

KIRKOSWALD PARISH COMMUNITY LED PLAN

November 2017

Written by: Kirkoswald Parish Community Led Plan Steering Group

Executive summary

Kirkoswald Parish is comprised of several active communities and it was felt that an up to date Parish Plan would help to direct activities towards those areas which local people feel are most important. A review of the previous plan and discussion in Parish Council identified ongoing and planned priorities within the Parish. Following a training session with ACT (an organisation which supports rural communities in Cumbria) a steering group was formed of interested parties.

Initial consultation of groups around the Parish showed support for the identified priorities but did not identify other areas. There was also information in the Parish magazine, the Raven, which is delivered into every home and a display in the shop window in K'o which outlined the possible scope of the plan.

A formal questionnaire was drawn up and delivered to every home in the Parish. Completed forms were collected or delivered to the shop. The comments were analysed and discussed by the Parish Council. From the comments 5 other possible priorities were identified.

A Coffee Morning was held as the final part of the consultation. This was advertised on the questionnaire itself, in The Raven, in the shop window and on the 7 Parish notice boards. People were asked to add comments and to indicate the additional priorities they felt most important by use of stickers.

The comments were again analysed. It was clear that 3 of the additional priorities had more support. From this action plans were drawn up by the relevant bodies. These were reviewed and refined at a full meeting of the Parish Council.

There was care to ensure most areas of the Parish were represented in the steering group and are represented in the resultant plan.

The full report will be published on the website.

Background to the plan

The Steering group included members of a variety of different community groups, and included representatives from a number of villages and hamlets within the Parish. This included: Sue Quinn (K'o Parish Council Chair); Ruth Anderson, Sue Bottom, Jo Falconer, Isa Henderson, Mel Munro, Brian Smythe, and Jane Tea.

The Parish is split into 2 areas:

- High Quarter including Renwick, Scales, Parkhead, Scale Houses, Scarrowmanwick, Busk and other outlying areas
- Low Quarter including Kirkoswald, High Bank Hill and Staffield.

4 Parish Councillors represent High Quarter and 8 Low Quarter. The Chair is chosen from Low Quarter for 8 years and from High Quarter for 4 years

The following areas were identified by the Parish Council as being key priorities for the community to focus on over the next 5 years. These were initiatives already under consideration within the Parish that the Parish Council were aware of, or were initiatives of the Parish Council. The community was asked what they thought.

The Church Institute

The Church Institute (the village hall) is one of several public buildings in the community. It is in need of some serious improvements and had already completed a public consultation process on the need and nature of these improvements.

Footpath

A footpath from Kirkoswald to Lazonby was identified in the last plan and this is a continuing priority for the Parish Council. It is an important links between these 2 rural communities and a safe, off road access to the local pool and shops in Lazonby.

Sports Field

Current sporting provisions include: football pitch used by the local football team, cricket pitch for use by the local cricket team and a small play area in Kirkoswald.

There is currently a lack of provision of exercise facilities for use by the general community (adults and children alike). Fellside ladies have been working in conjunction with the football and cricket clubs to develop a trim trail and track and all weather pitch where local people of all ages can freely exercise in safety.

Parking

The Parish Council are aware of parking problems in the village, especially Thursday evenings and over the weekends. Inconsiderate parking has resulted in people being blocked in, unable to park near their houses, damage to cars and property, and possible restricted access to emergency vehicles access.

Street Lighting

Some lighting in the Parish has been removed due to a policy change by Eden District Council. Some is awaiting replacement and other areas are still lit for the life of the fitment. The Parish Council have not been able to judge accurately the full extent of these changes as we are still awaiting some replacements but may have to investigate ways to light areas if local people feel there is not adequate lighting at the completion of the work.

Broadband and Mobile

There have been protracted discussions throughout the County. Last year after at first refusing to do so, BT did bring fast Broadband to Kirkoswald but the discussions continue to bring that and a better mobile signal to other parts of the Parish. Lonsdale Net, a local supplier, has mooted plans to bring fibre Broadband to Renwick within the near future, if work in Glassonby is successful.

Introduction

According to the document: Rural community profile for Kirkoswald (Parish) – Source Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) Rural evidence project October 2013 – the Parish of Kirkoswald includes:

- Approximately 900 people live locally – in 419 properties (residential and businesses)
- 165 are under the age of 16
- 575 working age adults
- 60 over 65

Table 1. Local Communities receiving a copy of the survey for comment

Parish Area	Local Community	Number of Properties	Groupings for Analysis *	Number of Properties
Low Quarter	Kirkoswald Village	210	K'o Village	210
	High Bank Hill	43	Low Quarter Hamlets	80
	Staffield	37		
High Quarter	Busk & Area	13	High Quarter	129
	Parkhead	18		
	Renwick	70		
	Scales	8		
	Scale Houses	11		
	Scarrowmanwick & Croglin	9		
			TOTAL	419

Where applicable, these figures have been used for the analysis of the results presented in this plan.

Community consultation process

During February and March 2017, community groups within the Parish were consulted to find out what they felt were the key issues of local public interest and concern in Kirkoswald parish. The purpose of this initial consultation was to help shape and focus the questionnaire which would be sent out to all residents. The groups who participated in this initial consultation process included:

- Allotment holders
- Doctors' surgery
- Farming community
- Fellside Ladies (running and walking group)
- Fetherston Arms Pool Team
- Fetherston Rovers and Kirkoswald Kings quiz teams
- Kirkoswald Book Club
- Kirkoswald Church Institute Management Committee
- Kirkoswald Environmental Group (KEG)
- Kirkoswald Football Club
- Lace's Garage
- Renwick and Kirkoswald History Group
- Second Eden Valley Scout group
- The Raven committee

The results of this consultation formed the basis for the survey which was circulated to residents for comment between 25th February and 14th March.

Two paper copies were hand delivered to every household in the Parish, and the survey was posted online on Cumbria's Citizenspace 'Have Your Say' website. All residents were encouraged to respond, and more copies of the survey were available upon request.

To further publicise the consultation articles have appeared in the Raven parish magazine, posters were displayed on local notice boards and there was a display in the village shop window.

Every household was leafleted and 271 individual responses were received. This means that a third of residents participated in the consultation exercise. This is felt to be a commendable level of response which will help the Parish Council to focus on improving the things that matter most to residents, where it is able to do so.

A 'priorities' coffee morning was held on Saturday 1st April and all residents were invited. This session was designed to provide initial feedback on the results of the consultation and to gather further detail on the issues that most people felt were important to be improved.

All this activity, and the feedback and responses gained have helped to shape the Parish Plan.

Results

1.1. Response Rates

A total of 271 responses were received, which equates to approximately a 30% response rate¹.

Appendix 1 shows response rate by Community (Table 2), Parish Area (Table 3) and Age Group (Table 4).

Response rates by age groups are given below, ranked in order from highest % of respondents to lowest:

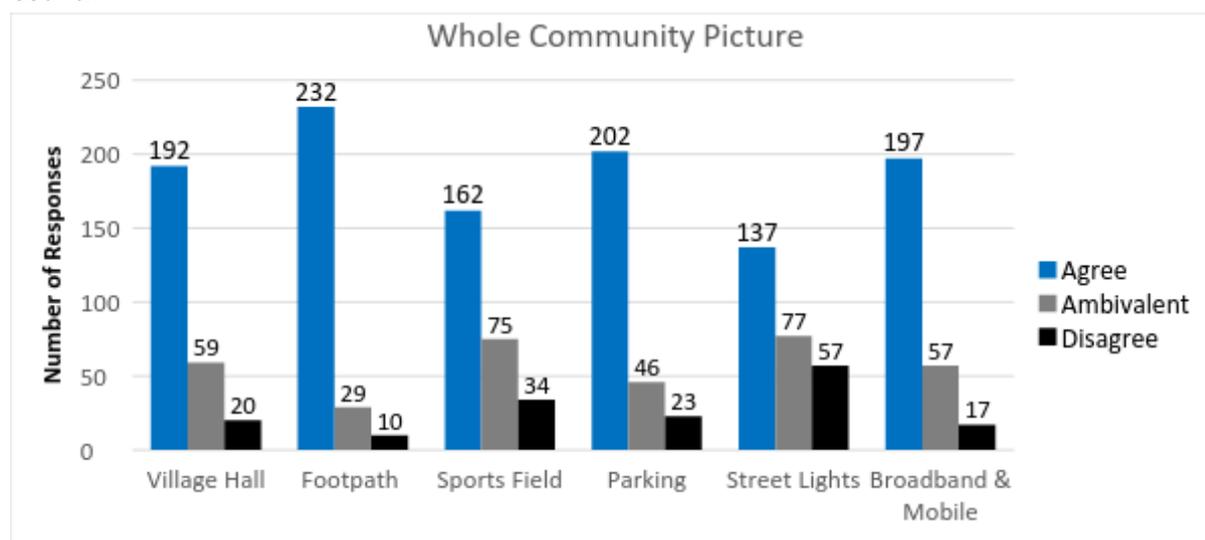
- **By age group (% of total responses):** 46 to 65 (42%); Over 65 (36%); 26 to 45 (18%); under 25 (4%).

Note: according to the ACRE Parish profile: of the 900 residents in the community, 165 residents are under the age of 16 (from which only 2 responses were received); 575 are working age adults (167 responses were received) and 160 are over 65 (99 responses were received).

1.2. Overall Findings on Key Priorities

Six priorities had already been identified by the Parish Council, these were presented to the community who were asked to indicate whether they ‘agreed’ that these were priorities or not, see **Figure 1**.

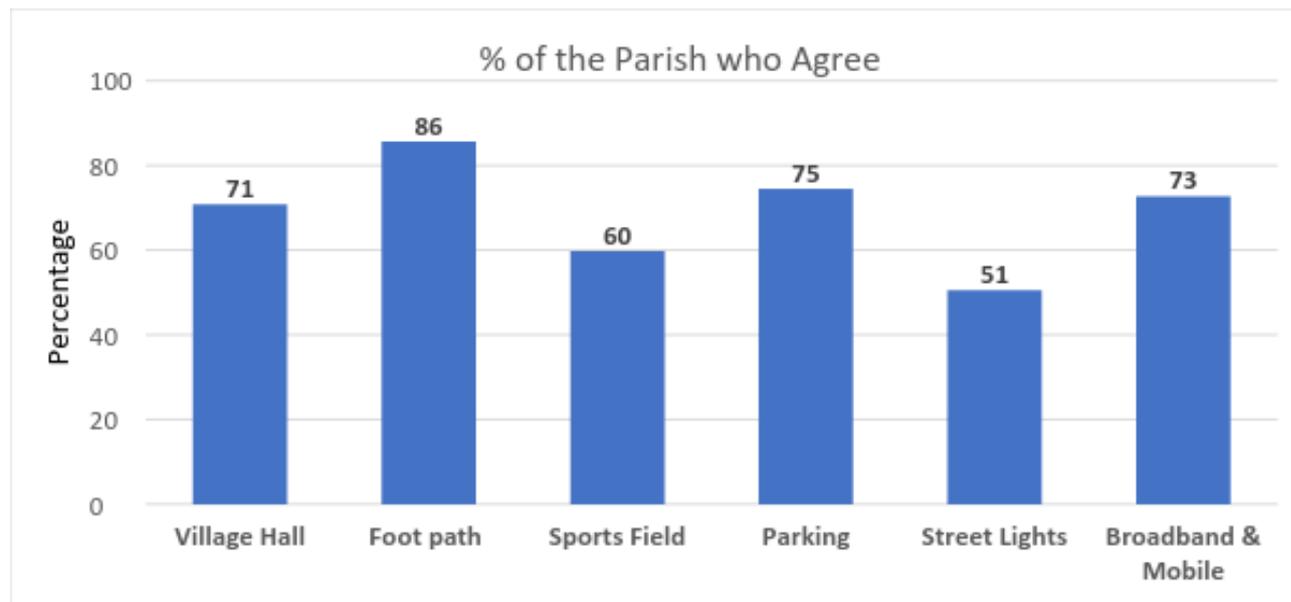
Figure 1. Parish Response – number of responses to existing priorities identified by the Parish Council



¹ Based on an estimated 900 individuals in the Parish - Source ACRE Community Profile (2013)

Looking at the percentage of respondents (from the whole community) who 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' (see Figure 2 below), over 80% agreed that the footpath (86%); parking (75%); improving broadband and mobile communication (73%) and village hall renovations (71%) were key priorities for the Parish. 60% supported the improvements suggested to the sports field / trim trail; but the community were split in their response to improvements to lighting.

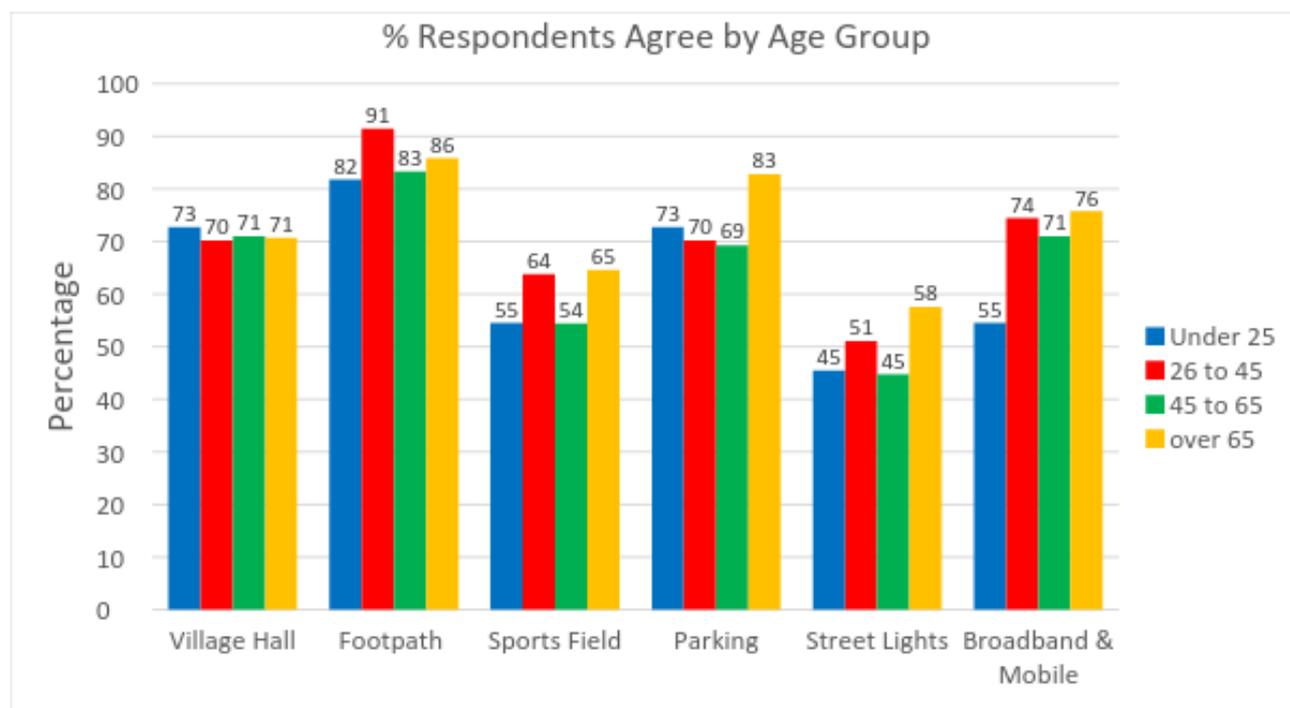
Figure 2. Parish Response - % of the respondents that 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' with the key priorities already identified by the Parish Council



When asked if they would be willing to pay a modest rise in the Parish Precept (£5 to £10 per year) if this helped to deliver these improvements - 86% of respondents said 'Yes'.

1.3. Response by Age Group

Interestingly, priorities were ranked similarly by all age groups in the parish, although parking was considered to be more of an issue by those aged over 65.



% Agree	Village Hall	Foot path	Sports Field	Parking	Street Lights	Broadband & Mobile
Under 25	73	82	55	73	45	55
26 to 45	70	91	64	70	51	74
46 to 65	71	83	54	69	45	71
Over 65	71	86	65	83	58	76

1.4. Other Priorities - identified by comments in the different communities

These comments were made by more than 1 person in relation to areas not already covered by other priorities and are in no particular order.

Kirkoswald Village - Play equipment, dog poo bins, litter, lack of road markings, dangers at Fetherston Hill, speeding vehicles, blocked drains, footpath on Eden Park and mud on the road

High Bank Hill - Speeding vehicles and blocked drains

Staffield - Rubbish bins, litter, blocked drains, park run to bring people to the village

Parkhead - Mud on road, condition of the road, litter, erosion on the footpath to K'o

Renwick - Lack of gritting, speeding vehicles, mud on the road, litter, lack of a play area, not feeling a valued part of Parish

Busk & Area, Scales, Scale Houses, Scarrowmanwick & Croglin - no repeated comments

These comments formed the basis of the additional priorities put to people at the Coffee Morning. These were:-

- Road Safety
- The state of the Roads
- Litter and dog fouling
- Additional play areas
- Improving communications with High Quarter

Each person was asked to use 1 of their 3 stickers to indicate the importance they placed on each of the additional priorities. Only 1 sticker per person per category

Next Steps

Priorities were identified as:-

- Church Institute
- Footpath to the bridge
- Parking
- Broadband and Mobile Signal
- Sports field Development
- Street lighting
- Litter and Dog Fouling
- Road Safety
- The Condition of the Roads

Action Plan

Issue	Action	How to Tackle It	Lead Group (& Partners)	Priority	Timescale	Resources
Sustainability of the Kirkoswald Church Institute (Village Hall) in doubt; increase in running costs, deterioration of the fabric of the building.	Carry out necessary surveys With the aim to: Improve Heating Improve Lighting Create disabled access & toilets Upgrade insulation General improvements and refurbishments	Church Institute Management Committee to seek structural survey, energy audit and external funding available. Investigate ownership Raise fund through social events Co-ordinate local volunteers to carry out some refurbishment as appropriate to keep the costs down. Deliver as many improvements as is feasible with the grants available and support of the local community	Church Institute Management Committee (Charity Trustees) External funders ACT Local People Carlisle Diocese	high	3-5 yrs	Dependent upon outcome of surveys and funders Fundraising Local Volunteers
Footpath to establish a foot path from the village to the bridge	Approach the landowner Involve Highways department Reassess work needed Agree schedule of works and tender	Open negotiations with landowner and his land agent Seek Highways help to improve drainage Negotiate with landowner Choose contractor Oversee work and review in 1yr	Tim Fetherstonhaugh Parish Council PC sub committee	high	1 yr	Parish Council Precept
Adding to and improving existing sports and activity facilities in K'o. To initially include a path to walk /run /cycle around the football field, adding a range of static exercise equipment, improve the play facilities in the existing playground and provide picnic areas. Encourage more use of the area thereby reducing anti-social behaviour.	Approval in principle obtained: Parish Council, Football Club, Tim Fetherstonhaugh Snr., Cricket Club, K'o C of E school, Eden District Council (leisure officers) Get price from local contractors to replicate path (as at Frenchfield). Meeting with all involved parties to get formal approval.	Fellside Ladies steering group to include representatives from other parties. Phased improvements Consult with local residents as to the type of things they'd like to see – e.g. walking football, picnic benches, hockey Raise funds through social and active events Co-ordinate local land based volunteers to undertake ground works to keep costs down. Compare prices and quotes for the play equipment Speak to EDC about planned improvements for the playground.	Fellside Ladies Kirkoswald football club Staffield Cricket Club Kirkoswald C of E School Tim Fetherstonhaugh Snr Eden District Council	high to medium	1-3 yrs	Funding opportunities for rural, women, children, sports. Fundraising Local volunteers Sports clubs Donations of materials
To improve parking in K'o Village	Introducing measures to combat obstructions and ensure ease of access for emergency vehicles. To minimise damage to pavements caused	Canvas opinions and collect evidence, photos Investigate possibilities Seek advice from Police and Highways Contact school about parking Decide on measures to implement Cost measures and Implement Review after 6 months	PC Police Highways Effectuated Residents	high	1-3yrs	Parish Council

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Issue	Action	How to tackle it	Lead Group (& partners)	Priority	Timescale	Resources
Street Lighting following a new policy from EDC street lighting in the Parish has been greatly reduced	by parking To review street lighting in K'o and Renwick Light in Staffield	To continue to discuss progress with EDC Review lighting when all new is in place Investigate possibility/desirability of additional lights	Parish Council Eden District Council	medium to low	2 -3 yrs	Parish Council
Broadband and Mobile Communication	To support, and lobby for, the introduction of high speed broadband throughout the Parish . To press for better mobile phone coverage as above	To attend meetings and track communications about the introduction of SfBB relaying information to the PC. To press for government support for SFBB throughout the Parish To maintain a dialogue with Lonsdale Net and support and facilitate their proposed work in Renwick To maintain a dialogue with CCC and EDC with regard to mobile phone coverage	Brian Smythe Parish Council	high		
Litter and Dog Fouling	To review the bins available throughout the Parish Put in place measures to reduce littering/fouling Encourage litter picking	where are the bins, how are they used, how are they emptied extra bins where necessary Analyse litter to identify source Posters, notices and letters to discourage fouling and littering Help to organise litter picks throughout the Parish involving KEG Contact NFU re dog fouling notices Contact Highways re bins and emptying	PC EDC Kirkoswald Environmental Group School Cubs	medium	ongoing	Parish Council
Road Safety Measures	identify desirable, effective measures to counteract issued raised in comments	Investigate speeding - survey using hand held speed gun speed restrictions, road markings through HBH and Renwick work with CCC Highways and EDC to put in place Contact Crash Group for TDU units Concealed entrance signs Glassonby road Review effectiveness of each measure within 6 months of installation	PC Police CCC Highways	high to medium	ongoing	Parish Council
Condition of Roads	To address issues raised re road surface , potholes, drains and gullies. To establish an expected maintenance programme	discuss with CCC highways department sharing concerns establish a programme of works to address issues now and establish a pattern of maintenance for the future	PC CCC Highways	medium	ongoing	

Appendix 1 – Response Rate by Community, Parish Area and Age

Table 1. Number of Responses by Local Community (Number of Houses)

Parish Area	Area	Number of Properties	Number of Responses
Low Quarter	Kirkoswald Village	210	187
	High Bank Hill	43	27
	Staffield	37	18
High Quarter	Busk & Area	13	0
	Parkhead	18	14
	Renwick	70	17
	Scales	8	1
	Scale Houses	11	6
	Scarrowmanwick & Croglin	9	1

*Calculated as number of responses for category / 419 (total number of properties) x 100.

Table 4. Respondents by Age

Age Group	Number of Responses**	% Response*
Under 25	11	4
26 to 45	47	18
46 to 65	114	42
Over 65	99	36

*Calculated as number of responses for category / 271 (total number of responses) x 100.

**Note: according to the ACRE Parish profile: of the 900 residents in the community, 165 residents are under the age of 16; 575 are working age adults and 160 are over 65.

Appendix 2 – Analysis of Priorities by Age

In total 11 people responded in the age categories **under 16 and 16 to 25**.

	Church Inst	Foot path	Sports Field	Parking	Street Lights	Broadband & Mobile
Agree (n)	8	9	6	8	5	6
Ambivalent (n)	2	1	4	1	3	4
Disagree (n)	1	1	1	2	3	1
% Agree	73	82	55	73	45	55

In total 47 people responded in the age categories **26 to 45**.

	Church Inst	Foot path	Sports Field	Parking	Street Lights	Broadband & Mobile
Agree (n)	33	43	30	33	24	35
Ambivalent (n)	9	3	9	12	17	12
Disagree (n)	5	1	8	2	6	0
% Agree	70	91	64	70	51	74

In total 114 people responded in the age categories **46 to 65**.

	Church Inst	Foot path	Sports Field	Parking	Street Lights	Broadband & Mobile
Agree (n)	81	95	62	79	51	81
Ambivalent (n)	25	13	35	21	26	24
Disagree (n)	8	6	17	14	37	9
% Agree	71	83	54	69	45	71

In total 99 people responded in the age categories **over 65**.

	Church Inst	Foot path	Sports Field	Parking	Street Lights	Broadband & Mobile
Agree (n)	70	85	64	82	57	75
Ambivalent (n)	23	12	27	12	31	17
Disagree (n)	6	2	8	5	11	7
% Agree	71	86	65	83	58	76

(n) - indicates that the row of the table shows the number of responses not the percentage

Appendix 3 – Analysis of Comments

Comments were put forward on the questionnaires and at the Coffee Morning. The following excerpts give a flavour of the comments received. Comments have been shared with the Steering Group, the Parish Council and the bodies responsible for each aspect. The first set of comments concern the main areas put forward in the questionnaire.

The proposed Footpath from K'o to the bridge - *comments included* - Must be accessible to all, Footpath between K'o and Lazonby very important, useful, healthy and safe, so dangerous walking between K'o and the bridge, this will benefit drivers too. It is always a worry that you will meet pedestrians on the bends

Safe and considerate parking throughout Kirkoswald - *comments included* - Problems outside school, Blocking road – no access for emergency vehicles, we don't want yellow lines, parking between the monument and the Crown has to be sorted, why can't people walk from safe parking places?

Improvements to the Church Institute *comments included* a new hall is needed, improved heating and lighting,

Broadband and mobile signal - *comments included* - Broadband and mobile signal for whole Parish not just K'o, Lonsdale net not reliable, Staffield needs fast broadband, can't work from home anymore, what was promised and what we experience are poles apart. SFBB is no better than before.

Development at the Sports field to include an all weather running, cycling track, exercise facilities and a range of multi user static play/exercise equipment- *comments included*- All great ideas, path round football sounds great, also static exercise equipment for adults and children, somewhere safe and fun for the children to play, upgrade park as there are many children who live near and use it

Streetlights-*comments included*- We don't want bright lights in the village, need a light at Demesne corner, compared to other villages lighting is poor, I'd be sad to see modern lamp posts in the centre

Signs- *comments included*- Old Cumbria signs enhance area, not horrible modern ones

Conclusions - The analysis of comments show the support for the priorities in agreement with the numbers who supported the proposals through marking strongly agree or agree.

There is a great desire to see the footpath happen for safety reasons, but there are some unrealistic expectations which will need to be managed.

As far as parking is concerned there are big problems in several areas which could lead to accidents and emergency vehicles being unable to get through. Several solutions were put forward but some of these were not viable.

There were few comments about the Church Institute as most people were happy with the proposals for improvements outlined, including heating, lighting and toilet facilities.

Broadband and mobile phone signal is obviously of great concern to people. There is a great dissatisfaction with the present situation both BT and Lonsdale net coming in for criticism

The development at the Sportsfield had good support with about half focussing on a play area and half on the track and fitness aspect

Street Lighting produced a mixture of feeling with some quite opposing views. About a quarter of the comments wanted more lights or better lighting, about half favoured dark skies and some wanted less modern looking light poles.

There was least support for signage but a consensus preferring to the old signs

Other areas of concern arising through comments

The following aspects were raised from comments on the questionnaires, gathered into categories and added to at the Coffee Morning people. People used stickers to indicate their preferences for additional priorities for the plan. Five areas were identified initially from the questionnaires.

Litter and dog mess - comments included -Litter on roadside from joggers and vehicles, dog fouling on footpath, also more advice on C2C websites to cyclists reminding them not to drop drink bottle, more bins for general litter/dog poo a must

Conclusions – this is obviously a concern throughout the Parish. 60% were in favour of this being made a priority

The state of the roads – comments included- Mud on the road from farm vehicles, my car and tyres have suffered pothole damage, drains and gullies blocked resulting in flooding and ice in cold weather, mud on road particularly at Parkhead.

Conclusions – there were many comments on the questionnaires about potholes and blocked drains and gullies. 54% at the Coffee Morning indicated a preference for this priority.

Road Safety -comments included - Stop sign at HBH regularly ignored, near misses and harm to pets, wildlife and pedestrians, Fetherston corner dangers, vehicle access to Parkhead – passing place needed, white lines -Sandhill and Demesne, speeding restrictions High Bank Hill and Renwick

Conclusions –Quite a few people had indicated this area on the questionnaire and 35% thought this needed to be prioritized.

Improving play areas – comments included -Play area at Renwick, more play equipment, adult play exercise equipment, comments about teenagers causing problems at the park - skating/scooter area might help, more challenging play equipment

Conclusion 21% indicated this preference but some of the comments related to the development at the Sportsfield.

Develop better communication and involvement of the High Quarter - comments included - As a Renwick resident, much of this is not of immediate concern, but the broadband issue is extremely relevant, you have left out the state of our gritting service in this area, we are in Renwick and grit is nonexistent, the gritters by pass us and go to Castle Carrock., we pay community charge for this service and I can't believe there haven't been more complaints, there is a strong feeling that the parish council is all about Kirkoswald

Conclusion Some of the comments obviously refer to aspects covered elsewhere. There was a low return for Renwick as a whole and no residents attended the Coffee Morning although Parkhead, High Bank Hill and Staffield were represented at the Coffee Morning

Comments made directly to the Parish Council

A lot of comments made were concerning the priorities already identified. The rest are categorised below

Green Issues

I wish to draw to the attention of K'o Parish Council the plans for a nuclear power plant of three large reactors on the west coast of Cumbria 45 miles as the crow flies from our village. These will be positioned next to Sellafield that houses the largest stockpile of plutonium in the world. I urge the council to be aware of this project and join other parish councils throughout Cumbria objecting on the grounds of the harm this poses to the environment.

Maybe a stone trough of bulbs / plants at each Kirkoswald sign entrance to the village

More focus on environmental issues, campaign for stopping verge cutting during spring, summer, autumn.

Fell Foot Forward AONB scheme.

Is there also the possibility in the future of the Parish Council generating green electricity from natural resources? e.g. hydro-electric scheme Raven Beck/Croglin Water

A more holistic approach to community.

Laying hedges not hacking/planting/replacing trees - more dialogue with farmers etc. to encourage long term views.

General

the footpath on Eden Park is very muddy and slippery when wet, tarmac would be a good idea

Flow of the river under the bridge leaving ground deposits

Gravel under the bridge over the Eden

The Churchyard is practically full and the time is drawing near for the parish council to provide a cemetery in Kirkoswald.

I would be happier to pay more than that to support these plans

Additional cost to be paid to Parish Council only.

Could the extra £5-10 we would put towards our council tax not be given directly to our own PC

How fantastic the window display in the village shop always is - very relevant and thought provoking whilst providing some artistic input. Thanks to all involved.

No - but I would like to thank them for carrying out such a countless task

Just to say that we are so lucky to live in such a lovely village

Conclusions

Some of the areas are covered elsewhere and people have seemed to use this as a platform to emphasis their concerns. Some of the general comments are already being addressed – repairs to the bridge are imminent and the state of the footpath to Parkhead has been reported . Some are beyond our control – the footpath on Eden Park and extra housing. The Parish Council already support the Fell Runner through a grant and both Renwick and Kirkoswald have 3 buses a week.

The Parish Council recognises that a lot of comments made directly to them, and in other areas concern, environmental issues. Some of these can be referred to other bodies. Some, such as alternative energy, are at present beyond the scope of this plan but we hope to investigate further to assess possibilities for the future.

The analysis of comments has been thought provoking and we thank all of you for your responses. All comments have been read and considered even if you do not see them here.

Appendix 4 – Review of the Previous Parish Plan

The Parish plan included 7 areas and was drawn up following a questionnaire sent out to all households in the parish. It covered the years 2012 to 2016.

Traffic lights on the Eden Bridge. This was the first priority identified by the consultation. Following many meetings and correspondence a temporary set of lights were trialled. These were closely monitored and then converted to the permanent lights that are now in place. This was achieved with the help and support of Cumbria County Council.

Footpath to Lazonby. Kirkoswald PC have concentrated their efforts on the path up to the bridge. There have been negotiations and meetings with the landowner. Extensive improvements to the drainage where required. These were undertaken this year and their effectiveness is being evaluated. The progress of the project have been hampered by flooding and by vandalism

Better provision for 11-18 yr olds and improved play spaces in K'o and Renwick. The land at Renwick which was originally earmarked for a play space has since been built on. The play area in K'o is neat and tidy and well kept up by Eden District Council but is largely unimproved. Efforts are made to involve children and young adults in organised activities.

Greater Police visibility and engagement. This is largely out of the hands of the PC especially bearing in mind the level of cuts to the service. The PC does receive regular newsletters and updates via Mary Robinson, CC councillor at the time. This is an agenda item at each meeting and concerns can be fed back to the police via Mary

Increased 'Doggie bins'. It was found on investigation that the best way to deal with this was not dedicated bins but more general litter bins. There are now 2 bins in Renwick and 3 in Kirkoswald which are regularly emptied. Notices about dog fouling have been posted regularly.

To publicize and promote the work of the PC in the community. There is now a website, hosted by www.kirkoswald.org that gives details of the PC. Minutes are posted as well as details of the PC members. There are downloadable documents and other advice. Agendas and minutes are displayed on the notice boards a few days before each meeting. Each agenda contains a 15 min slot that parishioners can attend to discuss any issues. It was not possible to have agendas in the Raven as there are issues with timing.

Broadband The village of Kirkoswald has now got high speed broadband available however this is not available through BT in large areas of the parish. The Parish Council will continue to canvas for high speed broadband throughout the parish. We are greatly indebted to Brian Smythe for his reports, networking and canvassing on behalf of the parish.

Other issues included in the questionnaire

Leisure and Social Activities

The Parish Council have supported various events over the last 4 years. They organised the Diamond Jubilee weekend to include the whole parish. There are commemorative benches in Renwick and K'o. A celebration for the Queen's 90th birthday was held in the Church Institute which benefitted from the proceeds. The PC continue to support the Church Institute and a PC member is also on the CI committee and regularly reports to the PC.

Road, travel and transport With the support of CCC and EDC the PC continues to ensure roads and verges are kept clean. Signage has been improved in K'o with 2 new signs. The cast iron signs are being refurbished by CCC. The PC are at present working towards the refurbishment of the Warboys signs throughout the parish. Quotes have been obtained and we have applied for grants to enable the work to go ahead. At present we are awaiting the outcome of the application. Some new grit bins have been ordered. The PC have pressed for the extension of gritters to include Renwick on every available opportunity, so far without success. The PC along with our Highways representative continues to monitor all aspects of road and highway issues these are then reported to the relevant authorities. If not dealt with these issues are followed up. Benches, railings and notice boards are regularly repainted. This year the Staffield bench has been refurbished and planters added - thank you.

Crime and Policing. The Parish Council have been made aware of the difficulties caused by irresponsible parking in the village. There is ample parking away from the centre of the village. The PC want to avoid disrupting the look of the village by yellow lines but can only do so with the cooperation of those who are in the centre, often locals themselves. The PC are trying to ensure access for residents and emergency vehicles by use of signage and cones with help of some residents.

Grants The Parish Council continues to award grants to the following bodies - K'o Methodist Chapel, K'o PCC, Renwick Church, Renwick Reading Room, the Fellrunner village bus, K'o Church Institute, Lazonby Swimming Pool and the Great North Air Ambulance. Other bodies have received grants in the past. Grants must be applied for by form to the November meeting. Forms are available from the Clerk to the PC