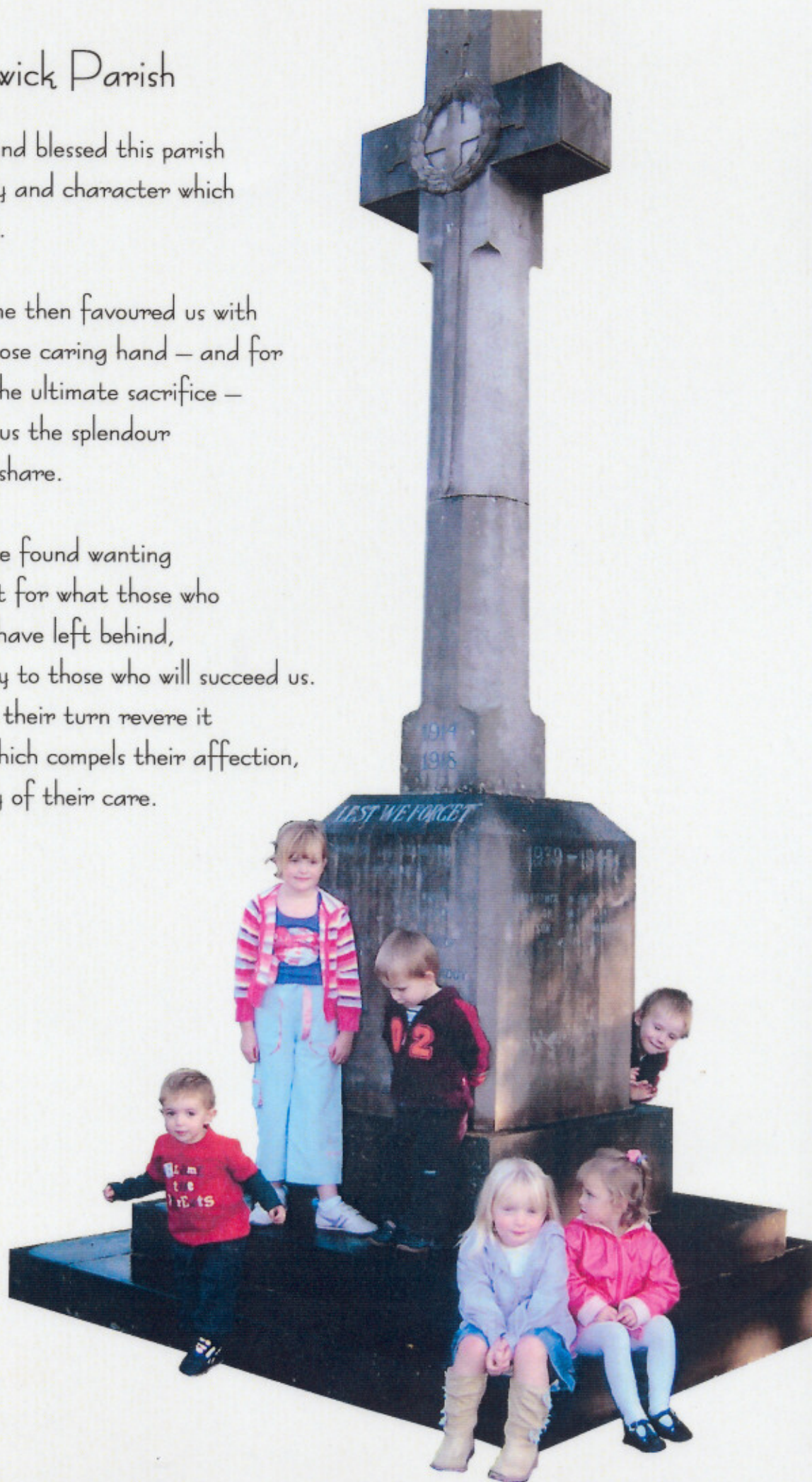


Urswick Parish

Nature's hand blessed this parish
with a beauty and character which
few can rival.

Good fortune then favoured us with
forebears whose caring hand – and for
a few, with the ultimate sacrifice –
passed on to us the splendour
that we now share.

Let us not be found wanting
in our respect for what those who
went before have left behind,
or in our duty to those who will succeed us.
May they in their turn revere it
as a home, which compels their affection,
and is worthy of their care.





URSWICK PARISH PLAN

EDITION 1

2006

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1 Introduction

Located to the east of the A590 trunk road on the Furness Peninsula in Cumbria, the border of Urswick Parish is 1.7 miles south of Ulverston town centre and 3.4 miles north of Barrow in Furness town centre. The parish covers 1691 hectares and has a population of around 1500 people who predominantly live in one of its four villages: Bardsea, Great Urswick, Little Urswick, and Stainton with Adgarley. The rural character of the parish is further enhanced by the tiny hamlets of Beckside, Edgehill, Far Mountbarrow, Hallier How, Hawkfield, Holme Bank, Mascalles, Skeldon Moor, Skells Lodge and Woodhead.



The sheltered valley location of Great Urswick and tarn with their backdrop of the Furness Fells beyond.

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Bardsea village & Holy Trinity Church atop a glacial drumlin overlooking the tidal waters of Morecambe Bay.



Little Urawick with its former school of Elizabethan origin nestling in the rich pastures of rural Low Furness, with Black Combe on the far horizon marking the southern boundary of the nearby Lake District mountains.



Stainton with Adgarley across the village green.

Stainton Quarry with the village & green top left.

The parish is blessed throughout with a rural beauty which is distinct to this area. This includes a superb coastline providing access to the broad expanse of sand and the

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dangerous tidal waters of Morecambe Bay, across which travellers-of-old once ventured on foot and by stagecoach to reach the peninsula. The high ground of the parish is Birkrigg Common (136 m), which affords extensive views of the Lake District Fells to the North; the Howgill Fells and Pennines to the East across Morecambe Bay; on clear days, the Welsh mountains to the South; and the Isle of Man to the West. The entire parish has retained its rural character and has survived



Towards Bardsea and across Morecambe Bay.

unspoilt, despite the extensive haematite mining which took place in the adjoining area around Lindal in Furness in the 19th century. The mineral extraction there resulted in the rapid growth of a former fishing hamlet at the southern most point of the mainland peninsula to become Barrow in Furness, the marine industrial town, now with a population of around 72,000. Prior to the building of the dock facilities at Barrow in Furness, some of the haematite ore was shipped from a limestone jetty, now in ruins, located within the parish at Wadhead Scar, Bardsea.

The parish is founded on Carboniferous Limestone which has been sculpted by glaciers moving south from the Coniston Fells stripping and exposing attractive outcrops in many places. When they retreated and melted, those same glaciers deposited a rich till and provided the basis for the fertile soil on which the parish's modern agriculture now thrives.



Archaeology students excavating a site thought to be of Roman origin.

Stone axes, originating from the Lake District fells, bear testimony to human occupation across the parish dating back to Neolithic times. An Iron Age presence is marked by the stone circles, and bank and ditch structures still to be seen across the parish. Archaeological research is currently taking place to validate the possible presence of a large and very early Christian monastic settlement, centred in the vicinity of URSWICK PARISH

Church, which itself dates back more than 1000 years. Nearby excavations are believed to relate to an early Roman presence and those involved in this work are hopeful of being able to maintain a programme of excavations in the parish into the foreseeable future, believing the area to be of high archaeological significance.

Notwithstanding the remoteness of the peninsular setting, a large Cistercian monastery was established in 1147, 1.5 miles to the west of the parish boundary in 'the vale of deadly nightshade' and this exercised extensive control over the surrounding area until the dissolution in 1537. In 1585, Little Urswick became the location for Urswick Grammar School. This former Free School has a charter, still in existence, signed by Queen Elizabeth I. From the mid-1940s, the same school acted as the Junior School for the local villages and was graced by a visit from Queen Elizabeth II in May 1985 to celebrate its 400th anniversary. In 1994 a new school was opened by Cumbria County Council, ending 409 years of continuous use and resulting in a change from the ancient name of Urswick Grammar School to Low Furness Church of England Primary School. As a larger building, and as implied by its name, the new school serves an area of the Furness Peninsular stretching beyond the parish boundary.

Its long history, unique landscape and outstanding beauty provides a quality of life which is treasured by those privileged to live in the parish. These are qualities which parishioners seek to preserve, cherishing the fulfilment it brings to their lives, and concerned that the lives of future generations may be likewise enhanced. This inaugural Parish Plan is one small step towards that end, both in establishing an action programme relating to short term improvements, and in making a positive and forceful statement declaring the parish's wish to be cared for and preserved by outside authorities.



The Lake District Fells viewed from the plateau of Skelmore Heads Fort to the north east of Great Urswick.

2 Spiritual Expression and Development

Perhaps the earliest remaining evidence of spirituality in the parish is the Bronze Age (2500 – 2000 BC) circle of standing stones on Birkrigg Common overlooking Bardsea and Morecambe Bay, known locally as the Druid's Circle or Druid's Temple.

Of less certain, but possible spiritual significance, is the large Priapus Stone now languishing, stripped of the symbolism of its vital upstanding form, at the base of a roadside wall, the casualty of 'development' controlled by distal authorities. This former centrepiece of village fertility rituals, attributed to origins in ancient times, was still smeared with butter and dye, and decorated with bright cloth and flowers, at summer celebrations in Urswick within



Urswick's Priapus Stone

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living memory. Surely, such an ignoble end is unbecoming this former emblematic stimulant of the passions of our village ancestors, and of their hopes and thanks for their crops.

In modern times, the Parish has three places of Christian communion.

The church of St. Mary and St. Michael at Urswick is the oldest, dating back at least 1000 years, with accumulating evidence to suggest that it may have succeeded a proximal monastic settlement. The church contains a rare fragment of an Anglo-Saxon cross which was found beneath plaster in the church wall in 1911. The ancient and now rare ceremony of Rushbearing is still retained as an annual event. Rushes from the tarn are carried in procession through the two Urswick villages before being scattered on the church floor at a service dedicated for that purpose.

In Bardsea, the imposing skyline church of Holy Trinity was consecrated in 1853 and in addition to providing a place of worship for the local community, it came with a graveyard for their final resting place. Prior to this, the dead were carried over Birkrigg Common for burial at the Parish Church in Urswick.

The third place of worship in the Parish is known to the villagers of Great Urswick as, 'the Chapel'. The congregation at this church are members of the United Reform Church. Built by village members of the Church of Christ in about 1920, it is a simple timber framed structure clad in corrugated sheet, but inside there are fine wood carvings by the late Thomas Ashburner. It is capable of accommodating a congregation of approximately sixty worshippers.

The two Urswick churches work in close cooperation, operating a rota of where services will be held on each Sunday during the month. An annual Songs of Praise service is held in the village, at which Dalton in Furness Town Band provides the accompanying music. In fine weather, the United Reform Church hosts this service on their lawn adjoining the tarn, whilst in wet weather the Parish Church plays host – surely a wonderful example of inter-denominational cooperation and Christian asset management.



Anglo-Saxon cross fragment in church of St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick.

3 Listed Buildings in the Parish

The following are the listed buildings within Urswick Parish:

- Grade I: Urswick Church of St. Mary & St. Michael
- Grade II: Sundial to the south of St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick
- Midtown House, Great Urswick
- Well Head House, Little Urswick

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Gale Monument to the south of St. Mary & St. Michael, Urswick
Redmayne Hall and outbuildings, Little Urswick
Stainton Old Hall and adjacent house, Stainton with Adgarley
Bardsea Church of Holy Trinity
Well House, Bardsea
Well Cottage, Bardsea
Bardsea Monument in grounds of Ulverston Golf Club, Bardsea
Holm Bank Cottages, Great Urswick.

4 Educating the Junior Citizens of the Parish

Low Furness Church of England Primary School is located between the two villages of Great and Little Urswick. The school provides education through to age eleven when children move to secondary level education. Children may optionally enter the afternoons only Nursery section of the school in the



Low Furness Church of England Primary School, Urswick.

term following their third birthday, moving on to become part of the full time Reception year following their fourth birthday. The school's excellent prospectus includes a comprehensive declaration of its aims, ethos and values. These include, 'The children are made aware of the responsibilities of being part of a community. They are encouraged to be involved in the local community and to appreciate the inter-dependence of our community and the world beyond'. What better than that this might be considered appropriate to the community as a whole?

The school employs a staff of thirteen including the Head teacher and three other teachers.

The Governing Body is made up of fourteen members and is Chaired by the vicar of St. Mary and St. Michael, Urswick Parish Church, which is located close to the school.

The school had 84 pupils at the beginning of the 2005-6 school year.

Secondary education for the parish is provided at Ulverston Victoria High School, to where pupils are bussed from all of the villages in the parish.

5 Employment in the Parish

The breakdown of employment within the parish is as follows, noting that these do not include one person self employed businesses and that jobs are not all taken by residents of the parish:

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Category of Employment	Full time	Part time
Agriculture based on the parish's 13 working farms	26	7
Bardsea industrial estate – Abacus Playgrounds Ltd.	9	
Kingfisher Chemicals Ltd.	8	
Concrete products – Neil Price Ltd.	5	
Education – Low Furness Church of England Primary School	4	9
Engineering – Driveline Engineering Ltd.	4	2
Farriery – South Lakes Farriery Practice	3	
Garage – Longrigg Service Station, Little Urswick	3	
Kennels & Cattery – Verstone Boarding Kennels and Cattery	2	1
Pubs/catering establishments – Bardsea, Great Urswick, Stainton	18	33
Ready mix concrete – Hanson Aggregates	3	
Retirement home	9	5
Shop & Post Office – Great Urswick	1	2
Stainton Quarry – Employed by Tarmac Northern Ltd.	9	
Further jobs consequential to Quarry operations (estimated)	11	
Stone work and landscaping	7	
Sub-sea Systems – Link Subsea Ltd.	4	2
Ulverston Golf Club including catering	8	13

As a rural community, there is no major industrial employer in Urswick Parish.

Agriculture – With the exception of small areas of woodland, the quarry at Stainton with Adgarley and the land occupied by Ulverston Golf Club, the entire parish outside of its four villages, is under agriculture. Dairy, beef and sheep farming are dominant, with only small areas producing cereals or arable crops.

Chemicals – Kingfisher Chemicals Ltd. are located on the small industrial estate at Bardsea where dust free recycled paper is manufactured for use in animal bedding.

Concrete Products – Located within Stainton Quarry, the block production plant of Neil Price Ltd. produces dense solid building blocks for the Furness and South Lakes areas. The plant is semi automatic with modern batching and mixing facilities and can produce 40,000 blocks per week.

Engineering – Driveline Engineering Ltd., are transmission engineers located at Harbarrow Farm, Stainton with Adgarley.

Farriery – South Lakes Farriery Practice is located at the Beckside Forge where shoes are hand made to support the mobile general, remedial and surgical shoeing service.

Playground Products – Abacus Playgrounds Ltd. operate from the Bardsea industrial estate and are involved in the installation of playground safety surfaces and equipment.

Pubs and Catering – Over recent years there has been a decline in the number of pubs in the parish, Little Urswick now being 'dry'. However, the number of facilities

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offering restaurant services has expanded as car ownership and disposable incomes have increased.

Ready Mix Concrete – This industry operates on land leased within Stainton Quarry, using modern high technology plant which produces up to 18000 cubic metres of concrete per year. It uses sand from nearby Roose and limestone aggregate from Stainton Quarry. The output from the plant is used as far away as South Lakeland and the southern region of West Cumbria. A modern exit from the quarry to the west of Stainton with Adgarley makes it unnecessary for associated commercial traffic to travel through the villages of the parish.

Retirement Home – Conishead Grange Retirement Home, Bardsea, offers residential care for 17 residents in a Victorian house set in 3 acres of grounds overlooking Morecambe Bay.

Stainton Quarry – The quarry is made up of two originally separate limestone quarries, Crown Quarry and Devonshire Quarry, which have been worked for over a century. The area now worked is the former Crown Quarry where the Park Limestone Formation is quarried. The high chemical purity of this strata has enabled an export market to be developed, amounting to around 45% of the quarry's quarter million tonne annual output. This ships through the dock facilities at Barrow in Furness to Sweden where it is processed for paper making, burnt lime, the manufacture of acetylene gas, and toothpaste. Of the balance of production, 30% is used as an aggregate in concrete and 25% for road bases. The Devonshire Quarry section is in the Urswick Limestone Formation, a strata of lower chemical purity immediately above the Park Limestone Formation. Both of these strata may be seen on Birkrigg Common. The quarry occupies 75 hectares and existing removal licences are expected to enable the quarry to operate for at least the next eighty years.

Stonework and Landscaping – A revival of awareness of the distinct character in the vernacular building methods of the district has resulted in demand for those skilled in the crafts of dry-stone construction, associated groundwork and landscaping. Two small but growing businesses have emerged in the parish which have not only created employment, but also contributed towards uplifting the aesthetic of the district by their labours.

Subsea Systems – Located at Harbarrow Farm, Stainton with Adgarley, Link Subsea Ltd. are in the business of underwater connectors and diver communication systems.

6 Services in the Parish

Garage and Petrol Station – Longrigg Service Station, unobtrusively located in a long disused limestone quarry at the edge of Little Urswick, provides repair, tyre replacement and MOT services to the motoring public, together with a two pump petrol and diesel filling service.

Post Offices – In Bardsea, the village Post Office opens one and a half days each week. Great Urswick Post Office is a module within the village shop and opens Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. plus Saturday until noon. Stainton with Adgarley and Little Urswick are without Post Offices, notwithstanding that Little Urswick had this service in former years.

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Public Transport – A bus service, financed and subsidised by Cumbria County Council, and operated by Stagecoach, is provided on separate routes between Ulverston and Barrow in Furness passing through all the villages of the parish. Both services operate Monday to Saturday only. Route 10 services pass through Great Urswick, Little Urswick and Stainton with Adgarley, making nine journeys in the direction of Barrow each day and ten in the direction of Ulverston. Route 11 services pass through Bardsea, making ten return journeys each day. Services on both routes commence at approximately 07:00 each day and the last service commences at 20:00. Data provided by Cumbria County Council has indicated how little the services are actually used over their entire route, particularly at each end of the day. Passenger trends are in decline. A once weekly, free return bus service, also operated by Stagecoach, is provided to all villages in the parish by Booths Supermarket in Ulverston. This is much used and provides for a social gathering as well as facilitating shopping for the elderly, who are grateful for the service.

Shops – The only shop within the parish is located in Great Urswick. It opens 7.30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 7.30 a.m. to noon on Sundays. Those who rely on public transport are otherwise largely dependent on shops in either Ulverston or Barrow in Furness.

7 Parish Amenities

Birkrigg Common – The bracken covered high ground of the parish, constantly grazed by the sheep of adjoining landowners, provides numerous natural grass pathways which are regularly used by both serious walkers and by those who simply enjoy a leisurely stroll with a superb vista in all directions.

Coast – The coastal strip within Urswick Parish is particularly attractive and popular with walkers, sun lovers and the very many who just enjoy parking their cars and taking in the magnificent and ever changing views across Morecambe Bay. The interesting geological feature of Wadhead Scar, sadly being eroded by storm tides and the weather, bears testimony to the glacial processes which shaped the parish.

Footpaths – The parish is criss-crossed by an extensive network of public footpaths and some bridleways. Many of these originate in ancient times, still more being the routes followed by miners as they walked to and from their arduous work in the haematite mines around Lindal in Furness.

Ulverston Golf Club – Urswick Parish has been the home of this club since 1910. The club is just to the north of Bardsea village and occupies a 77 hectare parkland location which affords magnificent views over the surrounding countryside and Morecambe Bay. The 71 par competition course is 5670 metres in length and may be examined hole by hole at <http://ulverstongolf.dyndns.biz/course.asp>

Urswick Tarn – The 5.7 hectare tarn, of glacial origin, around which Great Urswick is built, provides an outstanding focal point for the village. The tarn is a rich ecological treasure chest sustained by pure waters from aquifers draining from the surrounding limestone high ground. In former years, when the village communities of the district enjoyed a sustained continuity far greater than in modern time, the residents of Urswick were referred to as Ossick Coots due to the large population of

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coots on the tarn. The tarn is the subject of an ancient legend which speaks of an old village long lost beneath its depths, the consequence of a gigantic flood brought on by the '... slanderous speech [of village women], from tongues that spat out venom black as night, poisoned the days, tattler and gadabouts, casting an evil eye on all'.

Village Halls – The parish is well provided for with function halls. At Bardsea, the newly refurbished Malt Kiln, originating from an 1829 building which formed part of the Well Wood estate, provides excellent facilities for the villagers. Also in Bardsea are the facilities of the old School Room. Urswick has the facilities of both the Recreation Hall, and the Parish Room, formerly officially and still affectionately known as the Sunday School. Urswick Recreation Hall was built in 1929 by the villagers themselves, on land donated by a Little Urswick farmer. They purchased second hand curved bricks from the demolished high chimney at Lowfield Mine, Lindal in Furness for £1.12 per thousand, transported them to Urswick and then cleaned the bricks prior to constructing the hall. Stainton with Adgarley is served by its own Recreation Hall. Originally constructed in 1902 as Stainton Congregational Church, it was sold to Trustees in 1953. All of these facilities in the parish are extensively used and play a key part in enabling the communal activities of the parish to flourish.



Bardsea's Malt Kiln.



Bardsea's School Room.



Urswick 'Sunday School' provides a back drop to the 2005 centennial rushbearing procession.



Urswick Recreation Hall.



Stainton with Adgarley Recreation Hall.

8 Community Groups and Associations

The parish community appears to be very active when gauged by the number of fraternal groups which meet. Many sections of the community are well served should they wish to avail of what is on offer, but for some, particularly teenagers and young

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adults, there are few opportunities for any form of structured socialising with their peers.

Badminton – Urswick Badminton Club has been in existence for over 60 years, meeting weekly throughout the winter in Urswick Recreation Hall. Membership spans early teens to those whose tenacity now triumphs over judgement. Fun and exercise are the theme of club nights, but the club also has a fine record in competition in both the Ulverston Badminton League and the Barrow Badminton League.

Girlguiding – Both Rainbows (aged 5-7) and Brownies (aged 7-10) meet weekly in Urswick. The Rainbows, with 15 girls, commenced in 2005, but the Brownies have been associated with Urswick since at least the 1940s. The present Brownie Pack has been meeting continuously since 1977 and currently has 18 members. Each Pack is led by 3 adults plus an older former member who is following the leadership scheme operated by the Guide Association.

Hidden Light – Low Furness – This Association has the objectives of:

1. Working sensitively in a partnership between church and community, local tourism initiatives and rural businesses in promoting Low Furness and its unique nature.
2. Bringing long-term, sustainable economic benefits and to stimulate local opportunities in Low Furness through programmes and events which reveal the 'hidden gems' and rich and varied history of the area.
3. Operating for the general benefit of the Low Furness community.
4. Maintaining links with other Associations and like-minded bodies.

Little Urswick Village Green Committee – This Committee was established in 2004 with the singular objective of maintaining the village green in Little Urswick, formally known to the locals as the School Green, in accordance with a constitution approved and periodically reviewed by Urswick Parish Council.

Saturday Morning "Pop Inn" – This weekly event is held in the Sunday School at Urswick and provides a meeting place for villagers and also generates funds for the upkeep of that building. A genial chat is helped along by what is rumoured to be the best baking on the peninsular and a cup of tea or coffee

Stainton Friendship Club – This popular club, much enjoyed by the senior citizens, has around 50 members from the surrounding villages. They meet monthly and are served a light lunch followed by entertainment of some form, most commonly a speaker. Outings are organised during the year and an annual holiday is arranged. Even trips 'abroad' have taken place in the past when their destination was the Isle of Man.

The Tarn Supper Club – Formed in 1995 and with around twenty members, this club has the objective of promoting members' social and intellectual well-being through Christian companionship and discussion, having in mind the Club's original foundation as a society for male members of Furness churches.

Urswick Line Dancers – Reputed to be the social event of the parish, this group has been meeting on a weekly basis since April 2002 and goes from strength to strength. The frequent Party Evenings and Pie and Peas Evenings add to the conviviality of this

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energetic group, whose Christmas Party is so highly rated that Father Christmas always makes a special journey to attend.

Urswick Parent and Toddler Group – This group caters for babies and children up to 4 years old and is regularly attended by 10 to 15 parents for the two hour weekly meetings. Operating under the flagship of Home-Start, the group is run by local volunteers and provides an opportunity for both children and parents to socialise.

Urswick Playground Association – Occupying land owned by the Association, this registered charity aims to provide and maintain a playground primarily for the children of Great Urswick and Little Urswick. In 2003 the majority of equipment was declared unsafe and was subsequently removed. Since that time a major fundraising campaign has generated over £17,000, but considerably more is still required.

Urswick Tarn Association – The tarn is owned by Urswick Parish Council which decided to lease it to a dedicated Association back in 1968. The tarn is managed by the Association under the terms of its lease and in accordance with its own constitution which is approved by the Parish Council. It manages the fishing on the tarn via a permit system and similarly regulates the use of boats. Caring for the natural environment in and around the tarn is a time consuming task for the dedicated band of volunteers who regularly commit their time and energy. The result of this effort is a pristine gem of aquatic ecology, of which the parish is justifiably proud.



Women's Institute – The parish has two very active Women's Institute groups. The Bardsea WI was formed 51 years ago and has a membership of 33. The Urswick WI was founded in 1960 and has 54 members. The groups meet monthly in their respective village halls where the balance between business and companionship is nurtured and sustained by an occasional cup of tea.

9 Surveys of Parish Residents' Concerns and Aspirations

The surveying of parishioners' concerns and aspirations for the future of the parish commenced in 2003 when the Parish Council circulated a questionnaire to every household seeking their opinion on a wide range of topics concerning the parish. The results of this survey were consolidated for the Parish Council who proceeded in 2004 to form a Steering Committee for compiling a Parish Plan. The various interest groups and associations operating within the parish were invited to nominate a member to join this Steering Committee and to attend an introductory meeting to learn about the reasons for creating a Parish Plan and what the task would involve.

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A Steering Committee, consisting of 11 members, held its inaugural meeting in June 2004 and has met on a monthly basis since that time. The Committee inherited the results of the questionnaire previously processed by the Parish Council and decided to solicit an unconstrained input from all households. In January 2005 a circular was distributed inviting comment on any topic of relevance to an Urswick Parish Plan. The combined input from the two surveys was analysed and a slide presentation prepared based on the main issues that had come to the fore. The presentation of this material took place in early June 2005 at separate public meetings at Bardsea, Great and Little Urswick, and at Stainton with Adgarley. The material presented was common in all locations and provided a parish wide profile of the findings from the surveys and the items which the Steering Committee were proposing to take forward to the Parish Plan. Excellent feedback was received at all of the meetings and some additional items were added to the action programme as a consequence of this further input.

It should be noted that the Steering Committee were extremely impressed by the excellent and mature input that they received from the children of Low Furness Church of England Primary School. It is heartening to know that in future years the Parish will be in the hands of such responsible and caring citizens.

This inaugural Parish Plan represents the outcome of this work. It focuses on those items which appeared from the surveys and public meetings to identify with the largest number of respondents and attendees. The realistic availability of resources to tackle the programme of work also influenced where a line was drawn under what would be included. Additional items were, of course, brought to the attention of the Committee and whilst they do not appear in this Plan document, every one, without exception, has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council.

The following sections document the concerns and aspirations of the residents of Urswick Parish and provides current best estimates of timescales and methodologies for advancing each item. In some instances other authorities are required to play their part in enabling progress to be made. The Steering Committee trusts that their positive participation will be forthcoming.

Finally, it is noted that during the evolution of this plan, it has proven difficult to retain confidence that funding support would endure from the various, initially supportive, authorities. This has added to the task and as work proceeds to the next stage, and a Village Design Statement is prepared as a precursor for obtaining Supplementary Planning Guidance status, it is hoped that a more stable funding environment will emerge.

10 Concerns and Action Plans

Parish wide items

A1	Parish wide	Dog Fouling		
The Issue		Widespread problem with dog fouling & the consequential risk to public health		
The Action		Educate, communicate, prosecute		
How it will be tackled		Communicate to the public the nature of associated health risks. Engage public to request corrective action by offending dog owners. Commitment to prosecuting offenders.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
High	Parish Council Entire community	Immediate	Parish Council	Funds for possible bins & publicity materials
It is estimated that the UK dog population produces 1,000 tonnes of faeces every day. Dog owners in Urswick Parish certainly contribute their share, but most seriously, a small number don't realise that the faeces which they fail to collect & dispose of properly carry harmful infections. Human toxocariasis results from the contamination of soil & sand with the eggs of the worm parasite. Children are particularly vulnerable, and most commonly, it is disorders of the eye which are reported, but other conditions, including epileptic fits are being attributed to this source of infection. Pregnant women are also susceptible & carry the risk of then passing the infection to their foetus.		 		

A2	Parish wide	Rural community destroyed by lack of affordable homes for young indigenous residents		
The Issue		Rural Low Furness has become a location for in-migration by people wealthier than the indigenous rural families, resulting in very significant house price escalation and the destruction of the former rural community. Planning controls have failed to respect local needs & selectively applied national policy.		
The Action		Authorities at District, Regional & National levels need to be left in no doubt of the seriousness of this problem & the significant shortcomings of their policies for responding to the problem & of the consequences in sociological & community terms		
How it will be tackled		Parish Council to lift their awareness of their potential contribution by increased vigour in their response to higher authorities on these matters. Progressively become a Parish Council that is taken notice of. Contribute to meaningful surveys quantifying local needs.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Very high	Parish Council District Councillors County Councillor	Immediate & ongoing over the life of this plan	Parish Council	Time commitment for learning policy opportunities for enhancing responses to consultation documents.

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A3 Parish wide		Preservation of traditional character & local heritage		
The Issue		Rural Low Furness has distinct, ancient & aesthetically satisfying built & landscape characteristics, all of which are worthy of preservation by the optimum utilisation of available policy & procedural routes set by higher authorities. Some aspects of modern agriculture can damage these assets. Disregard for the local vernacular architecture & building materials erodes the distinct character of the parish.		
The Action		Value the parish's character & heritage. Educate on those assets & on the procedural vehicles available for their protection & enhancement		
How it will be tackled		Parish Council to lift their awareness of their potential for a stronger role via the planning process. Detailed scrutiny of all planning applications followed by authoritative & timely responses to SLDC. Develop a Village Design Statement as a follow-on to the Parish Plan & achieve accreditation by SLDC as a recognised Supplementary Planning Guidance document.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
High	Parish Council Parish Plan Steering Committee SLDC Planning Department Parishioners	Ongoing Complete by mid-2007 including SPG accreditation	Parish Council Parish Plan Steering Committee re. Village Design Statement preparation	Administrative & material costs of preparing a Village Design Statement. Attendance at relevant meetings to secure SPG accreditation.

A4 Parish wide		Speeding vehicles		
The Issue		Speeding vehicles which disregard limits risking injury & death to parishioners		
The Action		Educate, report, encourage enforcement & prosecutions		
How it will be tackled		Communicate with known offenders requesting cooperation & compliance. Take note of offending commercial vehicles & advise company management. Encourage police participation & prosecutions.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Very high	Parish Council Police Speedwatch groups	Immediate & ongoing	Parish Council	Work burden on Parish Clerk. Police appear to be under-resourced

Home time at Low Furness Church of England Primary School where the presence of young children, the twisting nature of the road, the extensive use of vehicles to collect children, & the occasional speeding vehicle, all combine to present a serious accident risk.

Whilst this is a particularly high risk location, speeding vehicles are a widespread problem throughout the parish.



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A5	Parish wide	Improved access to information		
The Issue		Parishioners experience difficulty accessing village & parish information		
The Action		Develop & maintain a parish web site. Examine possibility of wider use of Parish Notice Boards.		
How it will be tackled		Identify good examples of parish web sites which inform their community. Formulate initial content, a development plan, & resources for maintaining content. Notice Board usage to be developed in parallel		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Volunteers	Web site established by end 2007	Parish Council	Equipment & ISP costs. Contracted webmaster charges possible.

A6	Parish wide	Flooding roads & pot holes		
The Issue		Serious road flooding is a recurring problem at grid references: SD 2679 7524 – North of Great Urrswck ; SD 2642 7317 – Skeldon Moor junction; SD 2598 7268 – West of Beckside ; SD 2523 7257 – East of Adgarley; SD 2392 7265 – West of Stainton. Despite numerous reports to Cumbria County Council, no corrective measures have been taken. Pot holes & eroded road edges are a further risk of accidents & serious injury.		
The Action		Persist in requesting corrective measures by Cumbria County Council.		
How it will be tackled		Locations will be precisely defined & communicated to CCC. Maximum publicity of occurrence & CCC's inaction when flooding occurs. Activation of villagers & County Councillor to voice their concerns to CCC.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
High	Parish Council County Councillor	Ongoing & every occurrence of flooding	Parish Council	Persistence & determination

A7	Parish wide	Grass verges & roadside hedges		
The Issue		Overgrown verges & roadside hedges. Infrequent & unscheduled cutting by Cumbria County Council. Inadequate planning relative to environmental considerations.		
The Action		Devise preferred cutting schedules. Negotiate improved services with Cumbria County Council. Investigate possibility of establishing 'Verge & Hedge Associations' for each village together with funding to provision equipment & insurance.		
How it will be tackled		Drive Cumbria County Council for an improved, defined & scheduled service. Solicit interest & support in each village. Consider establishing a rota of volunteers. Support any association successfully established with the quest for funds. Establish relevant controlling constitutions which will be approved by the Parish Council.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council County Councillor Voluntary Action Cumbria & like routes to funds	Implement by summer of 2006	Initially Parish Council then transitioning to appropriate village associations	Funding for equipment & insurance

URSWICK PARISH PLAN

A8	Parish wide	Litter & facilities for its collection		
The Issue		There are 'hot spots' for litter dropping which lack the provision of litter bins		
The Action		Provision of litter bins. Facilitate regular emptying.		
How it will be tackled		Survey the area to identify bin locations for maximum benefit. Prioritise the sites & provision a budget. Devise a plan to ensure bins are emptied which, in the absence of this service from SLDC, is likely to involve assistance from selected parishioners.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Grant agencies	Complete by mid-2006	Parish Council	Participation by village volunteers to empty bins

A9	Parish wide	Access to natural assets & provision of amenities		
The Issue		Parish has natural assets which warrant improved access & amenities		
The Action		Identify all qualifying assets. Characterise those assets. Provide tasteful amenities to enhance the experience of visiting those assets.		
How it will be tackled		Survey the parish against this objective. Draw up plans for each identified locality & cost proposed amenities. Source funding & implement.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Existing & new Associations Landowners	Commence 2006 Ongoing over life of this plan	Initially Parish Council Progressively, relevant associations	Funding

A10	Parish wide	Tree Restoration		
The Issue		Over the last century the tree population has been significantly depleted.		
The Action		Commence a programme of restoration compatible with modern agriculture.		
How it will be tackled		Encourage formation of Urswick Parish Tree Restoration Association (UPTRA). Establish inventory of candidate localities for planting. Take advice from national organisations with relevant expertise. Obtain permissions, funding & trees.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council UPTRA Landowners	Ongoing over Plan period & beyond	Initially Parish Council then: Urswick Parish Tree Restoration Association	Sympathetic landowners Funding
Quoting from a newspaper from the early 1900s when the axing, due to age & decay, of a magnificent old sycamore in Little Urswick was in the news: "At one time, & easily within living memory, the valley in which Great Urswick & Little Urswick stand, was noted for its trees, & the Hawkfield & Bolton Manor estates grew many a fine oak & beech. The valley was lovely when the trees were in full leaf, but its glories have gradually departed until now only a few of the trees remain". Sadly, the process of depletion without replanting has continued throughout current living memory.				

URSWICK PARISH PLAN

A11	Parish wide	Council accredited to Quality Parish & Town Council Scheme		
The Issue		Avail of greater level of delegated control for Parish Council		
The Action		Attain accreditation to Government's Quality Parish & Town Council Scheme		
How it will be tackled		Incremental progress in satisfying specified requirements of the scheme		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Volunteer helpers	Ongoing over the Plan period	Parish Council	Commitment to training Commitment of time by Councillors Establishing a team approach & spirit

A12	Parish wide	Signage		
The Issue		Some road & footpath signs are in poor condition, lack taste &/or welcoming image (All villages) Too many excessively prominent road signs (Bardsea). Industrial signs of unsympathetic design (Bardsea). Absence of road names causes great difficulty to delivery companies (Bardsea).		
The Action		Survey entire parish & detail specific requirements. Request action & follow-up with relevant parties (i.e. Cumbria County Council & local businesses)		
How it will be tackled		Action requests will be placed with Highways Agency, Cumbria County Council & local businesses		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Local businesses	Initial requests during 2006. Later follow-up	Parish Council	Persistence by Parish Clerk & Parish Council in event of unsatisfactory response

11 Concerns and Action Plans

Bardsea specific items

B1	Bardsea	Public Toilets		
The Issue		The recurring threat of closing down the public toilets & the potential consequential risk to public health along the beach		
The Action		Retain the provision of public toilets for use by visitors & cocklers		
How it will be tackled		Continue annual campaign with SLDC for exceptional treatment. The illogical & time wasting repetition of this process, when the seriousness of the problem is self evident, is to be regretted. Collect quantitative data to support the case for the retention of toilets.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Very high	Parish Council SLDC District Councillors MP Media	Immediate & ongoing until a solution is delivered	Parish Council	Depletion of a small rural parish precept to fund an asset used to a very great extent predominantly by non-parish people Time
Public toilets located on the A5087 which are in constant use by visitors during summer months & are essential throughout the year whenever industrial cockling operates from the nearby shore. 				

B2	Bardsea	Maintenance of Bardsea Country Park		
The Issue		Superb natural asset of parish shoreline damaged & uncared for in places		
The Action		Deal with industrial cockling (See item B4). Maintain tidiness with regard to litter & vegetation growth on footpaths. Seek solutions to growth of spartina grass along high water line. Restore high standard of Park signage. Pursue solutions to coastal defences.		
How it will be tackled		Work with SLDC & Parish Council. Establish a Bardsea Country Park Association (BCPA) responsible for monitoring the condition of the Country Park & driving actions to ensure its preservation.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council SLDC BCPA	Ongoing over Plan period	Parish Council transitioning to BCPA	Possible funding of equipment

URSWICK PARISH PLAN

B3	Bardsea	Improved SLDC service emptying grey waste bins		
The Issue		Frequency of grey bin emptying is judged inadequate by villagers		
The Action		Inform, investigate, then selectively provide to meet genuine needs		
How it will be tackled		SLDC to be requested to communicate good management practice for household waste. Arrange audit of current waste disposal practices. Cases of validated need to be identified for additional bin or more frequent emptying.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council District Councillors SLDC	Fully investigate & implement any improvements by end 2006	Parish Council	SLDC policy & budgets

B4	Bardsea	Industrial cockling		
The Issue		Industrial cockling from Bardsea shore generates hygiene problems, considerable loss of amenity, & damage to the shore & roadside verges. Authorities such as the police lack adequate resources to maintain control. History has already taught the extremely high risk to life from Morecambe Bay tides.		
The Action		Continue to press for action with District & County Councillors & local MP, the serious concerns of local residents.		
How it will be tackled		Continuation of communications with Councillors & local MP. Parish Council to continue participation in local liaison group with Council Officers, Councillors, police representatives & other contributing parties. Establish direct communications with Geraldine Smith, MP for Morecambe & Lunesdale, who has identified herself as being effective & motivated by this issue. Support any related campaigns for corrective action.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Very high	Parish Council District & County Councils MPs	Ongoing till a solution is implemented	At parish level, Parish Council but the problem necessitates Government action	A major problem, the solution of which is beyond local resources alone. But local voices should persist & increase in volume.

B5	Bardsea	Relocation of industrial site to key service centres		
The Issue		The industrial site adjacent to the shore is out of character & should be relocated		
The Action		Ensure appropriate restrictions on further expansion are incorporated in future Local Development Framework (LDF) documentation.		
How it will be tackled		Vigilance in ensuring robust inputs to SLDC development & planning cycles		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council SLDC	Ongoing through LDF cycles	Parish Council	Restrictions on further expansion may be limit of that which is achievable in the Plan period

URSWICK PARISH PLAN

B6	Bardsea	Facilities for younger villagers		
The Issue		Very limited facilities currently for young villagers		
The Action		Survey desired requirements. Develop detailed plan for providing.		
How it will be tackled		Identify a project leader. Survey what young people wish to have & verify likelihood of sustainable interest. Meet with landowners to obtain relevant permissions		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Bardsea villagers	Survey by mid-2006	Parish Council until delegated to Project Leader &/or village association	Possible need for funds for equipment, rent, etc.

B7	Bardsea	Critical shortage of burial plots in graveyard		
The Issue		Very few vacant plots in Bardsea graveyard. No solution, or route to a solution to the problem is in sight. The absence of a solution will ultimately impact on other graveyards.		
The Action		Resolve the problem within the confines of Bardsea village & environs.		
How it will be tackled		Ensure collaboration between Urswick Parish Council, Bardsea Parochial Church Council & other authorities from whom funding and support will be required. Conduct an appraisal of need. Develop a project plan. Implement by way of the determined means of construction.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Very high	Parish Council Bardsea PCC Diocesan Glebe Committee's agents	Project plan during 2006. New burial ground available for use in 2008.	Parish Council jointly with Bardsea PCC	Funds for: • Feasibility study; • Possible purchase of land; • Site preparation & enclosure.

12 Concerns and Action Plans

Great & Little Urswick specific items

U1	Urswick villages	Parking causing accident risk		
The Issue		Parking associated with delivery of children to school presents an accident hazard		
The Action		Minimise car use on school runs. Endeavour to slow traffic (see Plan item A4)		
How it will be tackled		Parish Council letter to parents requesting avoidance/minimisation of car use. Investigate feasibility of improved signage.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
High	Parish Council School Governors Cumbria County Council Parents	Immediate	Parish Council School Governors	Funding for circulars

U2	Urswick villages	Social activities		
The Issue		Social/community activities for all age groups, but particularly for teenagers & young adults need improving		
The Action		Identify & encourage Facilitator(s) to lead improvement efforts		
How it will be tackled		Survey to identify specific needs. Take advice on the availability of experienced leaders. Support credible action plans.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Recreation Hall Management Committee Individual villager initiatives	Ongoing over Plan period	Individual villager or group supported by Parish Council	Current deficit of skill in village for leadership of youth activities

U3	Urswick villages	Village playground		
The Issue		Village playground needs replacement equipment		
The Action		Generate wider community support for funding, managing & maintaining playground		
How it will be tackled		Contribution from Parish precept to be considered. Initiatives by Playground Association supported whenever possible.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
High	Playground Association Parish Council	Playground re-equipped by end 2008	Urswick Playground Association	Funding is critical

URSWICK PARISH PLAN

U4	Urswick villages	Tarn access & facilities		
The Issue		The tarn is an exceptional village asset but access & facilities are very limited		
The Action		Identify access points to sites with potential for providing facilities		
How it will be tackled		Urswick Tarn Association is a mature & effective organisation to whom this action item will be delegated		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council (owners of the tarn) Urswick Tarn Association Landowners	Ongoing over Plan period & beyond	Urswick Tarn Association	Funding for provisioning & subsequent maintenance

U5	Urswick villages	Little Urrswick village green		
The Issue		Maintenance & retention of old village green character		
The Action		Ensure regular grass cutting. Retain distinct rural character as opposed to the emulation of an urban park		
How it will be tackled		Little Urrswick Village Green Committee will organise labour. Parish Council will oversee, support & periodically review Committee's constitution as necessary.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Little Urrswick Village Green Committee	Ongoing	Parish Council	Funding necessary for maintenance & fuelling of mower

U6	Urswick villages	Under-grounding of overhead utility wires		
The Issue		The under-grounding of electricity cables has enhanced the villages but over-ground telephone wires continue to present an eyesore.		
The Action		Endeavour to have telephone wires buried		
How it will be tackled		Campaign with telephone company		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council British Telecom	Immediate & with subsequent persistence	Parish Council	Persistence by Parish Council & villagers

U7	Urswick villages	Police presence		
The Issue		A police presence is infrequent & fleeting		
The Action		Continue to make known villagers concerns regarding the inadequacy of policing.		
How it will be tackled		Endeavour to re-institute a resident officer in the village as was previously the case.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Cumbria Constabulary	Immediate & with sustained persistence	Parish Council	It is recognised that police resources are already stretched beyond the needs of the district

URSWICK PARISH PLAN

U8	Urswick villages	Register of volunteers		
The Issue		Increasingly the tasks necessary to maintain the villages are beyond the capacity of established institutions like the Parish Council, & higher authorities are progressively drawing back from tasks formerly carried out by them		
The Action		Establish a pool of local volunteers		
How it will be tackled		Establish a register of volunteers with an identified coordinator		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Coordinator Parishioners	Ongoing during Plan period	Parish Council	Funding equipment & materials. Insurance

13 Concerns and Action Plans

Stainton with Adgarley specific items

SA1	Stainton with Adgarley	Footpath along village green		
The Issue		The absence of a footpath along the main road passing through the village green presents a major road safety hazard now exacerbated by constantly parked vehicles reducing free passage to a single lane		
The Action		Construct a footpath along the south side of the village green		
How it will be tackled		Attempt to determine legal ownership of this section of the village green. Establish agreement with those having grazing rights on the village green. Source adequate funds to complete the construction of the paved footpath		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Very high	Parish Council Cumbria County Council Lord Derby Villagers	Uncertain due to legalities of confirming ownership	Parish Council	Extremely time consuming task untangling history of ownership. Funding will be essential.

SA2	Stainton with Adgarley	Parking on village green		
The Issue		Parking on the village green is illegal & damages the appearance		
The Action		Ensure responsible parking by both residents & visitors		
How it will be tackled		The issue will be subject to constant monitoring by the Parish Council & action taken as found necessary		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Stainton with Adgarley villagers	Ongoing	Parish Council	Possible need for limestone boulders if infringements persist

SA3	Stainton with Adgarley	A 'cared-for' appearance for the village green		
The Issue		During spring through early summer the grass is allowed to grow as a hay crop		
The Action		Without prejudicing the hay crop, project a care-for appearance		
How it will be tackled		A consensus will be agreed with farmers with grazing rights as to the action to be taken. It is proposed that a narrow margin along the roadside will be mown in keeping with grass verges elsewhere in the parish. The formation of a Stainton with Adgarley Village Green Association (SwAVGA) will be encouraged.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council SwAVGA Landowners with grazing rights	Spring 2006	Initially Parish Council Subsequently SwAVGA	Funds for mowing equipment, related storage & maintenance

URSWICK PARISH PLAN

SA4	Stainton with Adgarley	Open air play area for toddlers		
The Issue		There are no facilities for young children to enjoy communal play		
The Action		Provide playground facilities		
How it will be tackled		In discussion with landowners, identify suitable sites for a playground. Encourage formation of a Stainton with Adgarley Playground Association (SwAPA). Obtain funding & establish playground		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Landowners SwAPA	Commence 2006 Target completion end 2008	Initially Parish Council Subsequently SwAPA	Potentially significant funding requirements.

SA5	Stainton with Adgarley	Serious parking problems associated with staff & clients of the Stagger Inn		
The Issue		The village suffers from serious traffic congestion & 'rogue' parking		
The Action		Monitor parking disciplines & endeavour to gain cooperation of Inn management		
How it will be tackled		Initially via discussion & solicitation of cooperation. As necessary, progressively greater use of limestone boulders as boundary delimiters.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
High	Parish Council Management of Stagger Inn	Ongoing	Parish Council	Limestone boulders & placement costs

SA6	Stainton with Adgarley	Slate chipping paving out of character with limestone village		
The Issue		Slate chippings deposited on track across green & slate boundary markers need removal.		
The Action		Remove slate & replace as necessary with indigenous limestone		
How it will be tackled		Parish Council will initially seek cooperation & action by management of Stagger Inn who are responsible for the placement of slate		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Stagger Inn management	Immediate	Parish Council	Sourcing of materials by Parish Council following clean-up by Stagger Inn

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SA7	Stainton with Adgarley	Road cleaning		
The Issue		Roads are left excessively dirty from two distinct sources: • Quarry vehicles • Agricultural residues from fields		
The Action		Reduce amount of dirt getting onto the roads. More frequent road cleaning;		
How it will be tackled		Maintain the attention & cooperation of Quarry management to this problem. Engage local farmers in contributing to the alleviation of this problem. Agree a cleaning frequency with South Lakeland District Council & monitor performance.		
Priority	Partners	Timescale	Lead Responsibility	Resource implications
Medium	Parish Council Quarry management Local farmers SLDC	Agree schedule with SLDC by spring 2006 Ongoing with Quarry management & farmers	Parish Council	Time for persistence by Parish Council

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NEIGHBOURHOOD
FORUM



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