environmental bodies and local authorities.	Making villagers and interested parties aware of importance of village environment. Carrying out regular inspections during litter collection and reporting any incidents of fly tipping.	Parish Council South Lakeland District Council	08/08.	
			7.2	Liase with litter collection team on maintenance of verges.				
			7.3	Report incidents of fly tipping to SLDC				
8	Overhead power and telephone cables	59%	8.1	Communicate requirement to SLDC	Unlike to be any budget to fully tackle requirement.	Parish Council South Lakeland District Council	12/08.	
			8.2	Inform United Utilities and British Telecoms	By making the planning control functions and the utility suppliers aware of requirement should lead to issue being addressed over time.			
			8.3	Apply at planning approval stage.				

Project No.	Issue	Response score	Action No.	Actions	How to tackle it	Lead organisation and partners	Timescale	Update
9	Provision of 'off road' footpaths	62%	9.1	Identify locations suitable for off road footpaths	The Parish Council to set up sub group to work with interested parties	Parish Council	03/09.	
			9.2	Identify landowners	The group to identify possible walk ways, identify ownership and determine likely cost.			
			9.3	Determine cost of provision by location	Parish Council to investigate if funding is available			
			9.4	Agree priorities				
			9.5	Determine if funding available				
10	Road, path and pavements surfaces	33%	10.1	Parish Council to seek support from parishioners by encouraging them to report defects to SLDC hotline	Parish Council to put required information for feedback to SLDC in Parish Mag. and on PC notice board	Parish Council Parishioners	Ongoing	
			10.2	Parish Council to report defects to SLDC quarterly and identify areas requiring improvement and renewal	Parish Council to send quarterly letter to SLDC stating areas for repair in village.	Parish Council	Ongoing	
11	Highway danger spots	50%	11.1	Parish Council to document each danger spot and identify hazard and means of reduction.	A number of danger spots have been identified in the consultation process. The means of reducing the hazard vary - parking restriction, reduction in speed limit, improving visibility, better hedgerow maintenance etc. These will be documented and submitted to SLDC for consideration.	Parish Council South Lakeland District Council	Ongoing	
			11.2	Parish Council to consult with SLDC and Highways Authority about available measures to reduce the hazards.				
			11.3	Parish Council to liaise with SDLC in relation to priority and process for implementation.				

Freedom from noise

The safe rural environment

Project No.	Issue	Response score	Action No.	Actions	How to tackle it	Lead organisation and partners	Timescale	Update
12	Footpath on Levens Lane	76%	12.1	Identify proposed location	Stretch of road has been identified as requiring footpath. After investigating feasible site Parish Council to consult with appropriate authority.			
			12.2	Determine land ownership				
			12.3	Liaise with local authority to progress				
13	Condition of road surfaces, footpaths and pavements (including lighting and drainage)	33%	13.1	Seek feedback on defect from villagers.	By identifying and prioritising exiting defects and passing this information onto Highways Authority will lead to agreement and prioritisation for maintenance and repair.	Parish Council Highways Authority Cumbria County Council	Ongoing	
			13.2	Liase with litter collection team on maintenance of verges.				
			13.3	Report all defects to Highway Authority				
			13.4	Agree timescale for repair with Highway Authority				
14	Highway drainage	23%	14.1	Parish Council to identify areas to be improved or renewed.	From feedback at Parish Council meetings and observation Parish Council to identify defects and include in annual letter to SLDC (after June parish walk)	Parish Council South Lakeland District Council	Ongoing	
15	Speed limits	52%	15.1	Parish Council to continue to review existing restrictions against background of adherence and enforcement.	Parish Council to continue to explore implications of meeting the identified safety need of all parishioners.	Parish Council	03/09.	

Project No.	Issue	Response score	Action No.	Actions	How to tackle it	Lead organisation and partners	Timescale	Update
16	Street lighting within the village.	16%	16.1	Evaluate the balance between security and lighting pollution	Balance has to be drawn between individual and property security and environmental pollution.	Parish Council South Lakeland District	01/09.	
			16.2	Identify any locations where there is an imbalance	By drawing up a guide lines and seeking feedback from parishioners on any areas of concern. Issues to be reported on in annual letter to SLDC.	Council Cumbria County Council		
			16.3	Communicate rectification proposals to SLDC				
17	Village tidiness a) dog fouling	43%	17.1	Increase awareness by posting notices, entry in parish mag., and website when available with theme of 'bag it and take it home'	By placing article / information in Parish Mag., website and putting appropriate notices on parish notice boards on the bag it and take it home theme	Parish Council Coordinator	Begin late 08	
			17.2	Parish Council to explore with SLDC enforcement of bye laws and available notices and funding issues.	Parish Council to contact SLDC and seek advise on notices and funding.	Parish Council South Lakeland District Council	Begin late 08	
			17.3	Parish Council to explore dog fouling bins, cost maintenance etc. if appropriate	Parish Council to contact SLDC and seek advise on bins and funding	Parish Council South Lakeland District Council	Begin late 08	
	b) Litter	37%	17.4	Increase awareness by posting notices, entry in Parish Mag. and website when available with theme of 'bag it and take it home'	Parish Council to contact SLDC and seek advise on placement of bins, notices and funding	Parish Council South Lakeland District Council	Begin late 08	
			17.5	Parish Council to seek coordinated scheme of voluntary groups e.g. WI and school	Parish Council to seek to identify a coordinator via Parish mag. and approaching voluntary groups currently involved as an interim measure and to coordinates efforts in future	Parish Council Coordinator Women's Institute	Begin late 08	
			17.6	Agree with coordinator timings of litter pick and advertise via Parish Mag. for volunteers.				

Peaceful and attractive environment

It is not a dormitory Village

Project No.	Issue	Response score	Action No.	Actions	How to tackle it	Lead organisation and partners	Timescale	Update
				FACILITIES				
18	Grit Boxes	14%	18.1	Review whether existing boxes are appropriate placed to meet the need	Review to be carried to confirm existing boxes placed in appropriate location.	Parish Council South Lakeland District Council	Ongoing	
			18.2	Identify any changes and if appropriate communicate to SLDC	Any changes to be notified to SLDC.			
			18.3	SLDC to monitor content and refill as necessary				
19	New Village Hall	95%	19.1	Parish Council to continue to support and work with Village Hall Committee	This is a long term development and a separate Project Plan will be prepared and owned by the Village Hall Committee.	Village Hall Sub Committee	Ongoing	
20	Recycling a) Plastic b) Cardboard c) Glass and tins d) Skip emptying e) Area surface	 67% 59% 31% 36% 57%	20.1	Parish Council to liaise with SLDC on additional recycling facilities for Levens	As at May 08 glass and tins removed from site and skips for cardboard and plastic added.	Parish Council South Lakeland District Council	in progress	***Progress made in this respect but PC need to continue to monitor.***
			20.2	Install notice at site emptying contact numbers.	Notice and information provided	Parish Council	Complete 06/08	
			20.3	Parish Council to explore implications of method for surfacing area.	Improvements can be made to recycling site Parish Council to look at possibilities e.g.tarmac planning.	Parish Council	Begin late 08	
21	Resurfacing recycling area	57%	21.1	Parish Council to explore implications and cost of improving the surface in recycling area.	Seeking advise and information on improving the access to and appearance of the area. PC	Parish Council Cumbria County Council	as required	

Project No.	Issue	Response score	Action No.	Actions	How to tackle it	Lead organisation and partners	Timescale	Update
22	Provision of parking spaces.	27%	22.1	Determine if there is a desire to apply parking restrictions within the village	PC seek feedback from villagers on strength of feeling for application of parking restrictions in locations of particular concern.	Parish Council	01/09.	
			22.2	Subject to above determine areas where restrictions are to be applied.	Some existing measures can be applied e.g. provision of 2 spaces on each new build planning application.			
			22.3	Parish Council to identify possible site for provision of car parking facilities and encourage relevant parties to carry out feasibility study.	Parking facilities will be required, particularly, if roadside restrictions are applied. Main areas of concern are School and Playing Fields, appropriate sites need to be identified and costed.	Parish Council, Levens Primary School and Playing Field Committee		
	COMMUNICATION							
23	Improve communication within the village; a) village website	74%	23.1	Parish Council to explore the development of a village website.	PC to put notice in Parish Mag. seeking a coordinator and volunteers to join a website group to take the initiative forward with a brief to: a) promote and support local amenities, business, interest groups and societies b) promote and support community events, news and information	Parish Council Coordinator		
	b) notice boards and Parish Magazine		23.2	Maintain village notice boards	Posting information on parish notice boards and in Parish Magazine.			
			23.3	Communicate and advertise facilities and events in Parish Magazine.				
	Parish Council information to parishioners	68%	23.4	Parish Council to review feedback from questionnaire.	By encouraging and reminding parishioners to access Parish Council minutes. Also utilise website when available.	Parish Council	Begin late 08	
			23.5	Explore production of quarterly Parish Council newsletter.	Look at costing, funding for and responsibility for issuing a regular newsletter contain parish business and issue of interest.	Parish Council	12/08.	

The range of facilities it has

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Jude Abernethy	Parent and Toddler Group
Susie Bagot	Levens Parish Council
Margaret Barnes	St John's Church
Krysia Brodie	Womens' Institute
Helen Burrow	Levens Parish Council
Brian Gray	Methodist Church
Graham Johnston	Levens Playing Fields
Stephen Read	Local History Group
Sheila Watson	Village Institute

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The people within the Parish who completed and returned the questionnaires.

Thank you to those who helped fund this document:

defra

RUSSELL ARMER LIMITED

Neighbourhood Forum

VAC

Cumbria County Council

Community Spirit

These comments and those in script on each page are from parishioners when asked which one thing do you like best about your village.

Good access to countryside.

Shop and PO - Friendliness and Helpfulness. It's small - Nice to stroll around.

Quiet - in terms of noise! Great countryside. The Village 'heart' – Atmosphere, Beauty of Village.

Friendly PEOPLE and The peace and quiet. Community Spirit and peacefulness.

Proximity to wildlife - rich countryside, accessible areas such as Sizergh Fell and Whitbarrow.

The open aspect and VIEWS and quietness. Range of facilities.

The community, friendly faces, The Village's spirit and The VIEWS.

Friendly relaxed atmosphere.

Location, Location, LOCATION. The view of surrounding countryside. The community

Friendliness. It has a Village school. Friendliness and quality of life.

It has more amenities than most Villages. The PEOPLE. Mostly nice people.

Levens is very well self-contained .....Shop, Post office, Pub, Hairdressers, good walks.

Location/handiness to other places. Church. Quiet/Out of town

Difficult to single out one thing. Just love living here Lack of pollution (air, light and noise)

The safeness and lack of crime. Good neighbours. Well-kept playing fields.

Rural location yet handy for transport network. Village Life and Community Spirit

Good neighbours, caring community. Playing fields Bowling Green. Location - walks

Friendly and not full of tourists. Nice place to bring up kids. Lovely walks and location

Countryside atmosphere and community. I like living in a rural area with panoramic VIEWS.

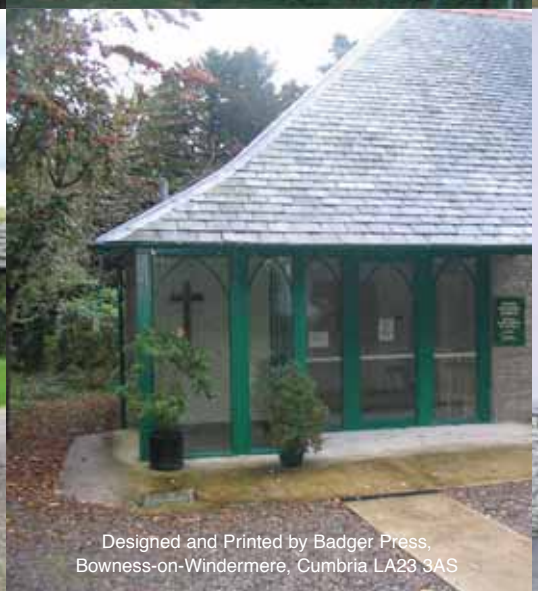
Football and tennis area. It's location - close to Kendal and motorway.

The friendship of The Villagers. Quiet, rural nature and Community Spirit. Location

The friendly neighbourliness of The PEOPLE. Its rural charm and location We love it.

Picturesque and friendly atmosphere, with the shop, school, post office and pub all being kept.....In other words 'Life amenities'.

The friendliness of Levens residents



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