VVPP004500 - NW
V.V. Bristol

St John's, Castlerigg and Wythburn Parish Plan

Contents

General introduction	1
The Parish Plan	3
Question 1 Landscape and heritage	5
Question 2 The Village Hall	6
Question 3 Transport	7
Question 4 Highways and roads	8
Recycling	9
Emergency Services	9
Question 5 The Churches	10
Question 6 Parish Council issues	10
Recommendations for the future	11
Untied Utilities vision for the Thirlmere Valley	12

Front cover: St John's and Thirlmere Valley - Stuart Holmes

General introduction

Location

The parish of St John's, Castlerigg and Wythburn is one of the largest in area, but has many more sheep than people. The parish stretches from the top of Dunmail Raise to the outskirts of Keswick, and has some of the highest mountains in the Lake District National Park, including Helvellyn. It is unusual in that it has no central village, but consists of hamlets and scattered farms or other dwellings. It has only one large hall at Thirlmere where people can meet. The main asset of the parish is its wonderful landscape and its rich variety of flora and fauna, including three SSSIs, St John's and Naddle becks and Armboth Fell. At its southern end lies its important resource, Thirlmere which provides water for Manchester and other population centres in northwest England. It also has many beautiful waterfalls.

Heritage

The parish also has a rich historical heritage, which includes the following:

- Castlerigg Stone Circle.
- The ancient British Fort behind Raven Crag.
- Remains of ancient 1st century British village near old coach road below Clough Head.
- A pair of Bronze age bracelets found at Thirlmere and at present in Keswick museum.
- Polished stone axe heads found at Dalebottom also in Keswick Museum.
- Two grade two listed churches.
- John Richardson, 19th Century Cumberland dialect poet, built/re-built the Church, School and Vicarage.
- Adams Cross.
- The Straining Well – a testimony to Victorian engineering skills.
- Many literary associates including the Rock of Names now residing at Dove Cottage, Grasmere.
- Many old farms and properties dating from the 17th century or earlier, many of which are grade 2 listed.
- Two grade 2 listed bridges: both 18thC former packhorse bridges, one north-west of Bram Crag, and Sosgill Bridge.
- Many Old Norse derived names indicating strong Viking presence in the past.
- Many mining and quarrying remains both at Thirlmere and in The Vale of St John.
- Herdwick Sheep and Red Squirrels.

The community

Parts of the parish based on the two through roads, the A591 and the B5322, form a natural community. Most of those who live in these areas work within the parish either in farming, in tourism offering holiday accommodation, or in a combination of the two. Those on the fringes of the parish at Threlkeld Quarry, part of Fieldside, and Storms tend to work outside the parish, and perhaps do not feel so involved in parish affairs. For them, their route to Keswick, the most likely place of employment, is via the A66, and they only pass through the parish if they travel south.

Recent changes

The parish landscape has been formed through thousands of years of geological history, by farming and quarrying, and most notably by the decision of Manchester Corporation to turn two small lakes at Thirlmere into a reservoir in 1879. This decision had both negative and positive aspects. On the negative side, a whole community of farms and houses was lost, together with its school, vicarage and inns, and little remains apart from the hamlet at Steel End and the church, now isolated and with hardly any parishioners. Additional houses were built at Stanah and Fisher Place to house employees, and in recent years many of these have been taken over by a housing trust.

On the positive side, because water went largely untreated to Manchester by natural gravity, for many years access to the lake and surrounding land was severely restricted. This allowed the formation of wildlife habitats in a quiet peaceful

Castlerigg Stone Circle

haven, in sharp contrast to some other large lakes in the National Park. In more recent years, United Utilities has followed a policy of replacing the largely coniferous woods with more varied species, and changes in water treatment have made it possible to allow much greater public access to the lake shore and the woodlands surrounding Thirlmere. During the Foot and Mouth crisis in 2001, the path round Thirlmere was the only one open to the public in the vicinity.

The character of Threlkeld Quarry has also changed with the demise of traditional quarrying in the 1970's. The houses originally built here for quarry employees remain but recently a housing trust has built a number of additional houses for local people, (75% owned by the occupants; 25% by the trust) and 24 small business units have been created. A thriving mining museum has also been formed which attracts many visitors.

The outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease in 2001 affected most farms and houses; one result was the temporary closure of St John's-in-the-Vale church and the Diocesan Youth Centre for some weeks. This showed how dependent the parish has become on the tourist industry. It also demonstrated that people come here to enjoy the freedom of the countryside rather than larger-scale attractions.

The Straining Well. Thirlmere

Other changes

In 1995, a neighbourhood watch scheme was set up and in Millennium year 2000, a booklet and accompanying video was produced illustrating aspects of the parish; (copies are still available).

One fruit of the recent parish exhibition in 2003 was a large scale model of the entire parish which was constructed by two parishioners and which will remain as a permanent record for posterity. It shows geographical features, including mountains, water, woodland and habitations.

In a rural area, population varies from year to year, e.g., the Mother and Toddler group which met in the village hall closed because most of the children began to attend nursery in Keswick, or began primary school education. One feature, which has not changed in the last fifty years, is the Annual Thirlmere open Flower Show, which takes place in the hall on the first Saturday in August. There is also a branch of the W.I. meeting regularly, and a more recent introduction, an indoor bowling club.

During the last two years, the parish has participated in the Cumbria in bloom programme. It is not appropriate in such a rural landscape to have large planting schemes, but small wild daffodils have been planted, and with money from local businesses, it is hoped to enrich the hedgerows with crab apple and wild damson trees.

Thus the parish remains very rural in character and whilst recognising the need for local people to earn a living, the environment needs to be protected from any large-scale development. Indeed, the National Park Authority would certainly ensure that this is so.

The Parish Plan

Facts and the method followed in producing the plan

In January 2003, the Parish Council employed a consultant to help in the production of a parish plan. In November 2003, a parish exhibition was held with the assistance of parish councillors and other helpers. 93 residents attended, 73 from St John's and Wythburn, 10 from Castlerigg and Fieldside, 6 from the Vale and Threlkeld, and 3 from Threlkeld Quarry. 98 questionnaires were filled in, 47 from the parish, 30 from the Keswick areas, and 21 by people who usually had some link or family connection with the parish.

After this successful event the consultant resigned, and rather than appoint another outside organiser, Pat Darrall, a parish councillor, offered to take over responsibility for continuing the process of developing the plan with the assistance of Sally Bickerdyke, the Parish Clerk.

A support group of fourteen people was formed comprising six parish councillors (including the Chairman, the Vice Chairman and the Clerk) and eight others drawn from different areas in the parish. The first task was to analyse the results of the questionnaire circulated to all who attended the exhibition, and on the basis of this, a fresh questionnaire was produced and circulated to every household. The group undertook to compile statistics of the composition of the parish community, and to take out and collect the questionnaire (having jointly discussed and improved upon it) and then to collate the information gained. 147 questionnaires were given out; 80 were returned (54%). However, this figure gives a rather misleading impression, because, of the 48 forms distributed at Threlkeld Quarry, only 11 were returned, whilst in the three other areas of the parish, all forms given out were returned (100%). Excluding Threlkeld Quarry, the percentage of replies received was 70. Perhaps this is an indication of the extent to which Threlkeld Quarry residents do not feel a part of the parish.

Areas for action were identified and further meetings were arranged with representatives of appropriate bodies.

The final plan was approved by the Parish Council on the 25th March, 2004, and arrangements were made to present the completed plan at a further parish exhibition on 23rd March 2004.

Facts and figures (January 2004)

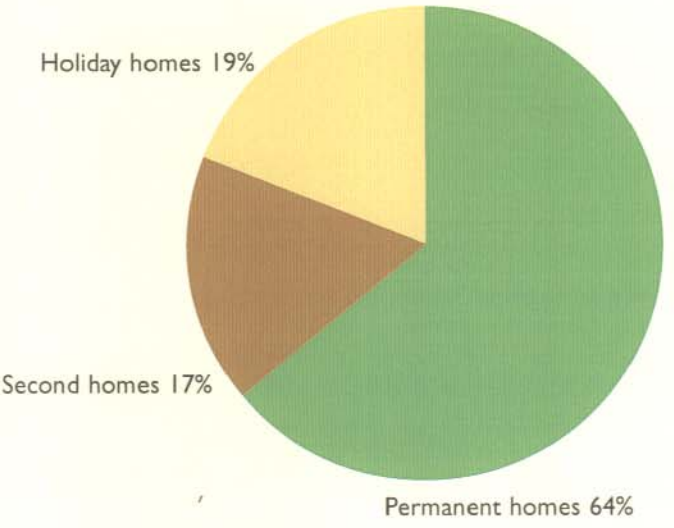
Occupancy of houses

Houses/dwellings

Total number	236
Occupied	151
Holiday homes	44
Second homes	41

Rented accomodation 32/151

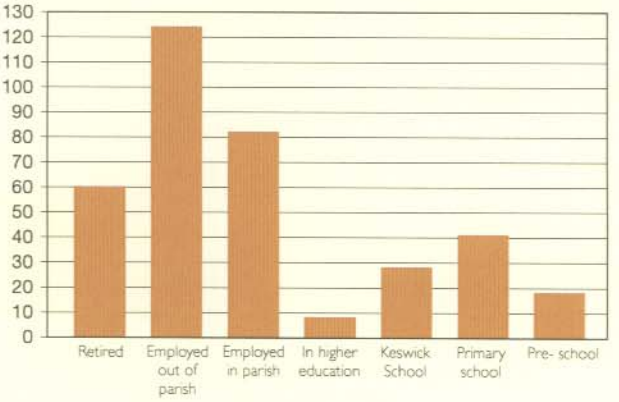
Impact housing	17
United Utilities	7
Private landlords	7
National Trust	1



Population details

Population

Total adults over 18	275	
In higher education	8	
Retired	60	
Employed	205	(in parish 82, outside parish 123)



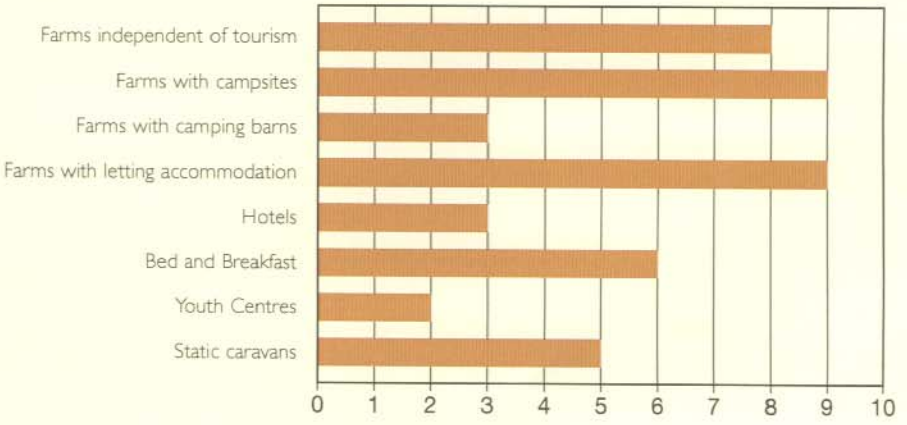
Under 18's

Total	84	
At Keswick School	26	
At primary school	41	(Threlkeld 33, Braithwaite 5, Keswick 3)
Pre-school	17	

Tourism in the Parish

Tourism

Farms	29	(8 of these are independent of tourism)
Campsites	9	(all attached to farms)
Camping barns	3	(all attached to farms)
Hotels	3	
Bed and breakfast	6	
Residential Youth Centres	2	(1 formerly YHA now vacant)
Small business units	31	(Threlkeld Quarry 24, Goosewell Farm 4, Storms, house/workshops to be built 3)
Static caravans	10	(Used for holiday accomodation 5, used for staff accomodation or rented to local people 5)



Land owned by the Parish Council

Play area at Threlkeld Quarry.

The Village Hall and grounds are on a 999 year lease from United Utilities.

Question 1
Landscape and heritage

Farming

Most of those who answered this question recognised the importance of farming in maintaining and preserving the landscape and the special relationship which exists between farming and the land. Several people wanted farms to be viable as farms without recourse to tourism; "don't create glorified holiday camps". Traditional farming methods should be encouraged and there should be more locally produced vegetables. Dwindling employment in farming is to be regretted.

Practical Issues

- Concern about the creation of footpaths and bridleways, access to open country-often taken to mean the right to roam.
- Maintenance of traditional features: stone walls, hedges and fences.
- Control of weeds;-ragwort, thistles, bracken, nettles etc.
- Flooding along the becks, esp. Naddle Beck.
- Dark green plastic for big bales, not white or black.
- Put overhead power cables underground to enhance the landscape and to reduce power cuts.
- Solar panels and other eco-friendly initiatives should be encouraged.
- Conduct a survey of landscape character assessment.
- Educate tourists to protect traditional features, e.g., walls.

Tourism

Several people expressed views about the destructive nature of tourism. Any future housing should be for locals only, and not for self-catering accommodation or second homes. There was overwhelming support for maintaining the traditional character and spirit of the parish – its beautiful landscape, its wild places, its lack of commercialism, and the need to avoid any large scale development. The importance of the NPA in planning issues was recognised and welcomed; there has to be a balance between protecting the landscape and sharing the quiet enjoyment of the parish with others.

Heritage

- Create permanent displays on the history of the parish and its people for exhibition in the two churches and the village hall.
- Put details of heritage, monuments, archaeology etc. on a CD Rom/Web site.
- Preserve our red squirrels.
- Remember what we have lost; a community, three schools, the post office, the vicarage, etc., but be positive about our contribution to wider society, eg., we supply 30% of all the water used in the north west; we have wonderful wildlife, flora and fauna, and the Castlerigg stone circle, to name but a few of our assets!

Action

Write to NPA, The Friends of the Lake District, The Cumbria Tourist Board, United Utilities, Environment Agency, DEFRA, Red Squirrel Alert (Cumbria Wildlife Trust), Heritage Lottery Fund.

Environment Agency

On the 18th March 2004, a meeting was held for landowners living along Naddle Beck with Mr Mike Fell and Mr John Pinder of the EA. After a lively discussion, Mr Fell agreed in the short term to do some remedial work along the Beck to prevent flooding. In the long term, the EA would carry out an investigation with a view to creating a more manageable river system. This reflects the latest policy of the EA which is no longer to carry out routine maintenance of the becks, and thereby create a more natural floodplain. From the farmers' point of view, this would have the effect of:

1 Devaluing their land.
2 Causing possible loss of life to animals and damage to crops.
3 In a tourist area, making some footpaths unusable for periods of time.

It was recognised that farmers would have to be compensated for such a policy.

Question 2
The Village Hall

During the building of Haweswater dam, Manchester Corporation provided a chapel for the work force. At the end of the building work in Mardale, the building was dismantled and brought to Thirlmere by Manchester Corporation and re-erected in 1942 as a community hall, renamed Thirlmere Recreation Hall. Parishioners have worked hard over the years to maintain the hall, but it was only initially designed as a temporary building and is showing its age, (e.g., the roofing is composed of asbestos tiles), despite redecoration and refurbishment. In 1982, the ownership of the hall was transferred to the Parish Council on a 999 year lease.

The kitchen has been improved and the floor of the main room sanded and varnished, double glazing installed and there are male and female cloakrooms with WC's and wash basins, but there are also no showers for those groups which stay for a week or so, and no disabled facilities. In short, it is in need of major refurbishment and requires significant funding if it is to fulfil its purpose properly in the future.

Results from Questionnaire

All who answered this question agreed that it was essential to have a parish hall where all parishioners could meet. The following comments were made:

- Several people questioned the wisdom of maintaining the present hall and proposed complete rebuilding and landscaping of the adjacent area.
- Various suggestions were made about funding such a project ranging from exploring funding from outside sources, e.g., the lottery, to local fundraising efforts and the provision of a "trust the motorist" car park. Better publicity regarding the availability of the hall was important.
- A number of possible activities which might take place included one-off arts/crafts exhibitions, classes such as keep fit, gardening, a young farmers group, a youth group, a social event such as a Ceilidh for all the family and a local history group.
- A more radical proposal was that a proper structural survey should be obtained with a view to an addition to the building, or even a complete rebuild and redesign to include proper shower facilities, a relaxation room with possible computer terminal and library, a small retail franchise which might bring in some income, and the letting of the hall for conferences and commercial ventures.

Action

- Send comments to the village hall committee/parish council.
- Possible structural survey of the building with a view to costings of rebuild/redesign, and funding applications.

One encouraging aspect of the replies was that 10 offers of help were received.

(The Hall Committee met on march 11th 2004. It was agreed to implement the car-parking scheme and to form a small committee with the Parish Council to look into funding for the refurbishment/rebuilding of the Hall.)

Thirlmere Annual Flower Show

The Village Hall

Question 3
Transport

Private Cars

There was strong feeling that all those living in the more rural parts of the parish had chosen to use their cars because a rural bus service was neither desirable nor viable.

Buses were irregular and did not visit some areas at all and were largely used by visitors. However, concern was expressed about the price of petrol in Keswick, (often 2/3 pence per litre dearer than elsewhere), and the high cost of car parking in Keswick, where charges seem to be set to fleece the tourists!

Buses

All agreed that these were too expensive. Families with teenagers pointed out that there were no early or late night buses on the A591. Some suggested that the Threlkeld Quarry bus should travel round the Vale and could be at more convenient times, and there were queries as to why smaller buses would not be used instead of double deckers on the A591. Generally however, most agreed that locals do not use them.

Taxis

There was much praise for Keswick's taxi services and the helpful attitude of drivers to older people. Taxis were often cheaper than the bus, and could be shared to spread the cost.

Why can senior citizens not be given tokens for taxis instead of for buses/trains?

Keswick to Penrith Railway

There was some support for the re-opening of the railway which passed through the edge of the parish.

Action

Write to Keswick Town Council and Allerdale District Council.

The Vale of St John's.
View North, Sosgill Bridge towards Blencathra

Question 4
Highways and roads

All respondents were dissatisfied with the state of the roads in the parish.

A66. There was very strong representation from all those living near the A66 and from others about the danger of the road junction at Storms- (an accident waiting to happen). It is not uncommon for those approaching the turning off the A66 from the Keswick direction to be overtaken on both sides as they wait in the middle of the road. At the very least, there is a need for more road markings and lighting, with better warning signs of a junction beforehand. Traffic in both directions moves very quickly here.

A66 to the B5322. The turn from the A66 to the B5322 is also dangerous when approached from the Penrith direction. There is need for a slip road and more advanced signing and lighting.

A591 From the Moor to the Dunmail Raise. There were complaints about overhanging trees, blocked drains causing the build up of surface water and icy patches.

In addition there was concern about the junction from the A591 at Bridge End, and the danger from fast moving traffic.

Heavy lorries are still using the A591 in spite of the ban.

B5322. Complaints about speeding in spite of 40mph signs, the use by coaches and lorries on this very narrow road. It was suggested that the speed signs might be replaced by 40mph letters on the road surface. There was dissatisfaction with the level of enforcement of the speed limit on this road.

Minor Roads. Numerous complaints about pot holes, overhanging trees, lack of maintenance, blocked drains etc. Threlkeld Quarry Road-still concerns about this.

Salt boxes on the Castlerigg Road would be of benefit on the steep downward approach to the A591, and the road past Goosewell is like a skating rink in icy weather because of the poor drainage.

Coaches are still using the Stone Circle road, as are speeding motor bikes.

Signs. There were many objections to the proliferation of signs: brown signs are too large and obtrusive. Complaints about the removal of old Victorian cast iron finger posts and their replacement with modern inappropriate signs, and suggestions that the LDNPA and Highways department should be asked about policy on this.

Lighting. Most were opposed to street lighting except on A66 junctions, and several complained about the obliteration of the night sky over Keswick. Room for a different kind of light?

Action

Contact NPA re. Signs; Highways Authority re. Roads and signs.

- (On 12th March, 2004, Peter Marr Chief Road Engineer for Capita, and his fellow engineer, came to meet the Parish Plan support group. Two representatives of United Utilities were also present. Issues raised by the Plan were discussed, and there was a very helpful response. He promised to look at all the problems raised. At the same time, however, he pointed out that lack of money was the main reason preventing proper road maintenance. He urged anyone with a problem to contact him directly about any problems on 01900 820 720 or ring the helpline 0845 609 6609.
- The problems on the A66 are being dealt with by Stephen Braithwaite (of the Highways Authority.)

Recycling

- There was general praise for the refuse collection service but there were repeated and widespread requests for individual recycling containers to be distributed as they are in Keswick.
- There were requests for recycling facilities in the parish, perhaps at The Quarry and at Thirlmere.
- Why will Allerdale not provide recycling for plastics, (they can be found in Eden at B&Q, Penrith)?
- Very strong pressure from hotels and camp sites for separate containers for paper, bottles, tins etc.
- Requests for dog refuse bins at The Quarry.
- The scheme for recycling plastic waste from farms needs to be improved. The present once a year collection is inadequate, and encourages farmers to take the easy short cut of burning. Can more frequent collections be arranged?

Action

Contact Allerdale refuse department; DEFRA.

(Mr E Davidson, Allerdale D.C. chief recycling officer agreed to come to speak at the A.G.M. of the Council on Thursday 27th May, 2004, in Thirlmere Hall. Allerdale D.C. has just received additional funding for recycling and Mr Davidson was hopeful that some of the requests might be met).

Emergency Services

Ambulance and Fire Services

All who had experience of these had nothing but praise.

Police

- General satisfaction was expressed with the policy in responding to an emergency.
- More rural police presence was desirable.
- Is it possible to ensure that officers are not moved every two years? It is wasteful of time and resources.
- There is concern about the future of Cumbria Police Force if the proposed boundary changes are implemented.

Action

Write to Local Ambulance, Fire Service and Police.

High Rigg in winter

Rakefoot Farm

Question 5
The Churches

Many people ignored this question; those who did reply said:

- It is doing its best; it is accessible to all and needs to be there when needed e.g., births, marriages and deaths.
- It deserves support, especially as it may lose its vicar in the future.
- Rural church going is in decline – learn from national initiatives.
- Times change – Sunday morning is not a priority for families now.
- Appeal to tourists – Grasmere asks for £1 per visitor.
- Use both churches as sites for information displays on local heritage.
- United Utilities offered to create a display about their work in Wythburn Church.
- Create a pilgrimage trail between Dacre, Mungrisedale, St John's, Wythburn and Crosthwaite, or between St John's and Wythburn churches.
- Encourage children to enjoy the rich heritage of the C of E, and appeal to a sense of belonging.
- We need more work with children and young people.
- A Christian based youth club.
- Less concentration on events in Keswick and more on events in this parish.
- We would like to see more of the vicar.
- C of E could provide more leadership.

Action

Send results of this questionnaire to the Church Council for its consideration.

Wythburn Church

Question 6
Parish Council issues

Many points in this section have already been raised in other parts, e.g., A66.

- It does a good job.
- Maintenance along Naddle beck, (SSSI) flooding burst bank at Williams beck.
- Face issue of increased tourism-there must be a limit to constant increases in camp sites and holiday homes. Local services are swamped.
- Lonscale View feels isolated from this parish and generally looks to Keswick.
- Quarry - Dog fouling in play area.
  - Sheep in gardens, fencing.
  - Don't restore the air raid shelter!
  - Possibly extend local housing scheme.
  - Many feel that they are in no man's land, belonging neither to this parish nor to Threlkeld.
- Castlerigg & Fieldside would like to have mains water and sewerage because of the large number of visitors in summer.
- United Utilities – tidy up walls drains and picnic area.

Action

Consideration by parish council
Environment Agency
Cumbria Tourist Board
NPA = Support for planning etc.

(On Thursday, 18th March 2004, Mr M Fell from the Environment Agency and a local engineer met with local landowners and other concerned residents to discuss the flooding of Naddle Beck.)

St. John's in the Vale Church

Recommendations for the future

Parish and people

The involvement of people in the parish exhibition and the high level of response to the questionnaire has been most encouraging. People have been talking to each other and sharing problems and concerns about the area and environment in which we live.

The parish has an excellent balance of age-groups; of private/rented accommodation, and of small businesses. However, there was some concern that any future housing should be for locals only and should exclude second homes and holiday houses as far as possible. Perhaps the housing trust at Threlkeld Quarry represents the best way forward in this respect.

Thirlmere Hall

Several important issues have arisen as a result of the questionnaire, the most significant being the future of Thirlmere Recreation Hall. Everyone agreed that it is essential to have a hall where parishioners can meet and where public events can take place, even if different generations may have varied expectations. The present hall was a temporary structure first built at Haweswater and later brought to Thirlmere in 1942. It is still standing! It requires either extensive modernisation of rebuilding to meet with new government legislation. The parish vision is to preserve a hall for future generations, and to explore the possibilities of grants to improve the hall, and encourage a more extensive and varied range of activities and events.

Local services

The main concerns were the maintenance of rural roads and recycling. Both these are ongoing issues and require increased long term government funding if the problems are to be overcome.

Rural transport is not used much by local people because they find it impractical and expensive. For many, the cost of petrol and car parking in Keswick were matters of greater concern.

Landscape and heritage

In a rural parish like ours, one main concern must always be the preservation of our landscape and heritage, and there will be a continuing need to find a balance between the interests of local people and those of tourists. There was some concern that tourism should not dominate to the detriment of traditional ways of life, and there was much support for the farming community, and for the maintenance of traditional working farms, recognising the vital link between farmers and the landscape.

Different ways will be explored of preserving our heritage perhaps through the medium of a CD Rom or our parish web-site, through personal reminiscences, further heritage exhibitions in our Churches and in the Hall, local history groups, etc. Information has its place, however, but it can stifle curiosity and imagination if overdone. Richard Mabey in an article in The Times (march 2004) pointed out the danger of the "safety culture" which can inhibit young peoples' awareness of the natural world, and the problem of information boards which tell people not only what they should see but how they should feel about it. Here we hope that people can find silence, wild places, a sense of mystery, adventure, excitement and inspiration, and be stimulated to use their imagination and creativity in a voyage of discovery without having everything presented to them on a plate! We have one of the most beautiful parishes in the world – (at least, we think so!) and we have a responsibility to preserve its spirit and uniqueness for the future.

Further action

Please become involved – find time to meet and talk with your neighbours; help with the organisation of an activity in the hall; support your churches and make an effort to participate in activities which take place in the hall. If you have a problem with the service you receive, ask your local Parish Council to help or contact one of the agencies listed.

Untied Utilities vision for the Thirlmere Valley

This vision is our contribution to the Parish Plan for St John's, Castlerigg, and Wythburn. It is designed to capture the main challenges faced by the Environment and Community Northern Catchment Team, and expresses our aspirations.

Our departmental vision:
"We will set the standard for sustainable management of catchment estates, providing leadership among landowners regionally and nationally".

Our vision for Thirlmere must support this aspiration and is captured here in relation to our key activities, the aspirations and partner bodies, regulating bodies and the community.

Forestry

- A model example of the English forestry strategy.
- A model for the forestry and water guidelines 2004.
- Forest design which complements the local landscape and meets the criteria set out in the 1986 Landscape Plan.
- Indigenous tree cover around the lake margin and in all areas where conifer crops have proved to be unsuitable or where conifer or non-native plantations cover ancient woodland sites.
- Maximised Red Squirrel habitat.
- Sustainable timber production through continuous cover forestry techniques.
- Road and track network shared with our visitors.

Farming

- Farming activity which complements water quality.
- Sustainable and environmentally sound farming business.
- Good landlord tenant interaction.
- High standards of farm infrastructure maintenance.

Biodiversity

- All Thirlmere SSSI's in favourable condition by April 2010.
- Biodiversity action plans in place for species and habitats, highlighted in company, regional and county Biodiversity action plans.

Heritage

- All built heritage features, paper and photographic records and objects captured in our Archaeology survey and made available to the community.
- Built heritage protected and enhanced.

Public Access

- Access for all
- Full compliance with the CROW act.
- Safe inclusive access infrastructure.
- Appropriate signage.

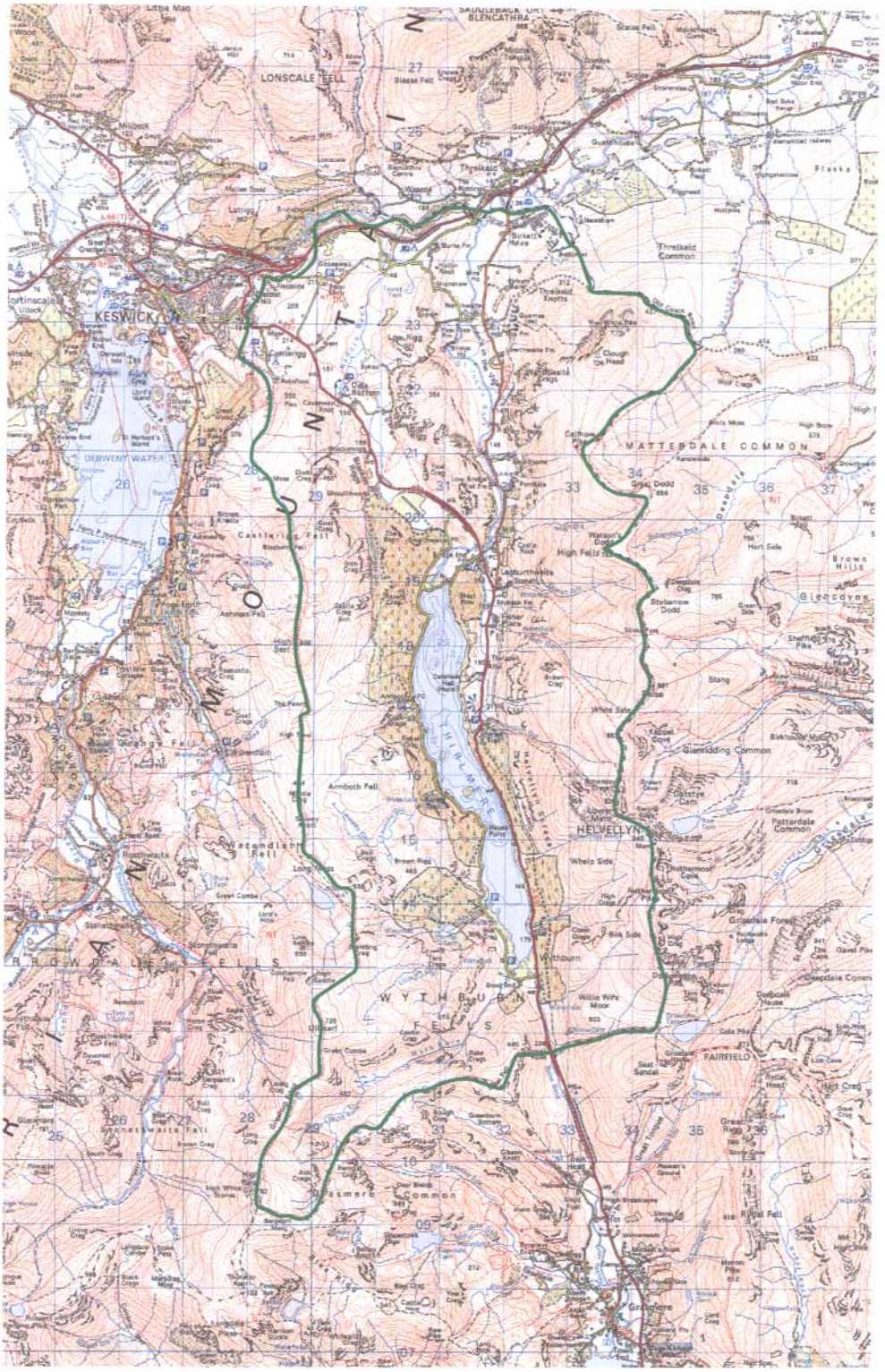
Infrastructure

- High standards of upkeep for all estate infrastructure.

Local Community

- A harmonious relationship with all stakeholders in the Parish of St John's Castlerigg and Wythburn.

Thirlmere


LONSCALE FELL
KESWICK
DERWENT WATER
MATTERDALE COMMON
HELVELLYN
Glenridding Common
Pattardale Common
Greenside Forest
Wythburn
WYTHBURN FELLS
FAIRFIELD
Raise
Grisedale Comm
Glencoyne

We would like to thank the followng people and organisations for help in the production of this parish plan.

- The Parish Council. Clerk: Mrs Sally Bickerdyke, Manesty, Springs Garth, Keswick. (017687 73537)
- The Parish Plan Support Group: Ray Newton, Rosemary Burrill, Ian Hartland, Watson Birkett, Helen Marr, William and Graham Chaplin-Brice, Judith Burchill, Sheila Edgar, Elizabeth Bland, Mark Cockbain, Pat and Geoff Darrall.
- Stuart Holmes, 32 Blencathra St., Keswck for kindly allowing us to use his aerial photograph of the parish.
- United Utilities for generous help in the production and printing of the Plan: Paul Phillips at Thirlmere, (017687 72334) and Jane Bell and Peter Guy at Warrington. U.U., Dawson House, Great Sankey, Warrington WA5 3LW (01925 234000)
- The National Park Authority. Rachel Bland, Community Development Officer, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Rd., Kendal LA9 7RL (01539 792612)
- DEFRA R.D.S. Mervin Edwards, Agricola House, Gilwilly Trading Estate, Penrith CA11 9BN (01768 860700)
- Highways Dept., Peter Marr, Design Services, Derwent Mill, Cockermouth CA13 0HT (01900 820725). Hotline: (0845 609 6609)
- Trunk Rd. A66. Amey Mouchel, Area 3, Maintenance Office, Skirsgill, Penrith. CA10 2BZ (0845 600 1627)
- The Environment Agency. Mike Fell, Ghyll Mount, Gillan Way, Penrith CA11 9BP (01768 86666)
- Red Squirrel Alert. Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Plumgarth, Kendal.
- Friends of the Lake District. Beck House, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Rd., Kendal (01539 720788)
- Recycling. Ernie Davidson, Solway House, Workington CA14 3XH (01900 326453)
- Keswick Museum. Fitz Park Museum, Keswick CA12 4LP
- The Countryside Agency. N.W. Region, Haweswater Rd., Penrith CA11 7EH
- Allerdale District Council.
- Keswick Town Council.
- Cumbria Police Force. Inspector Dave Watson, Keswick
- English Nature. Juniper House, Murley Moss, Oxenhome Rd., Kendal LA9 7RL (01539 793800)

United Utilities/information design services/May 2004

Responses to the Parish Plan

1. Lake District National Park Authority. Letter from Rachel Bland explaining that the Parish Plan would now be fed into the Local Development Framework, which would replace the local plan. She also suggested that the Sustainable Development Fund could assist with some projects.

2. Red Squirrel Alert. Letter noting our concern.

3. Environment Agency. Flooding at Naddle Beck- Mr Fell agreed that subject to consultation, he would make minor improvements to Naddle Beck between Shoulthwaite and Dale Bottom to counteract the problems which had recently occurred.

4. DEFRA. Mr Edwards made various comments:

- There were two possible sources of funding village hall repairs etc from DEFRA.
- E.S.A grants to farmers encourage them to maintain and enhance the landscape, repair stone walls, renovate hedges and repair traditional farm buildings.
- Control of weeds- Farmers and landowners are obliged by law to control injurious weeds, including Oxford ragwort, nettles, thistles and dock. Bracken is not classed as an injurious weed, and ESA grants are available, but bracken and rush are now so widespread that DEFRA needs to re-address the problem.
- Colour of plastic bags. The Parish Council should write to farmers and suppliers about this. DEFRA supports the plastics recycling scheme.
- Dwindling employment in farming. DEFRA is concerned to maintain traditional farming skills, and funding is available for training initiatives, e.g., the Farm Trainee Apprenticeship project by the R. D. C.

5. Undergrounding of electricity power lines. United Utilities Preston office wrote to say that no money was currently available, but plans for 2005 are now being reviewed. There is also a scheme to refurbish the high voltage circuit out of Gilsrow substation and this will affect the northern part of the parish leading to an improvement in the reliability of the supply.

Question 2 THE VILLAGE HALL

Meetings are being held to plan for its future. A structural survey, continuing maintenance, better publicity for its various uses and availability will be considered.
A Car Parking facility for use by visitors has been set up and the Honesty Box is beginning to provide income.
Ten offers of help with the hall were received. It would be appreciated if those who offered would kindly introduce themselves to the Council.

Question 3 TRANSPORT

Keswick Area Fire, Ambulance and Police Services. The appreciation for their quick response and help expressed by residents has been passed on.
Local Taxi Firms. We have passed on your thanks to them.
Concessionary Travel Tokens. A majority asked for these to be reinstated instead of the virtually useless bus tokens now handed out. Allerdale ÐC's response is that they cannot agree to this as a bus service runs along the A591. We have pointed out that few people live near enough to the road to take advantage of the scheme and this Council will continue to press our case. If you have a disability please apply for the tokens.
Car Parking for Locals in Keswick. There appears to be little chance of success with this proposal so long as Allerdale ÐC controls the car parks. We are far from happy with the way our suggestions, on your behalf, were dealt with.
CKP Railways. The Parish Council and a significant number of residents are in favour of the reopening of the Keswick-Penrith Railway.

Question 4 HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

A66. Jcn with Burns/Storms & A66 Jcn with B5322 St. John's-in-the-Vale. We are in correspondence with the responsible Highways Authorities who are assessing road markings, signs and lighting.
A591. Discussions have taken place between Highways and United Utilities regarding overhanging trees, drainage and surface water. There are plans to cut back the trees from the roadside bordering Thirlmere as they cause the pine needles to block the drains and gullies. Some work has already been done. Other landowners have been asked to take similar action and there has been considerable co-operation.
Hot Line. For immediate road maintenance problems the number to call is 0845 6096609.. The police have been asked to look into the use of the A591 of lorries without permits, speeding and safety at Bridge End junction. We have also referred to them the use by coaches and motorcycles around the lanes in the Stone Circle area.
Grit & Salt Bins. The Parish Council will pay for extra bins for next winter which Allerdale ÐC have agreed to fill.
Brown Tourist Signs. Cumbria CC apply a stringent controls for the provision and erection of these signs. They have to be standard sizes depending on class and speed of traffic.

Lighting Pollution. Cumbria CC are conscious of the undesirable effects of lighting up the night sky over Keswick. They are currently amending their lighting policy to address the issue of light pollution. A white light source to secure a safe night-time environment would require sizeable financial investment but as with most things they advise us that present financial constraints make any improvements unlikely.
Recycling. Allerdale ÐC have notified us that Recycle Banks are available. Consequently we have asked that for them to be supplied for us in the Parish. Possible 'Bring Sites' could be set up at Threlkeld Quarry and at United Utilities, Legburthwaite.

Question 5 THE CHURCHES

Display Board. United Utilities have offered a Display Board outlining their "Future Vision of Thirlmere" to be placed in Wythburn Church for Parish and Visitors. This, of course, conditional on requisite permission being received.

Question 6 PARISH COUNCIL ISSUES

Threlkeld Quarry Play Area. Complaints over dog fouling appear to have been resolved. A 'Dog Waste Bin & Bag Dispenser' will be installed in the Station Car Park by LDNPA and will be managed by Allerdale BC. We have asked for two small "No Dog Fouling" signs to be erected in this area. We have also contacted the Local Hound Trailing Association for the co-operation of their members when they meet in this area in future.
Mains Water and Sewage. Recent developments in the Castlerigg and Castlerigg areas have caused residents to reconsider their reluctance to being connected to main pipes. The relevant details have been circulated..