

**SCALEBY PARISH COUNCIL**

**SCALEBY COMMUNITY LED PLAN**

**Adopted by the Parish Council May 2013**



**Picture by Terry Moore - photo competition winner**

## **Background to the plan**

Scaleby Parish Council commissioned the Community Led Plan (CLP) in early 2011.

The Council was anxious to ensure that every resident was given the opportunity to be involved in the improvement of the quality of life in the parish over the next few years.

The CLP is intended to dovetail with any other initiatives that may arise under the Localism Act 2011 but nevertheless be free standing in regard to its action plan.

## **Involving everyone**

A team of volunteers undertook to steer the process of consulting everyone. Advice was sought from Action with Communities in Cumbria (ACT) and their model process was adopted.

The first step was a well-attended open event in October 2011 when residents identified issues across a range of topics. These formed the basis for a structured household survey held in June 2012. There was a very satisfactory 37% response, the analysis of which underpins the Community Led Plan.

## **Census 2011**

The results of the 2011 Census focusing on the Parish were released in January 2013 and reference is made to the data where appropriate.

The Community Led Plan is divided into a number of topics each having an influence on the quality of life in the parish. The following is a summary analysis together with recommendations for action. The report's appendix contains an indication of priority.

## **You and your household**

The 2011 Census records a parish population of 346 - 165 male and 181 female and relatively young. There are only 19 people over the age of 75.

The survey indicates that the majority of people have lived in the parish for more than 10 years. Whilst many were born in and around Scaleby the majority moved into the parish liking the house and/or the area in equal measure.

Nearly all the 137 properties have double glazing and loft insulation. Only half have cavity wall insulation and just a handful have taken advantage of PV/solar energy. One or two residents have used innovative extra measures to save energy. Overall people are clearly conscious of energy use but perhaps there is still some room for improvement.

(Since the survey the price of domestic heating fuel has continued to fluctuate - 85 households use oil for central heating - increasing the case for energy conservation measures).



The survey questions focussed on a relatively narrow range of issues related to affordability and availability of accommodation for those wanting to remain in or move back to the parish. Only a few people identified problems because of the current economic situation.

### **Action**

- The Parish Council to encourage all households to explore more energy saving measures.
- The Parish Council to identify affordable housing opportunity and appraise Carlisle City Council

**Computers and Broadband access** - only a small number of households are without a computer. The majority have a least one computer and a noticeable number have four or more.

Most residents with computers have access to the internet via broadband with some still having dial up access and other access over a satellite.

Broadband speeds are too slow for the majority of users. The survey showed download speeds ranging from 1mbs to 8mbs. Upload speeds are consistent at 0.3mbs.

Many residents would be willing to pay for better broadband services.

Mobile phone coverage is considered poor by a substantial number of people.



"Poor" can be defined as "non-existent" to "patchy" - much depending on provider and location within the parish.

At least 19 businesses were identified in the survey which suggests many more across the area. Many felt that poor broadband and mobile phone services hamper their work. However there is as much concern about the frequency of electricity outages.

### **Action**

- Improve Broadband speeds
- Improve mobile phone services
- Seek assurance from Utilities about continuity of power supplies

### **Your Neighbourhood**

Nearly everyone surveyed felt that people in the parish were friendly, willing to help and created a good community spirit. Many too felt that the area was changing for the better. Despite the lack of public transport and in some cases, child care no one appears isolated or lonely.

The parish has many good neighbours, visiting the sick, collecting children from school, looking after the neighbour's house during holidays and even cutting the grass!

The area and community togetherness are at the top of the popularity list for the majority of residents.

However there were dislikes - things affecting the quality of life-

- The lack of public transport
- Speeding vehicles
- Roadside litter
- No play area for children
- No recycling collections
- Few pavements in the area
- No village green

Nevertheless feeling safe is something a lot of people experience and many knew who their Community Police Officer was and how he could be contacted. The Officer concerned has however unfortunately moved on with promotion to another Force and at the time of writing this report there is no indication about a replacement

### **Action**

- Improve public transport
- Introduce more speed limits
- Explore creating play areas on the village greens
- Explore extension of pavements/walkways
- Ask the City Council to re-examine the recycling service the "no collection" households.

- Seek assurances about Community Policing in the parish.



## **Community Participation**

There are many active community groups in the parish. The Village Hall and the Church are the most supported organisations with the Women's Institute and Sewing Group the most popular social activities. Support is also shown for PTA organisations, Young Farmers and the Welfare Committee.

Lack of time was the biggest hindrance to being involved in community activities.

Although many are happy with the level of activities there is concern to see more people joining in, supporting events and community initiatives, especially by the younger generation. Some thought community spirit was being undermined by this.

There was also concern that initiatives need to be more focused and perhaps combined to get people to join in more.

Other issues raised included the lack of a pub, the lack of hall activities, litter and speeding traffic.



**Action:** Groups in the parish to work cohesively to encourage participation by finding activities suitable for all ages and sectors of the community.

## Highways and the Local Environment

By far the biggest concern is speeding traffic. The general poor state of the roads was also an issue with mud on the road and

flooding also being major problems.

Some also felt that the lack of pavements in the parish was a problem - particularly between the Church and Barclose. Large vehicles and overhanging hedges were also a worry.

Fewer people were worried about the lack of street lighting or road markings.

The "danger spots" on local roads were perceived to be numerous.

They included:

- Scaleby Hill - (the majority comment was about this area)
- Barclose
- Outside the Church in Scaleby
- High Knells
- Longpark

Whilst the majority of residents want something done about speeding traffic they are divided about applying more speed limits and are against speed bumps.

### **Action**

- Work with the police and highways authorities to evaluate the perceived speeding problem
- Work with the highways authority to deal with maintenance problems on the roads

### **Footpaths**

The lack of a pavement between the Village Hall and the Church (and perhaps Barclose) was raised again under this heading.

Many thought that public footpaths and bridleways are poorly maintained being too muddy, having obstructions and subject to dog fouling.

### **Action**

- The Parish Council to work with the County Council to improve footpath maintenance.
- Dog owners be encouraged to use "poop-a-scoops"

### **Environment**

Planting bulbs and trees, using the village greens more effectively and litter picking were the main suggestions to improve the environment. Many people also would be willing to help with tree planting and litter picking schemes.

The restoration of the village green at Scaleby Hill featured prominently, as did better use of the Village Green at

Stoneknowe - a children's playground being the most popular idea.

The main environmental problems identified were poorly maintained verges and dog fouling. Asking farmers to reduce the impact of heavy machinery on the road sides and also cleaning up if they cause a hazardous mess were among the solutions.



Cycling facilities and traffic calming measures (again at Scaleby Hill) were also quoted.

### **Action**

- To identify areas for bulb and tree planting and work with volunteers to plant new areas and maintain existing ones.
- To restore the Village Green at Scaleby Hill and maintain it as a registered Green
- To investigate the possibility of using the land at Stoneknowe
- To set up a volunteer play area action group
- To investigate the feasibility of a tea room/shop in the village hall

- To work closely with the City Council's dog enforcement officers to prevent fouling
- To work with farmers and land owners, in collaboration with the highways authorities, to maintain grass verges
- Investigate the feasibility of lengthening the footpath from the Village Hall



## **Social and leisure**

The majority of residents are not currently undertaking or interested in undertaking any training or education. Those that were are interested in computer courses in the main, with other night school type classes also supported.

Lack of time is the biggest reason for not undertaking social and leisure activities, although a large number of residents were happy with their current activity levels.

The most sought after activities were:-

- Exercise classes(Zumba/Tai Chi)
- Food/cooperative/community shop
- Coffee/tea shop  
(a Zumba group has since started and ended due to lack of support)

Many would also like to see the Village hall hosting:-

- Computer training
- Small theatre performances
- Social dances
- Race nights
- Slimming clubs
- Children's play group
- Youth group
- Local history group
- Countryside craft group

A substantial number were willing to take part in donating blood.

Joining an interest group, meeting in the Village Hall drew a large number of responses. The most popular groups were:-

- horticultural/gardening club
- local history group
- nature/wildlife group
- sewing/crafts group
- book club/reading group
- film club
- art club

(a sewing group has been meeting for sometime)

A few people were interested in sharing their stories or setting up a new club in the parish.

Other ideas to improve our social environment included a library, café/tea room, shop and pub.

### **Action**

- The Parish Council to work with the village hall committee to develop an activities program at the hall.
- A playground voluntary group to be explored.

### **Local Services and facilities**

A small number of residents use the library van, mobile post office and local bus service.

All households recycle waste and a large number use the Scaleby Recycling Centre. Many would like to see increased household recycling services and a weekly collection. However most are satisfied with a fortnightly service.

### **Action**

- The Parish Council to explore the extension of the household recycling service

### **Transport**

Only 6 households have no cars while 12 households have 4 or more. Most households own at least two cars, see no transport

difficulties and experience no transport problems. However a substantial minority do experience problems with the lack of information about the public transport service. Residents ask for a regular bus service with identified stops and a published timetable. A few residents would be prepared to be volunteer drivers.

### **Action**

The Parish Council to seek an improved bus service and explore voluntary transport schemes.

### **Children and Young people.**

The 2011 Census records 68 children in the range 0 to 17 years. Of these 24 are in the 0 to 4 years group. Child care is expensive and sometimes inconveniently timed. Whilst only a few families experience problems the greatest issue is the lack of playground/play areas and groups for young people

### **Action**

The Parish council to consider provision of a playground/play area in the parish, and look at the feasibility of setting up a youth club.



## **The Parish Council**

Whilst a majority of residents felt well informed about the decisions of the Parish Council many felt that they had no influence over the work of the Council.

Improvements to publicity about meetings and business conducted, especially planning matters was suggested. Few residents use the Parish Council web site

### **Action**

- The Parish Council to actively encourage public participation by attendance at Parish Council Meetings.
- Greater publicity to parish council matters to be given in the newsletter, and noticeboards.
- Publish minutes, decisions and planning applications on the Parish Council web site website.
- The web site to include news items from village hall groups.

The outcome of the survey is firm indicator of life in the parish and where its residents would like to see improvement in the quality of their life. A final meeting in March 2013 saw a small but representative group of residents put the recommendations into priority order for action. These are recorded in the following table.

The Survey Team

May 2013

*(All references to the Census are made with permission granted under the Open Government License [[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/)]).*

Topic	Action Recommended	Notes	Priority
<b>You and Your Household</b>			
	The Parish Council to encourage all households to explore extra energy saving measures	May require partnership working <i>To include "Oil Syndicates"</i>	Medium
	The Parish Council to identify affordable housing opportunities and appraise City Council.	Follow advice from City Council	Medium/ Low
Computers and Broadband access	The Parish Council to lobby for increased Broadband speeds, improved mobile phone services	May require partnership working with commercial organisations.	High
<b>Your Neighbourhood</b>			
	The Parish Council to seek improved public transport	<i>Timetables and whereabouts of bus stops wanted</i>	
The Parish Council to explore:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extension of speed limits in the parish</li> </ul>		High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating play areas on the village greens</li> </ul>		Low/No Priority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extension of pavements/walkways</li> </ul>		High/ Medium

	The Parish Council to request the City Council to re-examine the recycling service for the "no collection" households.	<i>Noted - unlikely until 2015</i>	
<b>Community Participation</b>	The Parish Council to encourage groups to work together to find activities suitable for all ages and sectors in the community.	<i>Accepted as a constant effort</i>	
<b>Highways</b>			
	The Parish Council to work with Police and Highways to focus on speeding issues in the Parish.	Areas of concern include:- Scalebyhill Barclose High Knells Long Park Scaleby - outside of church	<b>High</b>
	Dog owners to be encouraged to use "poop-a-scoops".		<b>High/ Medium</b>
	The Parish Council to work with Highways to address road maintenance issues		<b>High</b>
	Footpaths - the Parish Council to work with Carlisle City Council to improve footpath maintenance.		<b>Low</b>
<b>Environment</b>			
<b>The PC</b>	Identify areas for bulb and	In hand	

to: -	tree planting and work with volunteers to plant new areas and maintain existing ones		
	Restore the Village Green at Scaleby Hill and maintain it as a registered Green		Low
	Investigate the possibility of using the land at Stoneknowe		Low
	Set up a volunteer play area action group		Low
	Investigate the feasibility of a tea room/shop in the village hall		Low
	Work closely with the Carlisle City Council's dog enforcement officers to prevent fouling.		High
	Work with farmers and land owners, in collaboration with the highways authorities, to maintain grass verges		High
	Investigate the feasibility of extending the footpath from the Church to Barclose		High (link to pavement issue)

### Social and Leisure

	The Parish Council to work with Village Hall Committee	The most sought after activities were:  Exercise classes (Zumba/Tai Chi) <i>Present group now ceased</i>	High priority for Computer training
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	<p>and other groups to develop an activities programme in the Hall.</p>	<p>Food/cooperative/community shop Coffee/tea shop.</p> <p>Many would also like to see the Village hall hosting:-</p> <p>Computer training Small theatre performances Social dances Race nights Slimming clubs Children's play group Youth group Local history group Countryside craft group A substantial number were willing to take part in donating blood.</p> <p>The most popular groups suggested were:-</p> <p>horticultural/gardening club local history group nature/wildlife group sewing/crafts group book club/reading group film club art club (a sewing group has been meeting for sometime)</p>	<p>and Blood donor sessions</p> <p>Parish Council to encourage other activities / groups</p>
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<p><b>Local Services and Facilities</b></p>	<p>The Parish Council to seek the extension of the recycling collection service to "non-participants"</p>	<p><i>2015 timespan noted</i></p>	
<p><b>Transport</b></p>	<p>The Parish Council to seek an improved bus service and explore transport schemes.</p>	<p>The identification of bus stops is also an issue</p> <p><i>Link to other transport item above</i></p>	
<p><b>The Parish Council</b></p>	<p>The Parish Council to actively encourage public participation by attendance at Parish Council Meetings.</p> <p>Greater publicity to parish council matters to be given in the newsletter, and noticeboards.</p> <p>Publish minutes, decisions and planning applications on the Parish Council web site website.</p> <p>The web site to include news items from village hall groups.</p>	<p><i>Use emailing to encourage residents to attend.</i></p> <p><i>Greater use of web site</i></p>	