



Acknowledgements

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to the production of this Community Action Plan.

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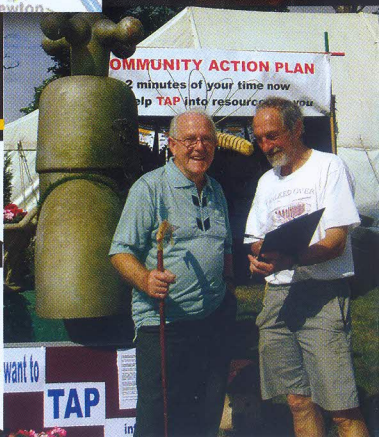
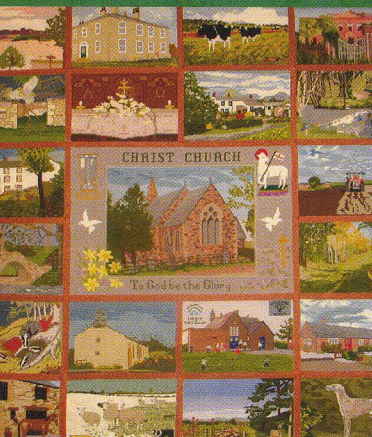
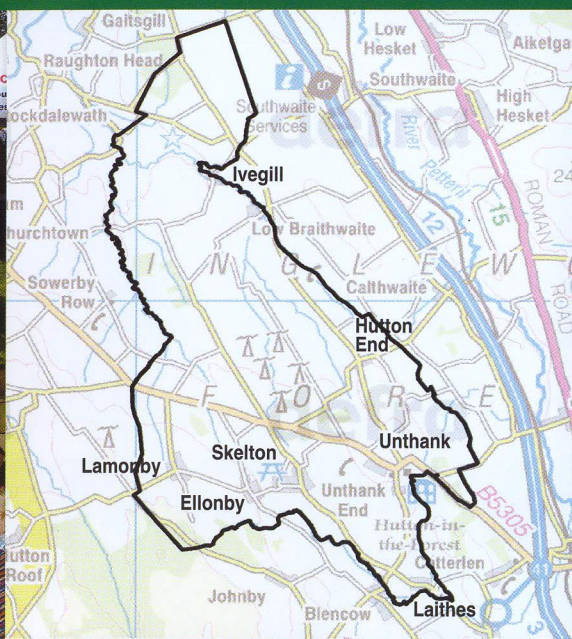
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Action Plan for the Communities of Ellonby, Hutton, Ivegill, Laithes, Lamonby, Skelton and Unthank



What is a Community Action Plan?

It is a **Document** that sets out what local people value in their community, it is an **Action Plan** for projects to achieve the aspirations of the local people and it is a **Process** which a community goes through which has its own value quite apart from the document it produces.

What can a Community Action Plan do for us?

- It fosters **Community Activity**.
- It attracts **Funding**. Most grant applications require 'evidence of local need' and a Community Plan is one of the best ways of proving this.
- It affects **Policy**. Increasingly, local councils and partnerships are looking to find good quality information about what issues matter to communities most.

Consultation and Responses

Skelton Parish includes a number of hamlets of different sizes but only part of the village of Ivegill. For the purposes of this study such a division makes little sense, so the whole of that village is included.

Timeline of the Community Action Plan:

2008 December - Skelton Parish Councillors agree to develop a Parish/Community Plan.

2009 January–March Parish Council Sub Committee meets to prepare consultation meeting, design poster and flyers.

2009 26 March Community consultation meeting takes place - attended by 60 residents.

2009 28 April First meeting of Community Action Committee and start of regular meetings, links with local authority officers are made

2009 May Consultation exercises culminating in a display at the Skelton Show.

2009 September–December Preparation of Household, Business and Young Persons' Surveys.

2010 February Surveys distributed with issue of Parish Notes and made available online.

2010 April Surveys collected. Over 550 household surveys distributed, 222 returned - a response rate of 40% which is considered adequate for conclusions to be drawn. 43 replies received from Young Peoples Survey and 79 replies to the Business Survey Section.

2010 June Independent analysis of results done by Warwick Network Ltd.

2010 July Display of initial findings and photographic competition at Skelton Show.

2010 16 September "Pies, Peas and Priorities Meeting" – attended by 49 people. Presentation of Warwick Network Analysis and initial development of focus groups made.

2010 October–December Writing Plan and fundraising.

2011 February–April Agreeing the final actions which will form the core of the Plan.

2011 May Final Plan produced. Summary written and distributed to every household in conjunction with the Housing Needs Survey, conducted by Cumbria Rural Housing Trust.

2011 - 2016 Celebration and Implementation of Community Action Plan. Annual review.

Findings

The Survey results were independently produced by an external company with no links to the area. The results of the Survey have been grouped into separate sections:

Community Facilities The survey asked for opinions on community facilities, how they could be improved and what other amenities might be provided. The facilities which were considered the most important were: village halls, the post office, the village shop and the local pub.

Natural Environment The consultations emphasise residents' commitment to the preservation of the countryside. However, they also point to some concerns on a day-to-day basis and suggest some improvements. There was strong support for a range of 'green related issues.

Neighbourhood The Community remains a low crime area. Comments asked for a greater visual police presence to act as a deterrent and also to monitor more closely the speed of traffic.

Communication The consultation highlights the fact that much useful local information remains unknown. The Action Plan offers an opportunity to improve communications.

Built Environment Winter 2009/2010 was the hardest one for a number of years. Gritting and potholes were the main issues of concern. The main improvement requested for recycling was for community wide collection of plastic items and cardboard cartons. The possibility of running community renewable energy schemes has significant support.

Housing and Development Some 20% of respondents would prefer there to be no further development within the Parish. However the majority welcomed a small degree of development in keeping with the essentially rural and peaceful environment of the area. The most supported options would be to provide accommodation for local people. Eden District Council has agreed to fund a full Housing Needs Survey which will be undertaken by Cumbria Rural Housing Trust.

Health and Well Being The experience of visits to GP and hospital services during the last twelve months, from February 2010, produced a generally positive opinion, particularly for the General Practitioners.

Transport Withdrawal of the limited bus services during the preparation of the Action Plan has placed more emphasis on alternatives (Fell Runner, Rural Wheels) and volunteer car services.

Young People Better play facilities and a more frequent bus service were wanted. Young people were also keen to see the area kept as clean as possible.

Business Employment is dominated by agriculture and tourism. Of the 56 responses to this question 44 stated that their business would stay roughly the same, 5 would grow and 7 would decline.

Outcomes

As a result of the responses, described in full in the main report a Community Action Plan has been drawn up for the next 5 years, full details of which are found overleaf.

Next Steps and How You Can Help

The extent to which these ideas can be taken forward depends upon the availability of the facilities, volunteers to initiate them and the number prepared to sign up. Actions have already started – a natural environmental focus group initially dealing with footpaths in Skelton has been formed.

The Action Plan produced here is from your ideas. It sets out your views and aspirations and will need your involvement to take the actions forward. It is a living document that will be reviewed annually by the Parish Council. It will be important to let us know what you think. Priorities change. Some objectives are long term. The point of the Action Plan is to come up with practical steps that we all can take forward to improve life in the Community.

Additional Information

The Community Action Plan, Household Survey, Young Persons' Survey and Warwick Network Ltd Data will be available on line at the Skelton Parish Council website www.skeltonparish.co.uk and the Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) website www.cumbriaaction.org.uk.

You can also purchase a complete copy of the Action Plan by contacting Bob Towers at bobtowers@btinternet.com.

Action Plan

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
AP01	Community Action Plan	Support the development of appropriate focus groups to take the following initiatives forward.	The extent to which these ideas can be put into practice depends on the availability of facilities and resources and the number of participants prepared to initiate and take issues forward.	Duration of Plan	H
AP02	Distribution	An electronic copy (pdf) of the Community Action Plan to be produced along with a Summary to go to each household.	The Summary will be distributed with the Eden District Council Skelton Parish Housing Needs Survey, which will also cover all households in Ivegill.	0-6mths	H
AP03	Distribution	The Community Action Plan, Household Survey, Young Persons' Survey and Warwick Network Ltd Data to be available on line.	This should form part of the revamped Skelton Parish Web site. www.skeltonparish.co.uk and can be found on the Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) website www.cumbriaaction.org.uk	0-6mths	H
AP04	Distribution	Distribute the Community Action Plan.	To include Cumbria County Council, Eden District Council and Hesketh Parish Council and existing activity groups to see how they could take the actions forward.	0-6mths	H
AP05	Adoption and Review	Present the Community Action Plan to the Skelton Parish Council for adoption and annual review.		Duration of Plan	H
AP06	Celebration	Events to be arranged at each Village Hall.	Focus to be on a social activity to bring the community together e.g. BBQ.	0-6mths	H

Community Facilities & Young People

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
CF01	Village Halls	Continue to financially support Village Halls when suitable applications made.	This is current Parish Council practice subject to approval of project and funds available.	Duration of Plan	M
CF02	Village Halls	Liaise with Village Hall Committees about future developments and improvements and to find additional sources of funding.	Visits to other village halls, such as Crosthwaite, Bolton and the new hall at Newbiggin could be considered along with joint meetings of existing Parish Village Hall Committees to liaise and exchange ideas and resources.	1yr	M
CF03	Additional activities	Facilitate the setting up of new clubs and activities within the Community.	A club/activities night at Village Halls could be arranged to establish levels of interest and volunteer support, in association with Village Hall Committees and existing group organisers.	0-6 mths	H
CF04	Existing Activities	Support where necessary the many successful existing activities.	The knowledge and expertise of those running existing activities is an important resource for the Community.	Duration of Plan	M
CF05	Community Shop	See if there is enough interest within the community to set up a 'Village Exchange' and if so, establish a working group to take this forward at different settlement areas.	Success has been achieved elsewhere in Cumbria by villages organising a 'Village Exchange', where a limited selection of goods is offered by local people. The recent "book exchange" at Skelton Village Hall is a promising start.	1yr-2yrs	H
CF06	Local facilities Pub/Post Office	Encourage the use of local services, to keep them viable, such as the Skelton Post Office and Dog and Gun Pub. Look at holding pub nights in other community buildings.	A dual approach is necessary. To use existing facilities or risk losing more of them or where no facilities exist to think of alternative ways to meet the need.	Duration of the Plan	H
CF07	Youth Clubs	Support the development of Youth Clubs and other young peoples groups.	Skelton Youth club meet at the Methodist Chapel and Village Hall, Skelton Young Farmers meet at Hutton End and Scout group meet at Ivegill.	Duration of Plan	H
CF08	Play Areas	Work with Eden District Council/Parish Council to improve the play areas.	Liaise with Play Area Committees.	2yrs-3yrs	M
CF09	Play Areas	Liaise with Skelton School to upgrade the Tennis Court.	Research funding through education/sports grants.	2-3yrs	M
CF10	Play Areas	Research possibility of footpaths to Skelton play area and extend the 30 mph zone.	Request Parish Council to see if feasible and criteria needed.	1yr	H

Natural Environment

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
EN01	Red Squirrels	Support the Red Squirrel Preservation Scheme.	82% of people replying to the survey wished to support a preservation scheme. Penrith and District Red Squirrel Group is well established.	0-6mths	H
EN02	Allotments and Community Gardens	Identify sites for allotments and community gardens.	Allotments already exist in Skelton Village, mostly on private land. Land for more allotments may take some time to source, but would be providing encouragement to the current resurgence in own vegetable production. Ivegill is developing a Peace Garden.	2-3 years	L
EN03	Garden Share Scheme and Garden Club	Encourage, promote and advertise Garden Schemes/Clubs.	The Goode Garden Club, led from Lamonby, with a wide spread of members is an existing facility for others to copy. A garden share scheme may be an alternative proposition to an allotment.	1-2 yrs	M
EN04	Wildlife Corridor / Friendly Areas	Invite suggestions for potential project sites.	Part of Skelton Churchyard is a designated wildlife friendly area. Sites in villages are most easily accessed and managed. A wildlife corridor is a longer term project. New woodlands would help farm diversification and create wildlife habitats.	Duration of plan	L
EN05	Village in Bloom	Encourage community action to re-enter Village in Bloom competitions.	Entry into the competition at village or hamlet level would provide a worthwhile community venture and would recapture the experience and successes achieved in past years. This could be linked to other measures to improve the local environment.	2-3 years	L
EN06	Public Footpath	Create a Skelton Footpath Group.	A natural environmental focus group initially dealing with footpaths in Skelton has been formed to establish a footpath from Skelton Church to the Upfront Gallery. It is supported by the existing Ivegill Footpath Group.	0-6mths	H
EN07	Public Footpath	Creation of a footpath around the boundaries of the Community.	This is a long term project which requires a project brief as a first step.	Duration of Plan	L
EN08	Public Footpath and Walking Groups	Provide information about local walking and footpath groups.	The well established Ivegill Footpath Group invites local people to join in monthly walks. Walk 4 Fun is a weekly walking group operating from Lamonby.	0-6mths	H
EN09	Public Footpath	Prepare and publish a Parish Footpath Map.	The Parish Footpath Map, based on the Definitive Map, should be displayed locally (e.g. village halls). Leaflet versions should be available.	2-3 years	L
EN10	Litter/ Mud on the Road/dog fouling	Increase awareness of actions that can be taken.	Formal complaints should be made to Eden DC. Continued liaison between the Parish Council and the appropriate authorities required.	1yr	M
EN11	Roads, drains and verges	Work with Cumbria County Council and local land owners to find ways of dealing with dirty roads, blocked drains and damaged verges.	CCC as a Highway Authority has a statutory duty to maintain highways, cut back overgrowth, repair surfaces and bridges.	1yr	M
EN12	Litter	Arrange and promote a number of seasonal community litter picks.	This initiative could be school/youth focused but involving the whole community in each area.	1yr	M

Neighbourhood

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
NE01	Neighbourhood Watch Scheme	Promote and extend the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.	Current organisers to be asked to undertake a recruiting drive. Liaise with Neighbourhood Policing Team.	0-6mths	H
NE02	Farm Watch Scheme	Promote the Farm Watch Scheme.	Liaise with Neighbourhood Policing Team.	Duration of Plan	H
NE03	Good Neighbours Scheme	Look into the potential of setting up a good neighbour's scheme.	Such a scheme would keep in contact with elderly, and sick and vulnerable people, living alone and maybe outside the settlements, in order to ensure they are not in any difficulty (with their permission of course).	1-2yrs	M

Communication & Business

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
CM01	Local Website	Develop and expand the Skelton Parish Website, including incorporating Parish Notes.	The development of electronic means of delivery should not be to the detriment of the more traditional methods of communication.	6mths-1 yr	M
CM02	Parish Directory / Welcome Pack	Publish annually a Parish Directory which would form the basis of a welcome pack.	Directory to contain as much information as can be collected about facilities and services, including local businesses, which are available in the Community.	1yr	M
CM03	Notice Boards	Maintain and review.	This is done by the Parish Council.	Duration of Plan	H
CM04	Broadband Speeds	Keep abreast of Cumbria wide initiatives.	There is a need to increase broadband and connectivity rate and reach.	Duration of Plan	L

Built Environment

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
BE01	Road Conditions/Pot Holes/Gritting	Encourage local residents to report dangerous conditions on roads to the Highways hotline (08456096609).	Safety of pedestrians, especially children and the elderly must take priority.	Duration of Plan	H
BE02	Road Safety	Campaigning for traffic calming measures and lower speed limits to be encouraged.	A simple method of traffic calming and considerate parking would be beneficial.	Duration of Plan	L
BE03	Salt Bins	Seek volunteers prepared to grit local areas.	Additional supplies of salt/grit are now available with the distribution organised by the Parish Council.	1yr-2yrs	M
BE04	Recycling	Increase recycling provision. Provide facilities for recycling plastic. Maintain and support the existing recycling centres.	The Skelton Village Hall Committee is currently looking into providing a plastic recycling facility.	Duration of Plan	H
BE05	Renewable Energy	Look at potential of renewable energy usage for the community and for individuals.	Photovoltaic panels to turn sunlight into electricity could be installed on village halls which would benefit from the feed-in tariff. New and existing homes could also benefit from energy efficient measures.	Duration of Plan	L

Housing and Development

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
HD01	Housing needs	Eden District Council to undertake a full Housing Needs Survey.	The Household Needs Survey will be conducted by Cumbria Rural Housing Trust.	0-6mths	H

Health and Wellbeing

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
HW01	Healthy Lifestyles	Encourage the holding of keep-fit sessions in the village halls.		Duration of Plan	H
HW02	Local Provision	Investigate the provision of additional local health services.	Such as blood donor service and a flu jab clinic.	1yr	M
HW03	First Responders	Extend the First Responders Group to cover the whole area. Continue with promotion campaign.	Additional people have been trained during the development of this Action Plan. Others are needed. A contact group operates effectively in Lamonby.	Duration of Plan	H

Transport and Access

No	Issue	Action	Comments	Timescale	Priority
TA01	Voluntary Car Scheme	Further promote the existing Voluntary Car Scheme.	Greater publicity to be given to promoting the existing Voluntary Car Scheme and to recruiting more voluntary drivers. VCS co-ordinators are looking at ways to assist those who used the former bus service.	0-6mths	H
TA02	Alternative Transport Modes	Investigate, promote and advertise such schemes as Rural Wheels and Fellrunner Buses.	A start has been made with this Community Action Plan.	0-6mths	H
TA03	Alternative Transport Modes	Investigate possible use of School bus in mornings and afternoons when it runs back and forth empty.		1yr	H
TA04	Timetables	Ensure bus timetables, details of Fellrunner, rural wheels, voluntary car scheme are available on notice boards and in the Community Directory.		Duration of plan	H
TA05	Parking	Promote safe and considerate parking.		Duration of Plan	H

SPONSORS

