

Upper Eden Community Plan **Review 2020**





Contents



Introduction	2
Upper Eden Area	3
Chair's Introduction	4
Upper Eden CIC	5
2008 Community Plan	6
A Vision for Upper Eden	7-9
Community Plan Achievements	10 - 11
The Review Project	12
Upper Eden Steering Group	13
Community Consultation 2018	
Environment	14 - 15
Economy	16-17
Social & Community	18 - 19
Transport & Accessibility	20-21
Upper Eden Community Action Plan	22
Environment	23
Economy	24
Social and Community	25
Transport & Accesibility	26
Achieving our Actions	27

Introduction

This book provides an overview of the 2017 Upper Eden Community Plan project, which had one clear objective – to bring the 2008 plan up-to-date.

Over a two-year period, the Upper Eden Steering Group engaged with the community through activities and events, to understand what life is like in Upper Eden today and the importance of the Community Plan.

Through research and consultation, the group considered how life had changed in Upper Eden since 2008 when the original plan was launched, and how the plan had helped to influence positive change in the local community. The outcome of its research and community engagement helped to inform and shape the new strategic action plan created in 2019.

The contents of this book also provide an insight into the work that the Steering Group undertook over a two year period, the background of the original plan and why there was such a desire to create a multi-parish plan of this size. A timeline of actions provides a visual overview of some of the local achievements that were set out in the original strategic plan. This demonstrates the benefit of a community led plan and how it can help to influence decision making when significant changes are taking place.





The area covered by the Plan, and the parishes which worked together to produce it, are indicated below:-

1. Brough
2. Brough Sowerby
3. Crosby Garrett
4. Hartley
5. Hellbeck
6. Kaber

7. Kirkby Stephen
8. Mallerstang
9. Musgrave
10. Nateby
11. Ravenstonedale & Newbiggin

12. Soulby
13. Stainmore
14. Waitby
15. Warcop
16. Wharton
17. Winton

Parish

Population

Brough & Hellbeck	750
Brough Sowerby	135
Hartley	140
Kirkby Stephen	1,820
Musgrave	165
Nateby	120
Ravenstonedale & Newbiggin-on-Lune	595
Soulby & Crosby Garrett	185
Stainmore	265
Waitby & Smardale	195
Warcop	530
Wharton & Mallerstang	175
Winton & Kaber	325

Total Population

5400

information source: Cumbria Observatory – parish to ward population profiles.



Chair's Introduction from Alex Birtles

It is difficult to overstate the importance of community-led planning to the seventeen Parishes which together make up the Upper Eden Valley.

Like so many rural communities up and down the United Kingdom, these Parishes have traditionally had little choice but to be self-reliant and independent of mind, being so far from centres of power and influence. And yet, as was proved in 2008 when the first Upper Eden Community Plan was published, the impact that these communities can have on much larger organisations, like District and County Councils and even, on occasion, central government, is significant. It is important therefore that we continue to strive to ensure that the rural voice is heard, whether locally, regionally or nationally.

So much has happened in the world since the first Community Plan was published, some of which, could shape the local economy for many years to come. However, in a number of significant ways, the concerns of many local people have not changed in the decade or so since that Plan's creation. Access to services, whether health care or otherwise, remains a pressing priority. The ways

in which we manage an ageing population, in the absence of clear and committed resources from central government, also give rise to compelling issues. Beyond that, the availability of affordable housing and access to meaningful employment are all key indicators of the sustainability of communities like those in the Upper Eden Valley.

It is through the work of organisations like the Upper Eden Community Interest Company, whether in isolation or in conjunction with other, similar-minded organisations, that the collective voice of Upper Eden's 17 Parishes can be heard. It may be a small voice in the context of the country as a whole, but it is significant one. And it is growing in strength. It is one which should not - indeed, cannot - be ignored and which, it might be said, those who have striven to bring the original Community Plan up to date have an obligation to maintain.



Upper Eden Community Interest Company

Introduction to CiC, Structure, Governance and Projects.



The Upper Eden Community Interest Company was incorporated in June 2011 and emerged from the unconstituted Steering Group which conceived and drafted the Upper Eden Community Plan of 2008.

Its membership is open to all Parishes in the Upper Eden Valley, from which its Directors are selected. The Board of Directors currently comprises four persons, nominated and appointed by the Parishes of Brough, Kirkby Stephen and Nateby.

Among other things, the company is a tenant of the Upper Eden Visitor Centre, a building owned by Eden District Council, through which the Company delivers services and information for the benefit of the community and the public at large.

The purpose of the Company is to make the communities which together comprise the Upper Eden Valley, all of which are deeply rural and isolated, economically and socially sustainable. Its Objects in particular seek to relieve the hardship of the more vulnerable members of the community through a variety of actions.



2008 The Upper Eden Community Plan

Published in 2008, the Upper Eden Community Plan (UECP) was a collaborative project involving 17 parishes in the Upper Eden area, members of the local community and a wide range of local organisations and groups.

It was agreed from the beginning of the project in 2005 that a group should work towards an Upper Eden Community Plan, and should make an effort to think and act for the `whole area` rather than parochially, while still representing the view of their parishioners.

The plan created a vision for the area, helping to identify new opportunities and achieve positive change for the benefit of the local community. The outcomes of the community plan that have been achieved so far have been put in motion by a set of strategic actions which are underpinned by four key themes in the plan:

- Environment
- Economy
- Social and Community
- Transport and Accessibility

The 2008 Upper Eden Community Plan can be viewed and downloaded via the following link:

[www.kirkby-stephen.com
/app/uploads/pdfs/uecpactionplan.pdf](http://www.kirkby-stephen.com/app/uploads/pdfs/uecpactionplan.pdf)



Upper Eden Aims and Objectives

A Vision for Upper Eden



Environment

A resident population aware of and knowledgeable about the distinctive and valuable character of the Upper Eden Valley countryside and build environment. A resident population committed to protecting the landscape and building for future generations whilst capitalising on them to promote the economic prosperity of the area. Widespread countryside access for the benefit of local people and tourists. Targeted provision of recycling facilities and the promotion of renewal energy initiatives.

Strategic Objectives:

- Employ strategic marketing to capitalise on the area's natural and built assets
- Promote access to the town and countryside through a programme of countryside-related events, attractions and facilities
- Increase provision for recycling of waste materials

Economy

A vibrant and diverse economy and a dynamic business community which has the capacity to allow existing businesses to expand and attract new ones. Higher levels of employment transformed in part by higher added value employment. A local workforce that is encouraged to stay in the area and has access to a broad range of training opportunities and is committed to take advantage of those opportunities for personal and career fulfilment. To tackle underemployment. A strategically marketed Upper Eden Valley image which capitalises on the distinctive natural assets of the area and helps promote sustainable tourism.

Strategic Objectives:

- Work in partnership with the District Council to identify and develop a range of commercial and industrial property sites capable of attracting new business, relocations and business expansions.
- Increase broadband access to 100% coverage



- Market the area as an attractive tourism destination focussing on the area`s natural assets developing website, tourism publications, attractions, facilities and events.
- Explore opportunities presented by ageing population for economic growth.
- Promote working population increase.
- Focus business support on SMEs, green technology (reducing overheads) and site development.
- Increase childcare and appropriate training facilities.

Social and Community

A good quality of life for all residents in which most of the day-to-day needs for services and facilities can be met within the town and surrounding villages. Health services which meet the increasing needs of local residents whilst addressing shortages within the service which place undue burdens upon practitioners. High quality emergency services and community policing. Enhanced provision for the young people of the town and a voice in town affairs. Affordable housing targeted at community and business needs and specialist housing for local people. Opportunities for people to enjoy the arts, cinema, entertainment and sport both locally and outside the area. Preservation of a strong community spirit.

Strategic Objective:

- Safeguard and develop the range of public services and facilities available to town and village residents to meet their daily needs.
- Build a network of support with statutory providers to enhance health care provision, particularly addressing shortages.
- Lobby for high levels of emergency service cover and community policing for the area from service providers.
- Provide improved facilities for leisure and recreation for young people in the area
- Promote young people`s involvement in town affairs and events
- Develop opportunities for participation in sport
- Promote the formation of a culture and arts association for the area to facilitate visits by touring arts groups and a programme of cultural visits outside the area.
- Promote community events, access to community groups and associations, community networks and community information.
- Promote housing aimed at stable populations and communities in all parishes especially self-build as affordable housing.
- Explore positive consequences of greater numbers of older people in the population.



Transport and Access

A range of co-ordinated public transport services that meet the varied day-to-day needs of all town and village residents. Reduced carbon emissions from local transport use. A range of dispersed facilities to serve local needs.

Public transport service, parking facilities and information that meets the demands of visitors to the area. A network of well-maintained, signed and publicised footpaths and cycle ways. A better environment within Kirkby Stephen through improved traffic management.

Strategic Objectives:

- Present a substantiated case to the appropriate authorities for improvements in the facilities, co-ordination transport services, traffic management, parking and information dissemination taking into account the resident and visitor perspectives.
- Promote and publicise walks and cycle routes within the area through facilities, websites , tourist publications and event marketing.
- Engender support from the responsible bodies for improvements in the maintenance and signing of footpaths and cycle ways through continued dialogue.
- Increase working from home.
- Promote electric cars and renewable energy
- Promote development and facilities in Kirkby Stephen as a service centre.
- Allow appropriate small scale development in all communities.



UPPER EDEN COMMUNITY PLAN

TIMELINE

2008-2017

2008

Development of new play area at Westgarth, Kirkby Stephen



2009

Plans developed for Cycle Path from Brough to Kirkby Stephen



2009

www.kirkby-stephen.com launched



2010

Launch of Upper Eden Community First Responders



2010

Shop Locally Scheme launched in Kirkby Stephen



2010



Upper Eden Future launched to support local business development

2011



New Community and Council Centre opened in Kirkby Stephen

2011



Footpath to Kirkby Stephen Train Station

2012



Take-over of Upper Eden Visitor Centre

2017



Shuttle bus service from Station to town centre not in operation at present except for Classic coaches (once each day when operating) and twice on buses operating on Thursday and Friday



The Review Project

In 2017 the Upper Eden Steering Group re-formed to review the outcomes of the original plan. It established a need to create an "up-to-date" set of strategic actions that would achieve the aims and aspirations of the community today.

Over two years of community led engagement, research, consultation and planning, a new set of strategic actions was formed.

The project which was funded by Eden District Council set out with a clear objective "to bring the Upper Eden Community Plan up to date". In order to achieve the right outcome, a project plan with identified key milestones was set out at the beginning, to provide direction for the group. Regular meetings over the two year period gave the group an opportunity to review, consult and establish an up-to-date vision for the Upper Eden Community Plan.

Review project - Key Milestones:

- Revisit the aims and objectives of the original plan
- Establish the importance of the UECP in our community today
- Understand the future needs and aspirations of Upper Eden
- Create an updated set of strategic actions
- Focus on achieving the shared "Vision" of the Upper Eden Community Plan.

Upper Eden Steering Group

The members...

The Members provided a crucial link between the project activities and the residents and businesses of their respective communities. Through research and consultation, the Members gathered an understanding of what life in Upper Eden is like today and afforded residents, groups and businesses an opportunity to speak out about their issues and aspirations for the local community. The Members ensured the work of the project was as inclusive as possible and helped to create an updated plan that would continue to create positive change for the communities of Upper Eden.

The 2019 Action Plan

The achievements of the Upper Eden Community Plan are thanks to the commitment and dedication of the Upper Eden Steering Group Members, all of whom represent the 17 Parishes of Upper Eden. It is thanks to them that the Upper Eden Community Plan will now continue to achieve the shared vision of Upper Eden through the updated 2019 Strategic Action Plan.

This document sets out the updated strategic actions that will enable the collective "Vision" of the Upper Eden Community to be achieved.

The following pages represent the outcome of the community consultation carried out by the Steering Group in the course of the review.





Environment

- Development of new houses should not interfere or be detrimental to local wildlife
- Limit or restrict building on green field sites
- Cycle and walking routes should be developed across the area
- Important to protect the environment for people and wildlife
- New housing to be in-keeping with local style to maintain character of the area and landscape
- Reduce packaging from local supermarkets, shops, points of sale
- Promote composting in local area



Vision

A resident population aware of and knowledgeable about the distinctive and valuable character of the Upper Eden Valley countryside & built environment. A resident population committed to protecting the landscape and buildings for future generations whilst capitalising on them to promote the economic prosperity of the area. Widespread countryside access for the benefit of local people and tourists. Targeted provision of recycling facilities. Promotion of renewable energy.

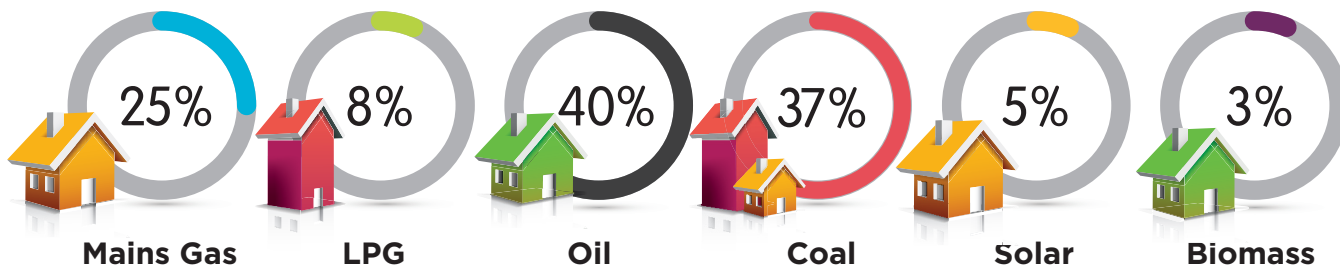


Strategic Objectives

- Employ strategic marketing to capitalise on the area's natural and built assets.
- Promote access to the town and countryside through a programme of countryside-related events, attractions and facilities.
- Increase provision for the recycling of waste materials.

Environment

Source of heating



Ideas from respondents to help reduce household waste and recycle more



See **Q33** for other issues experienced by respondents.



Economy

- Not enough jobs in the local area to support new development
- Look to renovate old building stock before building new
- Increase in rental property market, not everyone can afford to buy
- Support for local high street businesses to keep town attractive to visitors
- More businesses needed in the area to create employment opportunities for new residents
- Little done to promote area to outdoor enthusiasts
- Support and training for local Policing particularly during periods of high crime risk



Vision

A vibrant and diverse economy with a dynamic business community which has the capacity to allow existing businesses to expand and attract new ones. High levels of employment transformed in part by higher added value employment. A local workforce that is encouraged to stay in the area with access to a broad range of training and is committed to take advantage of those opportunities for personal and career fulfilment. To tackle under employment. A strategically marketed Upper Eden Valley image which capitalises on the distinctive natural assets of the area and helps promote sustainable tourism.



Strategic Objectives

- Work in partnership with the District Council to identify and develop a range of commercial and industrial property sites.
- Increase broadband access to 100% coverage.
- Market the area as an attractive tourism destination.
- Explore opportunities presented by ageing population for economic growth.
- Promote working population increase.
- Focus business support on SMEs, green technology (reducing overheads) and site development.
- Increase childcare and appropriate training facilities.

Employment

Employment status of respondents



Full Time



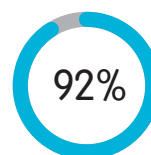
Part Time



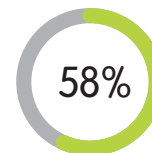
Self Employed



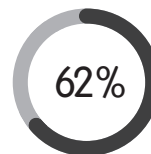
Retired



Agreed local training opportunities are important

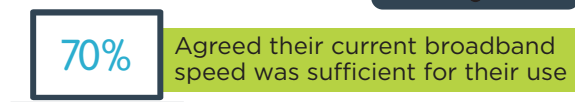
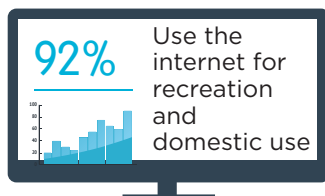


Agreed there are not enough local training opportunities



Agreed local business support services is important

Broadband



Tourism

Respondents agree...

✓ Visitors are important for the local economy

74%

⌚ There are sufficient facilities in the area for visitors

45%

✚ 'Local Events' help our economy

89%

See **Q12** for ideas on how the area could be more attractive to visitors



Social & Community

- Children are living at home longer so need parking for 4+ cars
- Developers should contribute to expanding schools and health centres
- Longer GP surgery opening hours to accommodate more people
- More council and housing association houses for rent
- Current infrastructure is insufficient to support existing developments
- Affordable houses needed for local people especially young families
- More bungalows should be built to accommodate older generation
- Lack of local policing during times of high risk of crime

Vision

A good quality of life for all residents in which most of the day-to-day needs for services and facilities can be met within the town and surrounding villages. Health services which meet the increasing needs of local residents whilst addressing shortages within the service which place undue burdens upon practitioners. High quality emergency services and community policing. Enhanced provision for the young people of the town and a voice in town affairs. Affordable housing targeted at community and business needs and specialist housing for local people. Opportunities for people to enjoy the arts, cinema, entertainment and sport both locally and outside the area. Preservation of a strong community spirit.

Strategic Objectives

- Safeguard and develop the range of public services and facilities available to town and village residents to meet their daily needs.
- Build a network of support with statutory providers to enhance health care provision.
- Lobby for high levels of emergency service cover and community policing for the area from service providers.
- Provide improved leisure and recreation facilities for young people in the area.
- Develop opportunities for participation in sport.
- Promote the formation of a culture and arts association for the area to facilitate visits by touring arts groups and a programme of cultural visits outside the area.
- Promote community events, access to community groups and associations, community networks and community information.
- Promote housing aimed at stable populations in all parishes especially self build as affordable housing.
- Explore positive consequences of greater numbers of older people in the population.
- Promote a social enterprise project as an example.
- Develop agreed letting policies with RSLs to target Affordable Housing occupancy on the most local people.

Housing

When development of housing is planned

Respondents agree...



"improvements to infrastructure" are important

"Renewable energy options" are important

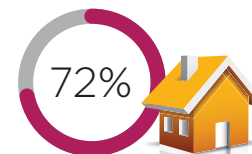
82%
AGREED

79%
AGREED

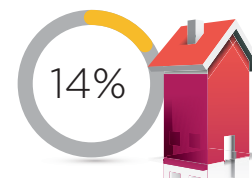
"Adequate parking for residents and visitors" is important



See **Q16** for respondents' consideration for development of housing



Owned their property outright



Property is subject to a mortgage



Rented their property

Local Issues

33%

Said they have difficulty accessing health services



40% said they were concerned about local crime

Main issues were:

• Speeding • Theft • Flytipping

Agreed the Local Post Office Service met their needs

84%
AGREED

49%

Agreed there are not enough activities for children, adults and the elderly



See **Q22** for responses on other groups and activities that would benefit the area



Transport and Accessibility

- Providing cars are available access to services considered OK except hospital.
- 13% of respondents work from home.
- Increase jobs and shops in KS to reduce travelling.
- Indoor swimming pool at KS would reduce need to travel.
- Kendal is most popular destination after KS.

Vision

A range of co-ordinated public transport services that meet the varied day-to-day needs of all town and village residents. Reduced carbon emissions from local transport use. A range of dispersed facilities to serve local needs. Public transport services, parking facilities and information that meet the demands of visitors to the area. A network of well-maintained, signed and publicised footpaths and cycle ways. A better environment within Kirkby Stephen through improved traffic management.

Strategic Objectives

- Present a substantiated case to the appropriate authorities for improvements in the facilities, co-ordination of transport services, traffic management, parking and information dissemination taking into account the resident and visitor perspectives.
- Promote and publicise walks and cycle routes within the area through facilities, website, tourist publications and event marketing.
- Engender support from the responsible bodies for improvements in the maintenance and signing of footpaths and cycle ways through continued dialogue.
- Increase work from home.
- Promote electric cars and renewable energy.
- Promote development and facilities in Kirkby Stephen as a service centre.
- Allow appropriate small scale development in all communities.

Transport and Accessibility



Respondents said...



See **Q.24** for
unmet transport
needs and
possible
solutions



Dissatisfied with how local
roads are maintained

70%
WERE

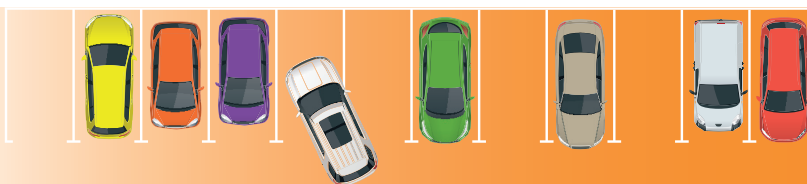
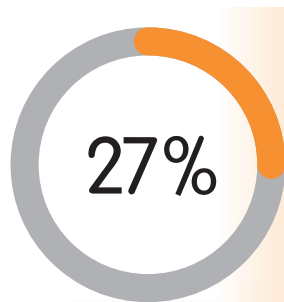
See **Q.25** for
detailed issues
with roads

52%
WERE

Satisfied with the
maintenance of
footpaths



Local issues



**27% of respondents had experienced
parking issues in their parish and
the local area**

59%

Of respondents
without a car said
they have difficulty
accessing nearby
towns and key centres



See **Q.27** for parking issues experienced by respondents



Upper Eden Community Plan

Action Plan 2019 - 2029

Environment



PLAN REF.	ACTION
EN1	Raise awareness of the Upper Eden Community Plan, purpose, community benefit and actions
EN2	Support and encourage small scale renewable energy schemes
EN3	Re-instate garden waste recycle scheme in rural parishes
EN4	Promote and support local authority recycling schemes in Upper Eden
EN5	Work with local stakeholders to develop an environmental strategy for Upper Eden
EN6	Develop scheme to promote use of water butts and rain harvesting to reduce household use of water
EN7	Encourage local business community to reduce use of non-recyclable waste to help reduce household waste.
EN8	Introduce more recycle points in Upper Eden parishes
EN9	Work with Upper Eden Parish Councils to introduce "Neighbourhood Composting Scheme" and encourage household composting.
EN10	Increase local authority kerbside recycle scheme to accommodate rurally isolated parishes and busy seasons.
EN11	Reduce plastic packaging at point of sale. Promote use of paper, reduce pre-packed goods and support refill schemes across Upper Eden.
EN12	Develop an Upper Eden wide zero waste and low carbon scheme
EN13	Encourage up-cycling. Support local events, workshops and initiatives
EN14	If detrimental to landscape, wildlife and natural environment, support objection to wind farms.
EN15	Support plans for the development of a wet weather visitor attraction in Upper Eden.
EN16	Upper Eden Business Support programme to identify demand for skills and training.



Economy

PLAN REF.	ACTION
EC1	Support the continuation of the Upper Eden Business Support Programme and local networking.
EC2	Secure the future of a local business hub facility in Kirkby Stephen.
EC3	Local retired population to contribute to workforce development, sharing skills and expertise.
EC4	Encourage training providers to deliver more vocational skills courses in Upper Eden.
EC5	Encourage more hospitality skills training courses to be delivered in Upper Eden.
EC6	Increase the number of land-based apprenticeship opportunities locally.
EC7	Encourage more locally delivered, vocational training for land management and farming skills.
EC8	Increase visibility and awareness of Kirkby Stephen car parks to ease congestion in town centre.
EC9	Encourage businesses to raise awareness of Upper Eden online, promoting events and places to visit
EC10	Support Cumbria Careers Hub in Upper Eden, local apprenticeships, work experience and coaching.
EC11	Encourage training centres to support local transport schemes, improving access to training.
EC12	Improve maintenance of footpaths, byways and other rural links to Kirkby Stephen.
EC13	Improve broadband connection across Upper Eden. Support projects to increase network capability.
EC14	Keep Upper Eden Tidy and reduce litter in surrounding areas.
EC15	Re-launch plans for skate park in Kirkby Stephen, local group to develop project and identify funds.
EC16	Support and promote Stainmore Railway as a local asset and visitor attraction.
EC17	Increase business opening hours to improve high street offer during busy seasons.

Social & Community



PLAN REF.	ACTION	PLAN REF.	ACTION
SC1	Support developments that offer social housing and rental opportunities.	SC13	Public Health Services to be increased at rate of population, to ensure needs of all are met.
SC2	New housing developments should support affordable housing needs, identified in recent surveys.	SC14	Carry out review of existing housing stock and housing needs in Upper Eden.
SC3	Lobby authorities for the retention of green field sites that are of benefit to the area.	SC15	Lobby for increase in policing of rural areas.
SC4	Preserve the characteristics of towns and villages in design and scale of new housing developments.	SC16	Improvements to street lighting in rural areas.
SC5	Ensure local housing needs identified in consultation and surveys are being met.	SC17	Kirkby Stephen representation to be maintained on MASCG group.
SC6	Encourage the development of employment land sites at the rate of housing development.	SC18	Explore options for safer road crossing at Mill Gardens residential home.
SC7	Limit housing development in small rural villages to protect the inherent nature of rural parishes.	SC19	Review of HGV ban on A685 through Kirkby Stephen and increase policing of permits.
SC8	Improvements to infrastructure and services must be considered in all new housing developments.	SC20	Increase reporting of Dog Fouling in Kirkby Stephen and surrounding area.
SC9	Off-road parking allocation for 2-3 cars must be considered in all new housing developments.	SC21	Set up local "Health Action Group" to lead on issues around access to services, lobby for improvements.
SC10	Promote projects to link up rural parishes with Kirkby Stephen through improvements to walking and cycle routes.	SC22	Increase mobile banking facilities in Kirkby Stephen.
SC11	New housing developments to consider additional service provisions to meet the need of population.	SC23	Develop a new outside recreational space / playground for young people in Kirkby Stephen.
SC12	"2050 ready homes" to be considered where viable in all new housing developments in next 10 years.	SC24	Local initiative to offer transport to gym and swimming pool facilities in other key centres.
		SC25	Support plans for children`s play area in Brough.
		SC26	Promote activities and groups for Men 50+.



Transport & Accessibility

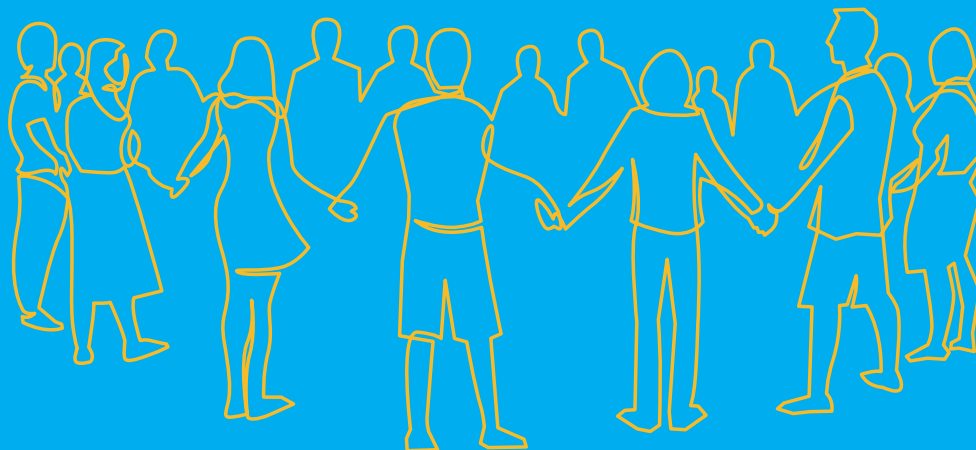
PLAN REF.	ACTION
TA1	Local "Transport Action Group" to lead on transport issues and develop local solutions
TA2	Increase number of bus services from Kirkby Stephen town centre to train station
TA3	Promote local volunteer transport scheme to accommodate hospital visits
TA4	Support Brough to Kirkby Stephen cycle path scheme and safe links to surrounding parishes
TA5	Develop Upper Eden footpath network using existing bridleways and footpaths.
TA6	Lobby for increase in number of train services for Kirkby Stephen
TA7	Explore rural transport scheme to provide solutions for rurally isolated communities in Upper Eden.
TA8	Lobby to increase parking for farm vehicles at Auction Mart to ease congestion on auction days.
TA9	Identify additional parking options in Brough to ease congestion on market days and other busy periods
TA10	Off street parking to be compulsory for all new developments on and around South Road, Kirkby Stephen.
TA12	Two additional disabled parking bays in Kirkby Stephen
TA13	Increase awareness of town centre car park and promote "Stop and Shop" initiative to support retail offer in Kirkby Stephen



Achieving Actions

Making it happen... What's next...

To continue the success of the Upper Eden Community Plan, the Steering Group will endeavour to engage with stakeholders, seek funding and support, initiate projects and create opportunities that will achieve the Upper Eden Community Plan strategic actions.





The Upper Eden Visitor Centre

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Kirkby Stephen
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CA17 4QN

Tel: (017683) 71199

Email: visit@uecp.org.uk

Website: www.visituppereden.org.uk