

Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Plan

Report of Survey

February 2007



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APPENDIX

Public Meeting Feedback And Feedback From The Exchange

Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Plan Report of Survey

Introduction

This report details the findings of the questionnaire survey that was carried out in the Autumn of 2006. It provides a comprehensive summary of all the issues raised in the responses to the questionnaires but does not offer any answers or proposals; that comes next.

The response to the questionnaire survey was excellent and was far better than experienced by other Parishes who have undertaken similar surveys. A total of 245 questionnaires were returned from 185 households. Almost all responses were positive and many applauded the initiative of the Parish Council to undertake a Parish Plan.

The total number of households in the Parish, determined from the register of electors, is 296; this represents a percentage return of 64%.

Please note that this report is a record of the findings of the survey and the comments expressed here are those of the residents of the Parish and not the Steering Group.

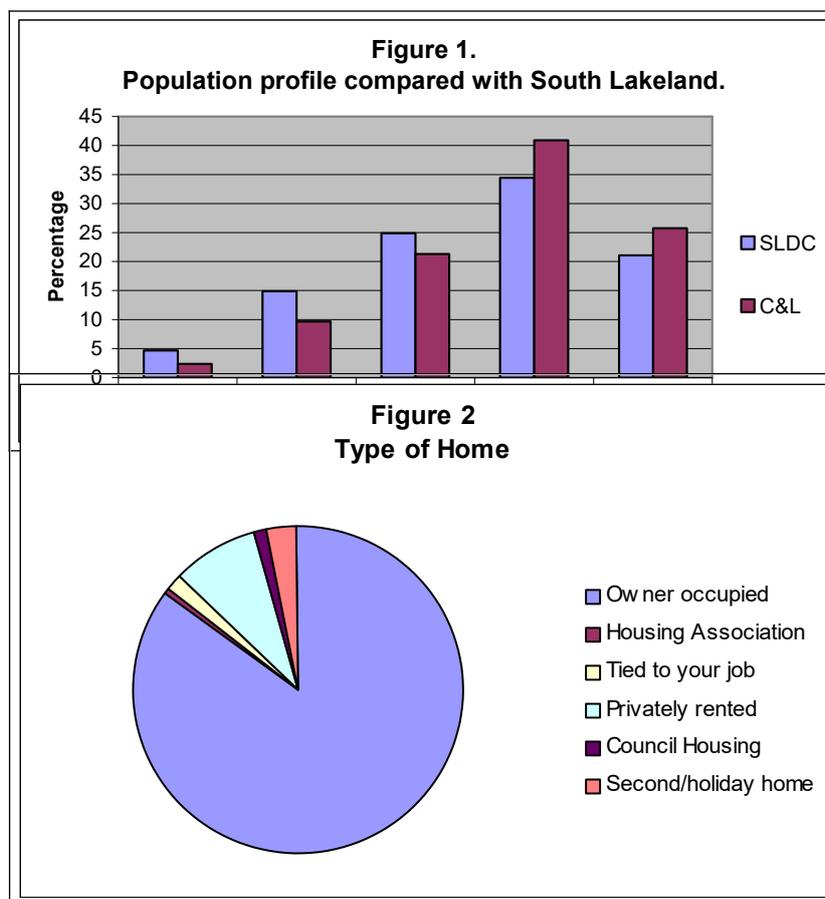
Section 0: YOUR HOUSEHOLD

The first question in the questionnaire gives a picture of the age profile of the residents of the Parish. These data are summarised in Table 1 and illustrated in Figure 1 where the age profile of residents in the Parish is compared with figures for South Lakeland District; it shows that Crosthwaite and Lyth has a higher proportion of elderly people and conversely a low proportion of children and young people.

Under 5	10
5 to 11	21
12 to 17	20
18 to 40	90
41 to 65	173
over 65	109
Total	423

Housing in the Parish is dominated by owner-occupied properties (85%). This is illustrated in the pie chart Figure 2. It should be noted however that this is a skewed reflection of the actual occupancy within the Parish; very few second home owners responded and it was also reported, by those

collecting the questionnaires that, as might be expected, those in temporary employment in the Parish were not interested in participating in the survey.



Question 0.3 asked how many roadworthy vehicles were kept at each household. The number and types of vehicles for the 166 responses to this question is as shown in Table 2 below. Several respondents added Land Rovers (6), quad bikes (3), motor homes (2) and horse boxes (2) as “Other” vehicles.

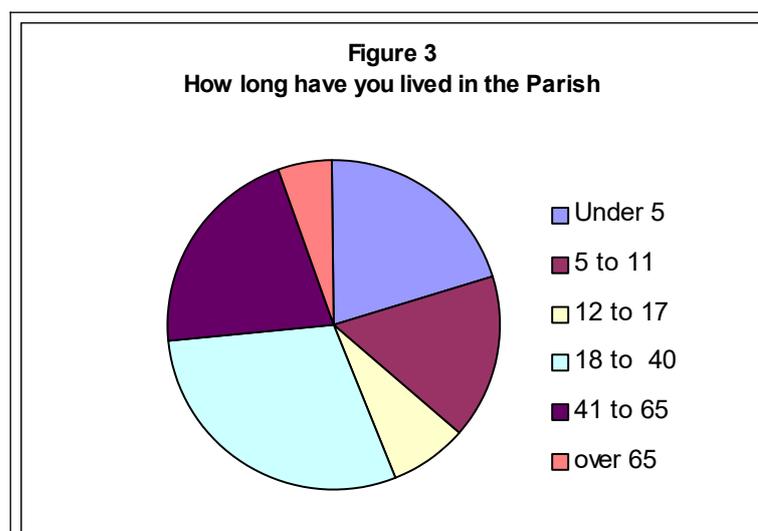
Cars	288
Vans	15
Motorbikes	23
Bicycles	83
Tractors	46
Number of respondents	166

Section 1: PERSONAL

In regard to question 1.1 (are you male or female) 104 men and 124 woman replied although for almost a quarter of the questionnaires this section was not completed; also in many instances the forms were filled in jointly. The results from questions 1.2 and 1.3 (**age groups and length of residence**) are as indicated below in Tables 3 and 4 and the length of residence is illustrated in Figure 3.

Table 3	
Question 1.2 - How old are you?	
Years	Number of respondents
12 to 17	1
18 to 40	33
41 to 65	114
over 65	70

Table 4	
Question 1.3 - How long have you lived in the Parish? (years)	
Years	Number of respondents
Under 5	46
5 to 11	36
12 to 17	17
18 to 40	66
41 to 65	48
over 65	12



From the above Figure 3 it can be seen that, of those that responded, over a third of the village have lived here for 11 years or less, over a third for 12 to 40 years and just over a quarter for over 40 years. Looking more closely at these data it can be deduced that 45 people who responded have lived in the Parish for all or most of their lives.

Section 2: PARISH HOUSING.

Almost everybody answered all or part of this Section and a summary of the results is shown in Table 5. The percentages shown relate to the total number of responses received which is thought to be a reasonable approach since the number of blank responses against each question was small. The rest of the table is an analysis of the housing answers by age bracket to see if there were any significant variations across the age groups. Comments relating to the various questions are as follows.

2.1: Do you think more housing is necessary?

59% of respondents replied “Yes” to this question. Compare this with those who said “Yes” to affordable housing (88%) implying that they interpreted the question as referring to “proper” housing. The highest percentage who said “Yes” was in the 18 to 40 age bracket.

2.2 Will cost prevent grown up children from staying?

Overall 42% people said “Yes” with highest percentage again in 18 to 40 age bracket, the age group most likely to have children that are not yet grown up.

2.3: Are you likely to move and will a shortage of housing mean you have to leave?

Overall 28% of respondents said “Yes” with highest percentage again in the 18 to 40 age bracket reflecting the age group with greatest mobility and potential change of circumstances.

2.4: Will a shortage prevent family moving closer to you? -

Overall 29% said “Yes” with highest (33%) again in 18 to 40 age bracket perhaps showing concern about returning children and/or ageing parents.

2.5: Need for managed or sheltered accommodation?

Overall 53% replied with a “Yes” to this question with highest (58%) in the 41 to 65 age bracket, perhaps wanting to protect ageing parents, compared with 52% in the over 65 age bracket.

2.6: Need for more rented accommodation?

Overall 53% of respondents replied “Yes” to this question with highest (64%) in the over 65 age bracket and lowest 39% in the 18 to 40 bracket perhaps reflecting shorter term needs and/or purchasing power.

CROSTHWAITE & LYTH PARISH PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE											
Analysis of Housing responses by age.											
		More housing	Cost vs children	Need to move	Shortage vs family	Need for sheltered	Need for rented	Need for affordable	Housing association	Housing survey	Limit 2nd homes
Age Bracket	Total	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.1	2.11
12 to 17	1	1				1	1	1	1	1	1
18 to 40	33	26 79%	19 58%	17 52%	11 33%	16 48%	13 39%	30 91%	15 45%	28 85%	25 76%
41 to 65	114	89 61%	55 48%	26 23%	43 38%	68 58%	56 49%	105 92%	48 42%	56 49%	83 73%
over 65	70	32 46%	14 20%	17 24%	10 14%	34 49%	45 64%	59 84%	24 34%	39 56%	55 79%
No age given	25	16 64%	13 52%	9 36%	7 28%	13 52%	14 58%	20 80%	4 16%	15 60%	25 100%
Total	243	144 59%	101 42%	69 28%	71 29%	130 53%	129 53%	215 88%	92 38%	138 57%	189 78%

Table 5

2.7: Should there be affordable housing in the village?

Overall 88% replied “Yes” with a spread fairly uniformly across age brackets. Clearly there is a significant majority who think that affordable housing is urgently needed although the questionnaire does not lead us to identify customers or quantities.

2.8: Where might new houses be built?

Almost ninety people responded to Question 2.8 which requested suggestions for possible locations for new housing; these can be summarised as follows (numbers of responses in brackets).

- General suggestion included the use of existing redundant barns or other farm properties (16), use of Parish Council owned land (7), in Crosthwaite village (14) or Bowland Bridge (1).
- Specific locations included in and around the church and school (13), near to St. Mary’s Green (4) and other miscellaneous areas (8).
- Other suggested locations, that may not have all been serious, included amongst others in Levens, in Witherslack and along the old A590.

Four responses thought this question was inappropriate and 20 respondents commented without offering any suggested locations.

2.9: Do you think a Housing Association is the way forward?

Only 38% overall replied “Yes” with the lowest 34% from the over 65% age bracket. This may reflect the perceived poor experience of the Two Castles development and/or a lack of understanding of the function of a housing association.

2.10: Do you think a full housing needs survey should be undertaken?

Overall 57% replied “Yes” with the highest 85% in the 18 to 40 age bracket and only 49% in the 40 to 65 bracket. This is surprising in the light of the support for new and/or affordable housing but maybe a reflection of lack of understanding or lack of faith in such surveys.

2.11: Should there be a limit on second homes?

Overall 78% replied “Yes” uniformly across age groups. This is probably a fair representation of the feelings of residents since no 2nd home occupants have replied to this question.

Comments from Section 13 of the Questionnaire

Many people added additional comments in regard to Parish housing in Section 13 of the questionnaire. These are summarised as follows.

Affordability was the main point raised. Many people echoed the widely held view that there is a shortage of affordable property for young people and old who wish to live in the area. In particular too many young people, who would like to buy houses in the Parish, cannot afford to and this is having a detrimental effect on the age balance in the Parish. Several

people indicated that the type of housing that should be provided should not be the perceived “starter homes”, built by commercial builders and housing associations, but three bedroom houses with plenty of space to encourage couples to settle here and raise families without outgrowing the accommodation and having to move on. The issue of local occupancy and its interpretation were also raised and respondents generally felt that it should be more strictly interpreted.

Second homes are unpopular with the majority of the community. Many people expressed the opinion that they contribute significantly to raising house prices while not contributing anything to the community. Second homes should pay the full council tax was a common call.

Local experience of **Housing Association** properties in the Parish has been unfavourable and several people commented that such housing should be for local occupancy and this should not be extended to include the whole of SLDC (or even Cumbria). Several people stated that further development through a housing association would be unacceptable.

Other points raised in Section 13 included pleas not to build on green spaces or turn a rural area into a dormitory village. Several people commented on the restrictions placed on the conversion of barns or farm buildings, that otherwise might fall derelict and contrasted this with the apparent relaxed control over tourist development at Lamb Howe Caravan Park. Two people said that they thought a housing needs survey was very important and should have been undertaken before a Parish Plan.

Conclusions:

There is a clear message that the stock of housing in the village, particularly affordable housing, needs to be increased. This need has to be quantified and there is reasonable support for a housing needs survey but that survey will have to address all requirements, if it is to be credible.

There are doubts about the effectiveness of housing associations.

Further analysis

It may be useful to see if there is any correlation between responses to these questions and location or time lived in the Parish.

Section 3: PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND ACCESS

3.1: Do you have difficulty getting around that would be helped by some form of public transport?

The majority of respondents (174) to this question indicated that they have no problems although, significantly, 42 people said that they would be helped by some form of public transport. In regard to disabled facilities in the Parish (question 3.2) 136 people responded with 71 indicating that they think facilities are adequate; however note the further specific comments outlined below.

3.3: Do you have any ideas how transport and access in the village might be improved?

In regard to Question 3.3, over half of those responding (45 out of 83) said that there should be an improved bus service and 10 people suggested that the introduction of some form of community bus service should be explored. In this connection it was suggested that the occasional hire of a minibus could be considered, say for Wednesday afternoons or even monthly, for access to the Exchange, shopping trips into Kendal or even visits to local places of interest. It was suggested that the use of the SLDC Transport Minibus could be investigated, driven by Parish volunteers, to provide transport on a weekly basis for people with disabilities. Other suggestions included school buses to be used by the Public and implementation of some form of hospital transport if facilities at the Westmorland Hospital are to decline.

Community taxis or a dial on demand transport system were also suggested.

12 respondents suggested that a car sharing scheme should be organised, possibly by a rota of people willing to take parishioners shopping etc, or some formal arrangements for lift sharing in and out of Kendal. One respondent suggested that if people waited at an identified pick-up-point, for example near Booths on Allhallows Lane, anyone passing from Crosthwaite could offer a lift home. Other suggestions to improve transport included a Post-Bus service and the provision of secure bicycle parking at key points on bus routes e.g. Gilpin Bridge.

Eight respondents also included a request for a safe footpath through Crosthwaite village; this is also covered elsewhere.

Disabled facilities

Suggestions for additional disabled facilities in the village were welcomed by the steering group. It was suggested that disabled parking near to the ramp at the Memorial Hall would help considerably for off-loading and picking up in particular for those visiting the Exchange on Wednesdays. A path (wheelchair friendly) between recreation field and Hollow Clue would be helpful as would one between the school and Punch Bowl (see comments on footpaths elsewhere in this report. Improved disabled access to the church was also suggested.

Section 4: COMMUNITY

Almost everybody completed all or least part of this section.

4.1: How important to you are community events and clubs in the Parish?

This question was completed by 190 respondents; 72 people thought they were very important, 42 important, 51 of little importance and 28 of no importance giving an average of 2.8.

4.2: Which clubs in the Parish have you attended

The top ten events in the Parish were:

- Crosthwaite Exchange (85)
- Church ((84)
- Women's Institute (31)
- Sports Committee Events (27)
- Outdoor Bowls (16)
- School (21)
- Indoor Bowls (16)
- Tennis Club (16)
- Keep Fit (12)
- Discussion Group (11)

Other clubs that were attended by parishioners were identified as follows, although not all these are held within the Parish:

- New Year Party
- Children's Play Park
- Westmorland Damson Association
- Monday Evening Walks
- Aqua Aerobics
- Animal Events
- One offs
- Church Choir
- Yoga
- Cameo Club
- Fundraising Events for Hall
- Women's Fellowship
- Badminton
- Football Club.

4.3: Activities for under 18's

There were comments from 62 people to question 4.3 which asked what leisure activities would improve the leisure and play activities for the under 18's. The suggestions are as listed below although several responses questioned whether there were enough under 18s in the Parish to sustain any initiatives. The numbers in brackets are the number of responses; there is also some overlap with the next question – new activities for all.

- Youth Club/Young Farmers (35)
- Guides, Scouts, Brownies, Cubs (3)
- Cinema Club (1)
- Monthly Disco (1)
- Flower Arranging (1)
- Guided Nature/History Walks (1)
- Cricket (1)
- Football Team (4)
- Table Tennis (4)
- Badminton (3)
- Outdoor activities/sailing/shooting/field sports (1)
- Skateboard/cycle area (3)
- Bowling for children and young people (1)

A barn venue was suggested for a youth club although several people thought that the Memorial Hall could be more widely used by the village youth. Supervised events in the play area were also suggested.

4.4: New activities that would be well received in the Parish

Forty-five people offered suggestions for new activities that might be well received in the village; again there is some overlap with responses for question 4.3 above.

- Allotments – to be made available (1)
- Ballroom/Latin Dancing (2)
- Drama Club (2)
- Computer Courses (2)
- Cinema Club (2)
- Golf Club (1)
- Adult Education (1)
- Art (1)
- History (1)
- Yoga (3)
- Paint Balling (1)
- Monthly Quiz at Punch Bowl (1)
- Lecture/demos of farming practices past and present (1)
- Crosthwaite & Lyth Sports Night/Dance where young and old come together (1)
- Barn Dance (1)
- A village five-a-side football team for adults
- Ramblers group. Monthly quiz at Punch Bowl. Village Bonfire Night.(1)
- Table tennis (3)
- Badminton (4)

Questions 4.5 and 4.6 regarding how people found out about what goes on in the village, were answered by the majority of respondents as follows:

- Parish Magazine (135)
- Notice boards (58),
- Westmorland Gazette (5),

and many by word of mouth and chat at the Exchange.

Most people thought that the existing provision of **notice boards** was adequate (60%) but there were several suggestions for improvements including the size of existing boards, better protection for displayed items and an improved (easier) method for fixing notices. Others commented that there was nowhere at present, other than the Parish Magazine, to advertise Local Services. New locations for additional boards were suggested at:

- School (2)
- The Row (2)
- Gilpin Bridge/South of Parish/lay-by bottom of valley (5)
- Memorial Hall – Contact for booking/charges (11)
- Sports Field (1)
- Pubs/Punchbowl PO (10)
- Crosthwaite Green (2)
- Guide Post (1)
- Damson Dene (1)

4.7: Should we have a web site

This elicited quite a large response 102 in favour and 50 against. The suggestions for its content included the following:

- Welcome to tourists
- Lyth Valley web cam
- Local History
- Maps and Walks
- Shop/Pub Opening Times
- General notices/events
- Live Issues
- News and celebrations
- Village Directory
- Contacts for clubs/societies
- Church Activities
- Landowners information
- Council News/Minutes
- Local Planning
- Small Business Services
- Transport
- Car sharing
- Adverts/Sales/Swaps
- Lost and Found
- Babysitting circle/school run/shopping/gardening
- Tuition on offer

- Recipes for Damson Gin!

Concern as to who would keep it up-to-date, however, was echoed by several respondents.

4.8: The effectiveness of communication by the Parish Council

Question 4.8 also received a large response 63 (40%) indicating that communication was adequate but 90 (60%) were dissatisfied and thought that communications could be improved. Suggestions from 84 people as to where meetings, agendas, minutes, outcomes could be posted included the following:

- On website (19)
- Quarterly report and minutes in or as supplement with the Parish Magazine (33)
- Notice-boards (6)
- Regular news letter (15)
- Minutes sent by request (4)
- Fliers to all households (2)

Sections 5 and 6: PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

PRIMARY EDUCATION

5.1 Do your children attend Crosthwaite C of E Primary School.

151 people responded with 12% (18) answering “Yes” and 88% (133) “No”. 41 people responded when asked why their children did not attend Crosthwaite School; these responses are shown in Table 6.

Table 6	
Why did your children not attend Crosthwaite C of E School	
Answer	Number of respondents
Not resident in the Parish at the time.	26
Started nursery outside the Parish and wished to continue in school attached to nursery.	1
Moved into Parish, but wanted to keep child/children in their existing primary school.	1
Better facilities in schools outside the Parish.	5
Better quality of education in schools outside the Parish.	6
The catchment area for the local Secondary School affected your choice of primary school.	2

Several people (7) indicated that their children did attend Crosthwaite School but they have now grown up. A few noted that other schools (e.g. Levens) were closer and more convenient. Several people also noted that the school went through a bad patch some 4/5 years ago, that encouraged parents to seek alternative schools outside the Parish, and siblings now continue at the same school. Perhaps as a result, it was pointed out, more children from this Parish now attend schools outside the Parish than Crosthwaite School. There was also a comment from one respondent that when they first moved to the village they were made to feel unwelcome by the School authorities and not listened to when concerns were raised.

Several people thought that we should have asked the question whether their children, that are now older, used to attend Crosthwaite school.

5.3 and 5.4: How important is the school and the Play Group to the Parish

Of all the 181 people who responded to question 5.3 (64 people left this question blank) only 1 thought the School was not important, 6 thought it was of little importance, 5 thought it was important and an overwhelming 169 (93%) people thought it was very important. In regard to the Play Group 176 people responded; 2 people thought the Play Group was not important, 6 of little importance, 16 important and again an overwhelming 152 (86%) thought it very important.

The School is considered a definite asset to the Parish. However it relies to some extent on attracting children from outside the Parish, because there is a shortage of local children, and also a large proportion of local children attend schools outside the Parish. However the reputation of the school has considerably improved over the past few years and should continue to attract children in the Parish, as they reach schooling age, and also more children from outside. There is also the need to attract younger families into the village that is only likely to be achieved through an increase in availability of affordable housing.

One comment on return was that a Parish Precept might be considered to raise funds for the Play Group.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

135 people responded to question 6.1 although the majority (118 or 86%) indicated that they did not have any children in secondary education; nevertheless 18 (14%) responded with a “Yes”. This does not however imply that there are 18 young people in secondary education in the Parish as in some instances both parents have filled in a form which may refer to a single child; the “Household” section indicated that 16 young people lived in households where questionnaires were filled in. The schools attended were identified as follows:

Kirby Kendal	9
Casterton	3
Kendal Schools	1 Family
Queen Katherine School	1
Lakes School	1
Dallam	1
Lancaster Grammar School	1
Public/Private	1.

Section 7: PARISH ROADS AND TRAFFIC

The returns for the “**Question 7.1: Problems and Danger Spots**” are summarised in Table 7 below, shown graphically in Figure 4 and discussed in detail as follows. Most respondents completed all or part of this section (216 out of 245).

	Receipts	No problem 1	Minor problem 2	Significant problem 3	Major problem 4
Heavy traffic	170	95	43	19	13
Road maintenance	196	20	21	53	102
Junctions	176	52	37	32	55
Signage	170	84	39	21	26
Lack of cycle paths	160	81	43	13	23
Parking	160	92	35	17	16
Lack of footpaths	170	76	31	22	41
Bridleways	149	116	21	5	7
Traffic too fast	194	30	38	55	71
Horses on roads	151	120	22	6	3

Heavy traffic received 170 entries as above with the majority (95 people) indicating that they thought heavy traffic was not a problem. Most of those respondents who included comments had interpreted the question as reference to heavy vehicles, rather than traffic volumes, and the main concern was heavy vehicles using narrow lanes in the village. In this regard one person suggested that tourists should be "decanted" onto minibuses for touring in the National Park and large tourist buses should be banned.

Road Maintenance was of considerable concern to many in the Parish. Of the 196 entries 102 people thought this was a major problem. 57 people wrote specific comments and overall the impression was that all minor roads are in a state of neglect with the Moss road receiving most criticism; many people singled out the A5074 as in appalling condition for an “A” road.

Opinions on the importance of **Road Junctions** were polarised. Of the 176 entries that were received 52 thought junctions were not a problem while 55 people thought they were a major problem. Of those people who thought road junctions were a problem many had strong feelings about the situations at principally two locations i.e.:

- Gilpin Bridge A590/A5074 (33 comments) and
- either or both of the two junctions where the Crosthwaite to Bowland Bridge Road crosses the A5074 (27 comments).

Other concerns included the junction between the road to The Row and the A5074 and Tarnside onto the A5074.

In regard to **Signage** 170 people responded and most people did not think it was an issue. 84 people thought signage was of no importance, 39 of minor importance, 21 people a significant problem and 26 a major problem. 32 people offered comments as follows:

- Clean/repair/replace signs and finger posts (19)
- Better warning of 20 mph limit by school. Possible countdown markers from 100 metres out and better locations for 30 mph signs (several)
- Where the A5074 leaves the A590. (4)
- Too many unnecessary signs (2)
- Not enough signs (1)
- Sign for Howe can only be seen from one direction and one is facing the wrong way (3)
- Crook Road junction, Curlew Crag junction (1)
- No signage for Toll Bar Road (1)
- Junction into Tarnside (1)

160 responded on **lack of cycle paths** although most people did not think this was of importance (no importance - 81 receipts). 11 people offered comments although in all instances appeared to interpret this question as relating to marking out cycle ways on existing roads rather than dedicated cycle paths. Most thought that marking cycle paths on existing roads was neither appropriate or practical and was unnecessary in a rural area.

Parking/inconsiderate parking (160 responses) Most people did not think that inconsiderate parking was a problem (no importance - 92 receipts). Comments included, parking at the memorial hall could be improved (4 comments), at the school (5), adjoining letter boxes in the village (2), and occasional inconsiderate parking by walkers and others around the Parish.

Lack of footpaths. 170 people responded with the majority (107) thinking that it was not an issue while 41 thought that it was a major problem. This probably relates to the interpretation of the question; for those people living in Crosthwaite village the lack of a road-side footpath is a major issue, while those away from the village are generally adequately served by rural paths. Of the 21 comments they almost entirely related to the lack of footpaths in the village rather than footpaths through the Parish generally (only two comments). The lack of a safe footpath in the village is a common concern; only one respondent thought that a footpath in the village was unnecessary.

A single respondent (in Section 13) asked if it would be feasible to consider a concessionary footpath from the Smithy, on the west side of the Crosthwaite/Underbarrow boundary wall, to link with the right of way over Lords Lot and also from Hollow Clue to Guide Post corner.

A plea from one respondent *“Can we have more gates and less stiles on public paths it would make it easier for older people.”*

Very few people thought that the lack of bridleways was an issue. Of the 149 people who responded 137 thought that this was no problem or only a minor problem and 12 people considered it a significant or major problem. Only two comments were received; one believed that there could be improved maintenance of bridleways and one thought there were enough bridleways already.

Traffic travelling too fast – Of the 43 responses, 16 refer to the A5074 with several people specifically referring to motorbikes which some people find intimidating; speed restrictions were suggested by at least two people and one person suggested that a speed camera might be introduced on the A5074 to slow the traffic down. A number of people referred to speeding through the village and the introduction of some traffic calming measures in the 20 mph limit were suggested. There were several other specific locations referred where people had concerns. Some people were unnerved by some of the large tractors using the roads and several commented on the adverse driving attitudes of those with white vans. The school buses also come in for some criticism.

Horses on roads of the 151 response 142 thought that they were no or little problem and none of the five people who commented identified particular concerns.

A number of additional points were raised in the “Other” part of this Section.

- Several people commented on the lack of verge maintenance, the need for regular maintenance/cleaning of drains and cleaning of road surfaces.
- Flooding of road/surface water/icing up in cold weather. Has recently been tackled but problem not eradicated
- Excessively large vehicles using A5074
- Inconsistency and variability of speed restrictions e.g. 20 to unregulated.
- Very narrow roads and very narrow sections along the A5074 used by HGVs and coaches. More HGVs and coaches seem to use the A5074 as access to Bowness since weight and speed restrictions introduced on the Crook road.
- Lack of parking for those using footpaths.
- Post box on a dangerous bend should be re-sited
- Tarnside pond is overgrown and obscures view of traffic, both travelling north and trying to exit from Tarnside Lane.
- No sign up hill to warn vehicles/cattle crossing road at Durham Bridge.
- Lethal combination of pot holes and speeding motor cycles

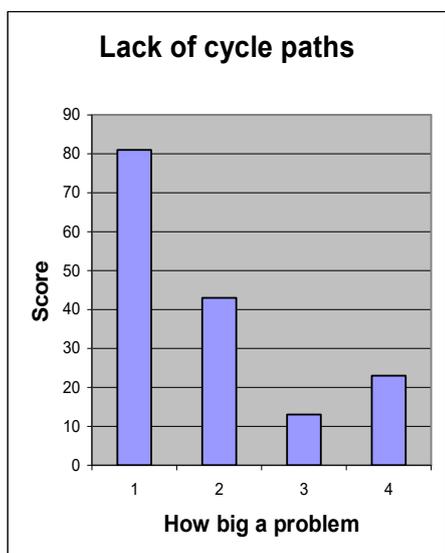
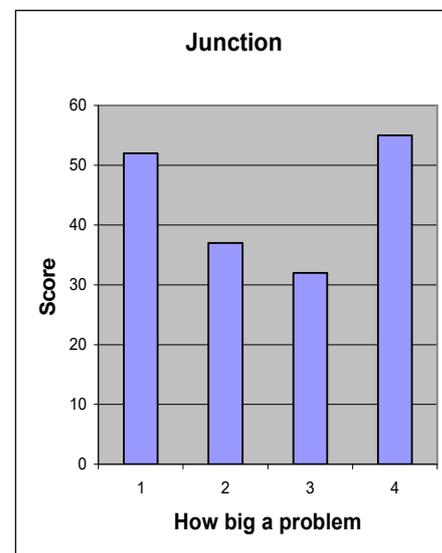
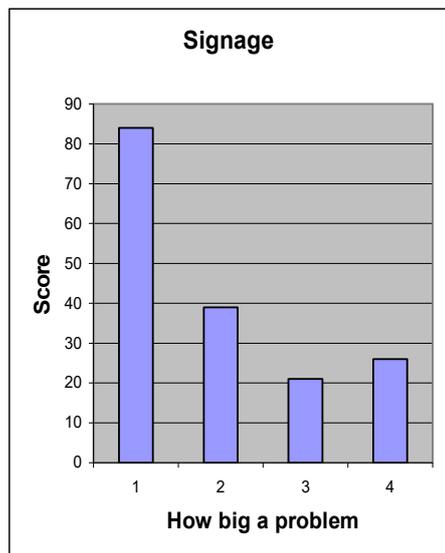
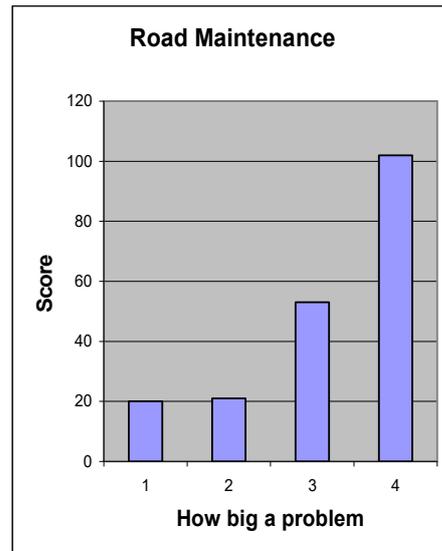
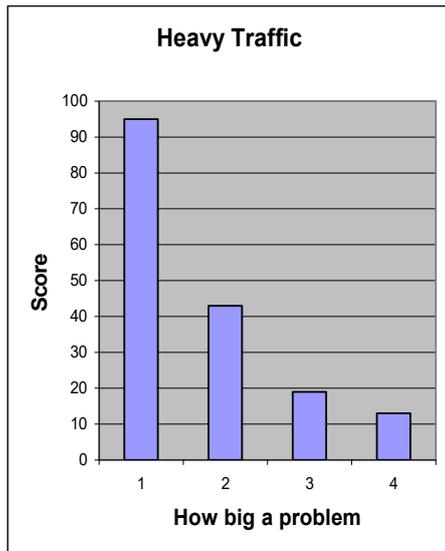


Figure 4
 Charts showing response from
 Question 7.1
 Problems and Danger Spots
 Left hand column - no problem
 Right hand column - major problem

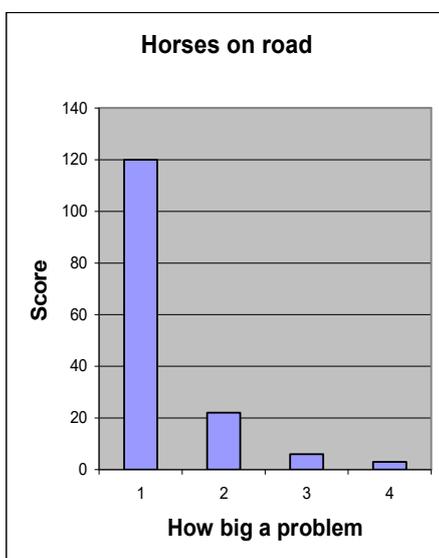
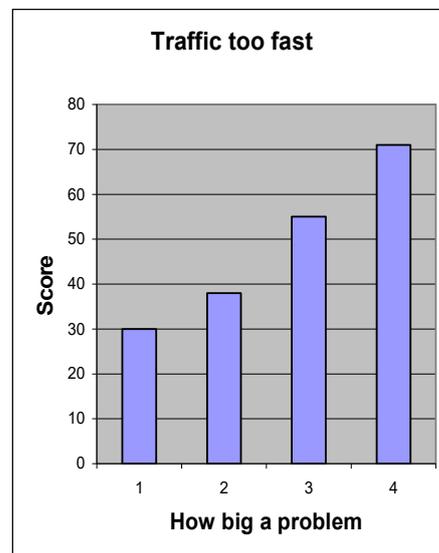
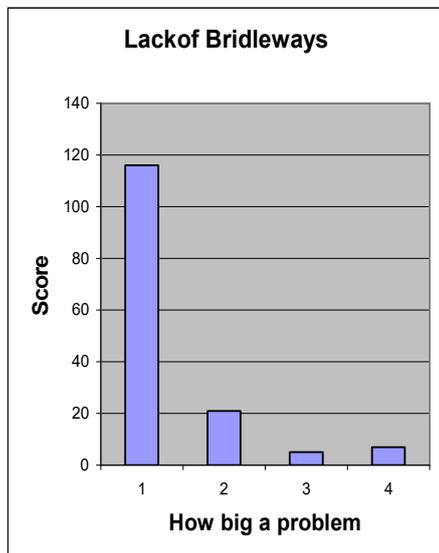
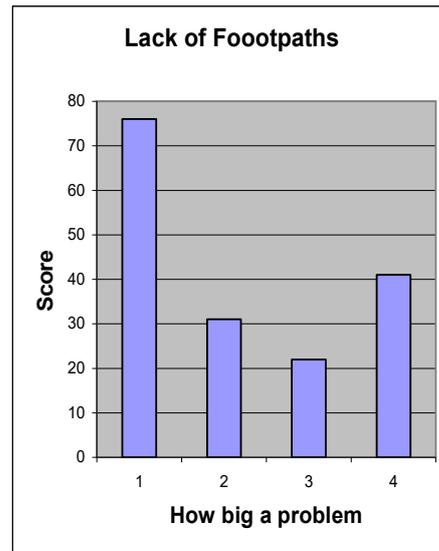
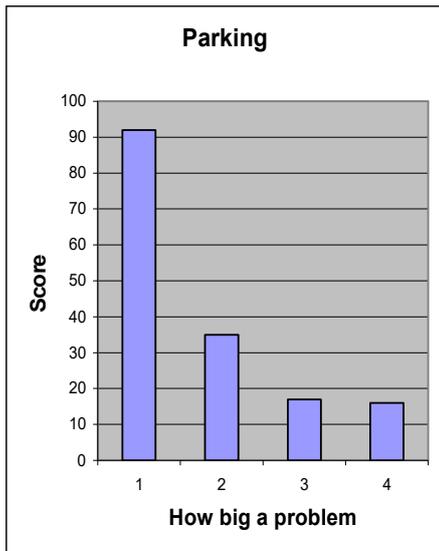


Figure 4 (cont)

Charts showing response from
 Question 7.1
 Problems and Danger Spots
 Left hand column - no problem
 Right hand column - major problem

Section 13 also produced a large number of road and traffic related comments many of which repeat what has already been discussed. The following is a summary of points raised.

Road junctions created a substantial comment in particular the Top of Totter Bank junction. Several people mentioned the metal rails, bordering Mr. Walling's field, were put there with the purpose of allowing visibility before turning; grubbing out the hedge would provide an immediate improvement. Other suggestions included altering the junction priorities or constructing a roundabout which would also provide traffic calming. The A590/A5074 junction also received a large number of comments (that duplicate those referred to above) including changing the junction to a roundabout, lighting at night could make it safer, a longer slip road for right-turning west bound traffic and improved signage.

Signage generally also received a number of comments and particularly in regard to lack of maintenance. **Motorbikes** in the Lyth Valley attracted some criticism for travelling far too fast through the Parish as did other vehicles including tractors particularly driven by young drivers. Lack of **verge-side maintenance** and overhanging trees were raised again and also the comment (by two people) that verges and hedges should not be closely maintained and are too often cut at the wrong time of year.

7.2 Are speed limits appropriate

215 people responded with 167 indicating that speed limits are appropriate and 48 that they were not. 64 people added comments which are summarised as follows.

- 10 people thought that the speed limits were appropriate if they were adhered to.
- Eight respondents suggested that the A5074 should have a speed limit of 40 mph and several people identified local "black spots", such as the Z bends at Dawson Fold and Low Farms and around Damson Dene.
- A number of people suggested changes in speed limits generally in the Parish. Several suggested that country lanes should have a 20 mph speed limit. Another suggestion was that there could be a presumed restriction within the National Park of 40 mph on main roads and 20 mph through villages unless otherwise indicated (i.e. for major trunk roads etc), to reduce unnecessary signage.
- The 20 m.p.h. limit through part of Crosthwaite gave rise to 10 comments. Most people thought it unnecessary, except at school time, and several people suggested that a flashing warning light, or an electronic 20 m.p.h. sign, under school control, would be far more effective. It was noted that very few people observe the 20 mph limit and it was suggested that

a 30 mph limit right through the village, with improved road markings either side of the school, would be better.

- The 30 m.p.h. limit through Crosthwaite village drew comment from 13 respondents who, in almost all cases, indicated that it should be extended to the limits of the village. Speed activated signs to control traffic were suggested by 3 respondents.
- Signs to encourage "*Careful driving please in our Parish*" and the introduction of some traffic calming were also suggested.

Would you welcome street lighting drew a resounding “No”. 187 people said “No” and of those who answered “Yes” (34) several provided comment that lighting should be limited and only provided at a few very specific locations. Most people who added comments were very strongly against “light pollution”.

In Section 13: Your Comments 13 people added additional observations or emphasis to their answers on lighting. Five people were adamantly against any street lighting that was considered to be inappropriate for a rural location, but three people thought that some modicum of lighting by St Mary's Green and around the school and the Memorial Hall might be helpful, mainly for children's safety. There was a single response that suggested, given the lack of footpath through the village, some discrete street lights could be a safety feature although by contrast another respondent thought that street lighting would encourage speeding through the village.

Section 8: EMPLOYMENT

Question 8.1 Which of the following do you consider yourself to be?

Almost everybody responded to this question (239 out of 245) some people ticking more than one box. (e.g. employed and house wife (3), self employed working from home (15) retired and working from home (3)). In the “Other” section of the question 4 people indicated they were voluntary workers. A summary of the responses is given in Table 8. However since many people ticked more than one box the percentages are somewhat skewed; for example most people ticking the “working from home box” also ticked “self employed”. 137 people were in paid employment (i.e. employed, self employed or work from home). 11 people were over 65 and identified themselves as housewife/househusband but did not identify themselves as “retired”.

	Number of respondents	Percent
Employed	71	30%
Unemployed	2	1%
Self Employed	62	26%
Working from home	19	8%
In education	0	0%
Housewife/househusband	26	11%
Retired	81	34%
Total	239	

Question 8.2, “Do you commute outside of the Parish”, elicited a 100% response for those in paid employment with approximately 40% indicating that they commute everyday and of the remaining 60%, half sometimes commute and half work in the Parish. These data are summarised along with some analysis in Table 9.

Question 8.3, Might you work from home ... if facilities were available elicited responses from everyone who indicated they currently commute out of the Parish but as might be anticipated the majority (84%) would not consider working from home. However 16 people indicated that they would.

Table 9	
Do you commute outside of the Parish to work?	
(an analysis – note some people ticked more than one box)	
	Respondents
People employed, self employed or working from home	137
Yes, everyday	59
Yes, sometimes	43
No, I work in the Parish	44
Employed and commute outside the Parish	45
Employed and sometime commute	13
Employed and work in the Parish	10
Self employed and commute	12
Self employed and sometimes commute	23
Self employed and work in Parish	26

The facilities that might be required were far ranging as shown in Table 10.

Table 10	
Question 8.6 – What facilities would you need to work from home	
	Number of respondents
Food Shop	1
Improved Broadband	6
Office Space	1
Car/computer/telephone	1
Permission to covert Barns	2
O2 phone coverage	1
Relaxation of planning to encourage growth of business	1
Workshops	2
Airfield (!)	1

Twelve people indicated that they might consider starting their own business if there were facilities in the Parish (question 8.5). The work space they would need is as indicated in Table 11.

Table 11 Question 8.6 - What type of workspace would you need?	
	Number of respondents
Serviced Offices	6
Small light industrial unit	5
Large unit (over 1000 sq ft)	3
Home and work unit	7
Site machinery storage	2
Other	
Hotel/Guest House	2
Poly Tunnels	1
Joinery Workshop	1
Agricultural service area	3

Question 8.7, which invited response on “**what additional employment would be welcomed and which should be encouraged**”, gave rise to 67 positive responses. Many were of a general nature but specific areas of potential employment were identified as shown in Table 12.

Table 12 Responses to question 8.7 What sort of employment would you like to encourage in the Parish	
Employment category	Number of responses
Rural handymen (General) including traditional skills, agriculture related services, fruit picking and maintenance and care of the rural environment.	16
Light Industry	14
Service Industry: Joiners, Plumbers, Electrician, Painters	10
Agriculture and horticulture (unspecified)	7
Small/self employed knowledge based/consultancy or small workshops	5
Tourism, and hotel	3
Food shops; local produce	3
Lengthmen to tidy roads and verges and keep drains clear	2
Care of elderly in their homes	1
Domestic services	1

12 people indicated that they were actively seeking work but there were barriers preventing them from taking up employment, training or study opportunities. Table 13 indicates the responses received.

Table 13 Barrier preventing employment	
	Number of responses (most respondents ticked more than one box)
Lack of child care locally	2
Cost of child care locally	2
Lack of access to transport	5
I do not have the right experience	2
I do not have the right type of qualifications/training	6
Disability or ill health of some kind	4
Lack of information or advice	1

In response to question 8.9 where we asked whether the “**LDNPA has struck the right balance between conserving the environment and encouraging economic initiatives**” most people, 124 out of 189 (65%), thought that they were too restrictive with 58 (31%) thinking they have it about right and only 7 (4%) thinking that they gave planning consent too readily.

Section 9: PARISH SERVICES

The numbers of people responding and their answers to questions 9.1 to 9.4 are given in Table 13.

Table 13		
Response to Questions 9.1 to 9.4		
Do you use the Crosthwaite Exchange?	Every week	Occasionally
Every week	24	12%
Once or twice a month	60	30%
Never	119	59%
	Yes	No
Do you use one of the village shops?	150 (72%)	59 (28%)
Do you use one of the village post offices?	157 (75%)	62 (25%)
Do you or your children use the mobile library service?	12 (7%)	170 (93%)
Should the library service be more frequent?	21 (30%)	50 (70%)

Several people indicated that they would use the Exchange more if working hours permitted and one person, who is in full time employment, suggested that maybe once or twice a month there could be an evening session.

The Further Uses of Parish Properties

The Memorial Hall

43 people responded to this question although most thought that the hall was already well utilised and many expressed the opinion that it was an excellent facility. The following additional activities were suggested (the number in brackets indicates the number of people suggesting this activity)

- Table Tennis (1)
- Bridge (1)
- Chess (1)
- Badminton (1)
- Educational Courses (5)
- Medical Services/Doctor/NHS Direct (2)
- Concerts (1)
- Plays (1)
- Youth Club (5)
- Visiting Drama Groups (1)
- Travelling cinema/ film shows for children (1)
- Coffee mornings (1)

The Church

23 people responded to this question and one in particular put his/her feelings thus “*Another fine building but stuck in single use. Some further thinking is needed about what it might be used for in the wider*

community. A second floor at the back (meeting room, study) clear some (or all) of the pews to make more flexible space”. Many (14) thought that concerts held at the church would be popular and other ideas included drama (3), exhibitions (1), events for children (1) lunch club, and a rearrangement of the seating to provide a more useful space (1). It is noted from the February edition of the Parish Magazine that some of these ideas are already being implemented.

Landowners properties

36 people commented in this section but of these the majority asked what was being referred to. Two people commented favourably on the use of Whitbarrow Cottage as a local occupancy rental home and several people commented on the wildlife value and valued access to Whitbarrow. Two respondents objected to the motorcycle trials that take place that they believed were endangering rare habitats.

Other Properties

Responses to this question were varied and are summarised as follows:

- Parish Room – refurbish and reassess (2)
- The Recreation Field is also a superb resource (2)
- Community shop needed (1)
- No encroachment on Village Green (2)
- Parish land by the Clapper Bridge should be planted up with tree for CO₂ contribution.

Question 9.6 asked “**Would you like land in Parish Council ownership to be identified** together with suggestions for future uses? (e.g. public space, conservation, housing etc.). 161 people replied “Yes” 90% and 17 “No” (10%) but with little or no further comment.

Question 9.7 asked for residents opinion on the health service and whether a First Responders team should be set up. Only 32 people responded to the adequacy of the health service and a few remarked on the reduction in services available at Westmorland General Hospital. In contrast 161 people responded to the “First Responders” question. The results are shown in Table 14.

Table 14	
Are health services adequate ?	
	Number of respondents
Poor	15
Satisfactory	11
Good	5
Excellent	1
Do you believe a “First Responders” team should be set up in the Parish	
Yes	139
No	22

<p align="center">Table 15 Are the following services satisfactory ?</p>		
Service	Number of Yes responses	Number of No responses
Telephone	198 (93%)	15
Electricity	170 (80%)	42
Water	147 (76%)	46
TV/radio	142 (72%)	54

Question 9.8; “**Are our Services satisfactory**” elicited a substantial response with most people answering all or most of the questions. The responses are summarised in Table 15; the majority of people would appear to be satisfied with the level of service from the utilities. Comments and other issues included:

- Too many power cuts (2)
- Should be a central sewage system (5)
- Too many water cuts/new pipes needed (4)
- Poor TV signal (particularly freeview) (12)
- Problems with Broadband (12)
- Digital radio poor (2)
- Gas requested (4)

Question 9.9 asked if there were “**Any other services you’d like to see?**” and this brought out the following suggestions:

- Team for helping elderly/prescriptions/household jobs (Look at Coniston’s homecare service)
- Vet clinic
- Recycling/ community shredder for garden waste/composting area
- Medical/district nurse/hearing aid survey/clinic for minor ailments
- Community Woodland
- Laundry Collection/delivery
- Shop/baker
- Village pub
- NHS Dentist

Section 10: ENVIRONMENT.

Response on the identified environmental issues was very good and most people completed all or part of this section.

The results from question 10.1 are tabulated below in Table 16 and shown graphically in Figure 5.

Score (1 = unconcerned) (4 = very concerned)	Litter/rubbish dumping	Dog fouling	Stream water quality	Light pollution	Maintenance of road verges	Sewage	Storm water drainage
1	71	109	122	112	42	110	53
2	51	30	25	19	34	17	19
3	31	16	14	19	35	16	38
4	34	29	11	25	83	32	63
No. of respondents	187	184	172	175	194	175	173

Maintenance of roads was the only issue to receive a high level of concern from most people; storm water drainage and litter/rubbish dumping were of importance to some people. The other identified issues of dog fouling, stream water quality, light pollution and sewage were of concern to relatively few respondents.

18 people expanded on these and some offered other suggestions. Issues of concern included maintenance of roadside verges, hedges and overhanging trees particularly in regard to the time of the year they were maintained and lack of clearing up of clippings.

Two people considered light pollution from security lights a particular problem and others commented unfavourably in regard to the outside lights at the Punch Bowl. Several people were also concerned about surface water and flooding on Parish roads. Burning of waste material and noise pollution were also raised as issues.

In regard to recycling there was a high response. 108 people offered comments in regard to what might be collected. Suggestions as to what should be included in a recycling scheme covered every imaginable item (even old wellies!). 41 people offered suggestions where recycling facilities might be located (these are summarised in Table 17) and 18 people thought that the SLDC should implement a household collection of recyclable materials. Four people made reference to the site at Levens which needs to be tidied up and should include the collection of plastics.

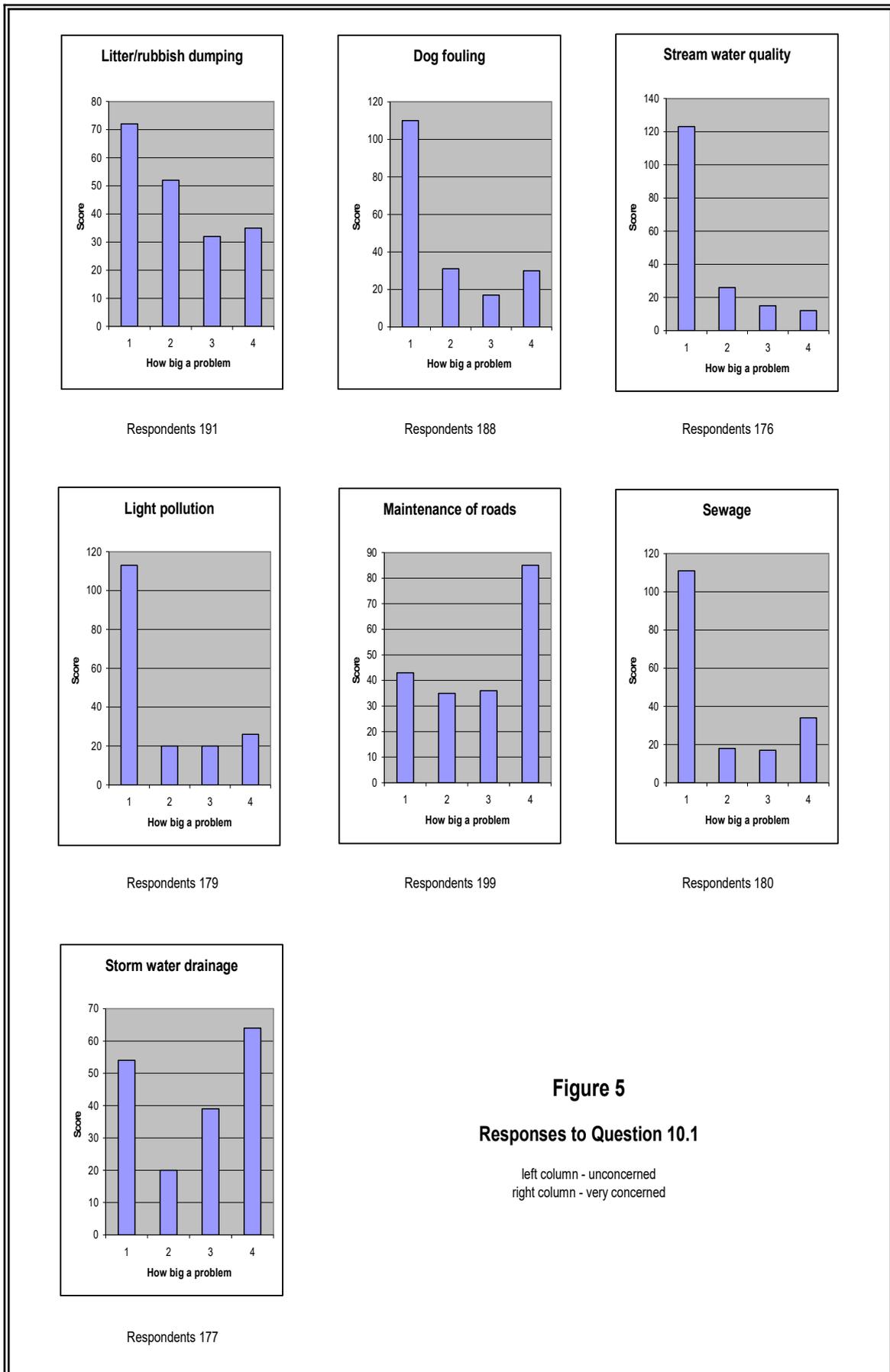


Table 17	
Question 10.2: Recycling – where should collection be located	
Suggested Locations	Number of respondents
Church/Punch Bowl Car Park	11
Memorial Hall/car park	14
Parish land/old quarries	4
By existing bottle bank	3
Hare and Hounds, Bowland Bridge	4
Gilpin Bridge	3
The Howe	1
Door step collections	18

More tree planting (question 10.3) in the Parish received a mixed reception with 163 in favour and 76 against. The majority of additional comments received (43) were positive but some people held strong views against more planting.

The following specific locations were suggested:

- On the A5074 along the Moss from Gilpin Bank to Low Farm
- Whitbarrow and Scout Scar
- Parish land near Dodds Howe (2)
- Township allotment
- In Parish field beyond Stonebridge
- At west end of tennis court
- Land over Clapper bridge (2)
- By Memorial Hall

General suggestions included field corners and boundaries (7), roadside (1), along the river Gilpin (1) and “any where and everywhere” (14). Four people made specific reference to the planting of damson trees and replacing those lost in existing orchards. Six people thought there were already enough trees and what there were, were not always well managed.

In regard to private renewable energy generation there was generally a favourable response with 137 for and 66 against individual wind turbine and 186 in support of solar panels and only 16 against. A small number of people however appeared to be strongly averse to wind turbines. In regard to wind turbines Section 13 elicited five mixed responses from “*a waste of time and money*” to “*everywhere possible*” with several comments on potential threat to wildlife although not suggesting that this should prohibit their use but rather their siting.

Section 11: CRIME

217 people responded to this question and the overwhelming response (203) was that crime is not an issue in Crosthwaite. 25 people offered comments mainly in regard to the lack of crime and the need to be vigilant and to keep it that way. Five people showed concern about drug problems and two had experience of late night callers/beggars. Comment was also made on, the slow response by police, fast cars and sheep rustling.

With regard to the effectiveness of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme most people (146 out of 181 respondents) think that it is effective although some people commented that they were unaware that it existed.

Most people thought that the community police should have a higher profile (137 out of 199 respondents) and would like to see police presence, for example, at the Exchange to offer crime prevention advice, show door locks etc.

Section 12: AND FINALLY

What do you like best about living in this area? 186 people responded to this question and almost all echoed the same sentiment that it is a privilege to live in Crosthwaite with its peace and quiet, strong sense of community, excellent facilities and ease of access to elsewhere in the Lakes and beyond. The scenery is special and people feel safe in the Parish; even the paper and milk can be delivered.

What do you like least about living in this area? 131 responded and there were perhaps a surprising number and variety comments; 15 people however said there was nothing they dislike about living in the Parish. A summary of the comments received is given in Table 16.

Table 16	
What do you least like about living in this area	
Issue	Respondents
Lack of shop in Crosthwaite village	17
Second/holiday homes	15
Poor road maintenance	15
House prices/affordable housing	14
Age imbalance	13
Lack of public transport	12
LDNPA (mainly planning)	8
Council Tax too high	7
Low flying aircraft	7
Too many outsiders/off comers (telling us what to do)	6
Loss of working farms	5
Tourists/tourism	4
Traffic/traffic speed	3
Outside interference	2
Health service erosion	2
Filling in questionnaires	2
Rain	1
Middle of nowhere	1
Rather earnest community spirit	1
Lack of community spirit	1
Lack of sewerage system	1
Power cuts	1
Hot air balloons	1
Over trimmed hedges and intensively drained and fertilised fields	1
Noisy neighbouring businesses, micro-lights and model aircraft	1
Poor postal service	1

How well are you being served by your councils?

167 people responded to all or part of this question and the responses are shown in Table 18 and graphically in Figure 6.

The Parish Council is evidently fairly well supported by the Parish and SLDC scored reasonably well but the LDNPA and CCC would appear to be generally held in low regard.

Table 17				
Question 12.3: “How well are you being served”.				
Score	Parish Council	SLDC	LDNPA	CCC
Poor	15	58	73	65
Good	49	66	53	57
Very good	54	31	21	24
Excellent	37	7	9	5
Total number of respondents	155	162	156	151

However none escaped unscathed from “Comments” that were invited as part of this question; 46 of the returns offer comments and these are summarised as follows.

All Councils

Several people restated the common complaint that council taxes are too high and we do not get value for money particularly in a rural area. Too many layers of bureaucracy was also a common theme but at least one person thought that Parishes should not necessarily get extra powers (as has been suggested by Central Government). One person commented that the more remote the council is the less notice it takes about local opinion. “Bring back Westmorland” – a rallying cry by one respondent.

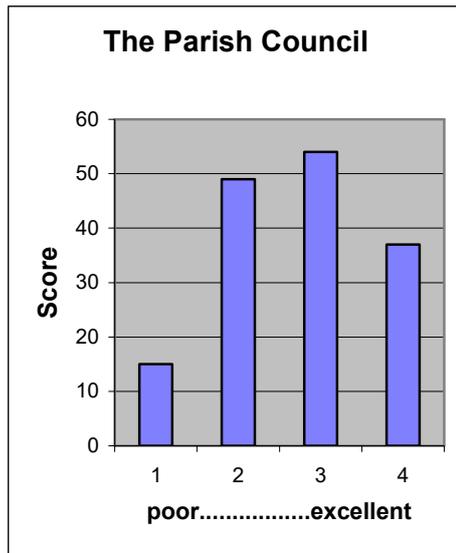
The Parish Council

Five people thought that they did not know enough about what the Parish Council does. One person thought that they tend not to listen to the local people they are representing while another, on the other hand, felt that the Council never seemed to wish to upset anyone and is, as a result, ineffective. As a general point, echoed elsewhere, it was felt that the Parish Council needs to communicate and encourage debate on local issues.

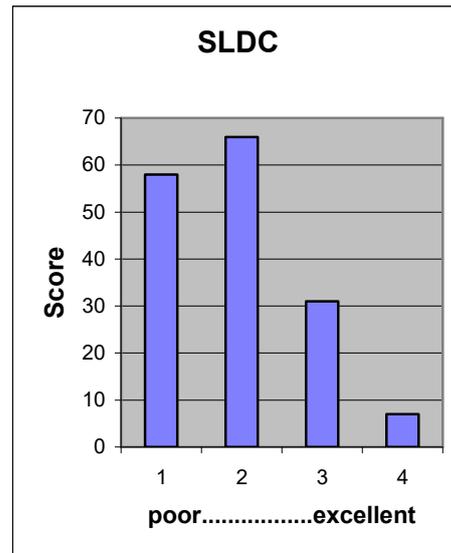
Several people questioned how much influence the Parish Council had and thought that the other authorities took little notice of Parish Council representations.

Figure 6

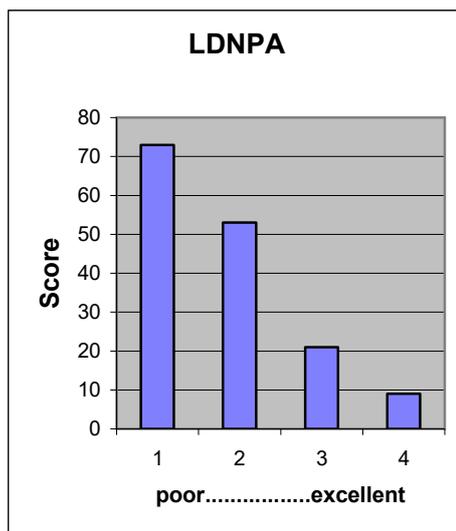
How well are you being served by your Council



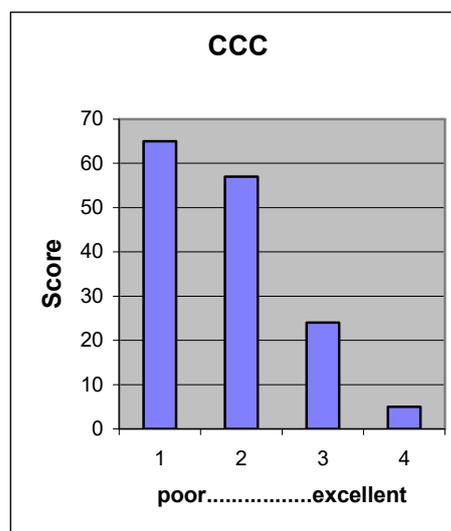
Respondents 155



Respondents 163



Respondents 157



Respondents 152

LDNPA

The LDNPA came in for some scathing comment. “*Totally useless and irrelevant to working people.*” was one person’s opinion and “*..out of touch with the community they serve*” was another’s.

Other people’s comments were more measured and generally thought that the LDNPA have insufficient flexibility to be sympathetic or respond to local issues/needs and are unduly restrictive, particularly in regard to the provision of local/affordable housing. Several said that they thought pursuing restrictive policies would eventually cause the death of the rural community and saw no point in preserving the landscape if young people cannot afford to live and work here.

CCC and SLDC

Comments in relation to the CCC and SLDC were mainly targeted at poor services in particular transport, road maintenance and recycling; Councils need to relate local needs. One person indicated that he/she would be prepared to pay a Parish precept for helping with play schools, transport facilities etc as long as the Parish Council and the village had control of the funds and not the SLDC.

Section 13: YOUR COMMENTS

This section gave the opportunity for Parishioners to comment on issues that they thought of importance and it certainly gave rise to some interesting arguments; clearly some people have been harbouring discontent on some issues for some time. The following issues were discussed many of which amplified answers elsewhere in the questionnaire.

Housing and traffic

These were the two big issues. Housing elicited comments from almost half (20 or more) of those who completed section 13; their comments are included and discussed in Section 2: Parish Housing. Traffic was the second most contentious issue raised in Section 13 and in some returns a very detailed discussion was presented in particular in relation to the junctions at Gilpin Bridge and Totter Bank. All the points raised have been incorporated into Section 7 on Parish Roads and Traffic above.

The following issues were also raised in Section 13 and relevant comments have been included, under the appropriate heading, elsewhere in this report.

- Wind turbine and solar panels

- Neighbourhood Watch
- Police presence
- The School
- Church and Memorial Hall

Other issues raised that did not easily fit under previously discussed headings are included as follows.

Lighting

Several people commented on light pollution generally and a few were concerned by lighting at hotels and by security lighting elsewhere. Particular reference was made to the security lighting at Dobson's garage, when travelling down A5074, and the tree lights at the Punch Bowl.

Village shop

Although 17 people thought that one of the things they least like about living in the Parish was the lack of a shop within the village, perhaps surprisingly, there was only one person who commented as follows "*Since the village shop has closed - the heart seems to have been lost from Crosthwaite.*" Another person noted that without a shop the village is unsuitable for those in sheltered housing.

However the importance of the shops outside of the village but within the Parish was recognised and several people commented on the value to them of the Bowland Bridge Post Office and Shop and the Lyth Valley Farm Shop.

Postal services

There were comments about changes in delivery times and also the movement towards earlier collections that has inconvenienced small businesses. Several people commented about the dangerous location of the post box in the centre of Crosthwaite.

A Parish marquee

The purchase of a marquee by the Parish would help local events such as local Damson Day, fund raising events and also would probably pay for itself from hiring out.

Twinning

One person liked the idea of twinning with a little village in France or Germany.

Rubbish (2)

Two people complained about the amount and type of rubbish thrown away out of cars and dumped in lay-bys.

Repairs

Please repair the tarmac at St Mary's Green.

Climate change

Comments were made on what the Parish might do in regard to reducing our carbon footprint and improving energy efficiency. Planting more trees and helping with insulation were suggested and organising car sharing for trips to Kendal etc.

Farming

Concerns were expressed about the change in farming in the Parish both historically and potentially in the future.

Discontinuance of pumping in the Lyth Valley.

The proposed withdrawal of funding for draining the Lyth and Winster valleys was raised by several respondents.

Heritage

There was concern expressed that the Parish was not promoting its rich cultural heritage. It was suggested that a Parish Visitor Centre could be created that could include *inter alia* display boards showing the damson industry; craft and agricultural tool equipment; display maps of the Parish; a family history section. Pre-development photographic surveys should be made and retained for public viewing in the Parish .

Mains drainage

The lack of a sewerage system for Crosthwaite was raised by several people in the public meeting and in the informal consultation in advance of the questionnaire but received little additional comment in the questionnaire returns.

Odds and ends

The following miscellaneous comments were made:

- Would support the local pub but it is very expensive. Could there be a pensioners' special meal occasionally?
- Putting up bird or bat boxes on Parish Council owned land.
- More flowers in roadside verges please.

Communication

One person wrote that “...a lot of people in the village are not aware of all the groups Maybe a list of all that can be done in the village should be displayed in church and all notice boards as we do not know what is on offer and we live here. Also many activities seem to take place during working hours.”

Conclusions

Objectives of Plan

What do we want a Plan to achieve? Several people put this question and offered the following comments.

“We need to plan for the future and sustainability of the Parish and fundamentally solve the problems that are preventing young people and children from settling here. We are capable of generating solutions and we can pressurise the planners to listen, be prepared to do things differently and support imaginative solutions.”

One response was clearly put together after a lot of thought and effort and voices thoughts on how the Parish should progress. It echoes the views of many in the community and is repeated (almost) in full as follows:

“There seems to be a resistance to change and development for the wider good of the community. It’s great having all these groups and different events happening within the community but if change, development and entrepreneurial spirit is not nurtured and encouraged then the community will eventually become stale and reduced. We have several small businesses in the Parish owned and run by young people but this has usually happened as a consequence of their parents giving them the 1st leg up on the ladder. What about other young people who don’t necessarily have that opportunity?

I fully support looking at these issues and feel we must try to make a change with planning consents or the consequences will become irreversible for the community. I feel it would be an excellent move if we were to have some purpose built business units within the valley and have favourable terms attached to them for young people. There are units available within the area (Levens Hall Office spaces etc) but building units specifically for young business start-ups would encourage more entrepreneurs and other businesses to take root within the community. The units should not be owned by one individual; they should (could) be owned by the community.

The units could be located close to a village and then the mix of work and life is evident. I don’t want our community to become a retirement area, we need a mix of young, old, married, single, rural businesses and businesses utilising electronic means of communication. Second homes should be restricted but not ruled out as it does bring new, all-be-it temporary or intermittent, finance and opinion to the community; we should involve these people.”

Reflections [so far] from the Parish Plan Steering Group

As mentioned at the beginning this report the response to our questionnaire was better than we might have hoped for. You can’t however please everybody. Two people wrote:

I have lived in Crosthwaite for many years and think it to be a very good village. There is no need for a Plan. I see no point in my completing this form.

Why try to mend something that is not broken.

...but thanks anyway for returning the forms.

HOWEVER many people added nice comments about our efforts; the following are a selection:

Well done Parish Council for asking these questions and producing a Parish Plan.

The questionnaire is a credit to the Parish Council

Thank you for undertaking this questionnaire.

Excellent questionnaire! It has made me reflect on the Parish, what we do and perhaps should be doing.

I think this is a comprehensive questionnaire and look forward to seeing the results in the Parish Plan. I feel fortunate to live in such a beautiful area with friendly people good community spirit and support. Good luck with this very worthwhile project.

It is so refreshing to be asked. I take a different view on most things to most people, but hope my answers are of some use.

Credit should be given to the small dedicated group of village individuals who involve themselves and put a lot of time and effort into running and managing well used facilities/building and clubs.

Thank you; it is a pity that you all remain anonymous [even to the Parish Plan Steering Group!]. Thanks again to all who found time to fill in and return the questionnaires.

The PPSG

Robert Sykes (Chairman)
John Sceal (Secretary)
Jim Bownass (Parish Councillor)
Matthew Dobson (Parish Councillor)
Mary Harkness (our WI representative)
John Holmes (our builder and developer)
Penny Mutch (our teacher (and author))
Stephanie Park (our young mum)
Gordon Pitt (our treasurer)
Edward Sharp (our young (relatively) farmer)

co-opted members:

Phil Whitehurst (our facilitator)
John Handley (our highways engineer).

APPENDIX

Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Plan

PUBLIC MEETING FEEDBACK

and

FEEDBACK FROM THE EXCHANGE

(The comments listed below were used to help formulate the questionnaire.
The comments are recorded as received.)

FEEDBACK FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING

2. Housing

Young people cannot access housing. In particular LDNPA should look more favourably on redundant building conversion for local occupancy (but what is local)
Lyth Valley Housing Association (buy out 2 Castles)
Limit on number of holiday lets
Future 5 - 10 years housing needs for young and old
Houses sold not to highest bidder
No council tax relief on second homes - increase it double or triple!
Big estates and concern that green belt land used
Lake District Planning restriction on new housing and conversions
How to keep a balance of age on housing and young people who grew up in the Parish and want to live here (but make work away from the area)
How many people foresee that they may have to leave the village as they grow older?
Lack of any young married couples/families because of lack of affordable housing and rigid nature of planning policies
Two Castles housing a concern.
Downsizing - housing for "oldies" would release their homes
Planning ease up on agricultural buildings.

3. Traffic

Telephone vans parking on Guidepost Corner. Could Parish Council designate area. Contact telephone company
Mending road surface (poor job outside school)
New signpost at Guidepost corner and The Green
Reasonably priced bus service at sensible times of day
Road signs poor state
Roads bad
Transport car share
Community bus on demand community taxi service
Transport what demand is there?
Possibility of car sharing organisation to/from Kendal
Lack of sufficient public transport
Transport rota for regular service (emergencies?) and appointments or even shopping

4. Community Spirit

Village notice board - internet link for Memorial Hall/Exchange; Web site
Links between school and community could be improved
Increase community spirit Joint Newsletter with Parish Church to all homes

5. Education

More links between play group and school

7. Parish Roads & Traffic

Access to and from A590/A5074 dangerous
Footpaths please
Road surfaces disgraceful
Roads and traffic - Starnthwaite Road could theoretically drive up to 60 mph. 30m mph through to Starnthwaite
Do we need street lighting
Bad state of roads. Council spend money on silly roads speeding signs and ignore state of road.
Trees growing over roads
30 mph limit to be extended to the Smithy at the eastern end of village
Safe bridleways and (?) connecting them
Totter bank A5074 to A590 Gilpin Bridge (but what JS?)

Signposts - check their position and condition

8. Employment

Facilitate building conversion to support small local business
Encourage business - bigger mail boxes size A4+ - post box sites
Do you work from home
National Park to support small businesses

9. Parish Services

Post Office should have road-side sign
Put telephone box back at Dawson Fold - no mobile reception
Library one a week
Move the post box (at The Green) Need a later collection than 9 a.m.
Developing community services - first response
Aging population - need to provide service in the future
Water mains - burst United Utilities

10. Environment

No street lighting
Picking litter
Sewage system
Water main poor
Bowling green wild life area bird boxes etc.
Electricity faults
Dog fouling
Common land - uses for bowling green field
Rubbish and recycling need more accessible facilities.
Sewage system
Programme for planting trees
Parish land along Starthwaite Road - as a community area
Recycling for each household – re-siting of bottle bank
Solar power and wind turbines possibilities

11. Crime

Like to see an occasional police presence

12. Miscellaneous

Don't close W G H. Reinstate ambulance cuts.
Badminton club
Council Tax disproportionate for farmers
Role of the church - what do you see is the role of the church. What would you value from that place e.g. concert recitals
Could we get funding for broadband at the village hall
Village notice board - internet link for Memorial Hall/Exchange; Web site
Village hall - fantastic facility - could we use it for further education ? Dallam would be interested. Music festivals - young people.
Pushing boundaries of planning board to encourage local businesses. Need to talk to Lakes Planning
Parish Council - who are they how do you access them, can they market themselves a bit better
Fabulous Hall - lousy parking
National Park authority too restrictive
No Parking on village green - bigger sign
Caution about website - dangers of accessibility

Positive comments – what we like.

Lots to like; exchange, school
Bell ringers Recreation field Village hall Church
Community spirit, beautiful location, farming community
Fruit and veg show Damson day

Village shop, petrol pumps
Fabulous starry nights - no light pollution
Good school but ???
Young people want to come back
Great opportunities for use of church
Orchards - Damson association apples and pears
Crosthwaite exchange community spirit great
Good provision of milk etc by Stephen and Mandy Walling
Fruit and veg stall by Christine.

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM THE EXCHANGE

JUNE/JULY 2006

Suggestions

Put the GPO post box in a less dangerous position. Alongside the Parish Notice board would encourage the public to read the notices.
Re-cycling bins per household if possible e.g. paper, plastic, cardboard etc OR more communal bins for same (on church car park?)
A "Pick the Litter" Campaign
Twinning, formal or informal, with small village in European Country. Could involve church to church, house swaps, visits of groups etc. Local hotels may be persuaded to offer discount rates. Children holiday swaps.
A seat, please, near the bowling green?
Width restriction on road by Little Moss Side to prevent lorries using the road and causing passing chaos.
Bulb planting scheme for the spring, with a village bulb planting day.
Grant to buy marquee for the village to be used by any organisation or to be hired out.
Cross Howe (Housing Association) Could these be available for people who want to live here, rather than non-locals who do not want to be here?
Little old men for little old ladies!
Is it possible to find an egg supplier? Free range?
Too many foxes, badgers, red deer. No free range eggs as all hens get eaten/killed
Post box needs to be in a safer site.
We need a footpath from the church to the school and then from the Recreation Field to Hollow Clue.
Village Hall is an excellent amenity - could it be utilised even more? e.g. more educational courses
The area of ground just near to the Public Footpath, by river, up the Starnthwaite road. What about liasing with Cumbria Wildlife Trust, to make it a small wildlife reserve.
Transport - workers cant get home. Idea - a community bus (like Burneside)
A footpath through the village. It's dangerous walking on the road, especially with children.
Property to let - locals given priority.
Speed limit through village needs some form of enforcement - perhaps red stripes (perhaps at both ends) on the road.
Cricket pitch - please!

Comments

The school is wonderful, small class sizes and dedicated staff
Church - varied services and wonderful community spirit
The Crosthwaite Exchange is a really positive, innovative idea which works.
Community spirit is great! Welcoming, outgoing and friendly.
Our farming community
Wonderful community spirit
The Exchange: super idea and it must be supported to allow it to continue. Excellent for community spirit.
We are very lucky to have such an excellent Village Hall.