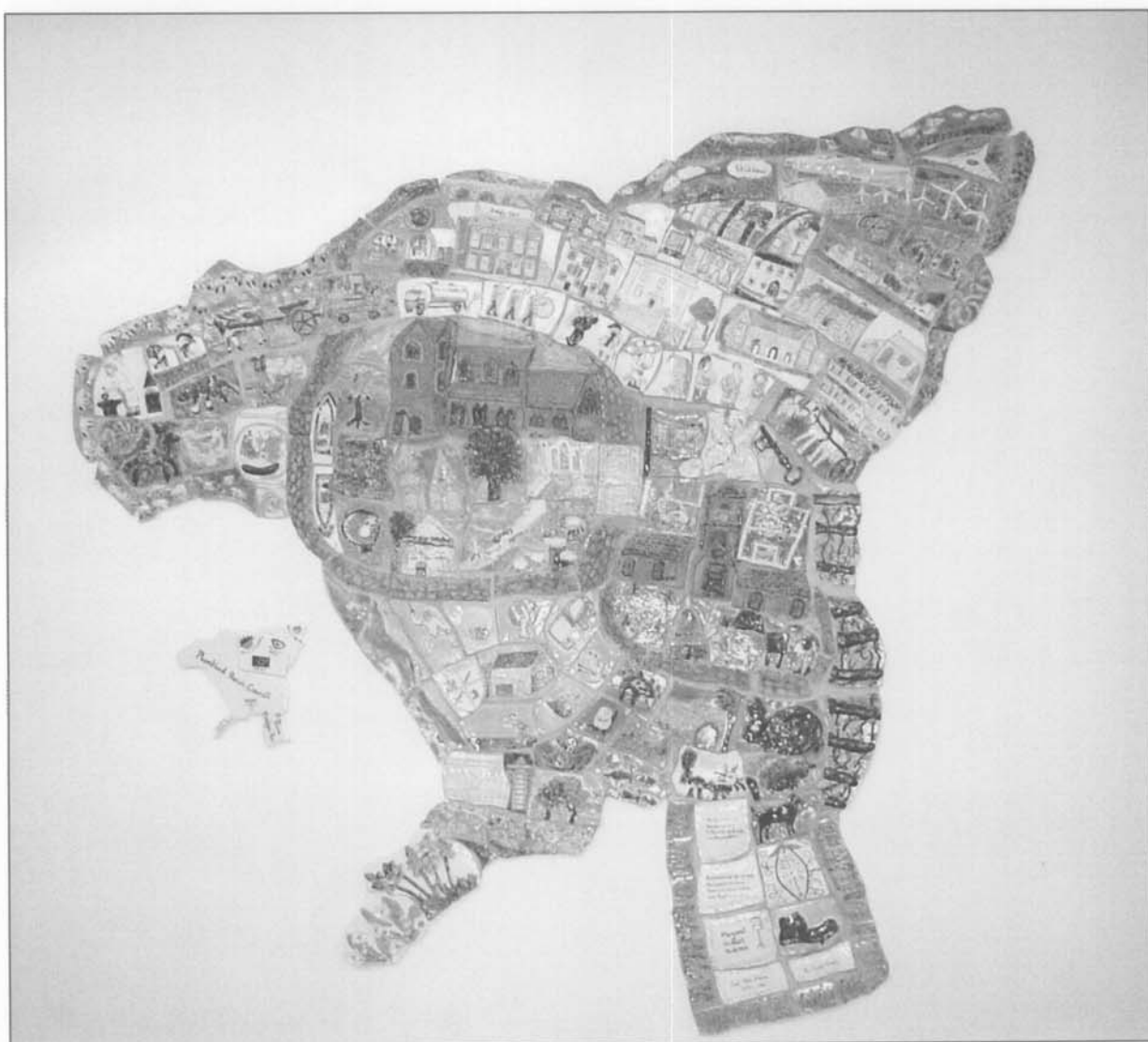




Plumblond Parish Plan 2004

Contents

	Page No.
Introduction	1
Plumbland Parish	2
Preparation of Plan	4
History of Parish	5
Employment	8
Transport	9
Health and Safety	10
Environment	10
Housing	12
Recreation and Leisure	13
Threapland to Plumbland	15
Political and Social Change	16
Plumbland Church	18
Plumbland Evangelical Chapel	19
Plumbland C. of E. School	19
Village Hall	21
Acknowledgements	25
<i>Action Plan</i>	

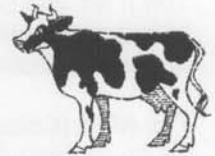
Introduction

This Plan has been prepared by Plumbland Parish Council based on information and opinions gained from a detailed survey of parishioners by:

1. questionnaires, interviews and public meetings;
2. seeking the opinions of established voluntary groups within the village;
3. contributions from individuals with an interest in the continuing development of Plumbland as a collection of buildings and as a dynamic community.

Primarily, the plan identifies what might be adopted by the Parish Council as an immediate policy; what initiatives and strategies it should promote in the longer term interests of the community and in what way it might support the appropriate aspirations of organisations within the village.

However, plans by central government will influence local governance in the regions, and without knowing in full what the effect of those changes will be, there is a short and incomplete section contemplating how these changes could affect us. This period of thinking will enable the Parish, and its Council, to consider the impact upon Plumbland and the surrounding area.



Clearly there are other economic and political circumstances outside the control of parishioners, local authorities or voluntary bodies, even central government. It is the function of this plan to examine things as they are and as they might be in the course of the life of the document, anticipated five to ten years.

Because we live in a period of constant change, the Parish Council wanted to achieve and maintain equality of opportunity for its residents and to ensure that any disadvantages of remote rural living did not prejudice the longer- term aims of any parishioners. This is the main reason for the production of this plan.



Once the plan is presented to the parishioners and adopted, the objectives of the plan will be implemented in future deliberations of the Council. Progress in achieving the objectives will be reported in the Newsletter and formally reviewed at Annual Parish Meetings. Any changes in the priorities of the plan will be discussed in the appropriate forums.

Planning itself will not achieve our ambitions, which for the most part have to be realised through the help of other levels of government, agencies, voluntary sector and through parishioner application. However, failing to have ideas and a strategy to realise them, means no progress at all.

Plumbland Parish

Plumbland Parish consists of the four ancient manors Parsonby, Wardhall (originally Warthole), Arkleby and Plumbland. The Parish is ribbon like in its development with no clear geographic centre and no village green.

Of the 169 dwellings in the Parish, about 92 are in Plumbland, (including seven log cabins, at Threapland Caravan Park, equipped for use throughout the year, on a commercial caravan park in the extreme south-east). 26 are in Parsonby, 25 in Arkleby and 17 in Wardhall.

The population is about 390, and relatively evenly spread through the age ranges. The population has been growing in the past ten years, from a 1991 census figure of 358. But with a density of 0.35 per hectare it is still designated super sparse.

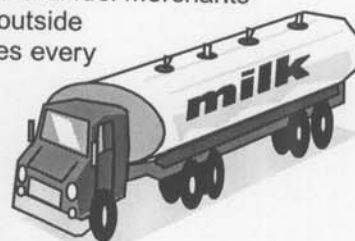
There are two caravan sites in Plumbland, the one already referred to on the A595 has a mix of cabins and static caravans, and Calf Lonning site with permission for 30 caravans permanently on the site. Both parks have full service connections.

The A595 (Cockermouth to Carlisle) forms the southern boundary of the parish. The B5301 is the route through the parish linking the A595 with the A596 (Workington to Carlisle) to the north. The road through Plumbland to Bothel (C111) and the (C222) linking Arkleby to Gilcrux and Tallentire are significant roads for parishioners. Other roads tend to be little more than lanes more suited to horse-drawn traffic, access to fields, farms and private houses, and routes to be used in an dire emergency.

The Parish Church, dedicated to St Cuthbert, 'The Horse and Jockey' Inn and the Village School are in Parsonby. The Evangelical Chapel, 'The Last Man Inn' and the Village Store are in Plumbland whilst the Village Hall is on the boundary. Wardhall and Arkleby are primarily residential and farming areas. Warthole whose walls have long since been pulled down, can be seen as an outline of the garden, complete with mulberry bush and one or two architectural remains, like a gate entrance and stone ball, now used as a coping for an entrance pier to a new bungalow, remain. There are two modern bungalows and a terrace of stone- built, family homes having an agricultural setting. A couple of houses in Wardhall are second/holiday homes.

Arkleby House, a working dairy farm has good quality holiday accommodation with a swimming pool (available for hire by locals). 'Art of Africa', a retail business, operates from Holly Lodge.

The Village Store in Plumbland stocks essential milk and dairy produce, other food and confectionery items, stationery, newspapers and magazines, but is distant from Wardhall and other parts of the parish. A general grocery van visits three times a week. Two mobile butchers visit the village, one on Tuesday and the other on Thursdays, and several fuel merchants compete for local trade. The mobile Post Office spends half an hour outside Plumbland House on Monday mornings and the mobile Library comes every three weeks on a Thursday afternoon. A recent development has been the regular visit of a frozen food merchant who, amongst others, has a regular clientele of older and housebound residents supplying them with frozen meals. These replace, supplement or add variety to the 'Meals-on-Wheels' service. There is still a regular milk delivery service, despite fierce competition from the supermarkets in nearby towns. Major supermarkets and the Aspatria Co-operative Store provide a home delivery service on all groceries, although they tend to be used mainly by villagers with access to and confidence to use the inter-net.



Despite the presence of the village store, most villagers use Aspatria for local 'small scale' shopping. The 'weekly shop' tends to take place mainly in Cockermouth, Workington or Carlisle, except for smaller family units who find that the re-vamped stores in Aspatria meet all their grocery needs. Carlisle has probably re-established itself as the major non-food shopping centre, although Workington is increasingly popular and Cockermouth is used selectively. Internet and catalogue shopping, (mainly for professional/ technical goods, some clothing, footwear, plants and seeds) is a useful resource, with most offering a 'next day' delivery service.

Medical and dental services are available in Aspatria, Opticians in the neighbouring towns of Maryport, Cockermouth and Wigton with General Hospital services at Carlisle and Hensingham both 20+ miles distant.

The Village Hall is well used with activities for different groups on most days. The well established Church of St Cuthbert's, has a regular programme of worship, publicised in the newsletter and on noticeboards; an energetic Evangelical Chapel with morning and evening worship on Sunday and regular meetings throughout the week.

The Primary School has a history extending over 200 years in its present location and enjoys the loyal support of the parishioners. Its 40 students include some 12 choosing to travel into the Plumbland from neighbouring villages. Although secondary schooling takes place in Aspatria, the majority of parents choose Keswick, Wigton or Cockermouth schools for their children, bearing the cost of transport themselves.



The Parish Council funds a free Newsletter delivered to every dwelling four times a year. It is a cost-effective way of enabling parishioners to keep in touch with events in the parish and to disseminate news. Feed back suggests that it is read and appreciated. Although more and more people have computers, they are not yet so widely distributed to replace the newsletter as the prime information medium.

Historically, Plumbland has been a farming community, with some quarrying and mining. It was largely self-supporting with many services locally provided. Initially, the mechanisation of agriculture and then the further increase in specialisation of production has lead to a decline in its workforce. Quarrying has largely gone and that which remains has become less labour intensive, whilst the coalmines of West Cumbria are now exhausted. As a result, Plumbland has become a village, the majority of whose residents travel to work in the local towns or in the City of Carlisle, where they also shop and undertake secondary and continuing education.

Situated in North Cumbria, within the Borough of Allerdale, towards the north east of the Borough, Plumbland is surrounded by a number of small parishes Gilcrux, Bothel and Threapland, Blindcrake and the market town of Aspatria about 2.5 miles distant. They will all, to varying degrees, have similar problems. To the South, the boundary is adjacent to the Lake District National Park.

The Preparation of the Plan

A Parish Plan gives everyone an opportunity to have an influence on the way the community develops socially, economically and environmentally. There were five stages in the development of this Plan.

- ✓ *A survey of parishioners to identify needs, options and opinions,*
- ✓ *Independent evaluation of those needs combined with the opportunity to discuss them and to consider even wider additional strategies.*
- ✓ *Acceptance and adoption of an action plan.*
- ✓ *Discussion of a set of contingent strategies designed to anticipate, and ultimately dependent upon, the effect of proposed changes in local governance, but not at this stage binding on the Parish.*
- ✓ *An outline discussion of ways in which parishioners can articulate their needs and influence the thoughts of national, regional and local government, statutory bodies and to those voluntary organisations providing local services and catering for local needs.*

Initially a comprehensive questionnaire was designed, discussed and approved by the Council. The Council decided that the questionnaire should be filled in by family units, save in the instance that there were two distinct generations with different needs within the same household, when each generation would be given the chance to express its particular view. It was also decided that a form addressing the needs of younger people should be designed. Forms were hand-delivered and collected by Parish Councillors and the Clerk to each household. This gave parishioners a chance to ask about the form and about the evaluation process. In addition, parishioners were given the chance to return the forms by post, ten forms were returned direct to the Clerk.

In addition to the questionnaires, there was a 'Face to Face' meeting between the Chairman of the Parish Council, a Councillor and a parishioner with connections to young people. Furthermore, voluntary groups within the village were invited to comment upon their role within the Parish and how their role might develop within the period of the plan.

The completed questionnaires were analysed by the Clerk. A series of outcome documents, based upon the analysis of the questionnaire were produced. These formed the basis of an exhibition staffed by Councillors for interested parishioners in the Village Hall.

The questionnaire was designed to establish, in a non-judgemental way, the requirements of the parishioners. It challenged the widely held perceptions and sought opinions on a range of topics.

The Parish Council has set the following aims for the Parish Plan:

- ✓ *To prioritise the implementation of policies to improve Plumbland on the basis of a body of facts drawn from the parishioners.*
- ✓ *To identify local information necessary to inform and influence the decisions of government and non-government organisations, service providing voluntary bodies, other organisations, groups and individuals.*
- ✓ *To establish a vision for the community based on the community's opinion.*
- ✓ *To help planners develop the village into one in which all can be proud, by having considered input into new housing and the modification of old buildings.*
- ✓ *Liase effectively with law enforcement, emergency and the probation services.*
- ✓ *To work effectively with voluntary organisations to maximise the value of their input.*
- ✓ *To improve the feeling of community within the Parish, by effective communication, involvement and a sense of caring.*
- ✓ *To identify the needs of young peoples and attempt to improve their lot.*
- ✓ *Support the role of the Village Hall in achieving the aims contained within this plan.*

A Brief History of the Parish

The Parish of Plumbland takes its name from the principal manor and village. Other manors are Parsonby, Arkleby and Warthole¹. Warthole today is usually spelt Wardhall, and locally pronounced 'Wardle'.

It is not clear when the area was first settled. The people here before the arrival of the Romans, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings and Normans have left the name of the river Ellen, and perhaps the ancient earthworks above Warthole's hill. Though the Romans were active in the district, there is no certain evidence of their presence in Plumbland, save, on the southern border their road from Carlisle to the fort at Papcastle. Angles, from the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria moved into Cumbria in the seventh-century. Their principal legacy is the English language, but that they had a settlement within the parish is proved by a fragment of an Anglian cross-shaft, now built into the church tower; it suggests the possibility that there was a church on the present site in the tenth century. Where the Anglian settlement was is not known; it may have been the predecessor of one of the present villages, but it is possible that it is elsewhere. It may be significant that a group of fields to the east of the church is called Housesteads.

Viking immigration into the area began in the tenth century and had a great impact. Norse-Scandinavian elements are found in the place names of all four manors and in many of the words and expressions still in common use. There are preserved in the church-porch two fragments of a Viking hogs-back tombstone, decorated in the style of the late tenth century. Norman influence became dominant in the late eleventh century. We probably owe to it the shape of our 'nucleated' villages, in which our villages were brought together in planned layouts. Plumbland built along a street, Parsonby and Arkelby around greens, which are now enclosed. In Warthole, the largest of all the manors in area, there is no village and the only surviving ancient settlement is that at Low Leathes; of it there are two remaining homesteads and the ruins of two others. Norman influence led to the erection of a church in about 1130, which served the parish until 1869; its fine chancel arch, carefully re-built and greatly increased in height, is an impressive feature of the new (present) church of 1871.

Each of the four manors had a manor-house. Plumbland Hall, it is now believed with good reason, stood at the east end and on the south side of the village street, in a field opposite the Evangelical Chapel. In the seventeenth century, the Hall was abandoned for a new house, High Close, which is now a farm. Arkleby Hall also now a farm, is Anglo-Baroque in style and the finest house in the parish, it was built in either 1725, or 1740, for Gustavus Thompson, the son of a former rector. Warthole Hall was even more impressive; built about 1670, probably by William Thackeray of Torpenhow, who introduced the Classical style into Cumberland, it replaced an earlier semi-fortified house. After the Dykes family moved to Dovenby Hall, in the late eighteenth century, Warthole Hall fell into ruin and was demolished. With the return to Ewe Close of Mr Thomas Ballantine Dykes, after a lapse of more two hundred years, Warthole has a resident Lord of the Manor. As the Rector held the lordship of Parsonby, the manor house there was the Rectory; It originally stood to south of the church, but the only remaining part of it is the ancient dove-cote. A new rectory, built in 1788 to the west of the church, is now a private house.

Within the parish there are so many examples of fine Georgian and Victorian buildings, that it would be invidious to single out examples.

For many centuries, the inhabitants of the parish were engaged in subsistence agriculture, that is, they ate what they produced. Each settlement was sited where there was sufficient land suitable for ploughing. The principal crops were oats and barley, providing the staple diet of poddish, havercake and barley bread. Peas and beans were grown, as we know from fields called Peasland and Beansland; dried and ground, they were used to 'stretch' the oatmeal and barley flour.

1. Plumbland is Old English *plume* + Old Norse *lundr* = Plumgrove; Parsonby is Latin *persona* + Scandinavian *by* = The Parson's Settlement; Arkleby is the Anglo-Scandinavian personal name *Arnkjetell* shortened to *Arkill* + *by* = Arkill's settlement; Warthole is Old Norse *varthi holl* = Beacon Hill

Cattle were few, as they had difficulty in feeding beasts during the winter, but they provided milk, butter, cheese and some meat. For clothing, flax (locally known as 'lyne' hence Lynelands, on which the Muslins estate now stands) was grown for linen. Hemp also provided a fibre, which when mixed with linen thread produced a hard-wearing cloth called 'harden'. There was wool from sheep, and there is evidence that the manorial lords had large flocks, whilst the Dykes family at Warthole had a dye-house and fulling -mill for cloth finishing.

Until the seventeenth century, all the land of the manorial tenants², both arable and pasture, was held in common. The best land, the arable, lay in 'open field' and was divided into a great number of strips, each about two perch in width³, which were distributed amongst the tenants. We still have a group of fields called 'Dolelands', that is lands which were doled, or shared. The pastures were not divided, but were controlled by fixing the number of horses, beasts, sheep and geese that each tenant could graze. The largest area of pasture was the moor, which lay along the top of Moota ridge; it was shared amongst all the manors on each side of the ridge.

The seventeenth century saw a steady growth of industry in England. An increasing urban population had to be fed and this caused a movement from subsistence to commercial agriculture, in which the produce was sold rather than consumed by the grower. In Cumberland, there was concentration on fatstock and dairying. It was decided that greater efficiency and profitability would be promoted by 'enclosure', in which land was divide into the fields bounded by dykes and hedges, with which we are familiar. This process continued for over two hundred years, being completed by the enclosure of the moor early in the nineteenth century. Agriculture became increasingly competitive, with smaller holdings being swallowed up by the larger. The result can be seen were many properties which were clearly originally farmsteads are just houses. In 1800, Parsonby had eight farms; by 1900 there were two now there is but one.



From the eighteenth to the twentieth century, two other industries provided employment: quarrying and coal-mining. At first quarrying was on a small scale, providing limestone chiefly for road repairs, which until the nineteenth century was a parochial responsibility, and for lime burning. Following the construction of the Maryport and Carlisle Railway in 1840, the Dykes family began a business supplying limestone to the iron industry. From quarries to the south of Wardhole Guards Farm, a wagonway over a mile in length carried stone to the railway and to a fine range of limekilns. A row of quarrymen's cottages, which are still in use, was built in Warthole. From 1870 to 1907, the Solway Iron works of Maryport operated the quarries, but work seems then to have ceased and the track of the wagonway was lifted. Quarrying resumed during the Second World War, but ended when that conflict ceased. The limekilns and the track of the wagonway can still be seen.

Coal-mining in the parish never seems to have been extensive. In the first half of the nineteenth century, there were pits in Plumbland township and in Arkleby, but they seem to be short lived. The industry, however for many years was second only to agriculture in providing employment for men of the parish⁴, for mines to the north of the River Ellen, such as those at Brayton Domain, were in easy reach. Ellen Villa, a row of cottages, now demolished, seemed in its later years to be isolated, but when built it was quite close to Oughterside Old Domain pit, and other houses on both sides of the river were nearby. Mining employed not only underground workers, but office staff, pit head labourers and ancillary craftsmen. An unusual example being a family called Dewsnap, whose members were basket-makers; there is little doubt that they were engaged in the production of corves and skips used for coal movements within the pits.

2. Manorial tenants held their land originally by rendering services principally agricultural to the Lord of the Manor. It time, the more burdensome services were commuted for money rents, which became 'customary', and unchanging. The eldest son, or heir-at-law, enjoyed the right to inherit a tenancy on a tenant's death, so a holding could remain in a family through many generations. In 1722, the Plumbland tenants by paying agreed compensations to the Lord of the Manor, 'enfranchised' themselves from their rents and remaining services, and thus became freeholders.
3. A statute perch was 16 feet 6inches , but in Cumberland the perch varied from parish to parish, and sometimes even within a parish. The Warthole perch seems to have been 18 feet.
4. According to the 1901 census, there were then 159 employed men and boys in Plumbland Parish; of them, 67 worked in agriculture, 34 in coal mining and 22 in quarrying.

Parish Institutions

St Cuthbert's Church has for centuries been such a significant influence on the parish and its parishioners, that a section of this report is dedicated to it. (page 18)



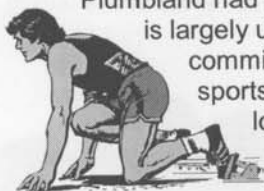
Plumbland School too is such an important part of the parish that a significant chapter (page 19) forms part of this report, but historically there has been a school in Plumbland for well over 344 years⁵. The first mention so far discovered is in the will of William Orteur, drawn up on February 7th 1660, though it is clear that it existed before that date. There are indications that even from the first a 'grammar school', which provided education in Latin was available. There are a few mentions of it in the next 140 years and the names of some of the headmasters are known. But in effect the school was re-founded and more adequately endowed under the will of Captain John Sibson in 1800.

The Reading Room, which housed a small library and served as a place for meetings, has social and educational purposes. It was founded by the Reverend Shepley Watson Watson, curate of Plumbland 1858-1875.

Shortly after the First World War, the Church Rooms were erected in a field opposite the school. The rooms were formed from two wooden huts, which had been property of the steel-makers, Wards of Sheffield, and which stood for the duration of the war at Workington Docks. They served as the village social centre for about 60 years, albeit in a poor state of repair in its last decade. The Village Hall committee was seeking a site on which to build, and the church had a site upon which a building was about to fall down, so both problems were satisfactorily resolved. In 1984 the Village Hall opened on the church room site: to this day the Hall is referred to by the older residents as 'the Church Rooms'.

In the nineteenth century there were a number of public houses which have left no trace of their existence, because they were not established in premises designed as public houses, but which reverted to private dwellings when their licences were given up. Of these, the Royal Oak in Plumbland and the Horse and Jockey and the Old Inglewood survived into recent times. Only the Horse and Jockey remains, the Last Man Inn is new, taking over the Royal Oak's licence in about 1989.

Plumbland had carnival and sports days during the twentieth century. The history of these is largely undocumented, but anecdotal evidence shows that there was much commitment to them. The Carnival processions have been discontinued, but the sports days have resumed in the village. The cricket and football teams that long flourished have ceased to exist. A traditional sport of hound trailing too re-asserted itself in 2003, over parish land, following the lifting of foot and mouth disease restrictions.



Although the perception might be of a sleepy backwater, change in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries has been dramatic. The 1901 census showed that of 117 'heads of families' then in Plumbland, only 12 had been born in the parish. They also show that most, if not all of the 'ancient inhabitants', the long established families, had left Plumbland; the Yeowards, Thornthwaites, Temples, Ritsons, the Dobinsons, and the Halls had all gone, and of the Tordiffs only Ruth, a 'retired governess' stayed on.

The following century of even more rapid change was beginning; the Post Office adopted the telegraph in 1905, the telephone in 1923 (the first parish telephone kiosk was installed in 1936). Piped water reached us in 1925, electricity in 1935 and mains sewerage in 1938, but in many cases several years passed before every household took advantage.

5. In November 1872, there were, according to a return made to the Board of Education, 171 children in Plumbland School.



Employment

In the past, the Parish has been mainly agricultural, and the predominant sector is now dairying, with some sheep and beef cattle rearing. Some farmers in milk production chose not to restock with sheep following the Foot and Mouth cull. There is some land cultivated to support the cattle and sheep during the winter months, producing turnips and stock-feed barley. In the past, some potatoes were grown for domestic consumption, but the high cost of low scale production and costs of marketing made that enterprise uneconomic.

There are currently 6 active farming businesses. There are at least two other landowners letting land for agricultural use.

Farming in the parish is essentially a family business and there is a line succession in most of these holdings. Whilst there is always scope for change within any business, there is always the hope that the farms will be owned by those with a commitment to the community. The labour force is unlikely to increase any additional work is likely to be undertaken by existing agricultural contractors.



There was a significant quarrying industry, with stone from Threapland being used for building in Aspatria and other parts of West Cumbria. There was some mining of coal around Aspatria and Harriston, a source of employment for local men. As a result, local small businesses developed, making the parish largely self-sufficient. The mines, quarries and the businesses have gone with only a few of the retired miners still around.

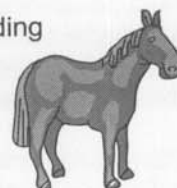
The only operational quarry is on the borders of Plumbland in Blindcrake Parish and employs specialist operatives from a wide area. Few of them are parishioners.

The largest employer, Roland Hill & Co, with offices in the village and a workforce of around 60 employees, works on construction sites throughout the County drawing most of its skilled workforce from outside the village. There are several small and 'one man' businesses including agricultural contractors, roofing specialist, plumbing and electrical contractors, tour guide, haulage and plant hire, holiday accommodation and retailing.

There are new industries, Clark Mactavish are forestry consultants who have interests in education and training and tourism and heritage development. Their workforce is specialist professional and, although technically based in Threapland, one of the partners lives in

Plumbland. The boundary between the parishes of Plumbland and Bothel & Threapland runs through their site.

Also in Threapland, Low Farm Equitation Centre is an even newer venture providing livery for horses in specially adapted farm buildings. It is already popular with parishioners and a source of income for self-employed horse riding trainers and farriers. There are two part-time stable staff employed in addition to the proprietor.



The Moota Motel is a popular place of work experience for young people and has established careers for other people in the hospitality industry.

Otherwise, villagers work largely in the towns of Aspatria and Workington or the city of Carlisle. Those who work in Aspatria are for the most part skilled production workers. Non-manual (mainly educational and professional) or specialists work in other parts of the county.

The Survey indicated:

- ✓ *There is a desire for suitable small- scale industry in the parish.*
- ✓ *There is evidence, particularly in discussion, of desire to promote home based working as a means of reducing the cost of commuting and increasing choice.*
- ✓ *That in order to promote home-based working, broad band should be available on the internet.*
- ✓ *There should be a local resource to support infant industry by having IT and clerical support available and some training support in IT within the village.*
- ✓ *Local businesses should not conflict with the environmental needs of other residents.*
- ✓ *There was some support for a change to the building envelope for selected new business development.*

It was felt that the Parish Council could support these initiatives because there was an opportunity:

- ✓ *to reduce unnecessary travel*
- ✓ *reduce waste of finite fuel resources*
- ✓ *support local shops and businesses*
- ✓ *improve the skills of the local workforce*
- ✓ *enhance facilities for the general population of Plumbland*
- ✓ *To be sympathetic to a modest change in the building envelope*

Transport

Transport is a dilemma. There is a weekly 'shoppers' bus to Cockermouth on Fridays and a service to Carlisle on Tuesdays. From Aspatria there is a regular service to Carlisle, Workington and Whitehaven.



The railway station at Aspatria, a request stop, is used by some commuters to Carlisle and by those travelling by rail to other parts of the country. It is clearly not totally convenient since arrangements have to be made for the journey from home to and from the station. Because connections cannot be convenient for all journeys and a fear that they might not be made, many passengers are taken to and picked up by car at Carlisle.

The County Council sponsored voluntary car scheme is widely publicised in the village shop, notice boards and in the Newsletter. Given the transport difficulties, it appears to be underused and there are no registered village-based drivers. However parishioners do transport the elderly, particularly those with hospital and similar appointments or making rail journeys, on an informal basis.

- ✓ *The Parish Council will continue to monitor the needs of bus users and usage of the existing services to maximise the benefit to parishioners.*
- ✓ *The Parish Council will continue to promote the Voluntary Car scheme.*
- ✓ *The Parish Council will examine how Transport grant funds can be accessed and how they might meet identified local needs.*

Health and Safety

Most parishioners felt reasonably safe within the Parish. But there were some concerns with anti-social behaviour, for example cars and motor cycles travelling through the village at speed, football in the road late at night, litter dropped from cars, and noise especially at night from cars (horn blowing and loud music).

Plumbland Parish Neighbourhood and Farm Watch was formed in 1993, primarily to take an active role by assisting the Police in the fight against crime in the local area. The Watch is still very active today with ten voluntary co-ordinators within the villages of Plumbland, Parsonby, Arkleby and Wardhall. All suspicious/criminal information is relayed to the crime desk at Workington Police Station.

The Plumbland group of First Responders is now fully operational and giving support as requested. Reports of their activities are published in the Parish Newsletter, and to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Recently, the British Red Cross Society has made available one wheeled chair in the Village Hall, for emergency use, through two newly appointed representatives. The intention is to increase the range of equipment available on loan as more space in the Hall becomes available.

- ✓ *The Council will continue to support Neighbourhood Watch scheme.*
- ✓ *The Council will continue to support First Responders.*
- ✓ *The Council will continue to liaise with the Police Authority and seek a meeting for parishioners to express their concerns face to face.*
- ✓ *The Council welcomes the Village Hall /Red Cross Society's new initiative.*

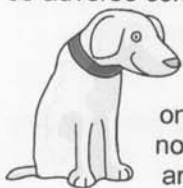
Environment



The survey showed that most residents enjoyed the quiet, peace and pleasant scenery and location of the Parish. The friendliness and good community spirit were greatly appreciated. Facilities such as the School, Village Hall, shop and the Public Houses were important features for the villagers.

Parishioners listed heavy traffic and speeding vehicles, derelict buildings, poor public transport and roads, limited shopping and expensive housing (especially for young people) amongst the unsatisfactory elements of life in Plumbland.

In general, most residents thought that the state of the Parish was satisfactory, **but** there were 39 adverse comments about dog fouling, with the strongest words reserved for offenders who permitted the offence where children played, in particular the school playground, playing field and along Stoops Lane. The Parish Council, in the parish newsletter, regularly draws attention to the law placing a responsibility on dog owners to remove faeces deposited within a 30 mph zone. Reminder notices are displayed, and litterbins are available within the parish. Grass verges are cut to make the offence more apparent and to enable deposits to be easily



cleared, and the worst area, Stoops Lane was planted with spring bulbs in an attempt to make the area tidier, and reduce dog fouling.

Although that policy had only modest success, there has been planting of spring bulbs on grass verges within the parish ever since and that policy continues through the efforts of parishioners and donations and recycling of bulbs. However, the general view is that some of the rarer wild species, including a variety of orchid should be protected. On the wider grass verges on Plumbland Moor, the road to Oughterside and Threapland Moor road, any sowing or planting should be of native wild flowers only, so as to maintain existing rarer varieties. There could be an annual hay cropping of longer grass after seed setting, thereby reducing the fertility of the verge, to encourage further wild flower growth.

Although other comments were made about the prevalence of litter, the condition of verges, paths and roads, it was not the source of strong complaints. It was commented that the local footpaths were either over-grown or not known to newer members of the community, despite the presence of finger posts on the roadside.

Extra recycling facilities were requested. At present there is a bottle bank at the Horse and Jockey, Parsonby, a can and clothing banks are available in Aspatria. The nearest civic amenity point for other waste is at Glasson Industrial Estate, Maryport. The Aspatria and District charity shop will accept clean clothing for sale or recycling, books, furniture and non-electrical hardware for re-sale.

Discussions have showed a commitment to the aims of a Parish Clean-up Day, and the intention is that it be held at least annually.

Waste Management and Green Energy

In discussion, several residents complained about the odour created during periods of slurry spreading and the spreading of waste products from the dairy. At the moment, in this parish, there are no economic alternatives, but the Council is minded to look for other methods. In Denmark it is illegal to spread raw waste on farmland, and they have devised a treatment which takes the untreated slurry and processes it to remove the hydro-carbons (and the smell) and return it to the farm in a liquid processed state. This is without charge to the farmer. In addition other organic wastes are processed, for which a fee is charged, thereby recovering the costs of processing. A by-product, methane, becomes available which can be used for local application as a fuel for heating or transport.

There is at least one example, in Devon, of the process working as a commercial entity. A site near to Plumbland is under consideration for a number of environmentally friendly energy generation projects, including the anaerobic digestion process described.

It has been noted that the Village Hall Committee has sought advice on alternative sources of energy to power the Village Hall.

The Parish Council will:

- ✓ *Continue to lobby the Police for regular speed checks on the B5301*
- ✓ *Undertake speed checks through the Speed Gun Initiative (Cumbria Constabulary)*
- ✓ *Work with the Local Authorities to try and resolve the problems of derelict buildings.*
- ✓ *Continue to make dog owners aware of their responsibilities with articles in the Newsletter and to monitor the extent of the fouling.*
- ✓ *Review the provision of litter bins*
- ✓ *Continue to lobby the Highways Authority for road maintenance and improvements*
- ✓ *Install extra lighting in local 'black spots'*
- ✓ *Lobby for an extension to the current recycling facilities.*
- ✓ *Monitor annually and maintain Public Rights of Way as appropriate.*
- ✓ *Produce a map of the local footpaths*
- ✓ *The Parish Council should become aware of the implications of the waste slurry scheme and other projects to see what benefits could be derived for the community.*
- ✓ *The Parish Council will monitor the Village Hall's initial enquiry into alternative energy generation and evaluate if any benefits might be applied to the wider community.*
- ✓ *Continue to support 'Parish Clean-up' days, verge management and planting of acceptable species*

Housing



There is a mixture of different types and ages of dwellings within the Parish ranging from traditional stone cottages, farm houses to modern dwellings. The majority of homes within the parish are owner occupied, with some privately rented, shared ownership and rented from Home Housing Association. Many of the dwellings are listed buildings, having particular historical or architectural significance.

For many years the village population was stable, but there is now more movement into the Parish. The survey indicated that out of the 100 questionnaires returned, 28 households had lived in the village for less than ten years, 25 had lived here for over 50 years.

The survey showed support for additional housing, particularly bungalows for the elderly and affordable housing for young people. There was support for extension of the building envelope to meet those specific needs. About 17% of the respondents indicated a potential re-housing need within seven years.

Allerdale Borough Council's latest Housing Plans indicate that they intend to provide two elderly persons bungalows in the year 2004 /05, provided that a suitable site becomes available. Eden Housing Association is currently seeking plots for this project.

- ✓ *The Parish Council will support limited development to meet identified social needs and are sympathetic to possible building envelope changes.*
- ✓ *The Parish Council will **not** support development inconsistent with the nature of the village or the needs of the community.*

Recreation and Leisure

The survey showed local organisations, clubs and teams were well supported by the community. Parishioners pursued a number of activities outside the Parish but not in sufficient numbers for the activity to be replicated within the village, even if appropriate space was available.

Under Fives - Parishioners were generally satisfied with current provision.

Five to Eleven - Parishioners were equally satisfied.

Eleven to Eighteen - Provision for this age range was felt to be very poor. At the 'Face to Face' meeting resulting from the survey the following items were discussed.

1. Transport out of the village was a problem, particularly on a Saturday. There was a suggestion that the Beacon Hill School mini-bus might be available if there was sufficient demand and if the bus was available. The cost for the mini-bus per trip would be about £6 per trip. The young members were to discuss the idea amongst themselves and with their parents before reporting back to Mr Clouston.
2. A swimming facility was thought to be desirable. There were two suggestions; the Arkleby House pool could be hired, if it was not otherwise booked, provided there was an approved supervisor. The cost had to be determined. Beacon Hill School swimming pool is open to the public 6pm to 8pm and can be hired privately for £10 per hour but with their own safety supervisor.
3. The meeting would like a village green whereon suitable games might be played and a 'teen shelter' erected.
4. They felt that a bus shelter at the bottom of Stoops Lane was needed.
5. The meeting felt that an informal meeting place was needed and were asked to consider how they might hire the Village Hall.
6. A village green would be an asset all could enjoy.



Adults - There was general satisfaction with the activities available.

Retired People - The majority of comments received expressed satisfaction with the activities available.

There is consistent comment that the Village has no 'open space centre' for the community, and the ribbon-like layout of the Village further emphasises that geographical lack. The Parish Council has been encouraged to seek a site for a Village Green, if a suitable area can be found.

Current Leisure Activities and Organisations.

The Last Man Inn provides a meeting place for younger adults in particular. They have Pool, Darts and Domino teams playing in local leagues and are planning to start a cricket team in 2004 and have sufficient support to field football teams for invitation events

The Horse and Jockey Inn is open extensive hours and provides snacks and meals. They support two quiz teams, dominoes and pool teams competing in a local league. There is a pool table for individual use, and have enough interest to man a five a side football team for special events.

Plumbland Children's Sports Committee organise an annual sports day **for all ages** which takes place during the summer and have fund-raising events throughout the year.

The Plumbland School PTA arranges fund-raising activities, concerts and children's events throughout the year, in support of the school.

Plumbland Community Group was formed to raise money for the provision of a play area within the school playground.

Activities held in the Village Hall

Crusaders- A Christian -based youth group catering for three age bands, (under 7, 7 to 11, over 11). Meeting on alternate Thursdays.

S' Club - meets Sunday mornings during term time.

Bowling Club- Open to over 14s meets Monday and Tuesday evenings September to June.

Women's Institute- meets monthly on the first Wednesday.

Afternoon Club- open to all at home, meets alternate Thursdays to Crusaders.

Art & Craft Club meets alternate Wednesday afternoons.

Beacon Hill Adult Education Centre arranges courses and out-reach classes in the Village Hall to meet demand. Currently Yoga meets on Monday mornings.

Solway Arts Society drama and music events (3 to 4 per year)

Allerdale and Copeland Rural Touring Theatre Scheme- drama and music productions (2 to 3 per year)

Details of all these items are to be found in the Parish Newsletter or from the Hall Secretary (Mrs J Cooper 22557).

- ✓ *The Parish Council will continue to consult with the young people and try to meet their requests.*
- ✓ *The Parish Council will continue to support the Sports Committee.*
- ✓ *The Parish Council will consider supporting new activities meeting recognised needs.*
- ✓ *The Parish Council will encourage the Village Hall Management Committee to meet the needs of the parishioners.*
- ✓ *The Parish Council will look for a suitable site for a Village Green.*
- ✓ *The Parish Council will encourage the monitoring of the needs of housebound and disabled people.*
- ✓ *The Parish Council will monitor the survey to introduce an After School Club and support efforts to satisfy established needs.*

Request from Threapland to be part of Plumbland Civic Parish

There are a significant number of respondents who approved Threapland's request to become part of Plumbland Parish.

The proximity of Threapland to Plumbland ensures most of Threapland's children go to primary school in Plumbland and most residents of Threapland choose to socialise there.

There are no financial benefits to Plumbland in accepting this change, as the costs of servicing the needs of Threapland are barely covered by the precept income.

The strength of the submission is the history of Threapland residents performing significant and long-term acts of community service within Plumbland.

One respondent observed that the gap between the two settlements should be maintained.

The Parish Council

✓ *will support the proposal for Threapland to become part of Plumbland Parish*



Political and Social Change

During the life of this plan, a number of changes will be introduced which will directly affect the way in which the Parish is administered. Some, like the Quality Parish initiative, have set out their criteria. Others like Regional Government have yet to be legislated, so no formal guidelines exist. Nonetheless the Parish Council should be alert to the scenario into which they might be drawn.

Of the seven criteria for **Quality Parish** status, only two should present Plumbland Parish Council with difficulty:

A Quality Parish should have a formally qualified Clerk.

The specification is that the Clerk should hold a certificate from the Assessment and Qualification Council or a certificate based on the presentation of a Portfolio covering all aspects of a Clerk's responsibilities and understanding of Local Government legislation.

The implication for any Parish is an increase in the costs of administration, caused by the student clerk's costs in gaining the award (training, travel, certification and other costs). Having attained the award there will be a necessary reward for having attained the qualification. There are further problems for the Council, parish clerks are already at a premium and certification may cause the resignation or early retirement of experienced clerks. The unit cost for administration to a village, with a precept income based on 169 dwellings, will rise.

Communication. Although the Council meets the four mandatory criteria, mainly by virtue of the Plumbland Newsletter, there are nine discretionary criteria, not all of which the Council would meet if they were up-graded. The one most likely to be up-graded is that for a web-site for each parish.

There are cost implications (purchase of a computer, web design and site rental depreciation), skills implication (who will design, maintain, edit and up-grade) and the simple logistical problem of where would the computer be housed, for the Council to consider. So far as the village is concerned, only those parishioners who own or can access computers are likely to benefit directly and major potential beneficiaries, the elderly/ housebound are not likely to be amongst them. The cost has to be shared amongst only 169 precepted dwellings.

One of the benefits of acceptance as a Quality Parish is the opportunity to undertake a further range of delegated responsibilities including street cleaning, highway verge, footway and footpath maintenance, litter collection, street lighting, recycling, issue of transport passes, road safety measures etc.

- ✓ *The Council will have to decide which activities they can adopt and how they can be managed.*

In the event of **Regional Government** being accepted by the electorate of North West England, Parishes will need to strengthen their collective voice to meet the challenge for resources from urban areas and other policies adopted at a regional level. In a 'shire county' rural needs are more easily comprehended. It is not necessarily the case in forums dominated by city and urban representatives.

A consequence is likely to be the pooling of strategic decision making at inter-parish level, perhaps the Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) might be that forum, but to influence any debate calls for clear thinking on the part of the Plumbland Parish representative.

In what ever structure, **scarce financial resources** means that priorities have to be set and, more importantly, to see how objectives might be achieved using different methods or strategies to those currently used. One of those might be the sharing of resources between adjacent parishes or between different groups within the same parish. Is it realistic for the duplication of all facilities and activities in all villages?

For example, within this section there has been discussion on the role of a Parish Clerk. There is little reason why one clerk might not service more than one parish, although there are some

obvious problems, there are equally significant savings to be made. A similar argument could be made for the web-site service.

The Parish has benefited from work done under Community Service orders. The work undertaken has benefited the offenders by re-establishing their self-pride and self-esteem, and is also valued by the parishioners.

The suggestion is that in the course of Council meetings appropriate tasks might be identified and discussed with the Community Service officers. The objective is two-fold, to get certain tasks done and to enhance the quality of work available, and to enable Community Service to be effective for the offender in rural areas. The Probation Service themselves are keen to enhance the skills acquired by offenders in the course of Community Service and would welcome discussions on how an effective strategy could be developed.

- ✓ *The Parish Council will enter into further discussions with the Probation Service.*

There is a feeling that the ability to promote local initiatives and to encourage self-help needs to be developed. A suggestion is that a 'Plumbland Trust' should be formed. The Trusts objectives are to encourage investment in the parish and to promote environmental, educational, historical or social projects. Initially the Trust is seen as an enabling facility, allowing even modest projects, like bulb-planting, that are almost the spontaneous in origin need little supervision and little or very modest funding, to take place on a legal basis. The Trust itself might have its own modest funds with which to make awards, more importantly be a sign-post for grant awarding bodies and help in designing a bid for larger funded schemes. It could co-ordinate and promote activities within the village.

There is probably one other role which would be of significant benefit to the Parish. Most respondents indicated their desire that the essential character of the Parish be maintained. To achieve that end a group, independent of the Council, could prepare an essential character statement for the Parish and/or become a focus group to comment upon the way in which the Parish is developing. It could comment on developments, review plans and initiate discussion on issues directly affecting the community of Plumbland. Being independent of the Council, its comments would be relevant to discussions the Council might have. Its observations could be a regular stimulating feature in the Parish Newsletter and would at least give voice to different opinions within the village. At first sight, the preparation of a character statement gives the parishioners a pro-active role in the long-term development of Plumbland.

- ✓ *The Parish Council will support the setting up of a Trust which should seek legal recognition as a charity.*

The Council itself cannot easily bid for funds, like the lottery and also from most charities, so that it would have to be done by an organisation (the Trust) with its own constitution and accounts.

There is a move to establish a community office in the village to enable parishioners to access IT, improve contact for the parishioners with different tiers of government, provide a community education resource, an emergency business support service and a resource for printing and disseminating voluntary and community based information.

- ✓ *The Council supports the concept of the establishment of a 'village office' to provide a range of services and information for the parishioners and a place in which the minutes and accounts can be scrutinised. (see Web-site item above)*

The Village Hall Committee has registered an interest with the Post Office with providing accommodation for the post office in the event of the mobile office not being able to perform its existing service. There is some concern about the ability of the van to make secure computer links and to effect payments.

There is a period of delay whilst the Post Office finalise their plans, but discussions are planned for the Spring of 2004.

There is some concern amongst the elderly and housebound about the long-term future of the village shop. It is the Parish Council's hope that some form of retail service will remain in the village..



The Parish Church of St Cuthbert, Plumland

Christianity was established in England during the Roman occupation and survived their departure and the arrival of both Anglo-Saxon and the Normans. We do not know when a place of worship was established in Plumland, although a fragment of an Anglo-Saxon cross-shaft, now built into the church tower indicates the tenth century. In 1130, a church which served until 1869, was built. It was enlarged in the fourteenth century, when a south aisle was added, and in 1834. It was adequate for its congregation and would still be adequate for today. However, the esteem in which the church was held meant that gifts from rich and poor quickly funded a new (present) church. It is a fine building, but one century later it has become a burden on its congregation, bigger than is needed, expensive to heat and difficult to maintain and repair.

Although the building and its fabric presents a problem, it is not the most serious. Within that same century, the influence of Christianity has declined with a steady fall in the number of worshippers. To meet this, fifty years ago Plumland combined with Gilcrux under one rector. This union lasted until 1995, when Dearham was added to the two parishes, but this arrangement had but a brief life. In 2003 Plumland was absorbed into the Binsey team ministry, a group of nine parishes intended to be served by three ministers. As a result, the parson is less well known to his congregation. Despite fewer clergy, the costs of professional ministry with stipends, pensions, housing and administrative expenses has increased dramatically, so that a greater proportion of the church's income goes into central and diocesan funds.

It must be recognised that the future of the parish church is uncertain. Without considerable increases in both its congregation and income, it must find survival more and more difficult. Without greater parishioner support, a thousand years of spiritual, social and economic support and history in Plumland would die.

Plumbland Evangelical Chapel

The Plumbland Chapel has been in the village since 1847. It was previously owned and run by the Congregational Union. In 1963, some of the former members, along with others, opened the building as Plumbland Evangelical Chapel. The Chapel is affiliated to 'The Fellowship of Independent Churches' from whom the Chapel draws advice, support and occasionally speakers.



There is a wide age range within the membership and an attempt is made to cater for their differing needs. For the young there is S Club, Crusaders and Youth group (Rock Café); and weekly Prayer meetings and Bible Study and Sunday morning and evening worship throughout the year for all ages. There is a strong missionary interest both home and abroad with regular representation in the village from both these sources.

There is a longstanding sense of service to this community, especially to young people, for whom a number of innovative projects have been devised and funded. 'Rock Café' is such an innovative project. The Chapel works closely with St Cuthbert's Church and with the Village Hall in the delivery of community events. Because of their experience in youth organisation, they have led on community-wide activities to mark the Jubilee and similar celebrations.

The Chapel plans to alter the premises this year (2004), to conform with Disability Access regulations.

Plumbland C. of E. School

Plumbland School is a small rural primary school situated in the village of Parsonby and in the parish of Plumbland. Currently there are 41 pupils on roll and our numbers are gradually rising. We have two classes, a Foundation / Key Stage 1 class and a Key Stage 2 class.

It is our aim to develop the full potential of every child in a happy, caring, stimulating environment. We encourage the growth of self-esteem, self worth and a feeling of belonging to a community.

Our school is over 200 years old and has a fascinating and distinctive history. In the year 2000 we celebrated our bi-centenary and were visited by hundreds of people who all had some connection to our school. The history of the school is all around us.

Recognising its historic foundation, the school preserves and develops its religious character in

accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the Church at parish and diocesan level. We regularly visit the church for educational purposes as well as our Harvest Festival and an end of year service. The vicar is a regular visitor who takes assemblies and gives advice and supports spiritual development.

The school is a focal point in the village, together with the Village Hall and Church. The community gives us strong support and we aim to promote community involvement within the children. Last year our school was involved in a County Schools review, from which we emerged stronger than ever thanks to the outstanding community support. Hundreds of supportive letters were received. Since then numbers have risen and people are moving into the village because of the school.



Working with parents and the local community we recently raised money to build a play area and garden for our children and for the community. Together we raised over £20,000 for this scheme. A new school playing field was also recently acquired. The PTA continually works enthusiastically to support the school in many ways. There are many events during the year to which parents and friends are invited, such as our Harvest Festival, Christmas Concert and other social and fund raising events.

We are proud of the behaviour of our children and the fact that they are happy to come to school. We pride ourselves on being a school with a strong family atmosphere. All children are included and valued equally.

We offer a broad curriculum, which is enriched by many extra curricular activities. We have recently achieved success in many areas e.g.

- We were runners up in the Village School of the Year 2003 organised by the Cumberland News.
- We were awarded Activemark Gold for the quality of our PE provision,
- We sent 35 shoeboxes to children in Eastern Europe as part of the Samaritan's Purse Appeal. We also donated over £300 to charities, such as Comic Relief, the Sillioth Lifeboats, NSPCC and Wateraid, a charity helping to bring water supplies to African communities.
- We won the small schools Rounders tournament and Football tournament. We won the 'best small school' trophy at the annual Aspatria Schools rugby tournament.
- We were awarded tickets by Sport England for the Commonwealth Games 2002 trials in Manchester. Parents and friends joined us for a wonderful day of world class athletics
- We have won a local swimming gala four times out of five.
- We were invited to meet Prince Charles when he visited Grasmere.

Among our many excursions have been a trip to Florence Mine in Egremont, to Tullie House to see an Anne Frank Exhibition and to the Theatre by the Lake to see 'Alice in Wonderland'. We have visited the Glasgow Science museum and Beatrix Potter exhibition. We have spent five days residential at Hawse End.

A Pre- School, which caters for the needs of children under five, meets in school every afternoon. Parents help out on a rota basis. An Ofsted inspection recently gave them an excellent report. We value our Pre -School and look upon it not only as a valuable educational experience for the children, but also as an opportunity to forge links between the school and the pre-school children and their families.

Our school has strong links with other small schools in the area. We have a thriving small schools group enabling staff and children to regularly meet together for special events. We also

have very strong links with our local secondary school, Beacon Hill. Our school was inspected by Ofsted inspectors in March 2002. The main findings of the report;

- Very good relationships are central to the success of this good school. A very good atmosphere for learning is created in which the individual needs of pupils are very well known and met effectively.
- The consistently good quality of teaching – particularly in Literacy and Numeracy – leads directly to pupils attaining high standards of work and achieving well.
- The school enjoys the overwhelming support and confidence of parents.
- Good leadership from the headteacher and a well-informed governing body are steering the school's improvement well.

Plumbland Village Hall

The Village Hall was re-built in 1984 on the site of the former Church Rooms on land leased to the Village Hall Management Committee until 2030 by the Parochial Church Council of Plumbland.

It is a single storey building of concrete block construction rendered with a dash finish, with concrete roofing tiles. The original entrance door and windows, (with the exception of one window), have been replaced by UPVC double glazed units. The fascia and soffits on the west facing aspect of the hall have also been replaced by UPVC. The overall condition is sound and has been judged by a consultant surveyor to be in good condition.

Internally, the Hall is one large room, including a kitchen area. Heating is by way of electric night storage heaters with supplementary coin operated over head Infra-red heaters. The toilets are well maintained and a recent half tiling of the walls has enhanced their appearance. The internal decoration is pleasant and the curtains are attractive and good quality. Because of storage problems, some tables and chairs are stored in a barn at some distance from the Hall.

Although the kitchen area is adequately furnished, the kitchen cabinets do not meet current environmental health standards. It is however well stocked with crockery and cutlery.

On the west wall of the main room is mounted a ceramic mosaic designed to celebrate the Millennium and made by and substantially designed by the parishioners.

However, the Village Hall Committee

recognises that the Hall falls short of current demands from the villagers and other users. There is inadequate storage space, the kitchen cannot be used for catering, and because it is open design it has been adjudged unsafe for use as a pre school playgroup. There are requests for a second meeting area and a community 'office'.

The accounts for the Village Hall show that it is self- financing, with full bookings indicating that a healthy balance between cost and value to the hirers has been attained. There is every confidence that an extension could be afforded in revenue terms, for bookings have to be declined for lack of space. There is a further problem, the Committee has sought to encourage small, minority interest and newly formed groups to use the Hall, but even a modest charge has



sometimes caused problems. The proposed extension might enable the Committee to look at a new hire charge rates, particularly at off peak periods.

Regular Users of the Village Hall

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon</u>	<u>Evening</u>
Monday	F.E. Yoga		Bowling Club
Tuesday			Bowling Club
Wednesday		Art & Craft Club (fortnightly)	W.I. (monthly)
Thursday		School (1-2pm) Afternoon Club (fortnightly) Crusaders (fortnightly) Playgroup	Crusaders (fortnightly)
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday	'S' Club		

The Hall is also used for private bookings (e.g. parties), meetings (e.g. Parish Council, Village Hall Committee, Sports Committee), special events (e.g. Sports Day, Village Fair, fund raising events and theatrical and musical events).

Activities and Clubs meeting in the Village Hall

Afternoon Club

The Club was established in September 1999 as a result of a bid to the Millennium Commission (Help the Aged) for funding to provide a mid day activity to people isolated in their own homes throughout the day. Although it was always envisaged that the majority of members would be those retired from full time employment and the elderly in general, the constitution allows membership to anyone at home during the day. It was hoped that these younger people might both benefit themselves and enliven the company.

The bidders initial hope was that a luncheon club would flourish, but the Environmental Health Officer would not authorise regular catering in the Hall. In an attempt to evaluate the demand for a luncheon club a widely promoted cookery demonstration organised by Age Concern was held at which a Soup Lunch was provided for 35 guests. The Committee then organised, with minimal publicity, a 'Soup and Pudding' lunch cooked by the members which attracted 25 guests and 5 apologies for absence. The cost of £2 per diner covered the whole event. Periodic visits to a training restaurant of a local college, providing an excursion for 14-16 people, confirmed the need for luncheon provision.

Since the demise of 'The Plumbland Old Folks Treat Committee' the Afternoon Club has provided low cost excursions.

Club Needs and Future Role.

There are areas of concern.

- ☐ Members of the Afternoon Club would like a room easier to heat during the depths of winter.
- ☐ An area in which equipment could be stored more easily.
- ☐ A toilet more accessible for those no longer so active.
- ☐ A kitchen suitable for simple catering.

Although the perception is of a Club meeting fortnightly, in fact we maintain a close pastoral watch over our potential members. We work with Age Concern in caring for the welfare of our members, eg welfare benefits, aids for the elderly and the preparation of wills.

The Afternoon Club sees a future for itself in part as a luncheon club, although the exact format needs to be discussed by the group

The Afternoon Club also sees a need to accommodate people suffering the natural consequences of ageing and is working informally with Heart Stroke Association, Age Concern and other bodies to consider the adequacy of provision.

Art & Craft Group

This group enables members to practise a wide range of crafts. It is largely because of the existence of the A&C group that the Millennium mosaic project was awarded to Plumland. They are considering an appropriate textile hanging for the Hall, ideally for the entrance of a new extension. The real aim is to encourage villagers to participate in arts & crafts, to safeguard the value of 'old crafts' in the village and make the Parish visually more attractive.



The group has only modest requests,

- ☐ more secure storage space
- ☐ warmer room in which to practice their skills
- ☐ and of the Parish, recognition that Arts and Crafts are part of our cultural history, and that they should not just be allowed to disappear

The group sees itself continuing as a small self-supporting group, perhaps exploring revenue generation simply to sustain itself. In a purely social context, it could help in the rehabilitation of people who have suffered major illness, a proposal in line with the original aims of the Club. Age Concern and the Heart Stroke Association at Wigton have been informed and exploratory talks have taken place. The A&C Club might need an identity independent of the Afternoon Club, particularly if making application for financial assistance or there is a significant growth.

Women's Institute

The Women's Institute was founded in 1935. At present there are fifteen members of the Institute including all ages. The Institute meets on the first Wednesday of every month except August and enjoys speakers covering a diverse range of subjects. The fellowship and friendliness of members is very pleasing and prospective members and guests are always warmly welcome. Members also enjoy outings usually including suppers and an annual New Year dinner.

As numbers are not high the W.I. would welcome an additional, smaller room in the Village Hall to hold their meetings, and a toilet designed for the disabled for use by their older, less mobile members and a up to date kitchen which would allow them to cater for events.

Bowling Club

The Bowling Club meets Monday and Tuesday evenings from September to June. Membership is good and the Club financially healthy, but like most organisations new members are always welcome. Apart from their regular bowling evenings, the club plays friendly matches against other clubs in the area. Matches at home cause problems as there is no room for the suppers they all enjoy. Another problem is space available for the bowling mats due to the extra chairs and tables stacked in the Hall.

The Bowling Club would welcome extra storage facilities especially for the chairs and tables presently kept in the Hall. An extra room that could be used for suppers enabling the mats to be left in place for the whole evening. A modern separate kitchen for the preparation of drinks and food is a requirement.

Crusaders

Crusaders, a Christian Youth Group, meet fortnightly for social activities, fun and games. They have three groups - under sevens, seven to eleven and over elevens - meeting at different times. The Hall meets their current requirements, but hall furniture needs to be repositioned for safety reasons for each meeting and the open kitchen represents a safety hazard of which they are aware.

Crusaders would welcome extra storage space not only for the Hall furniture but for their own equipment as well. An extra room would be welcome so groups can be split for different activities. A new kitchen is essential for safety reasons. A computer area would be a welcome extra activity for the older groups.

'S' Club

Meets Sunday mornings for worship and bible activities appropriate to children. Again care has to be taken with the furniture kept in the Hall and the open kitchen. Difficulties can arise when the Hall has been used for adult activities on the previous night with cleanliness and removal of bars and associated equipment etc.

'S' Club would welcome a safe kitchen area, extra storage for hall furniture and an extra room in which they can hold their meetings as necessary.

Playgroup

The Playgroup uses the Hall on Friday mornings for physical activities. It is not entirely suitable as the kitchen is open to the hall and chairs and tables are, because of storage demands, stacked higher than recommended. To ensure the safety of the children, the furniture and kitchen area has to be roped off causing additional work for the staff.

The Playgroup would welcome extra storage for the chairs, tables and some of their own equipment in the Hall and the provision of a separate kitchen.

Plumbland School

On Thursday afternoons before the Afternoon Club or Crusaders, the School use the Hall for dance. Again the stacked chairs and tables present a hazard. The Hall is also used for inter-school events on an annual basis.

The School would welcome extra storage areas for the hall furniture and a separate kitchen for safety reasons.

British Red Cross Society

The British Red Cross Society stores a wheeled chair in the Village Hall to loan as required to villagers and to other local settlements. There are two nominated representatives, but the range of equipment for loan is limited by poor storage facilities. Normally there would be two different wheel chair models and ones of different sizes and a range of home nursing equipment. If more room were available, that wider range of equipment would be available. It is a new service which has not been publicised.

Development of the Village Hall

Proposed new extension to the Village Hall

The Questionnaire analysis showed that there is significant support for additional facilities for the Hall.

1. An extra room for meetings, small clubs, 'green room' for theatre and musical events and supper room amongst others.
2. Extra storage space to enable the Hall to be made safe for children and more useful for activities.
3. Separate kitchen area to enable catering to take place.
4. A toilet, suitable for use by less able people and providing baby changing facilities.

Proposed new activities

The questionnaire analysis showed support for the following new activities in the Village Hall. Most are dependent on their being an extension built providing an extra room, new kitchen, toilet for the less able, more storage space and computer facilities.

1. Luncheon Club.
2. 'After School' Club.
3. Mother & Toddler Group.
4. Computer Club/facilities.
5. Facilities for Chiropodist and Barber/Hairdresser services.
6. Drama Club.
7. F. E. Classes.
8. Walking Club.
9. Local History Society

✓ *The Council will support the developments at the Village Hall*

Acknowledgements

The Parish Council wishes to thank and gratefully acknowledge the support and assistance of the following groups and individuals in the preparation of this Plan.

Age Concern

Allerdale Borough Council

Beacon Hill Community School

The Countryside Agency

Cumbria Police Authority

National Probation Service -Cumbria

North Allerdale Heart Stroke Association

Plumbland Village Hall Management Committee

Plumbland Parish Council

Plumbland Evangelical Chapel

Neighbourhood and Farm Watch

Voluntary Action Cumbria (Ms S Mitchell & Mrs D Keir)

Major Jack Bartholomew and the Parochial Church Council (St Cuthbert's)

Mr Martin Clark (Environment and Heritage Information)

Mr. Alan Coates (Plumbland School)

Mrs T. M. Cowgill (Clerk to Plumbland Parish Council)

Rev. F.L. Price (Local and Church History)

Mr John Spiers-Dawson (Questionnaire Design Consultant)

Mr Alan Hobbs, Allerdale Borough Councillor

Mrs Kate Brandwood, Cumbria County Councillor

Mr T. Cowgill who analysed the returns, conducted local interviews and produced the report

ACTION PLAN

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Resource
<u>Employment</u> The Parish Council will * seek a local resource to support infant industry by having IT, clerical and training facilities within the Parish. * support change to the building envelope for selected new business development. * promote home-based working, by having broad band available on the Internet. * encourage suitable small-scale industry into the Parish, including home -based working.	Employers to assess training needs, work with training agencies and collaborate with the VH committee. On an 'as needed' basis, having evaluated the range of options available	Medium	Beacon Hill AEC Training providers Training & Skills Council Solway Rural Initiative Allerdale BC Village Hall Committee Allerdale BC	Long term Long term	Existing, but policy subject to review at Annual Parish Meeting
<u>Transport</u> The Parish Council will continue to * promote the Voluntary Car scheme and seek to maintain the existing bus services * monitor the needs of bus users and usage of the existing services to maximise the benefit for parishioners * maintain the present bus shelter and look to the provision of one at Stoops Lane.	Encourage usage of and volunteer drivers for the scheme	High Medium	Cumbria CC Cumbria CC Highways	Existing Ongoing	Existing, but policy to be reviewed at APM
<u>Environment</u> The Parish Council will continue to * support Parish 'Clean Up' days * make dog owners aware of their responsibilities and monitor the extent of the fouling * lobby the Police for regular speed checks on the B5301 * lobby the Highways Authority for road maintenance and improvements	Publicity in Newsletter Reporting to Dog Wardens Take part in Speed Gun initiative Direct contact with Highways	High High High High	Allerdale BC Allerdale BC Parish Council Police Highways	Regularly Ongoing Regularly Ongoing	£50.00

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Resource
Environment continued * review the provision of extra litter bins * install extra lighting in 'black spots' * lobby for an extension to the current recycling facilities * monitor & maintain Public Rights of Way * produce a map of local footpaths * investigate the implications of the waste slurry scheme & to see what benefits could be derived for the local community.	Consult re suitable sites via Newsletter Consult with parishioners Consult with Allerdale BC Survey Rights of Way Seek resources Discuss the proposal with Mr. T. Ballantine Dykes & partners	Medium Medium Medium Medium Low Medium	Allerdale BC Allerdale BC Volunteers Consultant Allerdale BC Clarens Parishioners	1 year 1/2 years Regularly 2 years 6 months	£60.00 plus cost of connection £500.00
Health & Safety The Council will continue to * support the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme * support First Responders * liaise with the Police Authority * lobby for grit/salt bins/heaps	Reviewed at the Annual Meeting Reviewed at the Annual Meeting Reviewed at Council meetings	Medium Medium High High	Police Local committee Police Authority Cumbria CC	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	
Housing The Parish Council will * support limited development to meet identified social needs and are sympathetic to possible building envelope changes	Support suitable planning applications	Medium	Allerdale BC Eden Housing Association	Ongoing	Policy to be reviewed at Annual Parish Meeting
Recreation & Leisure The Parish Council will continue to * consult with the young people and try to meet their requests * support the Sports Committee * consider supporting new activities meeting recognised needs * support the Village Hall Management Committee to meet the needs of the parishioners.	Seek suitable land for village green and funding for 'teen shelter'. Meetings Meet with groups seeking support and funding	High High Medium High		Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing	

Action	How it will be tackled	Priority	Partners	Timescale	Resource
<u>Transfer of Threapland to Plumbland</u> The Parish Council * will support the proposal for Threapland to become part of Plumbland Parish			Parishioners in Threapland and Plumbland	Four years	None needed
<u>Village Hall</u> The Parish Council will support the development of the Village Hall for use by all age groups - but accept that young people have needs not currently provided.		High	Village Hall Committee	Ongoing	
<u>Political & Social Change</u> The Parish Council will * determine the costs of administration and examine how these might be constrained * look at the benefits of having a peripatetic clerk * examine costs of computerisation (hardware, software, peripherals), training and operation. Compare with commercially available sites. * promote the creation of 'Plumbland Trust' * discuss liaison with the Community Service	; A research project - headed by CALC, undertaken by a research student or local consultant. Research student from local University or College. Plumbland innovative programme to invest in social & cultural developments in the Parish. Character group to invest in environment improvements - clean up day, rights of way and planning. Continue discussions with Probation Service	High High	CALC Universities/Colleges Consultants Other Parish Councils Government Departments Parishioners Voluntary Organisations Probation Service Police Parishioners	 Ongoing	Seek grant funding from Government Departments Seek grant funding from Government Departments Set up support funding from Neighbourhood Forum None needed