

Crosthwaite and Lyth

Parish Plan

2007



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Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Plan

1. Introduction

The Parish of Crosthwaite and Lyth is a living and dynamic place. It has an “achieving” community. On the whole most people like it as it is, and when there is a need for change or improvement, there are often willing and vigorous efforts to achieve it. Recent examples have been the acquisition and creation of the Recreation Field, the extensive improvements to the Memorial Hall, the substantial fund-raising to re-hang the church bells and for the organ, and the Crosthwaite Exchange.

But change does occur, notably in the decline in dairy farming, lack of local employment opportunities and the high cost of housing. If only because of external forces such as these, the Parish must change over time. The challenge is to manage that change as effectively as possible, preserving the best of the old, respecting the environment, and meeting the economic and recreational needs of the residents and visitors. This Plan is a contribution to this process. It is based entirely on consultations within the Parish, which are summarised on page 5. The Parish Plan has given everyone a chance to say what they think about the issues affecting the community.

It sets out a vision of how the community would like to see the Parish developing over the next few years, and proposes actions to achieve the objectives.

It was prepared on behalf of the Parish Council by a working group whose names appear on page 12. The Parish Council gratefully acknowledges a grant from Voluntary Action Cumbria.

2. Location - topography and general outline

The Parish of Crosthwaite and Lyth lies 5 miles west of Kendal, 5 miles north of Grange-over-Sands and 3 miles south of Bowness-on-Windermere. The M6 motorway is 5 miles from the parish. Manchester Airport is 82 miles to the south.

There are three contrasting characters to the landscape of the parish;

- The undulating rocky pastures and woodland in the north around the village of Crosthwaite and Bowland Bridge.
- The escarpment and dip slope of Whitbarrow along the western boundary of the parish
- The flat ground and mosses of the Lyth valley to the south.

Crosthwaite derives its name from the old Scandinavian word, “thwaite”, meaning a clearing in a forest or a piece of land, which has been enclosed. This was blended with “Cross”, which may reflect the earlier Christian connections with the Irish or Angle missionaries of the sixth or seventh century. The Norsemen also gave Lyth its name; “hlith” means sloping hillside.

Whitbarrow (Norse for white hill) includes a Site of Special Scientific Interest and parts of the site have also been declared a National Nature Reserve. It is composed of limestone that has been used extensively as local building stone and burnt in the many limekilns surrounding Whitbarrow that converted it to lime for agricultural and building purposes.

The Lyth valley lies between the limestone escarpments of Whitbarrow and Scout Scar and a large part of it comprises the flood plain of the River Gilpin. Much of the valley is only a few feet above sea level and the mosses grew on the wet ground giving rise to extensive peat beds in the parish on which the local farmers have rights of turbary, to cut peat on small plots of land. Following

drainage programmes from the early 19th to the mid 20th centuries the agricultural value of the mosses was considerably enhanced allowing crops to be grown on the valley floor.

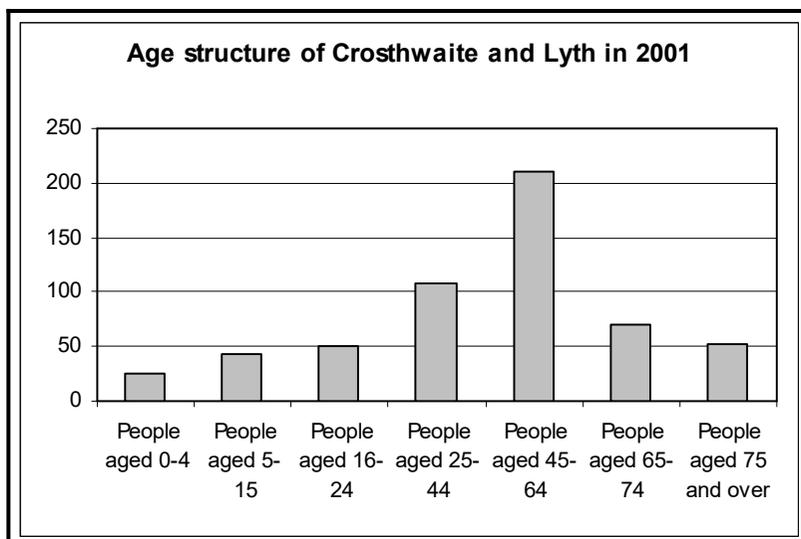
The Gilpin, the main river flowing through the parish, rises near Gilpin Lodge in the vicinity of Bowness and flows in a general south-by-south-easterly direction through Gilpinpark Plantation. At Crosthwaite, the direction of the river changes from south to south-east, continuing past the hamlet of The Row into the Lyth Valley, where it is joined by the larger River Pool. From there, the river continues moving south to Sampool, where it meets the River Kent.

The main centre of population is the village of Crosthwaite, with several outlying clusters – Church Town, Starnthwaite, Tarnside, Bowland Bridge on the western boundary of the Parish, the Row and Howe on the slopes of Whitbarrow above the Lyth Valley and numerous farmsteads and dwellings dotted between.

3. Population - from census and survey

No recent data were available at the time of writing and the tables below relate to the Office for National Statistics data for the 2001 census.

| | |
|---|-------|
| All people | 562 |
| All males | 276 |
| All females | 286 |
| Number of households | 243 |
| People living in households | 548 |
| People living in communal establishments | 14 |
| People aged 0-4 | 25 |
| People aged 5-15 | 44 |
| People aged 16-24 | 50 |
| People aged 25-44 | 108 |
| People aged 45-64 | 211 |
| People aged 65-74 | 71 |
| People aged 75 and over | 53 |
| Mean age of population in the area | 46.86 |
| Median age of population in the area | 51 |
| All people aged 16 and over in households | 479 |
| All people aged 16 and over in households: Living in a couple | 330 |
| All people aged 16 and over: Single | 108 |
| All people aged 16 and over: Married | 314 |
| All people aged 16 and over: Divorced or widowed | 71 |
| All people with a limiting long-term illness | 100 |
| All people whose health was good | 393 |
| All people providing unpaid care | 86 |



**Table 2
Accommodation and Tenure**

| | |
|--|------|
| All dwellings | 304 |
| Household spaces with residents | 243 |
| Vacant household spaces | 9 |
| Second residence / holiday accommodation | 52 |
| All household spaces: Whole detached house / bungalows | 185 |
| All household spaces: Whole semi-detached / terraced houses / bungalow | 97 |
| All household spaces: Flat maisonette or apartment; or caravan or temporary structure | 22 |
| Average household size (people) | 2.26 |
| Average number of rooms per household | 6.71 |
| Households with owner-occupied tenure | 199 |
| Households with tenure rented from Council (local authority) or Housing Association / Registered Social Landlord | 10 |
| Households with tenure rented from private landlord or letting agency or other tenure | 34 |

4. Farming and other businesses

The area is still predominantly a rural community with eighteen (18) active farms and a further eleven agricultural related businesses that responded to the parish plan business questionnaire. Over the last 40 years the number of active farms has fallen from 43 to its present 18. Farms have been sold off in some cases amalgamating with other farms or the land let for grazing. Farmhouses have become residential houses. Farms producing milk have fallen from 37 to the present number of 2.

Other businesses within the area include the following:

- Construction related
- Finance and professional
- Service industries
- Food and drink
- Retail
- Horticultural
- Consultancy
- Manufacturing
- Computer related services
- Broadcasting.

In many instances these are small enterprises run from homes that employ some 60 people full time and 30 people part time, which includes owners or principals. Of these some 60 live within the Parish.

5. Facilities.

The following section outlines the various businesses, organisations and groups that provide facilities for the residents or visitors to the parish.

Hotels pubs and restaurants

- Crosthwaite House
- Damson Dene
- Gilpin Bridge Inn
- Hare and Hounds, Bowland Bridge
- Lyth Valley Hotel.
- Punchbowl Inn, Crosthwaite (with Post Office facilities)

Bed and Breakfast, Holiday Cottages and Second Homes

Some people still offer bed and breakfast though fewer than in the recent past. There are numerous holiday cottages and second homes.

Caravan Facilities

The Lambhowe Caravan park, run by Phil and Lynda Barron, is licensed for 13 tourers and 12 seasonal caravans. In addition it has a substantial community of 90 static holiday homes.

Shops

John and Molly Wood have a very well stocked village shop with Post Office facilities at Bowland Bridge and Christine Walling runs an extensive greengrocery stall on the A5074.

Garage and Fuel

P.V. Dobson at Gilpin Bridge (just outside of the parish boundary) offers main dealer services in respect of Jaguar, Volvo and Mazda cars as well as full servicing, repairs and fuel pumps.

The Parish School

Crosthwaite C of E Primary School is located in the village and provides for 3/11 year olds. It has some 34 children at present (July 2007). It recently started a Nursery that already has 9 children and is growing. It offers after school club, with meals prepared on the premises, and a guitar club. Recent extensions and modifications have included new external play areas and gardens and the remodelling of arts, crafts and kitchen facilities. It had a very good recent OFSTED report and is attracting children from outside the Parish. The "Friends of Crosthwaite School" is a vigorous support group.

The Parish Church

St Mary's Church has existed on the site as a stone chapel since circa 1180 and the present church building was built in 1878. The Vicar, the Rev. Michael Woodcock, lives in what is now the third vicarage in the village. Within the last few years considerable funds have been expended in the re-hanging of the bells in a steel frame within the bell tower and the complete rebuilding and refurbishment of the organ. This year repairs have been carried out to the roof including the substantial renewal of leadwork to the roof and spire.

The Memorial Hall

The Argles Memorial Hall was built in 1931 and has recently been extensively refurbished and extended with the aid of a Lottery Grant. The Hall is in constant use and provides weekly:

- Indoor Bowls
- The Exchange
- Keep Fit Classes
- Play Group
- Art Club
- WI venue.

It provides the venue for the Village Talent Show, the Flower Show, Christmas and New Year parties and other village activities throughout the year. It is also available for private hire.

The Play Group

The play group meets in the Memorial Hall on two mornings per week and welcomes babies and toddlers from birth onwards and their parents.

The Recreation Field

This was a facility provided in 1995 and comprises an outdoor bowling green with pavilion and scoring shed, tennis courts, 5-a-side play area, and children's play area. This year (2007) the pavilion has been re-roofed and the tennis courts completely refurbished.

The Crosthwaite Exchange

The Exchange opened in February 2006 following the closure of the village shop and post office. It was set up and run by a volunteer group to provide a café, for the sale of bread, home baked cakes and jams, locally produced vegetables, fresh fish, trade-craft products and second hand books. An activity table is also run for young children. It provides an opportunity for local people to display and sell their own goods and several local firms provide services at the Exchange. A chiropodist also visits every other week.

Parish Council

The Parish Council owns a number of small plots of land some being old quarries that comprise in all some 7 hectares. The Parish Council also owns the old school house adjacent to the Church that serves as the Parish Room. This is available for meetings and houses a full sized snooker table.

Westmorland Damson Association

This was formed to promote the regeneration of the damson trade and renewed planting in the valley. Damson Day in Spring celebrates damson production and the blossom and attracts over 3000 visitors.

Clubs and societies

There is a lively Women's Institute and numerous clubs and societies catering for particular interests including Art Club, Bell ringers, Bowls, Tennis, Snooker, a Discussion Group and others.

The Landowners of Crosthwaite and Lyth

This charity, derived originally from the 1816 Enclosure Award, owns and manages the Township Plantation and Township Allotment on Whitbarrow, and the quarry at its southern end. Any profits are made available for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish.

6. The Background to the Plan and the Consultation Process

Public meetings

The consultation process began with a public meeting held in March 2006. A steering group was elected at that meeting, with a mandate from the Parish Council to proceed with the plan, and additional members were later co-opted. The steering group first met on 7th April 2006 and regularly met thereafter. A second public meeting was held on 12th October 2006 when the benefits of producing a parish plan were explained and a questionnaire survey was launched; the meeting was attended by nearly 50 residents and the comments arising helped finalise the content of the questionnaire. Questionnaires for children, young people and businesses were also prepared. A team of volunteers then distributed the questionnaire to all households in the Parish.

A third public meeting was held on 12th April 2007 when the Report of Survey was presented and the survey findings discussed.

The Report of Survey

The response to the questionnaire survey was excellent and far better than experienced by many other Parishes. The findings of the survey were published by the steering group as a Report of Survey.

A total of 245 questionnaires were returned from 185 households. The total number of households in the Parish, determined from the register of electors, is 296 (which is considerably more than the number indicated in the 2001 census – see page 2); this represents a percentage return of 64%. Almost all responses were positive and many applauded the initiative of the Parish Council to undertake a Parish Plan. Separate returns were also received from 15 children, 8 young people and 38 businesses.

The questions in the survey were grouped under the following headings:

- household and personal
- parish housing
- public transport and access
- community

- education
- parish roads and traffic
- employment
- parish services
- environment and crime

There was also the opportunity to add comments or suggestions.

The Findings

Almost everybody agreed 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 the M6 and the Lakes. The scenery is special and people feel safe in the Parish.

There were two big issues;

- housing - in particular the lack of affordable homes for young people and a resulting age imbalance in the Parish, and
- traffic - principally the junctions at Gilpin Bridge and Totter Bank.

The following pages discuss the issues arising from the survey and outline an Action Plan that will provide an agenda for measures that will attempt to implement or resolve the matters and concerns raised by the parishioners of Crosthwaite and Lyth.

7. Housing

Background

The Commission for Rural Communities (January 2006) stated:

The Commission for Rural Communities (CRC) has called for Government to give clear leadership and concerted action by all those involved to bring about real improvements to England's rural housing crisis. "The problem is now well documented", continued Dr Burgess. "Pressure from better-off commuters, holiday and second home owners and the retired, along with restrictive planning policies, resistance to development from some quarters, and the impact of the right to buy of council housing in rural areas, means that most village property is now well beyond the reach of people on average incomes, or even above average incomes. As a result, many people, particularly the young, childless couples, the elderly, and those on low incomes, are being denied the opportunity to live in the villages in which they grew up or where they work."

This in many regards echoes many issues that arose from the parish plan survey. The provision of affordable housing is fundamentally important to the well-being of rural areas and action is needed to ensure that residents and future generations are not to be denied the opportunity and choice to live and work in the Parish.

The 2002 Housing Needs Survey.

Following a SLDC District wide housing needs survey, Crosthwaite and Lyth was identified as a high priority ward in terms of housing need. Cumbria Rural Housing Trust was therefore asked to undertake a more detailed study to identify need at a local level.

Responses to the survey questionnaire included seventeen households who considered themselves in housing need. Of these ten met the criteria for affordable (rented) housing need with a possible two more within a five-year horizon.

The Survey Report recommended a small development of up to twelve two, three or four bedroomed houses for rent and/or shared ownership. The report was sent to SLDC and LDNPA

who will have used it to assess planning applications in the light of housing need. The Parish Council took no formal action on the report.

Since the survey was anonymous it did not identify individual cases and hence it is not possible to assess how many of the housing needs were met. However it is significant that the Two Castles flats for rent continue to be occupied mainly by people from outside the parish.

Summary of survey findings

Almost everybody answered all or part of the section on housing. The majority of people (59%) thought that more housing is necessary in the Parish but more importantly 88% thought that more affordable housing was required.

Almost half of those that responded thought that housing costs will prevent children from staying in the parish. Over a quarter thought that the shortage of housing might mean that they may have to leave at sometime in the future or a shortage will prevent their family moving closer to them. Over a half thought that there was a need for managed or sheltered accommodation and also a need for more rented accommodation.

Almost ninety people offered suggestions where new houses might be built. General suggestions included the use of existing redundant barns or other farm properties, use of Parish Council owned land; specific locations included around the church and school and near to St. Mary's Green.

Just over a third of respondents thought that a housing association was the way forward for providing new housing; this was a surprisingly low figure but may reflect the perceived poor experience of the Two Castles development rather than an understanding of the function of a housing association. Many people commented that such housing should be for local occupancy that should not be extended to include the whole of South Lakeland. The majority of respondents thought that a full housing needs survey should be undertaken

There was also a strong consensus that second homes contribute significantly to raising house prices while contributing little to the community.

Affordability was the main point raised in discussion at public meetings and in the questionnaire returns. Many people echoed the widely held view that there is a shortage of affordable property for both young and old who wish to live in the area. In particular too many young people, who may wish to remain in the Parish, are having to move away and this is having a detrimental effect on the age balance in the Parish.

There was also the concern that the type of housing that should be provided should not be the perceived "starter homes", built by commercial builders or 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 how it should be interpreted, was also raised and respondents generally felt that it should be more strictly applied.

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.

The next step

The aim of the questionnaire was to discover if housing provision in Crosthwaite and Lyth meets the needs of the community by enquiring into:

- the cost and affordability of homes
- flexibility of use
- nature of tenure

- ages and occupations of existing residents
- perceived future needs of existing and potential residents
- methods of providing housing.

Following further discussion and the public meeting held in April 2007 the actions shown in Table 3 are proposed.

| Table 3 - Housing | | |
|--|--|--|
| Action | By whom | When |
| 1. To commission a detailed survey to analyse and quantify what actual need there is for new homes. | Parish Council | December 2007 |
| 2. To investigate what management options there are for the development of any housing required; e.g. a housing trust under the control of the Parish Council | Parish Council | In hand – to be completed by July 2008 |
| 3. To identify buildings and sites available that could be used to meet any needs identified including land within the control of the Parish Council. | Parish Council | To commence Autumn 2007 |
| 4. To lobby the planning authority to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that all proposals or opportunities, however small scale, that help meet a local housing need are considered in a flexible and imaginative way. • amend their Local Development Framework, in regard to local housing development, so that policies are not unduly restrictive. | Parish Council, WI and other organisations and individuals | On-going |
| 5. To debate within the village, via public meeting(s), what types of tenure are needed to meet the needs of existing and future residents; e.g. privately rented, owner occupied, shared equity, social housing, self-build, live/work homes. | Parish Council | Autumn 2007 |

8. Public Transport and Access

Summary of responses from questionnaire

Most people indicated that they have no difficulty getting around although, significantly, 42 people said that they would be helped by some form of improved public transport, community bus service or occasional, scheduled, minibus hire. In regard to disabled facilities in the Parish most people thought facilities are adequate, but it was suggested that disabled parking near to the ramp at the Memorial Hall would assist off-loading and picking up, in particular for those visiting the Exchange on Wednesdays. A path (wheelchair friendly) between the recreation field and Hollow Clue would be helpful, as would one between the school and Punch Bowl; footpath provision is discussed elsewhere (page 11).

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. In this regard, as indicated below, it is intended to review the operation of the existing voluntary transport arrangements in the village.

| Table 4 – Public transport and access | | |
|--|---|---|
| Public transport facilities | | |
| Action | By whom | When |
| 1. To investigate whether the present bus service could be extended in frequency, coverage and bus-stop locations | Parish Council and appropriate sub-group. | In hand for reporting in December 2007. |
| 2. To ensure that the bus timetables are readily available. | As above | In hand. |
| 3. Review the operation of existing voluntary transport arrangements, in the village, as well as those provided by the SL Community Transport and adjoining Parish Councils. | Parish Council, existing help-line operators, South Lakeland District Community Transport and others as appropriate | December 2007 |
| Disabled facilities | | |
| 4. Investigate the provision of improved access and parking for the disabled, at the Memorial Hall and the Church. | Memorial Hall committee and PCC. | Implemented. |

9. Community

Summary of survey findings

Almost everybody completed all or part of this section and most people thought that community events and clubs in the Parish are important. Many of the events and clubs in the Parish are well attended and there were a number of suggestions for new activities both for adults and the under 18's. The detailed responses can be found in the Report of Survey document.

Most people thought that the existing means of communication in the Parish were appropriate but could be improved. Notably there were a number of suggestions for improvements to, and additional locations for, notice boards. The provision of a community web site elicited quite a large response in favour and there were numerous suggestions for what might be included. Several respondents however echoed concern as to who would keep it up-to-date. The effectiveness of communication by the Parish Council received a large response generally indicating that communication was satisfactory but could be improved.

Many people in the Parish have an interest in local history and it has been suggested that there is a central location where historical information, and possibly artefacts, are kept which members of the Parish can visit.

The next step is to investigate the feasibility of developing Parish activities and to improve communications in the Parish. This is summarised in Table 5 as follows.

| Table 5 - Community Events | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Actions | By whom | When |
| 1. To review the list of suggestions to the Village Hall Committee for other activities and to the Exchange for possible evening sessions | Village Hall Committee, Exchange | 2007 |
| 2. To investigate the potential for a central Parish history archive. | Parish Council sub-group | 2007/08 |
| Communications | | |
| 3. To improve the size and quality of notice-boards and to investigate other sites for boards | Parish Council | In hand for completion within 2007. |
| 4. The Parish Council to review suggestions for more comprehensive communication | Parish Council | 2007 |
| 5. To investigate the feasibility and costs of setting up a Parish website. | Parish Council and IT sub-group | Autumn 2007 |
| 6. If feasible to set up and run web site. | IT sub-group | 2008 |

10. Roads and Traffic

Two issues dominated the section on parish roads and traffic; these were road maintenance and the safety aspects of roads junctions at Gilpin Bridge and Totter Bank.

In regard to road maintenance the overall impression was that all minor roads are in a state of neglect with the Moss road receiving most criticism, and many people singled out the A5074 as in poor condition for an “A” road.

In regard to road junctions opinions were polarised, some people thinking that they were a major problem while others were not concerned. Several people mentioned that the Totter Bank junction could be immediately improved by grubbing out a hedge to expose the railing.

Most people thought that 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. Although in general people thought that signage was acceptable many noted that some road and footpath signs are badly in need of maintenance or replacement. The lack of a roadside footpath is an issue for some people living in Crosthwaite village. Speeding traffic on the A5074 and through the village was of concern. Many people thought that speed limits were appropriate if they were adhered to. A number of people thought that the 20 mph limit past the school was of limited value but that there would be some advantage in extending the 30 mph limit.

There was an almost unanimous voice against the introduction of street lighting and many people added the comment that they were very strongly against any “light pollution”.

| Table 6 - Roads and Traffic | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Aim - Improve safety of road junctions. | | |
| Actions | By whom | When |
| 1. Contact the Highways Agency to discuss improved signing and other improvements to enhance the safety aspects of the A590/A5074 junction. | Parish Council and traffic sub-group | On-going |
| 2. Contact the County Council to discuss improvements to the junctions between the A5074 and Totter Bank and the Bowland Bridge Road with Tarnside Lane. | Parish Council and traffic sub-group | December 2007 |
| Aim - Improve the highway maintenance. | | |
| Actions | By whom | When |
| 3. Contact the County Council to discuss a wide range of maintenance improvements, including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning and repair of signs • A review of sign requirements. • Review procedures for filling pot holes. • Improvements to Toll Bar Road. • Review the programme for cutting verges and trees/bushes. • Review existing drainage facilities. • Winter gritting. | Parish Council and traffic sub-group. | In hand |
| 4. Contact Highways Agency to discuss grass cutting on the A590, at the junction with the A5074. | Parish Council and traffic sub-group. | In hand |
| Aim - Reduce the traffic speeds throughout the Parish. | | |
| Actions | By whom | When |
| 5. Contact the County Council to discuss a range of measures to reduce traffic speeds, including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor existing traffic speeds. • Examine the potential for a 40mph limit on the A5074. • Examine the potential for replacing the existing 20mph limit through the village by traffic calming measures. • The extension of the 30 mph limit to the east of the village. | Parish Council and traffic sub-group. | 2007 |
| Aim - Improve facilities for pedestrians. | | |
| Actions | By whom | When |
| 6. Investigate the feasibility for providing a footpath from the Punch Bowl through to the Starnthwaite junction. | Parish Council and traffic sub-group. | December 2008 |

| Aim - Address other issues raised by residents | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Actions | By whom | When |
| 7. Investigate the potential for an HGV limit on roads through the village and the A5074. | Parish Council and traffic sub-group. | In hand and for completion 2007. |
| 8. Relocation of post office box in the centre of the village. | | |
| 9. Request the provision of safety barriers on the A5074 | | |

11. Employment

A significant number of people indicated that they might work from home or consider starting their own business if there were facilities in the Parish. These included, in particular, home and work units, serviced offices and small light industrial units. It was suggested that a relaxation of planning requirements to convert existing buildings might help meet these needs.

At the public meeting these issues were discussed at some length and the need for additional work units was called into question; it was suggested that an employment needs survey should be undertaken to clarify the Parish’s requirements. It was also noted that the SLDC have provided start up units elsewhere and it may be possible to seek assistance from them, but the question of who has suitable and available property was also raised. There was also considerable support for the concept of joint accommodation and work units.

Several people also indicated that difficulties prevented them from actively seeking work; notably these included, lack or cost of child care locally or of access to transport.

In response to the question whether the “LDNPA has struck the right balance between conserving the environment and encouraging economic initiatives” most people thought that they were too restrictive.

| Table 7 - Employment | | |
|---|----------------|-------------|
| Aim – increase employment opportunities | | |
| Actions | By whom | When |
| 1. Contact SLDC in regard to start up units. | Parish Council | On-going. |
| 2. Determine who has property available that might be suitable for development. | | |
| 3. Discuss with LDNPA concerning joint housing and work units. | | |
| 4. Lobby the LDNPA regarding the relaxation of planning restrictions for light industrial and office units. | | |

12. Services

The survey indicated that village shops and the Exchange are well supported by the Parish although several people indicated that they would use the Exchange more if working hours permitted.

Most people thought that the hall was an excellent facility and already well utilised; a number of additional activities were suggested albeit by only a small number of people. In regard to the Church there were suggestions as to how this might be better utilised for the community and it is noted that several of these ideas have been already pursued.

The identification of parish owned land was requested by 90% of respondents as was the extent of land and property belonging to the Landowners' of Crosthwaite and Lyth.

There were a large number of people in favour of setting up a First Responders team.

In regards to services most people were happy with the services provided by the utilities although poor TV signal (particularly Freeview) and problems with broadband connection were identified as problems for some.

Suggestions for other services included a team for helping older people with prescriptions and household jobs, a veterinary clinic, recycling/community shredder for garden waste, a composting area, a medical/district nurse, hearing aid service and a clinic for minor ailments.

| Table 8 - Parish Services | | |
|---|---|--|
| Aim - To widen the scope of Parish services and communications | | |
| Actions | By whom | When |
| 1. To ask the Parish Council to identify and publish the whereabouts of Parish Land and land owned by the Landowners of Crosthwaite and Lyth. | Parish Council & Trustees of Landowners of C&L. | In hand |
| 10. To suggest to the Trustees of the Landowners of Crosthwaite and Lyth that a summary of meetings could be communicated to the Parish by way of the Parish magazine, notice-boards and website in due course. | Trustees of Landowners of C&L. | Implemented |
| 11. To investigate the feasibility of setting up a First Responders team in the Lyth Valley. | Parish Council via a sub-group. | 2008 |
| 12. To make enquiries of digital/Freeview providers as to when and how services can be improved. | Parish Council | Implemented – (Public meeting 12 th Sept. 2007) |
| 13. To consider setting up other Parish services (see text). | Parish Council | 2007/2008 |
| 14. The Parish Council to actively support the local post offices and shops, school and Memorial Hall. | Parish Council | On going |

13. Environment and Crime

Maintenance of roads and roadside verges was the only issue to receive a high level of concern from most people and storm water drainage and litter/rubbish dumping were of importance to a number of people. The issues of dog fouling, stream water quality, light pollution and sewage were of concern to relatively few respondents although for some they were perceived as a particular problem.

People were generally in favour of more tree planting although there were some strongly held views against. Several people raised the issue of the Parish's carbon footprint in relation to tree planting. Recycling is clearly an important issue in the Parish and elicited a high response in the questionnaire survey and also figured in the discussions at the Public meetings. In regard to renewable energy there was generally a favourable response to the installation of individual wind turbine and solar panels.

Crime is not perceived as an issue in Crosthwaite although it was felt that the community police should have a higher profile and many would like to see a police presence, for example, at the Exchange or the school.

| Table 9 - Environment and Crime | | |
|---|----------------|-------------|
| Aim - To improve the environment. | | |
| Actions | By whom | When |
| 1. To look into enhancing recycling in the Parish and the provision of a community shredder. | Parish Council | 2007/2008 |
| 2. To consider locations that might benefit from additional tree planting. | Parish Council | 2007/2008 |
| 3. The Parish Council to support the development of appropriate-scale sustainable energy proposals. | Parish Council | On going |
| 4. To invite the police to visit the school or the Exchange occasionally. | Parish Council | In hand |
| 5. To write to the Environment Agency regarding flood defence provisions in the parish. | Parish Council | 2007 |

14. Conclusion

The Crosthwaite and Lyth Parish Plan was agreed in principle by the Parish Council on 23rd August 2007 and was presented to the Parish at a public meeting on 10th October 2007. The Parish Council accepted responsibility for the tasks allotted to it in the plan subject only to sufficient support being available in the form of resources and individual volunteers or working groups.

Many suggestions that arose from the questionnaire survey and the public meetings have been implemented and are not recorded here. Others as detailed above will be implemented in accordance with the programme shown in the various tables.

The Parish Council will report back at regular intervals to the parish concerning the progress of the implementation of the plan. At least one public meeting will be held annually where the public can

be informed of the Plan's progress and can suggest changes to the Plan or offer additional proposals that could be incorporated.

The Parish Council would like to thank the Steering Group for their efforts in preparing this Parish Plan. The Steering Group members were as follows:

Jim Bownass (Parish Council representative).
Mathew Dobson (Parish Council representative).
Mary Harkness (now co-opted to the Parish Council).
John Handley.
John Holmes.
Penny Mutch.
Stephanie Park.
Gordon Pitt.
John Sceal (Secretary).
Edward Sharp.
Robert Sykes (Chairman).

Matthew Dobson

Chairman of the Parish Council.