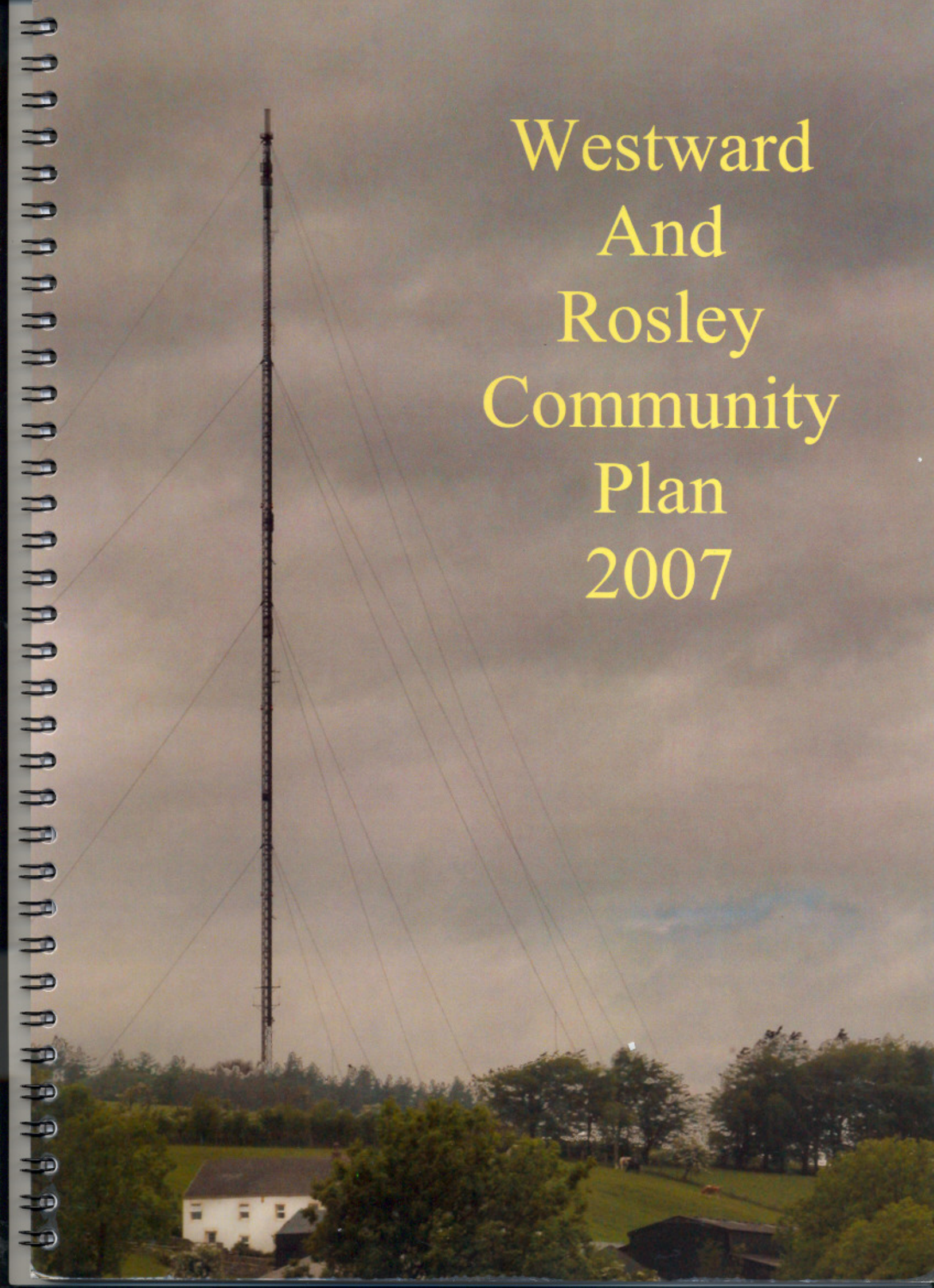
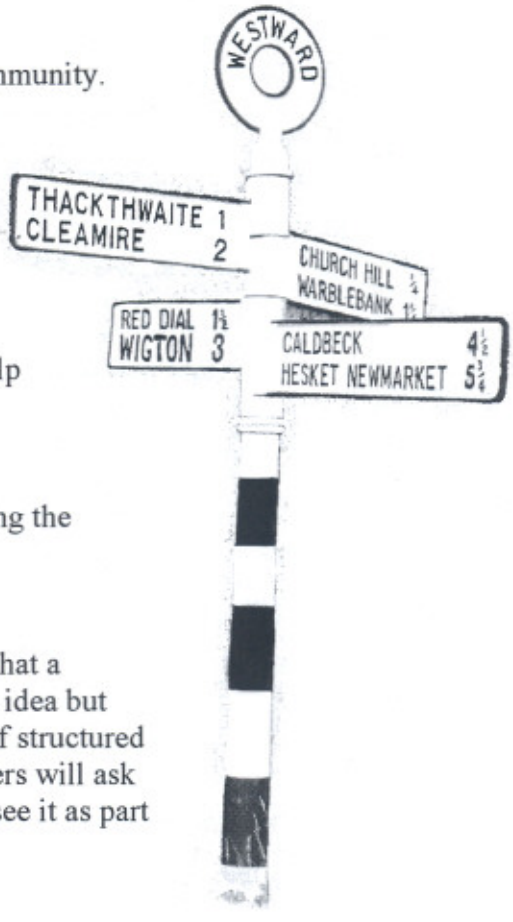


Westward And Rosley Community Plan 2007

Westward and Rosley Plan

Why have a Parish Plan?



A Parish Plan takes into account the views of the community. It is an expression of how the people who live in the parish would like to see life and facilities in their community improved.

It provides a "wish list" for the parish and sets out how this could be achieved using talents and expertise within the community as well as outside help where this is appropriate.

The process of consultation is invaluable in identifying the native talent of the community.

The existence of a plan reassures sources of finance that a funding application is not the result of an amorphous idea but rather a steady move to the successful achievement of structured goals. It is increasingly the case that funding providers will ask about the existence of a plan, and indeed will ask to see it as part of their decision making process.

The Government is currently investigating the possibility of moving towards unitary authorities. If this occurs then the need for "grass roots" representation will be even more important than it is today.

A parish which has a plan identifying the direction in which its parishioners hope to see the community move is well placed to approach authorities, existing or yet to come into being, with the demand that their ideas should be taken into account when decisions are being made affecting the local environment.

It is to be hoped that the parish plan will make a contribution to the decision-making process which leads to upgraded Local Plans for the district council.

Background

The communities of Westward and Rosley are situated in the north of the Allerdale district of Cumbria just north of the Lake District National Park and 10 miles south of Carlisle.

It is a rural, and primarily agricultural, area served by Westward Parish Council. The 2001 census shows that 814 people live in the parish and they are housed in 308 dwellings. The parish profile shows that we are a community with a large number of households in which dependent or non-dependent children live but we also have our share of the aging population and the needs of all these sectors must be addressed. Westward Parish is a member of the Northern Fells Group and of the Bowness, Thursby and Caldbeck Forum. Both organisations are seen as valuable by the people of the parish.

Westward is a very scattered community. There has been a place of worship in Westward since the 13th century. The present church, St Hilda's, was built between 1785 and 1786.

A School was built by public subscription in 1826 however it closed in 1969 and children now travel to school in Wigton, Bolton Low Houses, Rosley or Caldbeck. The school building was taken over by parishioners and is now the Westward Parish Room which is run by trustees and a committee. Adjoining the Parish Room is the Mission Room which was built in 1924. The two rooms are run as one unit under two committees working together to keep this important facility open for the use of the various groups and societies in Westward.

There is a transmitting station at Brocklebank in Westward. This is about to be upgraded and will be one of the first to transmit digital television scheduled for 2008. Westward has an excellent hotel, Greenhill, which is licensed to perform wedding ceremonies, and a popular pub restaurant in the Sun Inn at Red Dial

Rosley is essentially in two parts: the Church, Village Hall and School are adjacent to each other in Rosley whilst top Rosley, as it is locally known, is about one and a half miles away on the B5305.

Rosley Hill Fair was one of the largest in the country. Granted a Royal Charter in 1639 by Charles I, Rosley Hill was a major stopping place on the drove routes for cattle being driven from Scotland to the south of England. The Fair was finally abolished in 1959. Holy Trinity Church was built in 1840 as a Chapel of Ease under the parish of Westward. Rosley was made an ecclesiastical parish in 1868.

The first school was built at the Craggs in1847, this closed in 1873 when a new school was built at Rosley Crossroads and this in turn closed in 1961 when the present school was built. In 1923 a group of ex-servicemen formed a committee to raise money to build a village hall which opened in 1926; this hall was in use until 1985 when a new hall was built around the old building. The new hall was opened by Viscount Whitelaw on 6th October 1988 and an extension added in 1999.

The hamlets of Brackenthwaite, Woodside, and the Craggs together with the village of Curthwaite make up the rest of the parish. Curthwaite is the home of the only remaining pub in the Rosley area: as with the Sun Inn it has an excellent reputation for its food. There is a nursing home in Curthwaite.

Community Involvement.

In June 2004 the Parish Council agreed to investigate parish plans and to discover what the creation of a plan for the parish would entail. The outcome of this was that in September the Link and the Westward newssheet carried an explanation of parish plans and in December of that year a questionnaire was sent to all members of the parish in advance of a meeting which was held on 17th January 2005 in Rosley Village Hall. Mr Shaw reported back to the Parish Council in March and the process of consultation with local organisations began.

The first of three meetings in 2006 was held on 15th May once there was confirmation of funding to produce the plan: all members of the parish were invited to these public meetings to discuss the outcome of the questionnaire and other matters which had arisen from the responses received. We met again on 15th June, once more in Rosley Hall to get approval for the proposed contents of the plan. There followed some further consultations and amendments as a result of this. A draft copy of the plan was handed out at the December 2006 meeting and once again the community was invited to make any last minute comments or suggestions: any which were made have been taken on board.

The main areas covered by the questionnaire were:

Roads and transport in rural areas
Housing and Planning – affordable housing and planning for local residents
Lighting in public places
Policing in country areas
Dog Fouling
Education
Facilities for the Young
Village Halls
Clubs and organisations

Additional issues identified during the period of consultation related to:

The condition of footpaths in the parish
Provision of facilities for all members of the community rather than the narrow field of youth provision already identified
The control of litter
Use of the new repeater station at Brocklebank to the parish's advantage in terms of an intranet setup to assist in parish communication.

After the December meeting a steering group was formed to finalise the document. However this is by no means the end of the process: anyone who feels they have a contribution to make to any of the issues identified in the plan will be welcomed into the group.

Contact Fraser Shaw (01697342540) for more details.

Roads and Transport

Roads

As a consequence of width restrictions in Wigton, and the knock on effect this had on HGVs using minor roads within the parish, width restrictions were introduced on some local roads. This was very much due to the hard work of local residents collecting information and lobbying appropriate bodies.
Speed restrictions are in force at top Rosley on the B 5305 where there is a dangerous junction.
Speeding has also been identified as a problem on the U2149, Caldbeck to Wigton road.
The crossroads at Red Dial are still a cause for concern with many 'near misses' still occurring. The Parish Council have made many representations to CCC Highways department and will continue to do so until a solution to the problem is found. All of the above issues are to be kept under constant review.
There has been concern expressed that there is very little space for parking in Curthwaite, particularly when there is an event being held. There is no obvious place which could be made into a car park but it has been resolved to maintain a watching brief on this and it is hoped that funding could be found if a suitable place is identified.

Verges, Run-offs and General Maintenance

Maintenance work by the council was due to begin in November 2006: the Parish Council are attempting to find out why there has been a delay in the schedule. There is also considerable concern about the condition of the road surfaces. The County Council hotline number is available at the end of this plan and all are free to ring in when they find a pot-hole causing problems.
When the maintenance work is completed the parish council will need to assess how effective this work has been and who is responsible for future maintenance. It may be necessary to look into appointing our own lengthman but this would only be possible with funding from the County Council.

Signposts

There are ten traditional finger type signposts in the parish; all these are in need of an overhaul and repainting. Finance will be sought for this.

Transport

Public Transport is extremely limited, as listed below:
Tyson of Caldbeck - to Wigton on Tuesday via Rosley
Reays of Wigton – to Carlisle via Curthwaite, one bus on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
Northern Fells Mini Bus:-
This service is part of the Northern Fells Group. It is run by volunteers and fares are heavily subsidised: It is a very valuable, reasonable and flexible service funded by grants, donations from parish councils, businesses and fund raising events. There was a very strong consensus that this is an invaluable asset to the community and it will continue to be supported financially.
Other possibilities to be looked into are:
1. Setting up of a voluntary car service and/or a car sharing scheme.
2. The Carlisle to Barrow railway skirts the north of the parish. A long term possibility could be to look into the feasibility of reopening Curthwaite station. This would also benefit the neighbouring parish of Thursby.

Housing and Planning

Planning

Despite recent changes to planning and development control it is unlikely that permission will be given for new housing in the parish within the next five years unless a very strong need can be demonstrated. The Joint Structure Plan (Cumbria CC and the Lake District Planning Board), adopted in April 2006 anticipates that no more than forty dwellings will be given planning permission in North Allerdale between 2006 and 2011: the JSP foresees development being concentrated within area identified as 'service centres', which in this area means Wigton. The Parish Council will continue to support local development where appropriate.

Housing Development

Cumbria County Council commissioned a survey in the area asking about the need for affordable housing: there is some confusion about this survey and the results are not available as yet.

It is understood that Allerdale Borough Council, who carried out the survey for CCC intend to do a further survey themselves. The outcome of these surveys may be sufficient. If they are not clear then the parish council is prepared to look into doing a more thorough survey. It is anticipated that this survey would widen its remit to look at the potential housing needs of the whole parish. This was felt to be particularly necessary for the aging population who may want to 'downsize' or have sheltered accommodation whilst remaining in the parish. Surveys, and their outcomes, in other rural parishes have highlighted the fact that the elderly in rural areas are often homeowners and would not necessarily be seeking affordable or social housing when they downsize. This is something which would have to be taken into consideration when formulating a survey of need.

Parish Land

There are several small areas of parish land throughout the parish. The Parish Council is responsible for their upkeep. In the event that Allerdale Borough agree to the idea of an affordable housing development in the parish then this land would be assessed for its potential as building land.

Footpaths

These are the responsibility of Cumbria County Council and local landowners.

Some paths are overgrown or extremely wet in winter: there have been requests to see if some of these could be improved. This would be dependant on consultation and funding being available.

Policing

Many people expressed concern at the perceived lack of policing in the area.
A public meeting was held on the evening of 6th November 2006 parish council meeting when Inspector Barr, responsible for North Allerdale, explained how local police teams worked and answered questions on a range of topics raised by members of the community. Those who attended felt the meeting had been of considerable value.

Neighbourhood Watch and Farm Watch Schemes

These schemes are to be encouraged and with the setting up of the new 'Voice Connect' system information can be passed on much more effectively. The Voice Connect System, which was launched in Cumbria in 2003, sends text messages to Neighbourhood Watch coordinators who then forward on the messages to members.
There has been interest expressed in forming a Neighbourhood Watch area in Curthwaite area. Anyone interested in extending the scheme see the Contact and Action plan pages at the end of this document.
Farm Watch is an active service in the Parish those who are part of the scheme are contacted by a message to their designated phone number when there is any new information to be disseminated.

Dog Fouling and Litter

There were numerous complaints about dog fouling. Allerdale Borough Council have been informed and have been asked to erect extra signs asking dog owners to use a pooper scooper and dispose of the waste responsibly.

There were also concerns about litter generally and it has been suggested that a 'helping hand' collection stick should be purchased for the use of the parish in general litter collection.

Lighting in public places

Public lighting is a very emotive area and there were a number of different views expressed. More investigation in to the needs and desires for this is definitely necessary.

Communications

The Parish Council has a website in preparation.
A web site for Rosley is also in preparation and will be published during 2007.
There will be links to the Rosley School and Northern Fells Group web sites in both.
The Rosley Link is a local news sheet which is delivered to every house in Rosley parish (ecclesiastical), there are ten issues a year. This is funded primarily by the parish council but local groups also contribute with donations.
A quarterly news sheet is distributed in Westward where there is also a Church magazine. Rosley Church produces a bi-monthly magazine.
A wireless network facility fitted by the company building the transmitter at Brocklebank would make it possible to setup a parish intranet which could be used to further communication within the parish and may be used as a means of increasing care for the more vulnerable in the parish as well as a means of instantly disseminating information around the community. This could be particularly useful if more Neighbourhood and Farm Watch schemes were established.

Facilities in the Community.

Education

Rosley C of E School is a thriving concern with good pupil numbers, many children come from outside the parish and this ensures the school stays viable.

Over the last few years there have been various extensions most recently to the reception area. The school has also acquired a much needed playing field. It is hoped, finance permitting, to improve this valuable asset.
Possible improvements would include toilet facilities, changing facilities in the form of a pavilion and the "building" of a long jump pit so that jumping could be added to the running and throwing activities in both lesson and extra curricular activities.
It is also hoped that over a period of time the present wire fence dividing the fields could be augmented by the introduction of trees and a hedge following the same line. This would act as both a wind break and an area for nature study.
The Busy Bees pre-school, situated within the school grounds, provides a good feeder for the school.
Secondary age children primarily travel to Caldew School in Dalston, or Nelson Thomlinson School in Wigton. School transport is provided for those who are eligible.

Out of School Activities.

There is a great need for more facilities in the parish.
The Northern Fells Group has a youth section and organise various events/ activities which local children can attend.
Rosley Youth Club was very popular but unfortunately had to close due to lack of help with the organising of activities. The Northern Fells youth officer would advise and help anyone, or group, who would be prepared to restart the club. The necessity to gain CRB accreditation has been identified as a stumbling block to people volunteering to help.
The acquisition of land in the field adjoining the Village Hall could be a major benefit for youngsters if this can be developed. The Committee are investigating equipment which could be installed and are currently consulting the people of Rosley.

Village Halls

Westward Halls

The Parish Room and Mission Room are run by two committees working together to keep the facilities open for use by the community. Various fundraising and social events are organised and groups using the Halls include the Flower Club, Mothers Union, W.I., and Lunch Club. A recent revamp of the kitchen area has been of great benefit.

Lighting in the car parking area is poor and needs improved. In order that the Halls can satisfy the need for disabled access a ramp and more accessible toilets are needed. It is hoped that funding for this will be available in the near future. There is also a need to improve facilities for the disabled with respect to the Church.

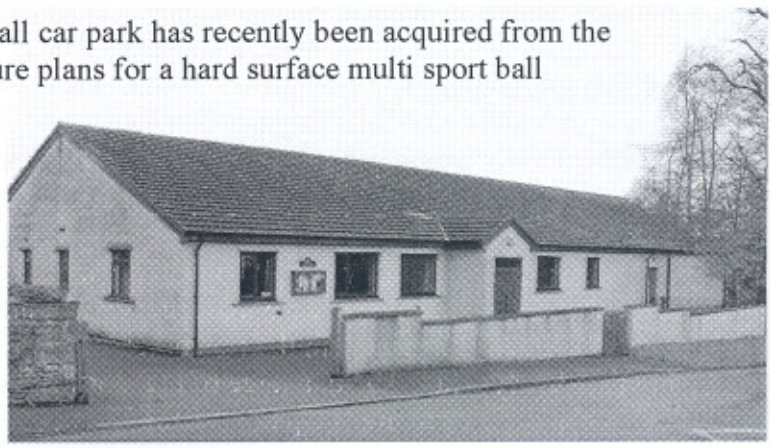
Interest has been expressed in having a recycling facility established in Westward. It was felt that the Halls car park would be a good site: funding should be available as the County Council is anxious to reach government waste reduction targets. The arrival of the facility is now imminent.

The Committees members work hard to ensure that the facility remains available for all members of the community when they need it. Such dedication often goes un-remarked. We hope that this comment serves as an appreciation of the efforts of all on the two committees.

Rosley Village Hall

Rosley built a new village hall in 1988 and this was extended in 2000. It is both well maintained and well used. The parish owes a debt of gratitude to the hall committee which has worked tirelessly to ensure that the hall could be the centre of the community which it has become.

Part of the field adjoining the hall car park has recently been acquired from the Wilkinson Trust. There are future plans for a hard surface multi sport ball court on which five-a-side football, basket ball, and tennis could be played, there would also be a small children's play area. These plans are all dependant on funding being available. Improved recycling facilities in Rosley have also been requested.



Other Facilities.

Both village halls are well used and there are a number of very active groups which provide education, entertainment and activity for all the members of the parish. Below is a list of the relevant organisations and contact numbers for activities which take place in the halls. The lunch clubs are particularly well-attended and offer a valuable service, coupled with the chance to meet up with friends, old and new, and have a 'good crack': this facility is not exclusively for the elderly although it is largely the older members of the parish who have time to go to lunchtime activities.

For information about booking Rosley Village Hall: Mrs D Smith 016973 42546
For information about booking Westward Halls: Mr G Bainbridge 016973 44779

Organisation	Venue	Time and Day	Contact
Art Class	Rosley	Monday 1.30-3.30	Mrs D Smith 016973 42546
Art Group Life Class	Westward		Mrs R Brockbank 016974 42794
Bowls Club	Rosley	Tuesday 7.30	Mr J Simpson 016973 44509
Book Group	Rosley	Friday 1.30- 3.30	Mrs M Robinson 016973 43723
Friends	Rosley	1st Tuesday 7.30	Mrs P Elliott 016973 43181
Flower Club	Westward	Last Monday7.30	Mrs J Kitchen 016973 43799
Lunch Club	Rosley	3rd Wednesday 12.30	Mrs D Smith 016973 42546
Lunch Club	Westward	2nd Tuesday 12.30	Mrs E Pigg 016974 78344
Mother's Union	Westward	1st Wednesday	Mrs R Fell 016973 43948
Playgroup	Rosley	Term-time only Friday 1.30-3.30	Mrs T Rothery 01228 711923
Tai Chi / Life Dances	Rosley	Monday7.00-	Mr N Catterson 016973 76497
Women's Institute	Rosley	2nd Wednesday 7.30	Mrs J Harper-Tarr 01228 712810
Women's Institute	Westward	2nd Wednesday 7.30	Mrs S Martin 016973 43948

There are a number of elderly people in the parish, and over time this will increase so it is important that organisations are encouraged which provide care and facilities allowing the elderly to remain in their own homes for as long as they wish so to do. It is mainly the elderly who take advantage of the Northern Fells Group bus and of the Lend a Hand group which supplies help around the house for anyone with a specific short term need.

The benefits provided by these two alone justifies the support the parish gives the Northern Fells Group.

Action Plan

Subject	Issue	Action	Timescale	Leader and Involved
Roads and Transport	Speeding, accident Blackspots, Red Dial and B5305	Continued liaison with Police, monitoring of road use and contact with Highways to seek traffic calming measures.	On-going	Parish Council liaising with Police and Cumbria County Council Highways
	Illegitimate use of roads by HGVs	Continue to monitor and give police information on road use	On-going	Parish Council and Police through liaison
	Current and future maintenance of roads and work on verges and run-offs	Investigate failure to keep to scheduled work and asses after work done	Short - Medium	Parish Council liaising with CCC Highways
	Restoration of Signposts	Investigate financial support for the job	Short	Parish Council
	Limited Parking at Curthwaite	Identify suitable land and seek funding once found	Long	Parish Council
	Limited Public Transport	Finance of Northern Fells Group bus Investigate setting up of car service/sharing scheme Investigate feasibility of re-opening Curthwaite Station.	On-going Short Long	Parish Council Individual co-ordination
Housing& Planning	Lack of Housing Developments suitable for locals, both young and elderly.	Investigate results of CCC survey carried out by Allerdale Borough Council. On-going communication with ABC's development control team. Investigate own survey.	Short On-going	Parish Council in conjunction with Allerdale Borough Council
Footpaths	These are often overgrown, and wet in winter	Identify specific problems with paths: seek funding for remedial work	On-going	Parish Council and Landowners
Dog-Fouling & Litter	Keeping parish clean and tidy	Keep up general good work of 'tidy as needed'. Encourage responsible dog ownership.	On-going	Parish Council to follow up requests for notices.
Lighting in Public Places	Is there a demand, if so where?	Additional research		Parish Council

Subject	Issue	Action	Timescale	Leader/Involved
Community Facilities				
Education Community Facilities	School playing field	Possible upgrade of school field	On-going	Rosley School
	Lack of Youth facilities	Liaise with Northern Fells Youth Officer Identify support structure to enable organised youth activity in the parish. Possible development of Rosley Village Hall field.	Short On-going On-going	Parent of other Volunteer needed. Northern Fells Youth Officer Village Hall Committee
	Recycling Facilities	Work with ABC to confirm installation of recycling facilities in Westward and additions to Rosley's facilities.	Imminent On-going	Parish Council with ABC
Halls Westward	Disabled access. Lighting in the car park	Investigate funding sources	On-going	Westward Halls Committees
Rosley	Use of adjoining field	Investigate best means of developing the field for the community	On-going	Rosley Hall Committee
Policing and Farm /N'bourhood Watch Schemes	Perceived lack of police presence. Need for greater communication	This has been addressed by a meeting with Inspector Barr, community policing team. Farm Watch operates already.	On-going	Liaise with Police and J. Thornthwaite, NWDO See contacts sheet
Communications	Wireless intranet telephony	Research the possibility of this being included at Brocklebank. Dissemination of information about use	Short	Parish Council
Community Plan	Links with County strategic plan Review of the plan	Work with VAC to identify and link issues with local authority strategies Newsletters and website to updates community on progress 5 year review and alteration of aspirations	On-going On-going Medium	Parish Council Steering group and VAC Parish Council and Community

Timescale: Short - 1-2 years, Medium - 5-6 years, Long - 10 years.

Abbreviations: ABC – Allerdale Borough Council, CCC – Cumbria County Council, VAC – Voluntary Action Cumbria

Organisation/ Contact Name	**Telephone**	**Web Address** Where applicable
Northern Fells Group For:- Youth Worker Lend-a-Hand Minibus	016974 78094	http://www.northernfellsgroup.org/
Neighbourhood Forum Pat Ackred, neighbourhood development officer	01900 325013	http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/ neighbourhoodforums/forums /allerdale/bowness/
Rosley School Mrs P Jackson Head Teacher	016973 42776	http://www.rosley.cumbria.sch.uk/
Busy Bees (pre-school) Rev.Norman Robinson St Hilda's Church, Westward and Holy Trinity, Rosley	016973 43723	
Cumbria Constabulary	0845 33 00 247	http://www.cumbria.police.uk
John Thornthwaite Neighbourhood Watch Development Officer	01900 64524	http://www.cumbria.police.uk/makingcumbriasafer.htm
Farmwatch Co-ordinator F. Shaw(Rosley)	016973 42450	
Highways Hotline	0845 609 6609	contact@cumbriahighways.co.uk
Cllr Duncan Fairbairn	07813 702341 Home 016973 43160	Cumbria County Council, duncan.s.fairbairn@cumbriacc.gov.uk Allerdale Borough Council, duncan.fairbairn@allerdale.gov.uk

Parish Councillors 2007

The Parish Council has ten members and a parish clerk who acts as secretary/treasurer to the council. There is currently a vacancy for one member.
Elections take place in May 2007.
The members of the Parish Council are:

Bill Brown (Chair)	Craggs Farm, Rosley	016973 42832
Fraser Shaw (Vice Chair)	The Craggs, Rosley	016973 42450
Dorothy Smith	Town End Cottages, Rosley	016973 42546
Jackie Atkinson	Fair View, Rosley	016973 43355
Robert Hill	Clea Hall, Westward	016973 42559
Ian Jackson	Grainger Houses, Wigton	016973 43477
Edwin Holliday	Clea Thwaite, Westward	016973 44600
Bill Pigg	The Larches, Brocklebank	016974 78344
Peter Watson	Cunningarth, Westward	016973 42425
Mrs Louise Giles (Secretary)	High Chalkside, Rosley	016973 45814

NOTES

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January 2007

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