The Civil Parish of Sockbridge & Tirril

Community Led Plan

2018–2030

TRADITIONAL ALES
RESTAURANT
ACCOMMODATION

Preface and Acknowledgments

Sockbridge & Tirril Community Led Plan began in March 2016 when Hellen Aitken of ACT (ACTion with Communities in Cumbria) explained the process to a village meeting. With the backing of the Parish Council, a group of people got together to consult the people of the village about how to make Sockbridge & Tirril a better place to live and work. This plan reports on that consultation, and the many excellent ideas proposed, and how they might be implemented.

Community Planning is a nationally approved way for local people to explain how they would like to see their community develop, and what improvements they would like to see. Community Led Plans set out what might be done, by volunteers or Parish, District or County Councils, to meet the aspirations of the community.

Some of the ideas in the Summary 'Action Plan' at the end of this document will be achieved by volunteers even before the printed plan is published. Others may set goals for volunteers and councillors to work towards in the next twelve years, as and when they are found to be achievable. The final 'Action' in this, as in other Action Plans, is for the Annual Parish Meeting to review progress towards those goals, or to revise them in the light of experience or practicality.

Like many Community Led Plans in Cumbria, this Plan is the work of an independent Steering Group. The Steering Group included at various times Debbie Akam Power, Simon Brown, David Gate, Richard Gravil, Philip Greening, Sarah Greening, Judith Morris, Sindy Phillips, and Clare Tremayne. We also acknowledge gratefully the support and advice received from the following:

Hellen Aitken of ACT

Sally Hemsley, Eden District Council Liaison Officer

Dawn Hurton, Cumbria County Council Liaison Officer

Cllr David Whipp, Chair of CCC Eden Local Committee

Anne Brodie of Claife Parish Council

Members of the Village Hall Committee

Sockbridge & Tirril Parish Council

Above all we thank the many people who provided the suggestions that went into the Community Survey, vetted the Survey, helped to prioritise the outcomes, provided photos (mostly Irene Gate and Richard Gravil) or have volunteered to carry out the Actions. These included: the farming community (Sockbridge Hall Farm, Tirril Farm, Kirkbarrow Farm); other businesses: (Bed & Breakfast establishments and Accommodation providers); TASCA; Tirril Women's Guild; the Wine Club, the Community Lunch; the Gardening Club; Art Groups; Pub Quiz; Book Club; Scottish Country Dancing; the Indoor Bowling Club; the Play Group; and Barton Church.

Sindy Phillips, David Gate
(December 2018)

1. About the Parish

"A very friendly village to live in."

"I enjoy living here because there is a strong sense of village community. People are friendly and willing to help each other."

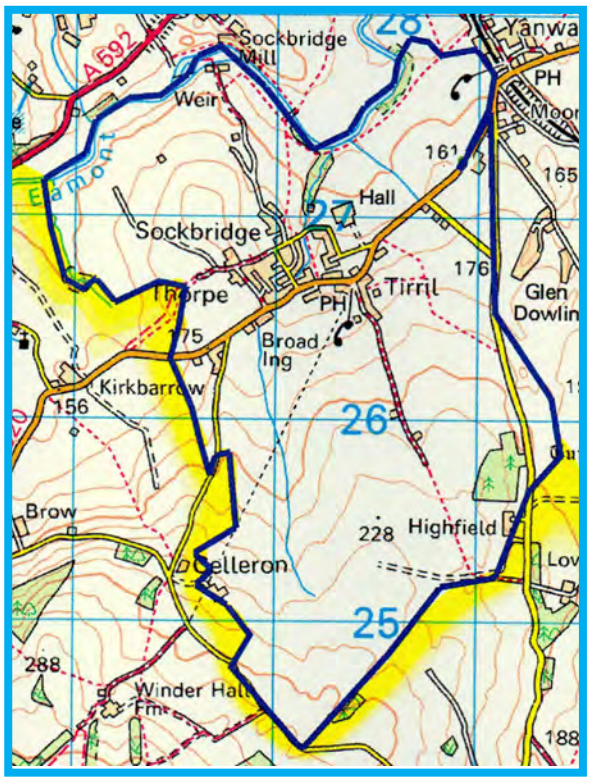
Despite its proximity to Penrith, the Parish of Sockbridge & Tirril remains agricultural. Of its most visible businesses, one is the village pub, one is the garage, but six are farms (three of them now farmed from outside the parish) and one is an agricultural merchant. That rural character is why the next tier of businesses is made up of accommodation letting or bed and breakfast establishments. Well over 90% of the parish is arable or grazing land.

While the spaces between the three historic village settlements (Sockbridge, Tirril and Thorpe) have been much reduced by recent development, the outline of the combined settlement is much as it was in the first reliable maps two hundred years ago—a rectangle with Sockbridge Hall, Tirril Lodge, Thorpe Farm and Broad Ing at its corners.

There was, and is, some scattered housing along the roads and lanes that lead to Tirril Farm, Celleron, Pooley Bridge, Sockbridge Mill, Yanwath and Askham, but as these thoroughfares are open on one side they remain rural rather than suburban.

Overwhelmingly, what people like about living in Sockbridge & Tirril is the sense of a vibrant, supportive community, and the fact that it

A village group exploring Moor Divock



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is set in the countryside. Placed between Eamont Bridge and Pooley Bridge, the village has easy access to river walks, Ullswater, possibly the most beautiful of the lakes, the expanse of Barton and Helton Moor, with its rich archaeology and stunning views, and the woodlands of Lowther.

"I feel lucky and blessed to live here"

(Comments in red cursive throughout this document were made by parishioners during consultations, or in the Community Survey.)

Main Issues arising in the Survey

The big issues arising from the Community Survey and detailed in the following pages were as follows: (a) some aspects of village infrastructure and maintenance; (b) traffic and parking problems, (c) protecting green spaces, (d) creating new footpaths and cycleways, and (e) responding to the willingness of large numbers of villagers to help others in their daily lives or in emergencies.

Not only do 93% of respondents value the green spaces in and around the village, they also make use of them. 73% make daily or

weekly use of the footpaths and bridleways surrounding the village. 70% backed the idea of a five-or-six-mile circuit encompassing much of the parish boundary, and 51% claim they would walk or cycle to Penrith and Pooley Bridge if better routes existed.

As the survey established, village social life centres on the Village Hall and The Queen's Head (used by 91% and 89% of respondents respectively) but because of lack of essential services within Sockbridge & Tirril—no churches, post office, shops, health centre or sports facilities—parishioners also depend on Penrith (for health, education and shopping), and also on neighbouring villages with better or complementary services and amenities. Pooley Bridge Post Office and Shop serve 88% of respondents, while 46% and 25% use Askham's shop and Open Air Swimming Pool.

Our Heritage

"There is mention of respecting 'architectural heritage'. I think that this was abandoned many years ago. Many houses, including my own, would fit comfortably in any suburban estate anywhere in England"

About half of all villagers now live in low-lying modern housing, built in the 80s and 90s to fill the space between Thorpe and the Ladybeck. At the end of that expansion (which doubled the housing stock of the village) the village shop and post office closed. But roughly 10% of domestic buildings in the villages of Sockbridge and Tirril (22 of 210) are listed by Historic England and at least another 5% are of historic interest. The Elizabethan Gatehouse of 14th Century Sockbridge Hall, and its great barn, are much the most important buildings in the three villages, but much of old Sockbridge, clustered around Wordsworth House and the T-junction is late 17th or 18th Century.

Early 17th Century Tirril Hall and Grove Farm, the early 18th Century Queen's Head and Quaker Meeting House, and much of the 18th Century housing between Yew Tree House and the Old Post Office are also listed.

Surprisingly, no buildings in Thorpe are listed, but (at the time of writing) this hamlet still has *nothing* to mar its harmonious cluster of buildings from the 1600s to about 1840.

Forgotten Names

The land itself has a forgotten heritage. Its 250 fields were once designated 'crofts', and had names suggesting archaeology ('Old Tirril' south east of Tirril House and 'Great Longbarrow' north of Thorpe Barn), particular people ('Moffat's Croft', south of the village hall, also called 'Jane Idle's Garth'), family memory (Grandsire's Croft, east of Lime Grove) or their condition or use ('Mirehead', 'Quarry field', 'Stackyard'). The footpath from Tirril to Sockbridge runs through 'Tirril Croft' south of the bridge, and up through 'Sockbridge Green' north of it. The square field in front of Sockbridge Hall was known as 'Crowgarth Wood'. The path to Stainton Bridge runs down through 'Uckerdale'.

Heritage Actions

Some parishioners looked forward to a community that knows more about its heritage and what it has lost. So to celebrate our heritage, groups of volunteers will be set up to implement three projects:

- A Heritage Board for the use of residents and visitors (Action B4).
- A Heritage Trail Guide to the Village (Action B5).
- A renewed Heritage exhibition in the Village Hall (Action H3).

The Planning Context

In July 2015 EDC proposed Sockbridge & Tirril as a 'key hub' for speculative housing development. This proposal was opposed by 80% of residents in a referendum with a 72% turnout. Objectors noted that the village lacked the facilities that make a settlement sustainable (essential services, regular transport, a viable shop). Representatives from Sockbridge & Tirril played an active part in several months of public hearings on the Eden Local Plan and helped to reduce the number of key hubs in Eden from 28 locations to just 13, chosen on sustainability criteria. With its few services, Sockbridge & Tirril was the first 'hub' removed from the original list.

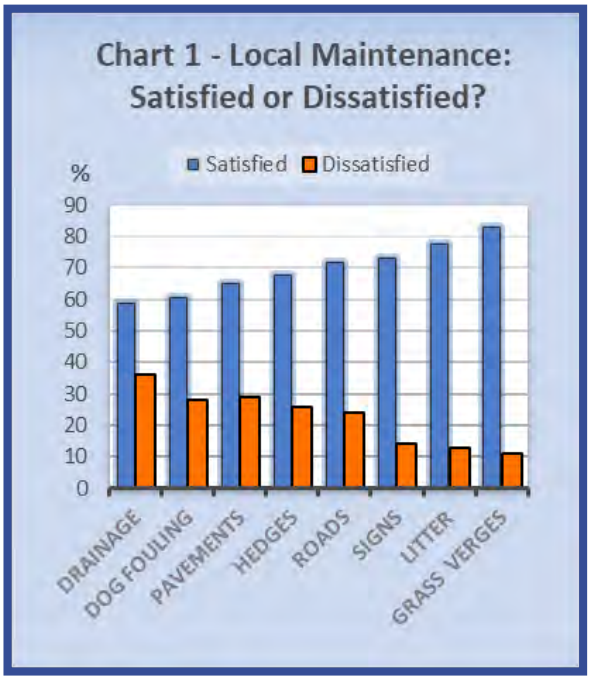
Sockbridge & Tirril have grown by about 1% a year in the last decade, through 'windfall' development (i.e. one or two homes at a time), rising from 195 households in 2011 to 210 in 2017, but the context for this Community Led Plan is a proven determination by the community that speculative development should not decide its future. In short, Sockbridge & Tirril sees itself as a settlement on the edge of the Lake District National Park, not a suburb of Penrith. In the words of one respondent this is:

"A beautiful village location on the edge of the National Park with stunning views in all directions"

2. Parish Maintenance and Development

Maintenance

People were asked in the Community Survey how satisfied or dissatisfied they were with aspects of how the parish is maintained. The results are shown in Chart 1 (left).



It is encouraging that, on every question, people were more satisfied than not. In fact, there was little dissatisfaction, and the figures quoted below are low. The impression is of a tidy, well-kept village. Yet many people are keen to tackle what problems there are, and volunteered to do so by forming teams to (1) pick weeds and litter (65 people), and (2) to maintain footpaths and bridleways (43 people).

Road drainage produced the highest level of dissatisfaction. This is the responsibility of Cumbria County Council Highways, as are

some other areas of concern: Pavements and road maintenance. See Actions A1, A3, A5.

26% of respondents were dissatisfied with **Overgrown Hedges**. One complained:

"People need to keep bushes & trees cut back so that footpaths can be walked on and not have to step out on the road"

Problems should be reported to Highways Hotline. If problems persist, complainants should ask the Parish Council to write to the landowner. (Action A4).

28% were dissatisfied with **Dog Fouling**. It is proposed to include advice in the Parish Directory, and to leaflet holiday homes about the health hazards to people and livestock (Action A2).

Litter troubled only 13% of respondents. Nevertheless, many villagers volunteered to join a litter- and weed-picking group, to supplement the work of the local authority, and keep the village in tip-top condition. This group could also deal with what 14% saw as a problem: keeping signs clean.

83% were satisfied with **Control of Grass Verges,** though one person commented:

"Really disappointed in the number of vehicles that either run into everyone's well-kept grass verges or park their vehicles and trailers on them causing them to become rutted and muddy especially in winter"

There was a comment that hedge-cutting should be carried out properly, and that verges and hedges are vital habitat for wildlife.

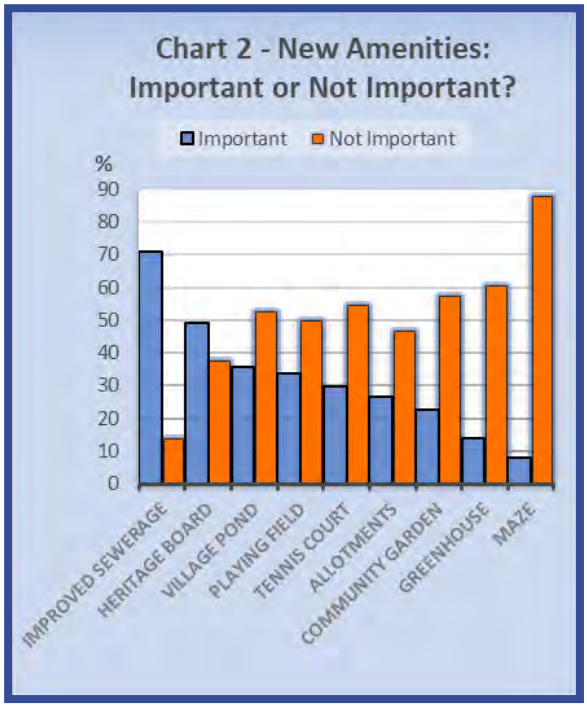
"The method of cutting hedges i.e. slashing them is wrong and the resulting mess is not cleared up, particularly on main roads, resulting in punctures etc. It also interferes with the natural supply of food for birds and wild animals."

People were prompted to indicate any unsightly features of the village that could be improved.. There were few, the most mentioned being overhanging vegetation on the paths and the lack of footpath maintenance (both mentioned seven times). Untidy gardens, the parking of cars on the roadside or grass verges, and the appearance of parts of the main road were each mentioned five times.

Parish Developments

At the start of the CLP process, consultation with villagers generated a large number of ideas for new amenities (Chart 2) and further ideas to be followed up (Chart 3, overleaf). So we selected as many as possible (sixteen in all), and asked people in the Survey how important they considered them to be.

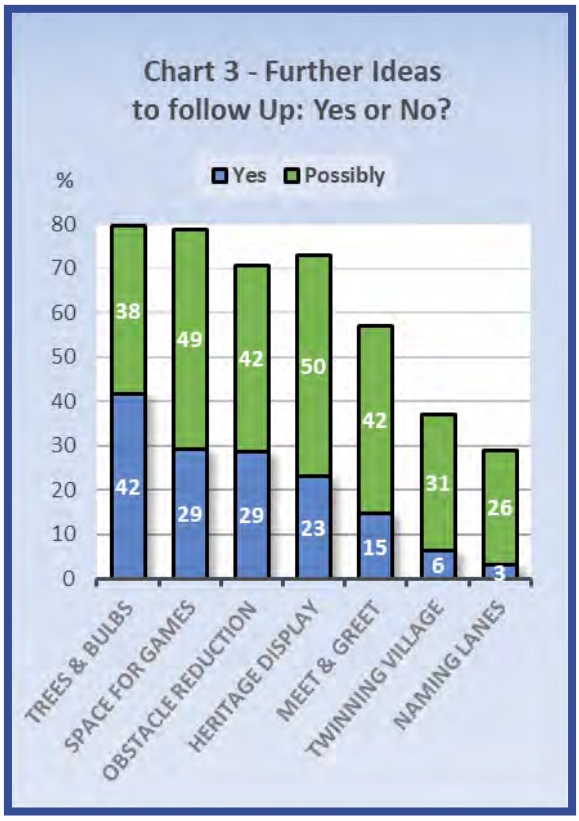
Clearly, some would be more costly and more difficult to achieve than others, and some might be unachievable. We decided to carry forward into our Action Plan the five ideas that had most support, and where the way to implement them seemed clear. That is not to say that the other ideas are rejected: they may be feasible in the future, when an innovative solution might emerge.



1. Improved sewerage

71% of respondents rated improved sewerage important or very important, so it is proposed to draw upon local expertise to make a formal representation to United

Utilities on the specific problems in the sewerage network and how they should be improved (Action B1).



2. Planting of trees and bulbs in public spaces

163 people supported this suggestion (only 21 opposed it). It is proposed to set up a volunteer group to consider what to plant, where to plant it, and how to maintain it and keep it safe. The group would then make a proposal to the Parish Council. (Action B2).

3. A survey of obstacles to accessibility

Some members of our community, for example users of wheelchairs, pushchairs and those with impaired mobility, experience problems that are not obvious to other villagers. A volunteer group will look at obstacles to their mobility and report to the Parish Council (Action B3).

4. A Heritage Board

100 people (49%) welcomed the proposal for a Parish Heritage Board for the benefit of locals, visitors and tourists. A volunteer group will draw up a proposal to design a board, and apply for funding, via the Parish Council, to the Community Grant Fund, which we believe will be successful because of the benefits to visitors (Action B4).

5. Allotments

55 people (27% of respondents) expressed an interest in allotments, so we will set up a volunteer group to pursue the issue (Action B6). The group could

- petition the PC for action (allotments are a statutory PC responsibility);
- investigate the use of vacant lots elsewhere;
- promote sharing of private gardens for mutual benefit.

6. A Green Space for Games

See page 13 and Action F2, for details of the Action proposed.

3. Housing and Planning

Housing

The CLP Survey asked what housing might be needed within three years. Of 18 respondents to the CLP survey who specified a need, seven or eight were wanting to downsize or upsize, which needs can be met by the normal rate of housing turnover in the village. Six wanted 'first time buyers' homes to purchase' which may be met by current market provision. However, four wanted 'low-cost homes to buy or rent' (there are only 4 units of housing at social rent in the village) and one or two

wanted 'sheltered housing', if that were possible without leaving the village.

This suggests that housing needs have barely changed since the 2011 Housing Needs Survey by Cumbria Rural Housing Trust. It considered that there was an above average turnover of market housing in Sockbridge and Tirril and identified just 6 respondents judged to be in need of 'affordable housing', of whom 3 wanted 2-bedroom flats (as many as there are now). The Trust (which no longer exists) concluded that 'consideration should be given' to creating a small number of 2 and 3 bed-roomed properties to provide 'adaptable and sustainable accommodation for the community'.

When asked what type of housing would be desirable, a majority of respondents recognised the needs of two groups: young people being forced away by the price of market housing, and older people wanting suitable housing without having to leave the community. There was clear opposition to further speculative development with only marginal benefit to the community.

Conclusion: those with needs should make their needs known to the EDC Housing Officer. Eden District Council is currently conducting a 2018 Housing Needs Survey.

Planning Guidelines.

In the Eden Local Plan (adopted in October 2018) Sockbridge & Tirril is classified among the smaller villages and hamlets, where 'All development must be of a high quality design and will be restricted to infill sites, which fill a modest gap between existing buildings within the settlement; or rounding off, which provides a modest extension beyond the limit of the settlement to a logical, defensible boundary'. Also, such development must either re-use 'previously-developed land' or, if using greenfield sites, be restricted to people who met 'local connection criteria'.

Planning Guidelines for the Village would not have force in themselves but could be helpful to parishioners responding to future planning applications. They should be based on respondents' strong views about protecting green space within and bordering the village, and the strong support for each of the criteria listed below, ranging from 62% to 95%. The Planning Guidelines should state these concerns clearly, reinforced where possible by relevant policies in the Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Respondents to the survey thought that any future developments should:

Include ample parking for residents	95%
Be of attractive design & materials	88%
Preserve green space with the village	85%
Respect the architectural heritage	85%
Contribute to village infrastructure	85%
Contribute to village amenities	85%
Preserve views into / out of the village	79%
Use infill or brownfield sites only	77%
Have adequate energy conservation	76%
Respect the 3 settlement boundaries	67%
Provide street lighting	62%
Not increase traffic in the Narrows	62%

Street lighting provoked a mixed response. 33 people opposed this criterion, and light pollution of the night sky was raised as an issue during consultations and in objections to the development planned for the field west of Thorpe. Planning Guidelines will be drafted by a working party (Action C2).

"This is a great parish. Unspoilt village not swamped by large scale housing developments"

4. Transport and Utilities

Public Transport

Sockbridge & Tirril is on a bus route between Penrith and Patterdale, and Windermere in the Summer (useful to walkers), but buses do not run at times of day suitable for travel to or from work, or education, or evenings out. So 70% of respondents depend on a car or motorbike on a daily basis, and 93% at least monthly. (In fact 48% of households in the 2011 census had two, three or four cars, which is significantly higher than in Cumbria or England). When asked their reasons for using public transport rarely or never, 48% of respondents said that there were not enough buses at the times needed (even during the day) while another 16% could not because of their age, or with a wheelchair, or simply because shopping by bus was not practicable with heavy shopping, given the distance of bus stops from supermarkets.

On the positive side, the fact that more claim to use a bicycle than use a bus at least once monthly (28% to 25%), and that only 40% say they never cycle, is the reason for Actions G4 and G5—improving cycle networks.

Voluntary Transport

Only 56% knew of *Rural Wheels* and 6 had used the service; while just 46% knew of the *Voluntary Car Scheme* and 5 had used it (Action D1).

Utilities

Heating

People were asked how they heat their home, and they replied:

Oil	98%
Wood	56%
Electricity	40%
LPG	9%
Other	10%

Answers exceed 200% because many use more than one fuel. 'Other' fuels included coal, propane, solid fuels, or heat pump.

Gas

There is no mains gas in Sockbridge and Tirril. People were asked: if it were available, would they switch? 26% said Yes, 27% said No, and 44% said it would depend on the cost of connection. This potentially positive reaction would make it worthwhile to ask our local representatives to lobby Northern Gas for action (Action E1).

Oil

Sockbridge and Tirril is fortunate to have a Village Oil Buying Group which communicates by email and negotiates an advantageous price with oil suppliers. The public-spirited volunteer who runs it has also created a network of "oil buddies" whereby those who are on email help those who are not.

20% of respondents said they were members of the Group, and 28% said they would join. This implies that people would join if they knew more about it, so it is proposed to publicise the Group in the Parish Directory and the Tirril Times (Action E2).

Mobile Phone

Respondents mentioned 14 different mobile phone companies, of which just three were used by 80% of them. Satisfaction levels with these three providers were:

Provider	Good	Fair	Poor
02	56%	17%	28%
Vodafone	41%	44%	16%
EE	14%	52%	34%

Mobile reception depends on location, with some parts of the village getting better reception than others, regardless of provider.

Broadband

For Broadband, 51% used BT, while a further 37% used three other providers. Satisfaction levels with these three were:

Provider	Good	Fair	Poor
BT	48%	33%	19%
Plusnet	60%	40%	0%
Sky	23%	23%	54%
TalkTalk	45%	36%	18%

Variation in broadband speeds is influenced by the distance from the cabinet at Sockbridge Lane junction.

These satisfaction figures will be included in the Parish Directory.

5. Parking, Traffic, Safety

Parking Problems

Sockbridge and Tirril have no community car park. Many period houses in both Tirril and Sockbridge have no private parking even for one vehicle. The Village Hall (Tirril's 1914 Reading Rooms) also has no car park.

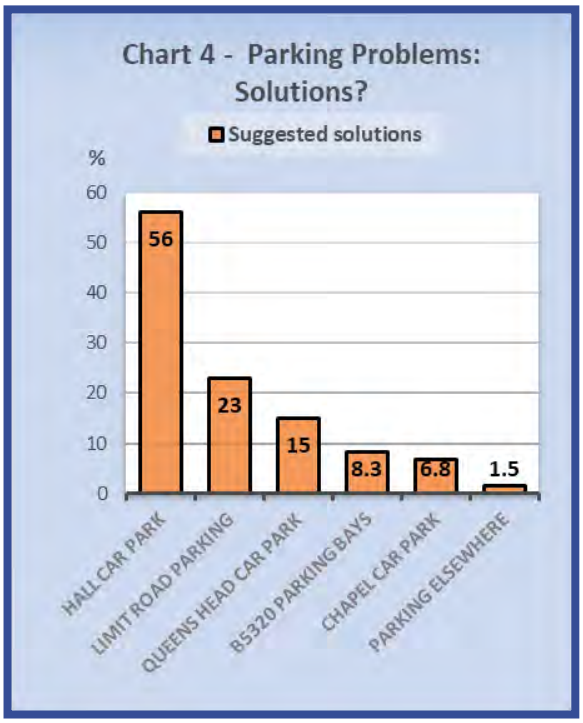
On an average evening there are ten or twelve vehicles parked on the bendy stretch between Tirril Lodge and The Queen's Head. Local Residents and those attending events at the Village Hall have to compete for the eight to twelve parking spaces surrounding the triangular green in front of the Village Hall. And such parking obstructs visibility for those entering or leaving Tirril Farm Lane, driving through the village, or attempting to cross the road to reach the Village Hall.

Views on Parking Solutions

In phase one of the CLP process, many people

suggested there should be a car park 'behind the Village Hall', meaning south or east of the hall. In the Survey itself, 32% said they had a problem with local parking, and 28% of respondents favoured locating a car park 'behind the Village Hall'. In another question, 67% regarded having a car park 'within 100 yards of the Village Hall' as a high or very high priority, which is a higher percentage than the 49% who use the Village Hall at least once a month. However, seven respondents objected in principle to encouraging car use by building a car park at all.

Responses to suggested parking solutions are shown in Chart 4.



Subject to landowner consent there are now four possibilities for a small community car park in Tirril. Two of these would require a 20 mph speed limit on the B 5320 and a safe walkway through the Narrows to make them practicable, two would involve considerable excavation, and all four involve difficulties of access. Therefore, despite the popular feeling that a car park near the Village Hall may be desirable, it can only be regarded as a low priority, because at this point it would appear unachievable, and it was rated a low priority in the village meeting setting priorities for actions in this Plan.

However, it would be open to residents in the neighbourhood of the village green, or to the Village Hall Committee, to put a proposal to the owners of suitable sites, to resolve the conflict between residents' parking and village hall parking. Meanwhile, some management of parking on the B5320 (see Action D2) may alleviate parking problems as part of a general approach to traffic and safety, if Cumbria Highways agrees.

Traffic Problems

Responses to the Survey suggest that road safety is the major issue in Sockbridge & Tirril, (a) because the B5320 is both a village street (with utterly inadequate pavements) and a busy route from the M6 to Ullswater, and (b) because it affects young and old alike. Asked whether they were concerned about road safety in the parish, respondents answered:

Yes: 69%. No 26%

Moreover, 67% of respondents volunteered over 160 comments on this issue which break down as follows:

- **Speeding**: 80 complained of speeding at both ends of the village; past Tirril Moor, through 'the Narrows' and past the village green; between the 'Tirril, Queen's Head' bus stop and the Village Hall; past each of the road junctions into Sockbridge and Thorpe Field; past the 'Sockbridge, Quaker's Lane' bus stop in the direction of Pooley Bridge; and at Margate Cross.
- **Lack of pavements**: 31 complained of the lack of pavements in the Narrows, where the pavement tapers to nothing at both ends of the Narrows, resuming on the other side of a blind bend (and on the other side of the road); being intermittent throughout the village from one bus stop to the other. There is no pavement at all between Greenkiln and Margate Cross; and the pavement is too narrow for buggies or even those using walking sticks for much of the distance between Tirril and Yanwath School.

Perceived Danger Points on the B 5320

A = Margate Cross Junction B = Celleron Junction C = Thorpe Junction

D = Quaker Lane E= Tirril Green Junction F = Sockbridge Hall Junction G = Bob's Lonning

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- **Parked vehicles**: 29 complained of parked vehicles on both sides of the road obstructing visibility for pedestrians and for drivers (though two people said this slowed the traffic).
- **Road crossings**: 11 complained of lack of assistance to those needing to cross the road opposite Tirril Lodge, or between either pair of bus stops, or simply because the pavement switches from one side of the road to the other where visibility is poor.
- **Blind junctions**: respondents complained of poor visibility at Tirril Moor, at Tirril Lodge, at Tirril Farm Lane, at Quaker Lane, at Thorpe Field, at Celleron lane and at Margate Cross.

Traffic Solutions

Asked 'which of the following would do most to improve safety' people chose as follows:

- radar speed signs at both ends of the village, 54%
- a 20 mph limit in 'the Narrows', 53%
- pavement improvements where there is no pavement or defective pavements, 43%
- a painted walkway in 'the Narrows', 32%
- 'Speed bumps or sleeping policemen', 20%
- Marked parking bays along the B5320, 12%

Cumbria has 20 mph limits in many less obvious places than the Tirril Narrows.

Additional suggestions included (a) extending the 40 mph limit from Yanwath to Tirril (because much traffic from Yanwath is still accelerating as it passes Tirril Moor and where it enters the 30 mph limit at Tirril Lodge); and (b) providing pedestrian refuges for certain road crossing points such as at Tirril Lodge, between both pairs of bus stops, and between Greenkiln and Thorpe Lane. (See Action D3)

Other Safety Issues

97% felt safe at home, day or night; 94% when out and about in the daytime, and 84% out in the evening (lack of street lighting made some feel only 'fairly safe').

Asked to identify any crime or nuisance experienced in the last five years just one respondent out of 205 mentioned crime ('theft'). Three mentioned dogs fouling silage (see Action G7), and four complained of aggressive cold calling on the doorstep (see Action D4). Such responses provide no evidence to call for a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

"We feel safe and are happy here"

6. Open Space and Recreation

The residents of Sockbridge & Tirril have a strong interest in the protection of Green Space. 93% of respondents said that green spaces within the built village were important or very important and 88% said the same of the fields around the perimeter.

Why? Because the % of villagers who enjoy these spaces daily, weekly or a least monthly for various purposes is as follows:

Walking	84%
Admiring Views	77%
Other exercise	40%
Showing visitors around	23%

The views most valued by respondents were:

West to the Fells from Tirril Lane	77%
East from Celleron Lane to Cross Fell	77%
North-East to Yanwath Hall, the Beacon & the Pennines	76%
South to Celleron and Winder from Quaker's Lane Bus Stop	69%

These locations were listed in the survey to ascertain the value to residents of key vistas out of the village, which have been threatened by 'development'. Other views mentioned by respondents were westward from a gateway on Celleron lane to the high fells, and from the Barton Bridleway to Blencathra.

Asked to indicate their favourite routes for walking (or running or cycling) the most popular choices were: the footpath from Sockbridge down through the fields (Uckerdale) to the River Eamont or down Sockbridge Mill Lane to the river (46), with many going across Stainton Bridge to Rheged or through the Roe Bank woods to Yanwath; up the Celleron lane to Heughscar (17); the paths from Grove Farm or Tirril Farm to High Field and the Askham road (16); various circuits of Sockbridge, Thorpe and Tirril involving roads lanes and paths (14); the bridleway to Kirkbarrow and Barton (11) or on to Pooley Bridge (though some seemed not to know of the bridleway to Pooley Bridge). One lament about long-term impact of the 2015 floods should be quoted:

"I would like the river crossing points at Sockbridge Mill and Yanwath Hall reinstated so that we have more options to do circular walks or running routes other than having to always cross the river at the footbridge"

Protecting Green Space

"... and the green spaces, which we enjoy to the full"

The Eden Local Plan identifies three small plots in Sockbridge & Tirril as 'public open space': these are the triangular greens, each with a single bench, by Tirril Reading Rooms and by the bridge over the Ladybeck, and the TASCA play area. A fourth 'green space' shown on the map is actually the Village Hall!

65% of respondents said that other spaces within the village should be designated by Eden District Council as 'Local Green Space' or 'Assets of Community Value'. The top number of nominations for such designation (including those who wanted <u>all</u> green spaces protected) were:

From the footpath to Highfield

- 97: **Moffat's Croft** (behind the Village Hall) which becomes an extension of the Hall when used for the Village Fair and other occasional celebrations
- 65: **Tirril Croft** (the field that runs down from Brookside to Sockbridge beside the Ladybeck, and includes a popular footpath)
- 49: **TASCA** the Tirril and Sockbridge Community Area and playground in High Uckerdale
- 44: **Sykelee**, the field from 'Ladybeck' to 'Greenkiln' beside the B5320

Sykelee

As TASCA is already mapped as 'Public Open Space' it is protected under Policy COM2 of the Eden Local Plan. 'Sykelee' has been the subject of frequent planning applications but has so far been defended by planning officers and inspectors as a visual amenity crucial to the character of the village and establishing an open boundary.

Eden District Council could designate either or both of 'Moffat's Croft' or 'Tirril Croft', as Local Green Space (equivalent to green belt) or as an Asset of Community Value. However, the Parish Council would need to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for this to happen. In fact, however, any 21 residents can establish an informal community group to campaign for designation. The Action Plan Implementation Team will invite a group to form for that purpose (Action F1).

A Green Space for Games

As shown in Charts 2 and 3 (Pages 5 & 6), suggestions for a variety of sports facilities or recreation areas, including a Tennis Court, an all-weather playing field, a maze, a village pond were opposed by considerably more people than supported them, and since they all involve the acquisition of land and expensive maintenance, we have not included them in the Action Plan. However, we are mindful of the fact that the Plan offers very little (except the possibility of table tennis and badminton) for those of secondary school age.

79% of respondents said 'Yes' or 'Possibly' to the idea that a green space should be set aside for games. We have discussed this with the Parish Council, and it will ask for access to the outdoor playing facilities at Yanwath School, and seek financial support if necessary from Eden District Council for this purpose (Action F2).

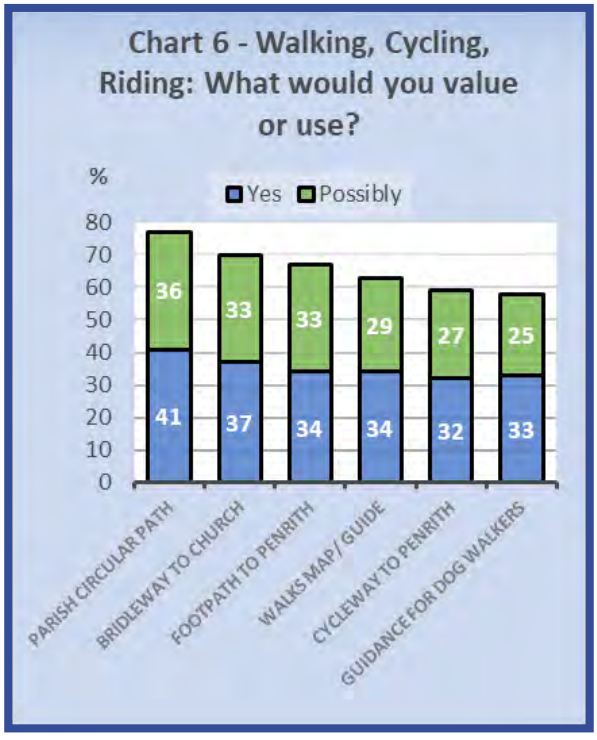
7. Footpaths and Cycleways

"We can walk out into the beautiful countryside without driving"

Respondents showed considerable interest in footpaths and cycleways. 84% said that they would walk daily (40%), weekly (33%) or monthly (11%) for their own recreation, to admire the views, or to show visitors around. 28% said that they cycle at least once a month.

Further, 51% said they would walk or cycle more if better footpaths or cycleways existed.

Walkers, cyclists and riders were asked about specific proposals which they would value and use, and several were favoured. Their answers are shown in Chart 6:



The most popular was a parish circular path (Tirril > Highfield > Celleron > Barton > Sockbridge Mill). Clearly, this would be a long-term project, but would bring great benefits to the community in health and well-being. The two sections which are not rights of way are from Highfield to Celleron, where old maps show a route, and from Barton to Sockbridge Mill, where a new route would have to be explored. New permissive routes would have to be agreed with the landowners (Action G2).

A second favoured proposal was a link from the Barton Bridleway to Barton Church, avoiding the busy main road (B5320) past Kirkbarrow farm. A route would have to be identified with landowners (Action G3).

The CCC Countryside Access Team would help to try to implement these two schemes: they accept that it is a difficult task, but "we must try as successful projects can give massive benefits to the whole community".

Walkers and riders favoured an all-weather footpath (68%) and cycleway (59%) to Penrith. At present, the missing link is a footpath between Yanwath and Eamont Bridge, located in Eamont Bridge Parish. In fact, a scheme for this, along the B5320, is included in CCC's "Devolved Highways Capital Programme", proposed by Eamont Bridge Parish Council. Unfortunately, there is no funding for it at present. It is proposed that Sockbridge and Tirril Parish Council approach its counterpart for Eamont Bridge, and offer its support, to add weight to the case to fund this improvement.

As a cycleway to Penrith is favoured, it is proposed to investigate the feasibility of extending the proposed footpath to become a combined-use path for walkers and cyclists.

Funding for cycleways may be available at present, and may improve the case for the project. The CCC Cycling Strategy Team would help with advice and support.

When asked for suggestions, 26% of those who made any wrote independently and without prompting, that they would appreciate a better footpath and a cycleway to Pooley Bridge. It would be impractical to build a footpath-cycleway alongside the narrow B5320. However, a public bridleway exists between Barton Church Farm and Hole House Farm, near Pooley Bridge. It is feasible that this could be improved, in respect of surface and access, to make it more suitable for walkers, cyclists and riders. This is located in Barton Parish in the Lake District National Park (LDNP), and the National Park is responsible for improvements. It is proposed to discuss this with Barton Parish Council and, if they agree, with the LDNP, again with the help of CCC Cycling Strategy. (Action G5).

A footpath and cycleway development group (Action G1) will pursue these projects, working with Cumbria County Council (CCC) Countryside Access Team.

These projects would be long-term, perhaps difficult, but would bring great benefits in health and well-being, and would coincide with national environmental policy in encouraging walking and cycling, and reducing the need to travel by car.

A **Map and Guide** to existing walks was favoured by 61% (Action G6).

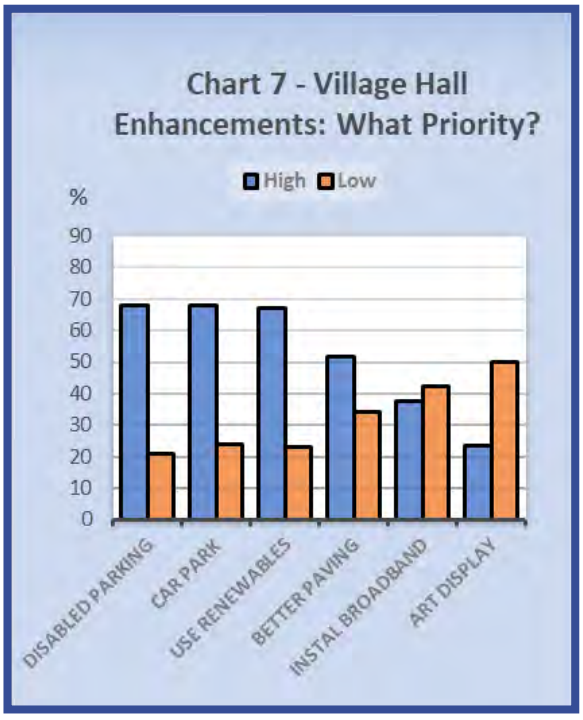
Farmland Guidelines to dog walkers on how to respect farmland and animal safety would be welcomed by 58%. This will be included in the Village Directory (see Section 11 and Action G7).

8. The Village Hall and other Amenities

"This is a very friendly village with a wide variety of activities available and opportunities for social gatherings."

Village Hall Enhancements

At the start of this consultation process, people were asked to comment on local facilities. There were many appreciative comments about how the Hall contributes significantly to our sense of community, and gratitude was expressed to the Village Hall Committee and volunteers who run and constantly improve it. Suggestions were made for enhancing the Hall, especially its acoustics, heating and insufficient exterior lighting. Since then, the Committee has addressed two of these issues. The ceiling of the Main Hall has been fitted with acoustic tiles, which has improved sound resonance, and a sensor light has been fitted to the exterior of the building to help with access during hours of darkness.



Disabled Parking

68% of respondents thought that providing disabled parking space was a high or very high priority. The Village Hall Committee has

considered several options to address this, but its own land is limited and it has no powers to restrict street parking, which would in any case inconvenience local residents. The matter has been passed on to the VHC and the Parish Council to look for possible solutions, which could include designated preferential parking but may be limited to the practical solution of a drivers' pool to take people to village events (Action H1).

Renewable Heating

Initial comments indicated a desire for improved insulation in the Village Hall to cut down on heating costs (which average £1,000 a year) and improve comfort, and for ground source heating to be installed. 67% of survey respondents considered the installation of renewable heating a high or very high priority.

The Village Hall Committee has devoted much time to this problem. In 2005, following an energy audit, the installation of solar panels was deemed to be unsuitable in terms of yield because of the alignment of the building and therefore judged to be not cost effective. An 'Energy Efficient Refurbishment Survey' in 2012, recommended that the walls be insulated, that underfloor heating be installed, and that a ground source heat pump be installed to run this. The Village Hall was insulated, but research indicated that underfloor heating (the most efficient way of using heat pumps) was not suitable for the Hall. However, in view of the fact that technology is changing rapidly, the Steering Group recommends Action H2.

A Heritage Display in Village Hall

Several pre-survey comments expressed a wish for some form of art work and/or decoration in the Main Hall. Survey results gave a permanent art display low priority, but the suggestion of a Heritage Display in the Main Hall should be carried forward (Action H3).

Improved outside paving

Pre-survey concerns regarding the crumbling tarmac between the road surface and the front steps, the rear entrance, and the east wall of the Village Hall were endorsed by a substantial number of respondents. 52% thought improvement was a high or very high priority and the village meeting on priorities also rated it a high priority. The matter is therefore referred to the Village Hall Committee for consideration (Action H4).

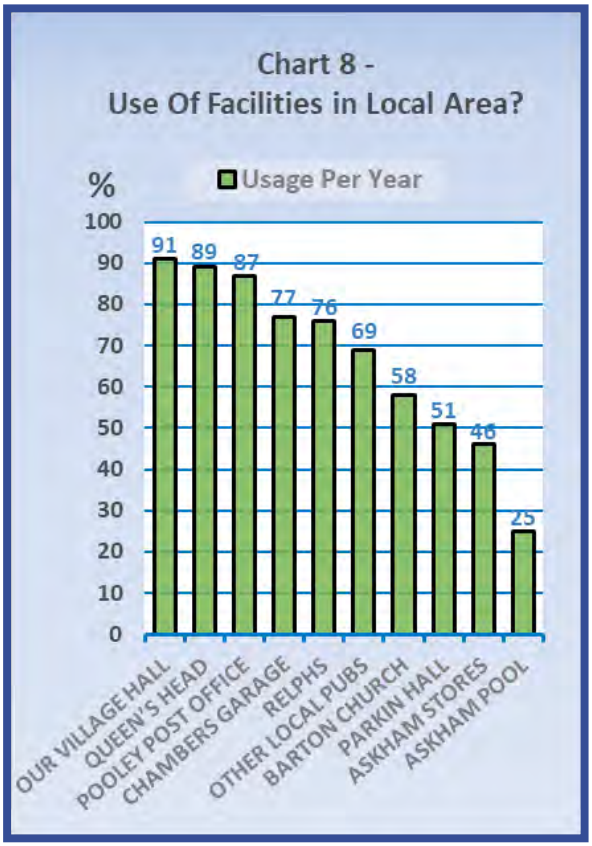
Broadband in the Village Hall

Initial suggestions included the installation of Broadband in the Village Hall. However, the fact that 56% of respondents gave this low or no support, suggests this would not be justified.

Use of Facilities in the local area

Responses indicated substantial use of the limited range of facilities in Sockbridge and Tirril and other facilities in the local area. The Queen's Head, also the venue for the Community Lunch, and the Village Hall were the most frequented. In Tirril, Chambers Garage was well used, as was Relphs.

Church-goers must leave the parish to attend services in Barton or Penrith. Many



Public-spirited villagers campaigned for, raised funds for, and built this popular play area (TASCA) which opened in September 2012.

respondents use other pubs in the locality, the Post Office and Parkin Hall in Pooley Bridge, and Askham Stores.

Including daily deliveries, Sockbridge & Tirril's most used local facility is Pooley Bridge Post Office & Shop, used by 30% at least once a week. Other facilities most used on a weekly basis are Chambers Garage (22%), the Village Hall (17%) and the Queen's Head (16%).

Several respondents also listed TASCA, the popular children's play area illustrated above, as a vital amenity, and several lamented Tirril's long-lost shop and post office.

9. Parish Activities

"... lots going on in the Village Hall"

The Women's Guild, two art groups, the Bowls Club, Scottish Dancing and English Country Dancing, a Pilates group, the Wine Club, and the Gardening Club all meet regularly in the Village Hall and the Entertainment Group has been providing memorable Christmas entertainments for decades. But the Survey suggests there is an an appetite for more.

Proposed Activities

In the survey, the most popular of the many proposed activities were: Badminton (35%), an Arts Festival (29%), a Village Mart (23%), and a regular monthly coffee morning (23%). There was also some interest shown in Table Tennis, a monthly book-swap, a Sockbridge and Tirril Choir and a d-i-y skills exchange.

The Village Hall Committee has confirmed that regular timetable slots for new activities are available and that there is some space for storage of equipment (Action I1).

Children's Activities

Pre-survey comments requested reinstatement of the pre-school toddlers play group at the Village Hall. Other suggestions included the introduction of family day-time activities, a mobile disco and a roller disco. In 2017, a Halloween party and a disco were held at the Village Hall. Both events were well attended by the children and teenagers in the village, indicating that the provision of such events in the future would be welcomed. There were several suggestions regarding the provision of open space for children and teenagers to play football and other sports (Action F2).

The number of survey responses showing interest in taking part in children's activities appeared low, but was in fact high relative to the number of young families in the parish. Responses revealed an 11% interest in supporting TASCA (Tirril and Sockbridge Community Area) as well as a 6% interest in Children's Craft Afternoons and Seasonal Parties. Discos for juniors and teenagers and a toddler's playgroup also featured in survey responses, but gained minimal support. Respondents showed some interest in attending these events but nobody expressed a willingness to organise them (Action I2).

Skill Development Classes

The survey asked respondents whether they were interested in (a) running or (b) attending skill development classes.

A number of respondents offered to run new classes. These included language classes, bee-keeping, bible study, computing, dementia caring, crafts and Heartstart. 23% of respondents indicated a wish to attend new classes, predominantly in languages, dementia caring, crafts and computing.

There was also some interest expressed in guitar lessons, yoga, flower arranging, cookery, DIY exchange, local history, music appreciation, pottery, saxophone, sculpting, singing and woodwork. Given this extensive range of interests we will publicise contact details for the variety of classes available through the Local Authority or the U3A (Action I3).

The high level of positive response with regard to Parish Activities revealed that a large proportion of the community already participates in and appreciates the events and activities currently available to them at the Village Hall. There was some indication that an increase in activities and events would be welcomed.

The S&T Entertainment Group presented Red Riding Hood in 2018.
Previous triumphs have included The Wizard of Oz (1999) and South Pacific (2009).

10. Health, Wellbeing and Volunteering

"There is a strong community spirit. We are lucky to live in an area where people care."

At the start of this process many suggestions indicated a need for support within the community, particularly for the elderly and vulnerable. The wide range of suggestions included improving infrastructure for those with walking difficulties and pushchair users, and providing workshops at the Village Hall on first aid and how to support those with dementia. The latter would increase awareness within the community about the needs of those suffering from dementia and ways of supporting their carers. There were requests for signs indicating the defibrillator, and the Village Hall Committee asked for donations towards this. The signs are now in place throughout the village. Several respondents suggested a coordinated approach to supporting the elderly and vulnerable in times of need. These included the creation of a volunteer base, and perhaps a link person to cover each area of the village.

Problems accessing Health Services

Survey results revealed a dissatisfaction with long waiting times for GP and hospital appointments and treatment. 13% of respondents indicated that they were having problems making medical appointments, and there were thirty individual comments, which further emphasised this. There was also dissatisfaction regarding the difficulties registering locally with NHS dental practices. These problems appear to be following a national trend, but the Action Plan Implementation Team will communicate this dissatisfaction to the Health Authorities via Cumbria County Council, named GP practices and local NHS dental practices (Action J1).

Meeting identified needs

9% of respondents indicated a need for some form of help. Whereas a number of these needs (e.g gardening and decorating) are available commercially, a good proportion could be met through volunteer support. 22% of respondents volunteered assistance, and 53 individual offers of help were made, including shopping, making meals, prescription collection, d-i-y jobs, snow clearing and letter writing. The survey results revealed that there is some need for support outside times of emergency, and the Action Plan Implementation Team intends to match individual requests for support with the respondents who offered help (Action J2).

Policies for meeting the needs of young people and other groups are also addressed in Actions B3, D1, F2, H1 and H4.

Help in a Parish Emergency

58% of respondents agreed that there should be some form of help and support in the event of a parish emergency, and there were 118 individual offers of practical help. These included clearing snow from roads for access and path clearing, flood recovery, offers of accommodation and transport, first aid and medical assistance, provision of meals and hot drinks, building trade and d-i-y skills, support via 'phone calls and house calls, and general assistance. The substantial level of positive response regarding Help in a Parish Emergency demonstrates a genuine level of concern and care towards the welfare of those living in the parish, in particular the elderly and the vulnerable. But how to organise it?

The Steering Group has sought advice from Hellen Aitken (ACT) and Dawn Hurton (CCC) on issues of community resilience, emergency planning and good neighbours type projects, as well as possible sources of funding. In 2018, representatives of the Steering Group attended two courses organised by Cumbria CVS on 'Eden Funding' and 'Supporting Vulnerable People during Emergencies'. The Steering Group also contacted representatives from other CLP groups in the County to find out how they had addressed this issue.

The Steering Group will establish a Village Help Network with up to three volunteer co-ordinators to work with the many individuals who have offered practical help, to devise a plan for supporting people in an emergency. Information attained from the Cumbria CVS course 'Supporting Vulnerable People during an Emergency' has provided both useful and practical guidance on how this can be achieved (Action J3).

11. Governance and Information

The Parish Council

77% of respondents felt that they were well informed on parish matters and a similar proportion felt that the Parish Council communicates well. 70% thought it should have planning powers. 49% felt that their interests were well represented by the Parish Council.

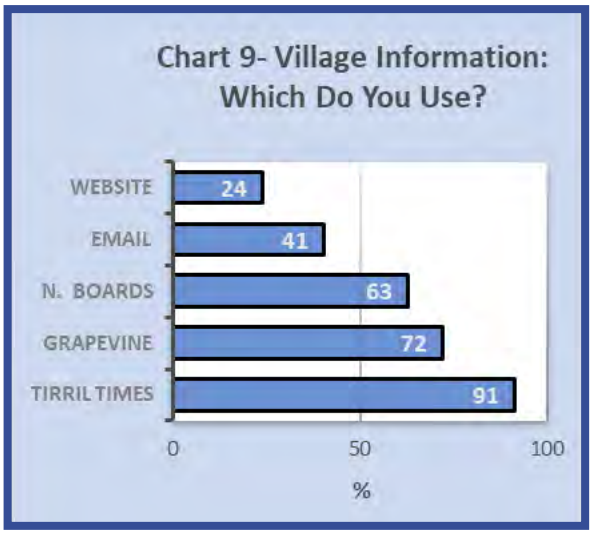
21% felt that Parish Council meetings could be more flexible, as regards public participation (on which 65% had no view). Such matters are subject to statutory regulation, but those who supported more open meetings suggested that it should not be necessary to inform the parish clerk any earlier than the start of a PC meeting of a wish to speak on an item on the agenda. It should be possible to raise points of information at any point in a PC meeting, without notice, at the discretion of the Chairman, especially if members of the public have information that Councillors need for their deliberations. It was also suggested that the 'powers' of Parish and District councils and their functions should be better communicated so that people understand the limitations (Action K1).

The District Council

Only 5% felt that EDC was responsive to local opinion, reflecting strong feelings about adverse planning decisions made in 2017.

Information sources

Respondents indicated that their main source of information about the parish comes from the Tirril Times and gave very positive feedback in their comments. The *Grapevine* and the Village Notice Boards were also relied upon, but only 41% used the Village Email service and only one in four used the Village Website. Reasons for this included the infrequent updating of the website, and not knowing when it was updated.



General information

Most respondents felt well informed about clubs and regular activities in the village, but less so about occasional events. Only 40% felt sufficiently informed about contact details for council departments and who to call about problems. Over a third of respondents felt *insufficiently* informed about both occasional events and regular activities in neighbouring villages, where the websites are also infrequently updated or very incomplete. EDC offers very small grants for website development and encourages parish websites to link to each other to improve usage and support local activities. Joint listings of clubs and occasional events in Eamont, Pooley, Askham, Clifton would not be difficult to organise if volunteers could be found to develop this and could benefit groups in all these villages.

The survey established that there was a

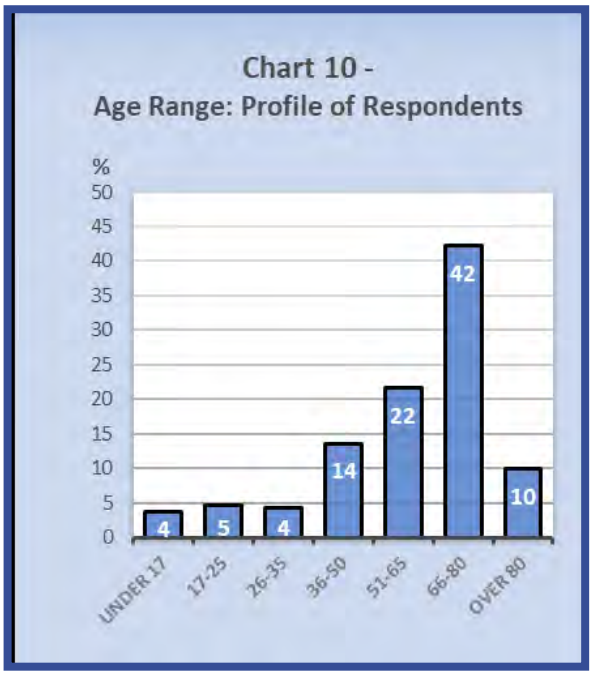
low level of information about a number of existing services, what's on in the locality, and how to get things done. (See Actions K2, K3 and K4.)

We will create a *Sockbridge & Tirril Parish Directory,* replicated on the parish website, to be updated every two years, and delivered to all houses and all newcomers. The Directory will cover such matters as what to do about potholes, blocked drains, overgrown hedges, dog fouling, saltbins and verges; how to join action groups on litterpicking and footpath maintenance; what voluntary car services are available; local experience of broadband and mobile phone providers; the village oil-buying scheme and how it works; contact details for adult education classes and for existing and new activities in the village hall and in neighbouring villages; local footpaths; emergency contact numbers; voluntary services, etc (Action K4).

12. Population and Employment

The age range of the families who responded to the survey is shown in Chart 10,

52% of respondents were over 65, and more were over 80 than under 25 or between 17 and 35. In the 2011 Census (as reported in ACT's Parish Profile) the population of Sockbridge & Tirril was 415, with 235 people of working age (210 of them employed). 135 (32%) were over 65, which was twice the national average and 50% higher than for Cumbria as a whole, but much lower than in our Survey.



Because voluntary surveys tend to be completed by more retired people than those of (or under) working age, we have born in mind that the retired are over-represented, and those still in education are under-represented, when interpreting the results.

The Elderly

As the Survey makes clear, the lack of road safety provision, or pavements, or disabled parking, means that provision for the elderly is already inadequate, and the recent approval of two speculative housing developments designed to attract the retired will undoubtedly worsen this situation with no remedy in sight.

The Young

"We love the children's park and the fact that we can walk there on public footpaths, which is easy and safe for the kids - also very pretty!"

The last Census says there were 45 under-16s in the Parish, or 11% of the population. The CLP Survey (addressed to adults on the electoral register) returned just 8 under-17s, while the 2011 Housing Needs Survey identified 25 people under 20.

Even on the Census figures it would not be possible to provide locally for the social and leisure needs of each 'decile' of young people. However, the popular 'TASCA' play area provides for younger children, and as stated earlier, we are seeking to restore the historic use by local children of Yanwath School's outdoor games area.

Business, Employment and Skills

Just 21 respondents described themselves as running a business in the village, and these included accountancy, agricultural merchandise, bed and breakfast provision, farming, accommodation letting, property services, cartography, publishing, catering, and gardening.

A sllghtly fuller picture of employment in Sockbridge & Tirril came from the 2011 Housing Survey by the Rural Housing Trust. This showed 105 people retired and 70 whose occupations could be categorised as follows:

Professional, Financial or Managerial Occupations	17
Accommodation, Tourism, Catering or Retail	12
Education or a variety of Health Professions	11
Clerical or Office Management	9
Building and other Skilled Trades	7
Farming, Horticulture, Outdoor Instruction	5
Unemployed	4
Self-employed	3
Art	1

However, the Housing Survey had only a 47% reponse rate. The Census figures included in the ACT 'Parish Profile' show 198 'economically active' residents, of whom 49 were self-employed, and 52% were engaged in 'managerial, professional or associate professional' occupations, as compared with 34% in Cumbia and 41% nationwide.

Agriculture

"I like living in a place where there are lots of animals around – sheep, cows, dogs, hens."

The Parish is part of a swathe of dairy and sheep farming that runs from Brougham and Yanwath to Barton and Pooley. All of its footpaths are through or adjacent to productive grazing land. As feedback to the survey showed, not everyone appreciates the agricultural buildings, or agricultural vehicles. However, whether looking at the local landscape or walking through it, those who use the landscape are indebted to the livelihood and the good will of our farmers. Only one constraint on any local businesses was clearly identified in the survey: the impact of thoughtless dog-walking on livestock.

Feedback during the initial consultation indicated the following farmers' concerns which will be repeated in the Parish Directory (Actions G7 and K4).This feedback emphasised that farming is a vulnerable occupation. As Sockbridge & Tirril would not be Sockbridge & Tirril without its farms, we should all be aware that these issues are important to our farming community, and offer our support.

- Lamb fatalities are much higher near footpaths because disturbance by dogs can cause separation, mis-mothering, rejection by ewes, and even death.
- 25% to 40% of abortions in cattle at six months are linked to Neosporosis. Neospora is a parasite in dog poo. It remains active in silage and through silage infects cattle. Once infected, cattle remain infected.
- Walkers should pick up after their dogs when walking through grazing fields, whether livestock is present or not, just as they would on pavements.

13. Where do we go from here?

The Sockbridge and Tirril Action Plan was endorsed by our Parish Council on 7 November 2018. It approved the formation of an independent 'Action Plan Implementation Team' to organise and coordinate the implementation of the Actions.

Some of the ideas in the 'Action Plan' will be achieved by volunteers. Others may set goals for volunteers and councillors to work towards in the next twelve years, as and when they are found to be achievable. Progress will be monitored and reviewed at the Annual Parish Meeting.

This Community Led Plan is to be delivered to every household on the parish electoral register following the Launch of the Plan in January 2019. Its success will depend on the willingness of volunteers to come forward and make these Actions happen, to make Sockbridge and Tirril a better place to live and work.

If you would like to help achieve anything that has been included in this Plan and Action Plan, either by volunteering or through funding or fundraising, please get in touch with Sindy Phillips (01768 865275) or David Gate (01768 895318).

Please visit the CLP page on the Parish Website for contact details of the Action Plan Implementation Team and further notices as the work of the team progresses.

All the costs of producing the Survey and this Plan have been met by our own fundraising, part of which has been matched by funding from ACT

Appendix
The Community Plan Diary

MARCH–APRIL 2016

Hellen Aitken of ACT gave an introductory talk at Parish Council meeting explaining that Community Led Plan is owned by the Community and not by the Parish Council

Parish Council asked Cllr. Sindy Phillips to form a Steering Group to produce a Community Led Plan.

A Public Meeting addressed by Hellen Aitken.

First meeting of Steering Group

Meeting with Barton CLP to glean their experiences of CLP process

SUMMER 2016

Draft Timeline and Budget agreed

List of 'Stakeholders' compiled;

CLP Mission Statement agreed

Launch of CLP at Summer Fair

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2016

CLP Timeline and Draft Budget

Start of Consultation with Village Groups

Individual Consultation encouraged via Village Website and Suggestions Boxes

CLP stall at Winter Fair

Drop-in sessions held at Village Hall

JANUARY–MARCH 2017

Final 'Stakeholder' Consultations

Grant Application submitted to and accepted by ACT

Analysis of Suggestions

Start of Fundraising: twice-monthly languages conversation classes

APRIL–MAY 2017

Delay caused by the involvement of the steering group members in major Planning Applications

JUNE–SEPTEMBER 2017

Paper Survey compiled and approved by ACT and EDC/CCC Liaison Officers

Parish Council and Village Hall Committee consulted on the Survey

Online version of survey finalised

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2017

Road test of survey held in Village Hall

Distribution of Survey to all Households

Statistical analysis of survey

JANUARY–MARCH 2018

Distillation of survey results and 50 pages of freeform comments into a sixteen page summary of possible outcomes.

APRIL–MAY 2018

Compiling and Revising a Draft Action Plan

Attended a CVS 'Eden Funding Event' and Consulted Claife Parish Council on Emergency Support issues

JUNE–SEPTEMBER 2018

Consultation with PC, ACT, EDC, CCC liaisonand various County Level Agencies and the County Councillor

CVS conference 'Supporting Vulnerable People During Emergencies'

Recruitment of Volunteers to Implement the Action Plan, and Prioritising Actions at a well-attended 'Action Plan Afternoon'

First Draft of Final Action Plan presented to ACT, EDC and CCC

OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2018

Full Plan drafted

Final Action Plan presented to PC

Full Plan and Action Plan designed and printed

JANUARY 2019

Handover to Action Plan Implementation Team and the Parish Council.

Distribution of Action Plan to all Households

Sockbridge & Tirril CLP—The Action Plan—Page 1

A. PARISH MAINTENANCE

No.	ISSUE	Comments and Proposed Actions	Priority	Date	Delivery Partners
A1	**Road Drainage**	1. Report recurring problem areas to Cumbria Highways. 2. Publish advice on using the Highways Hotline to report new problems.	High	2019	1. CLP-SG 2. Individuals 3. CH
A2	**Dog Fouling**	Leaflet holiday homes about the health hazards of dog fouling and place similar items in the Tirril Times and the Parish Directory. (See K4)	Medium	2019	CLP-SG
A3	**Pavements** *(see also under Safety)*	Report condition (and lack of) pavements on the B5320 to Cumbria Highways; raise the issue through the Highways Hotline, and Eden Local Committee.	High	2019-2020	CLP-SG/ PC/CH
A4	**Control of Hedges**	1. Publish advice on reporting problems through Highways Hotline. 2. If a problem persists, complainants should report this to the Parish Council.	Medium	2019	APIT/ Individuals
A5	**Road Maintenance**	Report the level of dissatisfaction (24% of respondents) to Cumbria Highways; and publish advice on reporting problems on Highways Hotline.	High	2019	CLP-SG/CH
A6	**Control of Grass Verges**	The level of satisfaction (83%) with the condition of verges has been reported to the PC together with complaints about driving or parking on verges, and the need for verges and hedges to provide habitat for pollinators and other wildlife.	Low	Done	CLP-SG/PC
A7	**Litter & Weed Picking**	Establish a Group for the 65 people who volunteered for this activity to organise occasional litter and weed-picking.	Medium	2019	CLP-SG/APIT /Volunteers
A8	**Footpath and Bridleway Maintenance**	Establish a Group, following LDNP and Local Authority protocols, for the 43 people offering help with footpath and bridleway maintenance.	Medium	2019	CLP-SG/APIT /Volunteers

B. PARISH DEVELOPMENTS

B1	**Improved Sewerage**	*71% rated this important or very important*. Draw on local expertise to make a formal representation to United Utilities about the inadequacy of sewerage infrastructure in Sockbridge and Tirril.	High	2019	CLP-SG/ PC/ United Utilities /EA/EDC
B2	**Planting of trees and bulbs in public spaces**	The Action Plan Implementation Team will set up a volunteer group to make proposals to the PC for planting in specific locations.	Medium	2020	APIT/PC
B3	**A Survey of obstacles to accessibility**	APIT will set up a volunteer group to report to the PC on obstacles to mobility and accessibility within the village, e.g. for users of pushchairs, wheelchairs and walking frames, or those with impaired mobility.	High	2019	APIT/PC
B4	**A Heritage Board**	Set up a volunteer group to develop a proposal and apply via the PC to the Community Grant Fund to finance the design and erection of a Parish Heritage Board for the benefit of locals, visitors, and tourists.	Medium	2019	APIT/PC/EDC/ ELC
B5	**Heritage Trail Guide**	Publish a Heritage Trail Guide to the Village.	Medium	2019	APIT/ Volunteers
B6	**Allotments** *Over 25% of respondents expressed interest.*	Set up a volunteer group to pursue the issue. It could petition the PC for action (allotments are a statutory PC responsibility); and/or investigate the use of vacant lots elsewhere; and/or promote sharing of private gardens for mutual benefit.	Low	2019	CLP-SG/ Volunteers/PC

Sockbridge & Tirril CLP—The Action Plan—Page 2

C. HOUSING AND PLANNING

C1	**Housing** *Survey results were similar to the 2011 Housing Survey*	Individuals or families with specific needs should make their needs known to the EDC Housing Officer who may be able to advise on help from the Community Housing Fund.	Medium	2019	EDCHO
C2	**Planning Guidelines**	The Full Plan includes a summary of all relevant responses. Guidelines will be drafted by a working party which will publish the result early in 2019.	High	2019	APIT
C3	**Planning Powers**	As 70% of respondents said that the parish should have more influence on planning matters the option of developing a Neighbourhood Plan should be reviewed periodically.	Medium	2020-2030	PC

D. TRANSPORT, PARKING AND SAFETY

D1	**Use of Transport** *94% of respondents depend on cars*	Publicise the Voluntary Car Scheme and Rural Wheels in a Parish Directory (see K4), and in The Tirril Times. (See also G4 and G5).	Medium	2019	CLP-SG
D2	**Community Parking**	1. Explore the possibility of a car park within 150 yards of the Village Hall with landowners and Cumbria Highways as part of an approach to traffic problems (see D3). 2. Consult CCC about the efficient use of available parking space on the B5320 (see also H1).	Low/ Medium	2019-2025	APIT PC/EDC/CCC
D3	**Road Safety** *69% of respondents were concerned with road safety, only 26% not.*	A Community Speedwatch Scheme is now in Operation. The Full Plan includes a chart showing perceived danger points on the B5320 as identified in the survey. APIT will consult with Cumbria Highways and CRSP about each of the following proposals: radar speed signs at both ends of the village; a 20 mph limit in 'the Narrows'; pavement improvements where there is no pavement or defective pavements; a painted walkway in 'the Narrows'; extending the 40 mph speed limit from Yanwath to Tirril; refuges for those crossing the road between both sets of bus stops and at Tirril Lodge.	High	2019-2025	APIT/CC/CH/ CRSP
D4	**Crime or Nuisance**	Publicise the availability of '*no cold calling*' stickers (See also G7).	Low	2019	CLP-SG > EDC

E. UTILITIES

E1	**Interest in Mains Gas**	70% of respondents said they would switch to gas if the price were right. Northern Gas should be lobbied for action if circumstances (including recently approved development) make connection viable.	Medium	2020-2030	District and County Councillors, Northern Gas
E2	**Village Oil Group**	Publicise the Village Oil Group and 'oil buddies' scheme in the Parish Directory and the Tirril Times	Medium	2019	CLP-SG to publicise

F. OPEN SPACE & RECREATION

F1	**Green Spaces** .	Establish a Community Group to explore all options for protecting green spaces, such as nominating one or more village spaces for designation as Local Green Space or as an Asset of Community Value.	High	2020	Community Group/EDC
F2	**A green space for Games**	PC to request Yanwath School to make their playing field available to parishioners out of school hours and, if need be, apply to Eden for financial assistance.	High	2019	PC/EDC

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G. FOOTPATHS AND CYCLEWAYS

G1	**General**	APIT to establish a Footpaths and Cycleways Development Group to pursue Actions G2-G4	Medium	2019	APIT
G2	**A Parish Circular Path**	1. For a footpath from Highfield to Celleron: supply a plan of route and details of landowners to CCC Countryside Access Team. 2. Explore with landowners whether there is any possible route from Barton to Sockbridge Mill (or Mill Lane) and if so, refer to the Countryside Access Team.	High	2019-2030	APIT/PC/CCC Countryside Access Team
G3	**A link to Barton Church from the Bridleway**	Discuss with landowners to identify a route avoiding the main road. If the response is positive, pursue with CCC Countryside Access Team.	Medium	2025	APIT/CCC
G4	**Completing a continuous Footway to Penrith**	Support Eamont Bridge PC in stressing that the proposed permanent footway from Yanwath to Eamont Bridge would be of value to both parishes and investigate enhancement of this project for shared use by cyclists.	Medium	2025	APIT/PC/CCC/ Eden Local Committee
G5	**Cycleways to Penrith & Pooley**	Consult Barton PC, Eamont PC, LDNP and CCC Cycling Strategy about a cycleway from Penrith to Pooley, or failing that, consult with Barton PC and the LDNP about enhancing the existing bridleway from Barton Kirke to Pooley Bridge via Mill Moor.	Medium/ Low	2032	S&T PC/ Barton PC/ Eamont PC/ CCC/LDNP
G6	**A Map and Guide to Parish Footpaths**	Produce a map of local footpaths and seek funding from EDC.	Medium	2019	APIT/EDC
G7	**Farmland Guidelines**	Include guidelines on the safe use of agricultural grazing land by dog-walkers in the Plan and the Village Directory.	Medium	2019	CLP-SG

H. THE VILLAGE HALL

H1	**Disabled parking**	Request the PC and VHC to consider allocation of preferential parking and/or a drivers' pool to take people to village events.	High	2019	PC/ VHC
H2	**Renewable heating**.	Inform villagers of past exploration of renewable heating. Recommend that the VHC consult ACT and CAfS on recent Cumbrian installations, and review every five years.	Medium/ High	Cont.	CLP-SG/VHC/ ACT /CAfS
H3	**Heritage display in VH**	Arrange a new heritage display in the Village Hall, perhaps with a permanent photographic element.	Medium	2019	VHC
H4	**Improved outside paving**	Refer to VHC to consider improvement of crumbling tarmac alongside the hall.	High	2020	VHC

I. PARISH ACTIVITIES

I1	**Proposed Activities**	Encourage volunteer action to establish new activities including Badminton and Table Tennis.	Medium	2019	APIT/ Volunteers
I2	**Children's Activities**	We will refer volunteers to TASCA to offer help, and refer to TASCA to consider what additional activities might be viable to support young families.	Medium	2019	CLP-SG/ TASCA
I3	**Skill Development Classes**	Identify those willing to run classes in languages, computing; dementia caring, and crafts. Promote all classes. Publicise U3A and LEA classes. (Action K4)	Medium	2019	CLP-SG to activate Volunteers

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J. HEALTH, WELFARE AND INCLUSION

J1	**Problems accessing health services.**	Communicate complaints about long waits for hospital appointments and treatment and local GP appointments to the health authorities via the CCC/CLP liaison officer and to named GP practices.	Medium/ Low	2019	CLP-SG to file complaint
J2	**Meeting needs for occasional or regular assistance.** *53 people offered help of various kinds*	The Parish Directory will include contact details of a volunteer coordinator who can put those who need practical assistance in touch with those offering such help, and the kinds of help that are on offer. (See also A3, B3, D1, F2, H1, H4 for policies that may benefit young people and other groups.)	Medium	2019	APIT
J3	**Help in a Parish Emergency** *118 people offered help of various kinds*	Establish a Village Help Network for helping people in an emergency (e.g. floods, power cuts, storm damage, heavy snowfall); and through local knowledge, identify those people who might be at risk.	High	2019	APIT to initiate

K. GOVERNANCE AND INFORMATION

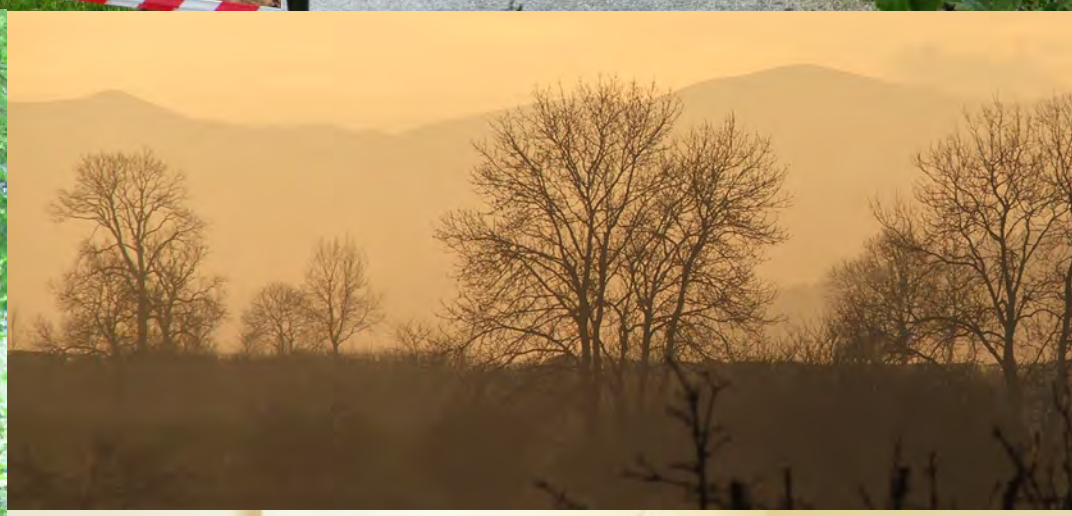
K1	**Governance**	There is a high level of satisfaction with the Parish Council but respondents' suggestions for improvement will be reported to the PC and EDC.	Low/ Medium	2018	CLP-SG PC/EDC
K2	**Parish Noticeboards**	Provide a larger noticeboard in the 'Tirril, Queen's Head' bus shelter.	Medium	2019	PC
K3	**Improving Digital Information**	1. Promote wider use of the Parish email service; 2. Find a volunteer to develop the Parish website; 3. Apply through PC for available funding to enhance the website; 4. Act on initiatives to link nearby parish websites with each other. (See also Action K4)	Medium	2020	APIT/PC/CCC Eden Team
K4	**Parish Directory** .	Produce a Sockbridge & Tirril Parish Directory to be updated every two years, and delivered to all houses and all newcomers.	High	2019	APIT

L. IMPLEMENTATION

L1	**The Plan**	Publication of the Plan and the Action Plan.	January 2019	CLP-SG
L2	**Implementation**	Handover to Implementation Team	January 2019	APIT
L2	**Progress**	Report on Progress with implementation of the Action Plan at Annual Parish Meetings	Ongoing 2020/2030	APIT/PC

Abbreviations

APIT = Action Plan Implementation Team	**CAfS** = Cumbria Action for Sustainability
CC = Cumbria Constabulary	**CCC** = Cumbria County Council
CH = Cumbria Highways	**CLP-SG** The Steering Group
CRSP = Cumbria Road Safety Partnership	**EA** = Environment Agency
EDC = Eden District Council	**ELC** = Eden Local Committee (of CCC)
LDNP = Lake District National Park	**PC** = S&T Parish Council
VHC = Village Hall Committee	



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