



THURSBY PARISH PLAN

2004 - 2009

Contents

The Parish of Thursby

Plan objectives

Plan preparation, consultation and community involvement

Why produce a Parish Plan?

Housing & Planning issues

A Brief History of Thursby Parish

Natural environment and wildlife

Employment needs and opportunities

Traffic speed and volume. Transport issues

Village environment and services

The future of Crofton

Media and communications

Parish safety

Public rights of way

Clubs and organisations

Young people

Thursby Parish Hall

Summary of issues raised through consultation

Action Plan

Acknowledgments

The Parish of Thursby

The parish of Thursby is situated in Cumbria within the Allerdale Borough Council area. Allerdale encompasses the area from the Solway Coast to the northern Lake District fells and borders with Carlisle City Council to the north west, Eden District Council to the east and Copeland Borough Council to the south. Thursby is located at the extreme eastern edge of the Borough bordering with Carlisle City. The Parish comprises the larger village of Thursby with other hamlets at Crofton, Nealhouse, Parton and Micklethwaite. The parish covers an area of 1267 square hectares with a population density of 0.93 per hectare. The population in 1995 was estimated to be 1210 and there were 448 properties in the parish. This number has grown to around 515 since that time with most of the new properties being built in Thursby village.

The Crofton area was formerly part of the Land Settlement Association. Many of the houses were sold to tenants and other private buyers in the late 1960s and the early 1970s. The remaining land and properties were sold to Cumbria County Council who leased some of the buildings and land to the Crofton Trust in the late 1980s. The County Council are now considering proposals to sell its properties to Voluntary Action Cumbria for redevelopment as a small business park. The Parish Council feel that access to the lake, rights of way and the woodland within the area need protecting under these proposals.

The rich diversity of landscape and environment makes this parish extremely attractive to all who live in it. The parish is also a popular area in which to live for people who work in Carlisle although this has resulted in local house prices escalating quite considerably, making it difficult for local families to find a home in their own area.

Other than agriculture, there is little industry left in the parish although there are hopes this will improve if the proposals for the Crofton properties come to fruition. The parish also lacks most of the services required in a community. This lack of a range of health and shopping facilities in the parish means many residents travel to nearby towns for shops and services, as well as employment. Wigton (5 miles), Dalston (4 miles) and the City of Carlisle (about 6 miles) are the nearest large shopping centres and the main hospital for the area is in Carlisle. Education is provided by Thursby Primary School to 11 years and then children attend secondary schools at either Wigton, Dalston or Carlisle.

Parish Facilities

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Bus service and shelters | Post Boxes |
| • Crofton Social Centre | Post Office/Stores |
| • Hairdressers | Public House |
| • Jubilee Playing Field | St Andrews Church |
| • Monthly Newsletter | Telephone Kiosks |
| • Notice Boards | Thursby Methodist Chapel |
| • Nursery School | Thursby Primary School |
| • Parish Hall | |

There are also a number of small businesses and farms.

The Parish is crossed by the main A595 route leading from Cockermouth to Carlisle with the A596 junction on the by-pass of Thursby village. The volume and speed of traffic using these routes are a concern to residents who often find difficulty in entering and leaving their village.

As a strong community, Thursby is dependent on its Parish Hall for events and functions. This hall provides the focus of village life in the parish and is well used by residents. As the main meeting room in the parish, the hall is the lifeline for clubs and organisations in the village. The hall is however reaching the end of its useful life and the Parish Hall Committee are hoping to raise funding for a new Parish Hall in the next few years.

Plan Objectives

Parish Plans are produced to enable local communities to have a greater say in local affairs. A Parish Plan is an opportunity for a local community to identify its own vision of its own future. The publication of a Parish Plan is not the end of the process; it is the beginning. From the issues and concerns identified in a Plan, communities can begin to work together to bring about improvements to a parish.

The document is called the Thursby Parish Plan and identifies issues of general concern, topics for discussion that need tackling and opportunities that could lead to action. The plan is intended to form a vision for Thursby Parish over the next few years.

The plan also contains an Action Plan which is the document which sets out ways of tackling the issues raised in the plan and a suggested timescale for action. The Parish Council will review the action plan with residents on a regular basis after the publication of the plan.

Parish Plans are produced under the Vital Villages Initiative run by the Countryside Agency and there is guidance as to what topics should be included but each parish is also encouraged to use their own initiative in setting out what is needed in their area.

Once a parish has completed a Plan, its contents can be used to influence the decisions of the wide range of organisations who provide support and services to rural communities. The production of a Parish Plan can be a major benefit to all local organisations seeking funding for individual projects or for buildings in the parish.

The following objectives are the main focus of this Parish Plan.

- To improve community awareness.
- To identify local community needs.
- To set out an achievable vision for the future of the parish, taking into account the views of the community.
- To identify and record the use and sustainability of the Thursby Parish Hall and set out the need for replacement or improvement of the Parish Hall building. Consideration will be given to its future potential, for example for holding health clinics and training sessions.
- To discuss housing and planning issues in the parish.
- To support local businesses.
- To liaise with Cumbria Police and take all possible steps to improve parish safety.
- To improve communications within the parish.
- To liaise with Thursby Primary School to improve services for young children in the parish.
- To improve village facilities; improve and protect the parish environment.
- To liaise with Voluntary Action Cumbria in respect of the redevelopment of the Crofton Trust properties.

Plan Preparation, Consultation and Community Involvement

How did we identify our issues and concerns?

Aware of a number of issues in the parish which would impact on the life of residents, the Parish Council decided to produce a Parish Plan in March 2003. Following advice from the Countryside Agency, the Parish Council successfully applied for a Vital Villages Parish Grant to produce a Parish Plan in September 2003.

Parish Questionnaire

The first step in the process was to produce a community questionnaire which was circulated to all households in the parish. Parish Councillors delivered and collected the questionnaires and there was also an opportunity for residents to post their copy to the consultant.

Of the 515 questionnaires that were distributed, 291 (57%) were returned, either fully or partly completed. This was indicative of the high level of interest in the project. Once the questionnaires were returned, they were analysed and the results were the focus of a meeting of the Steering Group in December 2003.

Clubs & Organisations

During the consultation period, discussions were also held with local groups and organisations including the Parish Hall Committee, Thursby Primary School and local residents to obtain separate independent views about the parish. Councillors also surveyed the village to determine issues relating to the environment.

Comments and feedback from these discussions are an important part of this plan.

Following this, a draft Parish Plan was produced for consideration by the Steering Group and the Parish Council. At the same time a newsletter was distributed to all residents. This Newsletter set out the main findings of the survey and the issues to be discussed in the plan and gave interested residents the opportunity to send additional comments directly to the consultant.

The final step was for the Steering Group to consider a second draft of the Plan and the replies from the newsletter issued following the analysis, agree the contents of the plan and to arrange the exhibition to launch the plan. It was also agreed to invite other local groups to display their activities in the hall during the exhibition including Allerdale Borough Council, who will provide exhibition material about dog fouling and litter problems.

There is no doubt that the plan preparation process stimulated discussion within the parish about a number of issues which have been ongoing for some time. It has also provided an opportunity for the school to discuss its role in the community with residents in its catchment area.

The Parish Hall Committee have also taken the opportunity to assess the future of the Parish Hall with particular emphasis on how to proceed with the replacement or improvement of the hall. Following the publication of the plan, new discussions will be sought with the Lottery Commission in a bid to revive the application for funding for a new Parish Hall.

Within the plan there is also an action plan which sets out the steps the Parish Council intend to take after further discussion with the community. Some of these measures, such as the review of the Local Allerdale Plan, may not take place for some time but the Parish Council are confident the consultation and research which they have undertaken in producing this plan will improve the quality of life for its residents as the various projects are undertaken.

Why produce a Parish Plan for Thursby?

Background

For some time, Parish Councillors have been aware of a number of major issues within Thursby Parish which required detailed consideration and detailed consultation with residents. Most of these issues are specific issues within the parish and need to be addressed within the next few years. The Parish Council believe the preparation of a Parish Plan under the Vital Villages Programme is an excellent way of progressing these matters and producing suggestions as to how the parish should evolve in the future, involving the whole community in the evolution and development of the parish.

As a rural parish Thursby faces many challenges to its community with fewer local jobs, insufficient affordable housing, a lack of services and inadequate public transport. With its attractive location midway between Carlisle and Wigton, the parish attracts commuters who wish to live in the countryside and this means local families are often priced out of the private housing market.

The Main Specific issues which need to be addressed are

- All land identified for housing development within the Allerdale Local Plan in Thursby Village has been built upon and the Parish Council wish to consult with village residents about which sites (if any) in the village might be suitable for inclusion in the next Local Plan if the Borough Council decide more housing land should be identified.
- After many years of neglect, the Crofton Trust properties are about to be sold and the Parish Council wish to ensure the development protects Crofton residents, wildlife areas and access for residents.
- There are a number of important traffic management issues within the Parish which need to be drawn to the attention of the highways authorities. In particular, the speed of traffic and the entrances/exits to villages along the main routes are a cause for concern.
- The Parish Council believe proposals should be formulated in respect of the medium/long term appearance of Thursby village. These might include protecting and landscaping existing open spaces for future generations.
- The Council wish to survey and conserve local public rights of way.
- The Parish Hall needs to be replaced.
- The Council wish to further enhance sports and recreational facilities in the parish.
- The Council wish to improve communications across the parish.

From the responses received, it was interesting to note that, although residents were aware of the problems of rural living and the various issues specific to the parish, there was an overwhelming pride in the parish. Many residents felt that the community was just about right in terms of size. Most people felt that the plan should be a blueprint for gradual improvement to the parish and not for massive upheaval.

Housing and Planning Issues

Perhaps of all the issues to be discussed in this Parish Plan, the future of housing development in the parish is one of the most important matters to be discussed.

Background

The provision of new housing is mainly governed by the amount of land which is identified for housing use within the Allerdale Borough Council Local Plans which are reviewed approximately every five years.

In this Parish, only the village of Thursby has defined development limits within the Local Plan. The remaining settlements of Micklethwaite, Crofton, Parton and Nealhouse are covered in provisions relating to housing in the countryside where non-essential housing will not normally be acceptable by way of new build or conversion. For these areas the developer must prove need which may or could include forestry, horticulture or agricultural use and local occupancy conditions may be made.

Under the Allerdale Local Plan the village of Thursby is designated as a "Local Centre". These Local Centres are described as larger villages which have some facilities such as public transport, shops, a Church, a school, post office or hall. Some growth is acceptable in such villages within defined limits subject to there being no environmental or infrastructure constraints.

In the 1999 Allerdale Local Plan the site identified in Thursby village for new housing was the former egg packing station, an area of 6.5 hectares which was more than the 2 hectares target set at the time by the Borough Council. The site was also subject to a quota of housing being made available for affordable housing for local people when developed. In the event, when this site was developed only eight properties were categorised as affordable housing and the remainder were sold on the open market.

As this site has been fully developed, all land within the Local Plan has been used up and there are no identified sites within the village at present which could be used to provide additional housing in Thursby for either the private market or affordable housing for local people.

Review of Allerdale Local Plan

During the next two years, the Borough Council will commence a review of the 1999 Local Plan and decide whether it would be appropriate to extend the present development limits of Thursby village to allow further new housing in the village. The Borough could also consider whether to alter the status of any present open spaces in the village which are currently protected as important amenity spaces.

In coming to such decisions, the Borough Council have to take into consideration a wide range of policy guidance from the Government and in the newly issued Regional Planning Guidance. The Council must also take into account the views of local people and in this respect the views expressed in the plan questionnaires are extremely important and relevant to this issue. These views will therefore be listened to seriously by the Borough Council when recommendations are made. The Parish Council will also have a further opportunity to comment on any changes recommended when the draft Local Plan is published.

Parish Plan Consultation

Within the Parish Plan consultation, residents were specifically asked if they had any views on the need for future housing in the parish and, if so, where such housing should be provided. The latter question is extremely important in that any future housing provision does not affect the character and amenity of the village for existing residents.

Housing and Planning Issues

Open spaces

70% of those who replied felt there should be no additional housing within Thursby village and from the survey and consultations in the village the majority of residents feel that the present important open spaces in the village should remain as protected open spaces and not be used for housing purposes. These spaces include the village green, land next to the Ship Inn, land on Matty Lonning and the Glebe Field.

New Development in Thursby Village

The consultation process indicated that the majority of residents of Thursby believe the village is now large enough and any further expansion could have a detrimental effect on its services, the school, sewage disposal, traffic, open space and could spoil the very character of the village which attracted new housing development in the first place. It can be argued that building in Thursby only provides overflow housing opportunities for Carlisle and there is no evidence which suggests local people would gain much benefit from a large influx of uncontrolled new housing into the village.

There was some limited support for affordable housing for local people in Thursby if a suitable site could be identified but residents were also cautious about the value of such provision following lack of affordable housing being provided on the egg packing station site despite this being included in the 1999 Local Plan. The Parish Council does not believe comparative high density, low cost housing on the Glebe Field would be an acceptable solution to the provision of affordable housing in the village and any future affordable housing should have a suitable local occupancy clause placed upon it.

In the remainder of the parish it was generally accepted that the provisions within the Local Plan regarding new housing were satisfactory although there was some support for a small amount of affordable housing in the Crofton area in the future if the proposals for redevelopment are successful.

Recommendations

- *Planning Guidelines.*
- *No extensions to the existing Thursby development boundaries are appropriate other than to fulfil local needs/affordable housing for local people incorporating occupancy clauses.*
- *Current protection of important open spaces in Thursby village should continue.*
- *Further estates of uniform standard housing are not considered appropriate for Thursby Parish.*
- *Existing building lines should not be altered without due consideration of the resulting spatial effect.*
- *Appropriate traditional buildings should be restored rather than demolished.*
- *When undertaking alterations, owners should seek to preserve local features whenever possible.*
- *Garden boundaries should be in local materials and the use of inappropriate hedging is to be discouraged.*
- *Garages should be unobtrusive, set back and behind the house if possible and all new properties should have off road parking.*

The Natural Environment & Wildlife

The parish area is mostly permanent pasture and meadowland, some is ploughed and sown for stock feed barley. Indigenous pasture plants survive as do the small mammals such as rabbits, hedgehogs and hares. The attractive hedgerows are mainly hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel but there are some wild gooseberry bushes, dog roses, ivy and holly. This planting, together with the hedgerow trees such as ash, rowan, alder and oak, provides a refuge for small mammals and enables a number of wild flowers to flourish. In spring primroses, cowslips, celandines and sweet violets are common. These are followed by May flowers, ragged robin, white campion, Welsh poppies, corn cockle, saxifrage, shepherds purse, wood avens, cranesbills, cow parsley, ground elder, daisies and buttercups.

Birds are well represented, with rare sightings of kingfishers, and regular sightings of heron on the lake. The grey partridge, pheasant, greater spotted woodpecker, kestrel, thrush, blackbird, goldcrest, wren, treecreeper, yellowhammer, sparrow, magpie, raven, crow, tits and finches are sighted frequently. Being only a few miles from the coast, a number of gulls take refuge and follow the plough in the winter months.

The parish is also visited by wild fowl who over winter around the Solway Firth.

There is a great deal of wildlife in and around the River Wampool and Crofton Lake. The lake is currently managed by the Carlisle and District Coarse Angling Society and this club ensures a minimum of disruption to wildlife around the lake environment and maintains the quality of the water in the lake.

The Parish Council also wish to protect the habitat in Torkin and Bank (Long) Wood. These areas are home to several species of bat.

Recommendations/Actions

- *Wildlife habitats, corridors and islands within the parish should be protected, this includes hedges, trees and water features such as ponds and springs and the watercourses that feed them.*
- *Recognise the value of Crofton Lake as a resource worthy of conservation. As a first stage in that process conduct a thorough survey of the existing flora and fauna.*
- *Any new developments should be sensitive to existing wildlife and natural habitats, in particular with regard to protected species.*

Employment Needs and Opportunities

The majority of people in the Parish work in the larger towns and the parish is ideally situated for people who wish to commute and live in an attractive rural area. There are some small businesses in the parish employing local people but the majority have to travel outside the parish for work.

It is felt that working within the parish, whether at home or in small local businesses, should be encouraged. This is in accordance with current government policy which is attempting to reduce the use of the motor car and its impact upon the environment.

The Parish Council will support the opportunities which might be created in Crofton by Voluntary Action Cumbria if they purchase the Crofton Trust properties. VAC hopes to provide a range of small business premises in the parish in connection with horticulture, small craft workshops and the service industries. However permission should only be granted if due consideration is given to the amenity and visual impact within the parish environment. The traffic generated and the effects of the development upon general road safety must also be addressed. The impact of such a development on the unadopted roads through Crofton must also be carefully assessed.

Home Working

On the issue of home working, the Parish Council feel that the promotion of at-home working is important and worth encouraging. The provision of broadband technology would be useful to help in this. This is also linked to the need to provide education and technological facilities, enabling people to have the expertise to take advantage of these opportunities. Local businesses need the support of the community and any possibility of friction should be eliminated at the planning stage. Particular care needs to be taken therefore about the siting of businesses that may generate extra traffic on country lanes.

Thursby Post Office

Thursby Post Office provides a vital service to the residents of the parish and the Parish Council will support any measures to strengthen this facility. In particular, the Parish Council feel the parking arrangements outside the Post Office need to be re-assessed to provide a safer route for both Post Office customers and school children.

The Ship Inn

The Ship Inn provides all the usual facilities of a public house but, over and above this, the Ship is also used as a meeting place for several clubs in the parish. In particular the over 55's meet monthly for a lunch club and members look forward to these meetings. It is important to the parish that this facility continues to be successful.

Recommendations/Action

- *The Parish Council would support the principle of the conversion of existing Crofton Trust buildings into small workshop premises with the object of generating employment within the parish subject to suitable traffic arrangements and the protection of Crofton Lake, rights of way, Bank Wood and Torkin Wood.*
- *The Parish Council will support home working where appropriate.*
- *The Parish Council will monitor the siting of business premises to ensure that their usage and traffic generated are acceptable.*
- *The Parish Council will support the initiative to provide IT training within the Parish Hall.*
- *The Parish Council will encourage and support measures to introduce broadband to the area as soon as possible.*

Traffic Speed and Volume, Transport Issues

Within the plan consultation, residents identified problems associated with the speed and size of modern traffic and these have been identified in the Plan consultation.

The Main Issues are

- The speed of traffic along the A595/A596 route through the parish is a concern to many residents. The design of the three entrances/exits from Thursby village, the two into Crofton and the junction at Nealhouse onto these busy roads are thought to be dangerous.
- There is acute concern about the layout of the A596 through Micklethwaite.
- Excessive traffic speeds through Thursby village during peak periods.
- Traffic using minor roads in the parish often travel at excessive speeds and in particular the road through Parton is a cause for concern.
- In some areas the lack of a paved footpath causes danger to pedestrians.
- There is concern about the speed of large vehicles travelling through the parish on both the A595 and the A596.

Thursby Village

Although the village of Thursby has had the benefit of a by-pass for some years, there are still a number of concerns which have been identified by residents in the parish questionnaires.

The 'Rat-run' through Thursby Village

Of particular concern was the amount of traffic using the village as a short cut or "rat-run" at peak periods to avoid the build up of traffic which occurs at the junction of the two major roads. At these periods, the speed of vehicles travelling directly through the village is often dangerous as drivers seek to take advantage of traffic on the main roads being held up. The residents of Thursby feel there should be some form of speed restrictions introduced or a direct prohibition of traffic using Thursby as a short cut in these circumstances.

Exits/Entrances

There are three exits/entrances into the village, each of which has been identified to have particular problems for those who use them.

The entrance from Carlisle.

Many residents complained they felt unsafe whilst slowing down to negotiate this junction due the speed of following traffic and occasionally when traffic travelling to Carlisle misjudge an overtaking manoeuvre. A number of residents stated that the original plan for this junction involved constructing a deceleration lane from the Carlisle direction to allow drivers entering the village to turn off more safely. There were several suggestions that the provision of this lane should now be reconsidered.

The entrance onto the Roundabout

This route is often used by drivers leaving the village in preference to the Carlisle exit on the grounds of safety. However, when leaving the junction onto the roundabout, it is difficult to see traffic entering the roundabout until the last minute and when such traffic is travelling fast the situation is quite dangerous. Local residents feel some form of sign should be displayed to warn motorists of this problem.

Traffic Speed and Volume, Transport Issues

The entrance from How End

Traffic wishing to enter Thursby Village off the A595 from the Cockermouth direction has to wait in the centre of the road. This is a fast stretch of road where overtaking often takes place. The vehicles standing in the centre of the road, waiting to manoeuvre, need to be protected.

Nealhouse Junction

There is considerable concern about the safety of drivers who wish to turn right into Nealhouse when travelling from the Carlisle direction. This often entails standing in an unprotected area in the centre of a busy main road and this is considered dangerous by regular users especially in the hours of darkness. Vehicles often drive onto the bus pull-in area to avoid standing traffic and this endangers pedestrians. Residents feel the layout should be improved to provide a safer turning point.

Micklethwaite

The bend through Micklethwaite is a constant source of worry for residents of this hamlet. Although signed, traffic often travels at excessive speed and residents feel more should be done to slow down traffic before it reaches this bend.

The entrance to Crofton from the A595

This entrance which is through the Crofton Arch is already restricted to vehicles below 7.5 tonnes although this restriction is often ignored. The junction is not easy to see and is quite poorly signed making a turning manoeuvre into Crofton from the Thursby direction quite difficult. Residents feel the restriction sign should be more prominent and the road better marked to encourage drivers to take more care on this stretch of road.

The Road through Crofton from the A595 to the A596

This road is a public highway although the remaining roads on the Crofton Estate are private and repairable by the residents. The road is quite narrow and along most of its stretch two vehicles can not pass. If, as expected, traffic use increases following the redevelopment of the Crofton Trust properties, the Council feel this road will be inadequate and will require work to allow vehicles to pass and a paved footpath provided for pedestrians to reach the two junctions safely.

Traffic often travels at excessive speeds along this road and the Parish Council feels this is dangerous particularly for the young children and for parents using prams. The lack of a pavement adds to these problems

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Within the questionnaire, a number of residents expressed concern about the speed HGV traffic travels through the parish. The dangers of such large vehicles travelling along narrow lanes and the damage being caused to road edges and verges when such vehicles try to pass is a major cause for concern to residents in the Parton area where most of the minor roads are quite narrow.

Thursby School

Concern was expressed about the limited amount of parking around the school entrance for parents waiting to drop off or collect their children. Bearing in mind this school has a large, mainly rural catchment area, many parents need to use their cars to collect their children and the parking area around the school should reflect this.

Traffic Speed and Volume, Transport Issues

Recommendations/Actions

- *Appropriate support will be given by the Parish Council for suitable measures to reduce unsatisfactory or inappropriate parking.*
- *The Parish Council will support sensitively designed and locally acceptable measures to secure reductions in traffic speeds, improve road safety and promote responsible driving in the parish.*
- *The Parish Council will discuss the present three entrances to Thursby village with the Highway Authority to see if improvements can be made to make these junctions safer to use.*
- *The Parish Council will discuss with the Highway Authority, the present two entrances to Crofton and the road connecting the A595 with the A596, to improve the road safety for pedestrians and drivers if the redevelopment proposals are to go ahead.*
- *The Parish Council will request measures to further reduce speed through Thursby village by the use of signs, appropriate road markings and the enforcement of the speed limit.*
- *The Parish Council will request measures to improve parking outside the school and the Post Office.*
- *The Parish Council will support measures to reduce the speed of HGV vehicles through the parish.*
- *The Parish Council will discuss with the Highway Authority ways of reducing traffic speed through Mickletonwaite.*

Village Environment and Services

With its pleasant rural environment and convenient location close to Carlisle, Thursby has become a much sought after place to live in recent years. The Parish Council wish to protect this environment and to ensure that any further development does not affect the quality of life of present residents and to protect them from inappropriate development of any kind. The principles are set out in the Planning Guidelines outlined earlier in this plan.

As part of this plan, the Parish Council, with the support of the community, wish to take steps to enhance the parish environment and feel there are a number of steps which can be taken to improve the appearance of the Parish within reasonable costs.

Verges

The verges along A595 and A596 are now beginning to mature and in general are well looked after by the authorities. This provides a pleasant setting. In the spring, many of the roadsides are alive with daffodils, planted over the years by volunteers.

Along the entrances to Thursby Village the verges can be improved by planting wild flowers to produce colour in summer and by the Parish Council perhaps paying for a one off cut after the wild flowers have seeded. This would tidy the verges throughout the winter period and encourage the natural cycle for meadow species.

Public Grassed Areas

Within Thursby there are five public grassed areas maintained by the Parish Council with the support of a concurrent grant from the Borough Council. The maintenance of these areas is satisfactory, although a number of residents felt consideration should be given to making the village green more attractive and perhaps moving the war memorial on to this land. These concepts are worth considering and the Parish Council will include them in the action plan.

Environment areas.

Within Thursby village there are two areas where grass cutting and shrub pruning would have quite a marked improvement to the appearance of the village. These are the land around the Curthwaite Junction and at the top of Matty Lonning. The Parish Council believe it would be acceptable for these areas to be cut within the Council Tax precept and this example would encourage private owners to maintain their property frontages and thus enhance the village environment.

Matty Beck

The condition of Matty Beck has been a cause for concern for some years. The beck is overgrown, contains litter and there appears to be pollution from domestic waste at its lower end towards the green. The responsibility for cleaning this beck rests with the various land owners at each side of the beck and the Parish Council have tried to ascertain ownership over the last twelve months. The Council welcome the co-operation of Home Housing Association who accept their share of this responsibility but it would appear that for the remainder of this beck there is no clear ownership. The Parish Council is considering using parish funds to clear the beck from the Jubilee Field to the garage to make it safer for local children who may play in and around this watercourse.

Signage

The increasing number of signs around the area is becoming a matter of concern. The Parish Council believes that their use should be carefully monitored so that they do not become an unnecessary visual intrusion. Redundant signs should also be removed.

Village Environment and Services

Dog Fouling

Although the Parish Council regularly reminds parishioners that, within the 30 mph speed limits, all dog fouling on public areas including the greens, playgrounds, roadside verges and pavements, is illegal and that dog owners can be fined, dog fouling continues to be a problem within Thursby village. Dog fouling is something which could be eradicated given the co-operation of dog owners and the Parish Council strongly supports Allerdale Borough Council's enforcement of the penalties for dog fouling and will take any necessary action. Within the action plan consideration will be given to providing "dog waste bins" in suitable locations in the village to try to reduce this constant nuisance.

Lighting

The Parish Council have been made conscious of the irritation caused by light pollution, especially that created by security lights on private dwellings. Some of the problems may be alleviated by encouraging the careful siting and positioning of lights, combined with the use of lower wattage bulbs, ensuring that the light is directed to where it is needed (not upwards to the night sky) and making full use of sensors and time controls. Any new or replacement street lighting should use screened, low-pressure sodium lamps.

Litter

For many residents litter found within the settlements and along the roadsides was a great irritation. Credit must be given to the Allerdale cleaning team who regularly clean up the major roads. The Parish Council will monitor the occurrence of litter and, where appropriate, will arrange for litter bins to be provided and emptied more frequently. The real answer to this problem rests with each individual and the Parish Council will continue to encourage residents to address this problem.

Litter is everyone's problem — Take yours home

Public seats

There are seven public seats located in the parish and these will all be painted and repaired early in 2004. The Parish Council is not aware of any demand for further seats but would consider any new proposals if such a request was received.

Bus Shelters.

Arrangements are in hand for the two bus shelters in Thursby to be repaired and redecorated and quotations are being obtained for the bus shelter at Nealhouse to have a new roof.

Village Environment and Services

As a result of the various surveys undertaken in the parish and the discussion they have prompted, a number of social issues have been identified. Some of these can be tackled within the parish; others need the involvement of higher authorities.

The Parish Hall

One issue stands out beyond all others. That is the need to retain and develop the Parish Hall as a multi-functional facility for the parish. It is clearly impractical for a small rural community to have a building for every purpose and in the parish of Thursby the only possible solution is to provide as wide a range of facilities as possible within the existing hall building. Those who responded to the various surveys are unanimous in their support for this facility. The importance of the building cannot be over-estimated and a later section of this plan is devoted exclusively to the Parish Hall.

Post Office & Shop

Another important community facility is the Post Office and shop. This provides parishioners with an amenity that all too many rural communities have lost. The Parish Council supports any measures that can be taken to protect the viability of this service.

Recycling

Currently, there is a small recycling centre on the Ship Inn car park. There are facilities for recycling glass. This facility is extremely popular with residents and enthusiastically supported. Many residents in Thursby village have a bin for the recycling of paper. It is the policy of central government to increase the amount of material that can be recycled and the Parish Council will support any new initiatives that can be brought to the parish.

Gardening Club

In many parishes there are successful gardening clubs which provide opportunities for gardeners to meet and discuss their hobby and to receive talks from local experts. Many of the clubs hold spring and summer shows and the Parish Council feel such a club in Thursby & District could prove to be popular with residents. The Parish Council will provide initial support for such a venture by providing a small donation for administration purposes and meet the cost of the Parish Hall for an initial Steering Group meeting. The formation of such a group could provide the input towards the landscaping of greens as set out elsewhere in this plan and organise a Parish Garden Competition which would be supported by the Parish Council.

Recommendations/Actions

The Parish Council will:-

- *monitor the use of signs within the parish to prevent any unnecessary visual intrusion.*
- *port measures to reduce unnecessary light pollution in the parish.*
- *take action to reduce litter and dog fouling in the parish.*
- *consider providing additional public seats if acceptable sites can be agreed.*
- *seek to ensure that new and existing utility cabling in the parish is buried underground in the future.*
- *support measures to improve the environment of the village.*
- *support additional re-cycling opportunities in the parish in conjunction with Allerdale Borough Council.*
- *sponsor a Gardening Club and Garden Competition in the Thursby Area*

Media & Communications

The Throstle Newsletter

The Throstle Newsletter, with its enthusiastic editorial staff and 20 loyal delivery volunteers, provides an important service to the parish community. The newsletter keeps residents up to date with Parish Council affairs, as well as information about parish groups and committees, forthcoming events, reports on past events and items of general interest to parishioners. The Parish Council will continue to support this publication. This newsletter, involving all the parish and delivered to all households, is the best form of publication.

Parish Web Site

The possibility of creating a Parish Web Site has also been discussed. It is possible that such a project could receive grant funding and the Parish Council will seek further information on this once the Parish Plan is published. A Parish Web Site could usefully include some of the pictures and information collected for the plan although it has to be said that these sites need regular updating and can be quite time consuming.

Notice Boards

The Parish Council has 3 notice boards, in Nealhouse, Crofton and Thursby. In addition, notices can be posted in the Post Office, the Village Hall, Shipshape Hairdressers and The Ship Inn. These facilities are well used and provide an essential service to the residents. The present boards are now all reaching the end of their useful life and over the next few years will all be replaced. There is also a request for an extra notice board at Micklethwaite and Parton and suitable locations will be sought for such a facility.

Community Map

The Parish Council considers that the production of a community map would be of great benefit. Such a map would identify every property or group of properties in the parish by name as well as showing street names where appropriate. Thursby Parish First Responders have compiled maps of the Parish, identifying and naming every property. These are for the use of their trained Responders and copies of these maps have been given to the Police and Cumbria Ambulance Service. The Parish Council will seek ways for an edited form of this information to be published within the action plan.

Recommendations/Actions

- *The Parish Council will continue to support the Throstle Newspaper as the most suitable vehicle to promote community information throughout the parish.*
- *The Parish Council will maintain the notice boards in the parish and make them available to other local groups to publicise their own activities.*
- *The Parish Council will seek funding for the provision of a parish map identifying all homes and roads in the Parish together with a campaign to encourage owners to clearly identify their properties.*
- *The Parish Council will look to producing a welcome pack, to inform new residents of facilities and services in the Parish.*

Parish Safety

Most respondents to the questionnaire indicated they felt problems of anti-social behaviour in the Parish were minimal and most felt safe in their homes. This is a tribute to the friendly spirit in the parish where good neighbours abound.

Although the incidence of crime and anti-social behaviour in the parish is comparatively small, under Section 17 of the Crime & Disorder Act, the Parish Council has a duty to consider the impact of all its functions and decisions on crime and disorder in its area. This is not a new concept, but central government is now keen to ensure that local police forces and the rural communities are working together to try to reduce crime and improve safety generally.

There have been Neighbourhood Watch schemes for many years, which have the support of the Parish Council. The Parish Council also has a good relationship with the local police who are available to discuss and act on matters of concern and who attend meetings and provide reports on a regular basis.

In some parishes a more comprehensive safety group has been set up to examine the problems of village safety. These groups contain representatives of the police, school, Parish Councillors, licensees and voluntary members. Such groups have official backing and can raise funding to deal with specific issues in a parish.

Within this plan, the Parish Council have included a recommendation to consult parish residents in more detail about this issue including the possibility of setting up a safety group to work with the local police.

Road safety

During the consultation process several areas of concern were raised by residents in respect of road safety issues.

- A number of residents felt that some hedges and verges were not trimmed soon enough in the summer months. This reduced visibility for drivers on some of the narrow lanes in the parish and in particular on the Parton road.
- There was concern about traffic congestion at dropping off and collecting times outside the school. Some parents felt better parking arrangements should be provided for this purpose.
- The entrances/exits of the two major roads were a concern to many and this problem is described in detail in the section relating to Highways and Traffic.

Recommendation

- *The Parish Council will seek measures to improve village safety with the appropriate agencies as set out within the plan.*

Public Rights of Way

The Parish of Thursby is fortunate in having a network of public rights of way throughout the parish. For many years these paths have been watched over by Parish Councillors who have kept overhanging branches and brambles to a minimum and reported serious problems. Minor maintenance continues to be organised by the Parish Council, which regards this work as important for the parish.

From the consultation included in the questionnaires, 49% indicated they were satisfied with the public footpath in the parish although there were some comments about some paths being blocked off. 23% felt there was a need for additional paths but no specific suggestions were included as to where they might be created.

The Parish Council will continue to monitor the condition and access to public rights of way within the parish and welcome the involvement of the Countryside Agency in respect of new legislation affecting public footpaths.

Within Crofton, the Parish Council will monitor public rights of way to ensure that any redevelopment proposals do not affect these footpaths and to ensure access to such areas as Torkin Wood.

Parish Councils are the guardians of public rights of way and it is important that the heritage of public footpaths in all villages is preserved for future generations. As part of the actions arising from this plan, the Parish Council will survey all the public rights of way in the parish and the results will be forwarded to the County Rights of Way Officer. It is hoped from this survey that a programme of works to upgrade the paths can be undertaken.

Recommendations for Action

- *The Parish Council will undertake a survey of all parish paths to determine their condition and ease of access for residents to walk.*
- *The Parish Council will continue to work with the County Council, Rights of Way Section, in keeping all the paths in good order.*
- *The Parish Council will seek ways of producing a leaflet showing paths around the parish for the benefit of residents and visitors.*

Leisure opportunities in Thursby Parish

Overview

During the plan preparation, the Parish Council have taken particular regard to the question of providing leisure opportunities for people in the parish. At all stages of the consultations questions were asked about the need for leisure facilities and in particular many people in their responses also included suggestions about youth activities.

In Thursby Parish there are approximately 250 young people between the ages of 0 – 14 out of a population of around 1200. The Primary School in the parish provides schooling up to the age of 11 when most pupils then go to either Wigton, Dalston or Carlisle for secondary education.

As in any community, there are a number of organisations who provide activities for young people and a number take part in extramural activities in the Secondary School or in adjoining towns. Of course not all young people take up these opportunities and from time to time there are complaints of groups of young people wandering about the village with nothing to do.

An important part of the consultation process has been with the local school who have used the plan process as part of the learning process and all children in the school have been given the opportunity of saying what they feel is needed in the village.

The main facilities for holding leisure opportunities in the Parish are the Parish Hall, the Jubilee Field, Thursby School, Crofton Social Centre and the Ship Inn. In fact, there are no other places in the parish where groups could meet and this underlines the importance of the Parish Hall as a venue available to all groups in the parish to use for leisure activities.

For many, travelling to Carlisle or Wigton for leisure pursuits is simply out of the question and the availability of local facilities is seen as an important part of the parish infrastructure.

At present there are a number of active and well supported clubs and organisations in the Parish and the Parish Council believe it is important to support these groups which provide most of the leisure opportunities in the Parish.

The Jubilee Field

The day to day management and the responsibility for the upgrading of the Jubilee Field is the responsibility of the Sports and Recreation Committee. This is a separate charitable committee supported by the Parish Council which is the owner of the land. This enables those involved to obtain funding which would be unavailable to the Parish Council.

As owner of the field, it is important that the Parish Council is involved in the safety of the facility and the long term viability of the field and liaise with the present Sports and Recreation Committee to improve the field and provide additional facilities. Each year the Parish Council make a contribution to this facility through the precept.

The present arrangement is by way of a lease which was drawn up in 2002 between the Trustees of the Sports and Recreation Committee and the Parish Council. The Parish Council recognises the importance of this arrangement in the Parish and is suggesting within this plan that the relationship between the two parties should be strengthened by the addition of an annual meeting between the two groups to discuss issues such as financial support, public liability insurance and public involvement.

Clubs and Organisations

Introduction

As part of the plan preparation, clubs or organisations in the parish who wished to comment were consulted to obtain their views about the future of the parish. Without exception all felt village meeting places were an essential facility need in the village although their individual perceptions of what these should contain were different in each case.

The majority of the clubs felt that they required a place within the parish in which to hold their meetings, to use for fund raising and public events. Most felt that they would support the need for facilities for the disabled and elderly in the Parish Hall. In some cases, the lack of suitable storage was blamed as a cause for a club not being able to expand or provide activity for young people.

It is interesting to observe that although an organisation might not hold their regular meetings in the hall, most do use the hall for fund raising events or celebrating an event from time to time and a successful community hall is considered an important and vital facility for a parish.

Outdoor recreational and sporting facilities were the second important issue raised by the clubs. Many felt that more facilities were needed for village children particularly supervised activities through clubs and some expressed the view that land within the village should be made available for this purpose. There was a call for a community worker to work with young people in the village and for better transport links with Carlisle and Wigton to enable clubs to join in activities in the major swimming pools and sports centres.

CONCLUSION

There is no doubt there is considerable concern within the Parish Clubs and organisations about their long term future if the hall was lost and all indicated they would support the replacement of the Hall and any events which might be provided to raise funds for such a project.

Current active clubs and organisations are:-

Bellringers	Thursby Football Team—under 6
Crofton and Thursby Walking Group	Thursby Football Team—under 8
Crofton Bowling Club	Thursby Football Team—under 10
Crofton Community Association	Thursby Harriers—adults
Crofton Conservation Group	Thursby Harriers—under 10
Crofton Social Centre	Thursby Methodist Chapel
Crofton Women's Institute	Thursby Parish First Responders
Jubilee Club	Thursby Parish Hall Committee
Lunch Club—over 55s	Thursby Primary School Parents & Friends Ass.
Mother and Toddler Group	Thursby Short Mat Bowling Association
Ship Social Club	Thursby Village Show Committee
St Andrew's Church	Thursby Women's Institute
St Andrew's Mothers Union	Whist Drive
St Andrew's P.C.C.	Yoga
Sports & Recreational Committee	

Young people

As part of the Parish Plan, the Council wish to take the opportunity to improve services for young people in the Parish. It is of course impossible for major leisure facilities to be provided in all villages and for many young people living in a rural area this means that they are dependent on parents or friends for transport to amenities in nearby towns and often this means two journeys for the driver involving a considerable amount of time. In considering its policy towards young people therefore, the Parish Council decided to set out its aims within this document so that in the future there are clear guidelines for the Parish Council, local organisations and young people themselves to understand the Council's aims.

These aims can be summarised as follows

- To improve the present facilities within the village for young people.
- To support the Sports and Recreation Committee to improve the Jubilee Field.
- To ease access to facilities targeted at young people.
- To reduce anti-social behaviour.

There is no doubt that in a rural area without adequate bus services, young people can find it difficult to occupy their time and the Parish Council wish to address this problem in this plan.

The present facilities for young people's leisure activities in the Parish are:-

- The play area and village greens.
- The Jubilee Field.
- Occasional one-off events organised in the Parish Hall.
- Extramural activities organised by schools.

For other leisure activities, young people in the parish are dependent on parents or friends for transport to larger towns. Within the village, young people in the parish often quite naturally meet to talk but the lack of a suitable place, particular in poor weather makes it difficult for them to enjoy themselves. The bus shelters in the centre of the village are often used as meeting places, simply because they provide shelter from the wind and rain and are a central point. They are not appropriate as there is no lighting and they are too close to property and the road. A purpose built youth shelter might provide a valuable amenity in the parish if a suitable site was available.

In Thursby in particular, there is a gap in recreational facilities covering the adolescent years which can cause problems. Young people need somewhere to "hang out" together; somewhere that is accessible and free. A youth shelter is "a structure designed to meet the social needs of young people – a sheltered place to sit and talk". It would have a roof, but would be open on all sides enabling all round visibility, 'natural policing' and safety for users. If necessary, partial screening can be provided on one or more sides as extra protection from wind and rain. Careful siting is essential as is involving the young people in the decision making process. The Parish Council believes that the young people of the parish would welcome and benefit from a youth shelter and will seek the views of young people in respect of such a structure. The Parish Council would also support any other initiative to provide leisure activities for young people in the parish if requested.

Thursby School

From the questionnaires completed by the pupils of Thursby School it was evident that the children enjoyed the various school clubs provided. In a rural community such as Thursby with a fairly large catchment area, the service provided by local primary schools can not be overestimated and the Parish Council support the efforts of the school in providing leisure activities for the pupils.

Young people

Young people questionnaires

During the Plan preparation, young people attending Thursby Primary School were invited to complete a short questionnaire giving their views about the facilities needed in the parish. The main items requested were as follows:-

<i>All weather pitch</i>	6	<i>A bike track with jumps</i>	3
<i>Additional use of Parish Hall</i>	2	<i>Basketball pitch/posts</i>	5
<i>Swimming facilities</i>	20	<i>Tennis court</i>	10
<i>Visits by a fair</i>	1	<i>Netball</i>	2
<i>Bungi jumping</i>	2	<i>Horse riding</i>	6
<i>Rugby</i>	2	<i>Trampoline</i>	4

Youth Club

Within the consultation process a number of residents expressed the view that a Youth Club should be held in the Parish Hall. The Parish Hall Committee and the Parish Council agree with this view provided proper supervision can be arranged over matters such as health & safety. The Parish Hall Committee will investigate the possibility of providing a youth club in early 2004.

Recommendations/Action

- *The Parish Council believes that the use of the Parish Hall as a venue for recreational opportunities for young people should be considered providing adequate supervision is available.*
- *The Parish Council will consider further the provision of a "youth shelter", possibly replacing the existing bus shelter.*
- *The Parish Council will support additional efforts by any local groups to increase leisure opportunities in the parish for young people.*
- *The Parish Council will continue to support the Sports and Recreation Committee to improve the facilities available on the Jubilee Field.*
- *The Parish Council will support Thursby Primary School after school clubs held for the benefit of parish children.*

Thursby Parish Hall

Originally, there were several meeting places in the parish either publicly owned or owned by private trusts for use by residents. Some of these have now closed or been converted to other uses and those which remain require considerable expense to bring them up to present day standards. Recently the Church Hall has been sold for development of the site and this has caused problems for the users.

Thursby Parish Hall

The Parish Hall was purchased second hand immediately after the First World War and was opened in 1922. The main building is constructed of timber with the two annexes of traditional materials. The layout includes the main hall, a kitchen, supper room, ladies and gents toilet facilities and a small storage room. The building has been run by a succession of management committees since it was built although the Parish Council is the owner from the original acquisition. The present Parish Hall Committee is a registered charity and has received financial support from the Parish Council each year towards the hall running costs.

Lottery Bid

In 2000, conscious that the present hall was nearing the end of its useful life, it was agreed that a new hall was necessary and fund raising efforts would be made to try and raise the finance required. With the support of the Parish Council, the existing Parish Hall Committee was given the mandate to act as organisers for fund raising and they appointed a consultant to assist in the task of organising the work required to put together an application to the National Lottery as the main funding organisation.

The Committee made two bids for lottery funding but each was rejected and although the Committee continues to seek a solution progress is slow. Under the aims of the Parish Plan, the Parish Council feel a new look at the problem is necessary due to changes in the way grant funding is now made for community halls and other facilities by the major funding organisations.

Condition

As part of the lottery application a full condition survey was undertaken by surveyors in respect of the condition of the hall. This survey revealed that the main structural components of the building are in poor condition and it would be difficult to replace these at an economic cost. This, together with obsolete fittings, the need for rewiring and improved kitchen and sanitary arrangements, all confirm the need for the full replacement of this building. The problem remaining is how to find the necessary funding for this project.

Over the years the hall has been the focal point of parish activity. Within the questionnaire sent out during the parish survey, the Parish Council asked specific questions about the use of the hall as a meeting place for residents of the village. The clear response was that the hall was essential as a parish facility. The parish plan questionnaire also asked specific questions to householders about their involvement with clubs and organisations in the community and whether they felt there was a need for a new hall in the parish. A similar approach was made to clubs and organisations in the parish and local children were also asked through the school to give their views.

Present Use

In the year 2003 there were over 270 bookings for the use of the hall. Over 220 of these are for regular bookings which means the hall is used on average 5—6 times each week by local organisations. The level of use has remained constant over the three years these figures have been kept and the information which has been given by local clubs underlines the need for this facility.

Thursby Parish Hall

The Way ahead

As previously stated, a Parish Hall Committee, registered as a charity, run the Hall as an independent body. At this point in time both the Parish Council and the Parish Hall Committee feel there is no other option but to submit a further bid for the funding for a new hall in early 2004 as there would appear to be no other major funder for such projects.

The cost of a new hall will obviously depend on its size and to some degree whether it is built on a new site or on the existing one. There will also be a demolition cost for the existing hall. However, either type of scheme will be expensive and in order to submit a new bid work is necessary to update the feasibility study, create a new business plan and revise the plans for a hall of the size and type required following the needs survey taking into account present economic circumstances.

It will also be necessary for matching funding to be available and if any parish land is to be used, the Parish Council will need to be able to satisfy the District Auditor that they have received value for money in giving the land to the project and their "gift" is properly protected for the future. This latter might be achieved by including a claw back clause in any document transferring the land to be used for a new hall.

The present hall committee has already undertaken the majority of the work required to submit a further lottery application although it might be necessary to reconsider the size and layout of a new hall as the level of funding available has been reduced by the commission due to reduced finance being made available for lottery grants. It will also be an opportunity to consider what facilities are needed in the hall to attract new users or to provide out-reach health services in a suitably constructed building.

To this end the information obtained in the consultation process for the Parish Plan in respect of the use of the hall by the Thursby community is extremely useful and will assist in the preparation of a new application to the Lottery Commission..

The needs of young people in the parish have also been an important part of the consultation process and the Council's views on these issues are also recorded in the plan.

Conclusion

The plan process has confirmed the need for the replacement of the Parish Hall as a matter of priority. Over 15 clubs and organisations in the Parish are dependent on the hall for their survival and if a suitable replacement hall could be built there would be a possibility of extending the use of the hall even further.

On a day to day basis, the Thursby community support their hall but it is unrealistic to assume a small parish community could raise the necessary funding for a new building although they would support local efforts to provide match funding if the opportunity occurred.

Recommendation

- *The Parish Hall Committee will submit a further lottery bid in 2004 using additional information provided in this plan following a re-assessment of the type of building required and a new business plan being prepared.*

Summary of Issues raised through Consultation

During the plan preparation and consultation process, a number of issues were considered and the action plan which follows seeks to identify ways of dealing with these matters in future years for the benefit of the community. A summary of the main issues is listed below.

- The consultation process indicated there is a strong feeling in the Parish that the Thursby housing development boundaries in the Allerdale Local Plan should remain as they are at present and should not be extended in future Allerdale Local Plans without full consultation with the Parish Council.
- The majority of residents in Thursby felt the present protected open spaces in the village should be protected. These include the village green, land at Matty Lonning and the Glebe Field.
- There is strong support in the parish for the protection and preservation of wildlife habitats in the parish.
- There is concern by residents about the speed of HGV's travelling through the parish, the speed of traffic using Thursby village as a short cut and the design of entrances/exits from the A596 & A595 into the various settlements in the parish.
- The Parish Council have produced planning guidelines indicating their views on planning issues to be placed for consideration when the Allerdale Local Plan is reviewed.
- The Parish Council will support the redevelopment of Crofton Trust Properties provided the needs of existing Crofton residents are taken into account.
- There is strong support for the Parish Council's efforts to publicise and maintain public rights of way.
- It was clear from the issues raised that residents of the parish support the improvement of services.
- Better communication by the Parish Council was requested by residents.
- Residents would support measures to improve village safety.
- Additional facilities are needed in the parish for young people.
- There was strong support for the replacement of the Parish Hall.

Acknowledgements

Production of this Parish Plan is a major achievement and the community and everyone involved is to be congratulated.

The Parish Council gratefully acknowledge the support and assistance of the following groups and individuals who have assisted in the preparation of this Plan.

Allerdale Borough Council

Cumbria Police

Members of the Thursby Parish Plan Steering Group

Mr Duncan Fairbairn, Cumbria County Councillor

Mr Peter Wilson (consultant)

Mrs Anne Holmes, Allerdale Borough Councillor

Mrs Debbie Keir, North Allerdale Partnership Officer

The Countryside Agency

Thursby Parish Hall Committee

Thursby Primary School staff and pupils

Voluntary Action Cumbria

Action Plan

The following pages set out in some detail the actions to be taken by the Parish Council to implement the proposals set out in the Parish Plan.

Not all the proposals set out are within the power of the Parish Council but it is intended to work with local organisations and principal Councils to try to achieve as many of the recommendations made as possible.

The publication of this plan is one of a number of new initiatives to be undertaken by the Parish Council in order to support and improve community life in Thursby Parish.

These initiatives include

- 1 In order that the proposals in this plan are implemented, the Parish Council will form an Implementation Sub-Committee to consider each recommendation and institute appropriate action. This Committee will seek advice from local groups or principal authorities as required.
- 2 The Parish Council will seek to strengthen its ties and communications with other local organisations by way of joint meetings, discussions and representation on working groups.
- 3 The Parish Council will ensure actions undertaken within the plan are communicated to parish residents by way of the Throstle Newsletter.
- 4 The Parish Council will consider its own management and financial structure and consider taking steps to attain Quality Parish Council Status

A Quality Parish Council

- Is representative of, and actively engages all parts of its community, providing vision, identity and a sense of belonging
- Is effectively and properly managed
- Articulates the needs and wishes of its community
- Upholds high standards of conduct
- Works closely with other local authorities and public service agencies
- Delivers local services on behalf of principal local authorities when this represents a better deal for the community
- Works closely with voluntary groups in its community
- Provides leadership to its community through its parish plans and
- Working with its partners, acts as an information point for local services

Action Plan

The Recommendation	Action to be taken	Priority	Partners	Start Time	Lead Group	Resource Implications
Housing and Planning issues No extensions to the existing Thursby development boundaries are appropriate other than to fulfil local needs/affordable housing for young local people incorporating occupancy clauses. Current protection of important open spaces in Thursby village should continue. Further estates of uniform standard housing are not considered appropriate for Thursby Parish. Existing building lines should not be altered without due consideration of the resulting spatial effect. Appropriate traditional buildings should be restored rather than demolished.	The Parish Council will submit these recommendations to the Planning Department of Allerdale Borough Council as suggestions for inclusion in the next review of the Allerdale Local Plan to be commenced in 2004 If accepted these guidelines will be taken into account when the Parish Council consider Planning Applications for development in the parish.	When Local Plan reviewed	Parish Council Allerdale B.C.	May 2004	Parish Council	None
When undertaking alterations, owners should seek to preserve local features whenever possible. Garden boundaries should be in local materials and the use of inappropriate hedging is to be discouraged. Garages should be unobtrusive, set back and behind the house if possible and all new properties should have off road parking.						

Action Plan

The Recommendation	Action to be taken	Priority	Partners	Time-scale	Lead Group	Resource Implications
Traffic Speed & Volume						
- Appropriate support will be given by the Parish Council for suitable measures to reduce unsatisfactory or inappropriate parking. - The Parish Council will support sensitively designed and locally acceptable measures to secure reductions in traffic speeds, improve road safety, and promote responsible driving in the parish. - The Parish Council will discuss the present three entrances to Thursby Village with the County Council to see if further improvements can be made to make these junctions safer to use.	The Parish Council will seek an early meeting with representatives of Cumbria County Council Highways Authority to seek clarification in respect of the use of roads within Crofton and the consequences and dangers this poses to local residents at the locations identified in the Plan consultation The Parish Council will also request the County Council to consider the Improvement of the entrance/exits to Thursby Village	High High	Parish Council Cumbria CC Parish Council Allerdale B C	May 2004	Parish Council Parish Council	None to PC None to PC
- The Parish Council will discuss the present two entrances to Crofton with the County Council to see if improvements can be made to make these junctions safer to use if the redevelopment proposals are to go ahead - The Parish Council will request measures to further reduce speed through Thursby Village by the use of signs, appropriate road markings and the enforcement of the speed limit. - The Parish Council will request measures to improve parking outside the school - The Parish Council will support measures to reduce the speed of HGV vehicles through the parish. - The Parish Council will discuss ways of reducing traffic speed through Micklethwaite with the County Council	As part of a safety initiative, the Parish Council will discuss the use of mobile speed guns within the Parish to identified black spots in Thursby village to support the views expressed in this Plan. The Parish Council will support efforts by Home Housing to improve parking on School Road for the School and local post office The Parish Council will seek a meeting with the Highways Authority in respect of the dangerous bend through Micklethwaite Village.	Medium Medium High	Parish Council Cumbria Police Local volunteers Parish Council Cumbria CC Home Housing Parish Council Cumbria CC		Parish Council Home Housing Parish Council	PC will sponsor safety group—approx £100. None to PC None to PC

Action Plan

The Recommendation	Action to be taken	Priority	Partners	Time-scale	Lead Group	Resource Implications
Wildlife and Heritage Recommendations - Wildlife habitats, corridors and islands within the parish should be protected, this includes hedges, trees and water features such as ponds and springs and the watercourses that feed them. - Recognise the value of Crofton Lake as a resource worthy of conservation. As a first stage in that process conduct a thorough survey of the existing flora and fauna. - Any new developments should be sensitive to existing wildlife and natural habitats, in particular with regard to protected species.	Parish Council will monitor any new developments in Parish to ensure natural environment is protected and watercourses are not polluted.. Future planning applications will be examined to ensure environment is protected or enhanced.	Medium	Parish Council Local Community	Monitoring will take place from now on	Parish Council Local Residents	None
Employment Recommendations/Actions - The Parish Council would support the principle of the conversion of existing Crofton Trust buildings into small workshop premises with the object of generating employment within the Parish subject to suitable traffic arrangements and the protection of Crofton Lake, Rights off Way and Torkin Wood - The Parish Council will support home working where appropriate. - The Parish Council will monitor the siting of business premises to ensure that their usage and traffic generated are acceptable. - The Parish Council will support the initiative to provide IT training within the parish hall. - The Parish Council will proactively encourage and support measures to introduce broadband to the area as soon as possible.	Parish Council will seek liaison arrangements with prospective owners to ensure existing residents are not affected by any proposals for Crofton Parish Council will monitor planning applications to ensure siting of any new business does not impinge of residents privacy and enjoyment of home. Parish Council will discuss use of the Village Hall for IT training.	High Medium Medium	Parish Council Parish Council Hall Committee Parish Council	When required	Parish Council VAC Parish Council Hall Committee	None None None

Action Plan

The Recommendation	Action to be taken	Priority	Partners	Time-scale	Lead Group	Resource Implications
Recommendations—Village Environment & Services						
The Parish Council will:-						
monitor the use of signs within the parish to prevent any unnecessary visual intrusion.	Unnecessary signs reported to County Council	As required	Parish Council	As required	Parish Council	Not known
support measures to reduce unnecessary light pollution in the parish.	Monitor problems					
take action to reduce litter and dog mess in the parish.	Liase with Allerdale Dog Warden	Medium	Parish Council	By Oct 04	Parish Council	£250.00
consider providing additional public seats if acceptable sites can be agreed.	Consider new requests as received					
seek to ensure that new and existing utility cabling in the parish is buried underground in the future.	Monitor situation					
support measures to improve the environment of the village.	Discuss possibilities and consult with residents	Medium	Parish Council Allerdale BC	By Oct 04	Parish Council	None to PC
support additional re-cycling opportunities in the Parish in conjunction with Allerdale Borough Council.	Consult with Borough Council	Medium	Parish Council Allerdale BC	By Oct 04	Parish Council	None to PC
Sponsor a Gardening Club and Garden Competition in the Thursby Area	Call introductory Meeting	Medium	Parish Council	By Oct 04	Parish Council	£200 sponsor grant
Media and Communications						
The Parish Council will continue to support the Throstle Newspaper as the most suitable vehicle to promote community information throughout the Parish.	Parish Council will support Throstle	Medium	Parish Council Local groups	By Oct 04	Parish Council	Approx £500.00 p.a
The Parish Council will maintain the Notice Boards in the Parish and make them available to other local groups to publicise their own activities. A programme of phased renewal will be undertaken.	Availability of Notice boards will be publicised					
The Parish Council seek funding for the provision of a Parish Map identifying all homes and roads in the Parish together with a campaign to encourage owners to clearly identify their properties.	Parish Council will seek advice from local agencies about how to proceed. Residents will be encouraged to form community group to produce map					Maps £1000.00 Could be grant aided.
The Parish Council will investigate the resources required to set up an official web site in respect of parish council services						

Action Plan

The Recommendation	Action to be taken	Priority	Partners	Time-scale	Lead Group	Resource Implications
Parish Safety The Parish Council will seek measures to improve village safety with the appropriate agencies as set out within the plan	Publicity in Newsletter and discuss formation of safety group in Parish	Ongoing	Parish Council; Cumbria Police Cumbria Police	Ongoing	Parish Council	Not yet assessed
Recommendation—Parish Rights of Way - The Parish Council are undertaking a survey of all Parish Paths to determine their condition and ease of access for residents to walk. - The Parish Council will continue to work with the County Council, Rights of Way Section, in keeping all the paths in good order. - The Parish Council will seeks ways of producing a leaflet showing paths around the parish for the benefit of residents and visitors.	Parish Council will consider the survey of all PROW to determine condition and accessibility. Results will be reported to County Rights of Way Officer and any joint matters reported to adjoining councils Parish Council will seek funding to produce a paths leaflet showing all paths in Parish	Ongoing Ongoing	Parish Council Cumbria CC Parish Council Consultant	Ongoing By April 05	Parish Council Parish Council	None Approx £1000
Leisure,,Clubs and organisations and Young People - The Parish Council believes that the use of the parish hall as a venue for recreational opportunities for young people should be considered providing adequate supervision is available.. - The Parish Council will consider further the provision of a "youth shelter",. - The Parish Council will support additional efforts by any local groups to increase leisure opportunities in the parish for young people - The Parish Council will continue to support the Sports and Recreation Committee to improve the facilities available on the Jubilee Field. - The Parish Council will support after school clubs held for the benefit of village children.	Parish Council will consult with young people in the Parish to discuss the issues raised by young people in the Plan Consultation	Ongoing	Parish Council	By Oct 04	Parish Council	Youth Shelter Could be £2500

Action Plan

The Recommendation	Action to be taken	Priority	Partners	Time-scale	Lead Group	Resource Implications
Recommendations—Thursby Parish Hall The Parish Hall committee will submit a further lottery bid in 2004 using additional information provided in this plan following a re-assessment of the type of building required and a new business plan being prepared.	The Parish Hall Committee will review the use of the centre in line with the views expressed by residents in the recent questionnaire and a new bid to the lottery commission will be prepared. The Committee will prepare a revised layout of a new hall to determine future facilities based on the results of the parish survey and existing users. The Hall Committee will seek to enlarge the existing hall management committee.	High	Parish Council Parish Hall Committee Local Clubs Parish Residents	By Oct 04	Parish Council	Not Known at this time