

SATTERTHWAITE PARISH COMMUNITY PLAN

Introduction

The aim of community planning is to improve the quality of life for people living in, working in or visiting the Parish. The Community Plan communicates a vision of how those who live and work in the parish want it to be, or to remain, over a period of time, taking into account the environmental, economic and social issues it faces. In particular, it considers how the quality of life within the Parish can be preserved and enhanced, and what actions need to be taken now to ensure the community survives a likely future of soaring food, heating and transport costs. It aims to identify the often complicated and conflicting issues which affect the area, and to bring the right people together to work out solutions which will make a difference.

Importantly, the plan takes a wide view of all of the issues affecting the area and looks ahead 10 or 20 years to identify the long term effect of what we do and plan to do. Some of the actions may need to be started straight away, whilst others might not be started for a few years.

The Plan has been produced on behalf of Satterthwaite Parish Council by a Working Party comprising Dr S. Tiplady, Mr D. Fletcher, and Mr D. Granville. The Working Party has tried to include all the issues identified in the workshop session, at the Rusland Show stall, and from the questionnaire distributed to every individual who lives or works in the parish.

The issue of this Community Plan is only the beginning of the project. The actions contained within it now need to be implemented, to ensure that our community grows and thrives in the coming years. This requires identifying:

- The things that should be done first and finding realistic ways to do them
- Agreeing who will do it, and how, and then checking whether it has been done.

Historical Notes

The name Satterthwaite is old Norse *saetre thveit* (summer clearing) and arises from a time when transhumance was practiced, sheep being brought from the lowland farms of Furness to pasture on the hills in summer. Over time, the summer farm became a permanent farm, which then grew into a small hamlet and village. Two other communities formed nearby, and these three townships of Satterthwaite, Grizedale and Graythwaite now form the Civil Parish of Satterthwaite.

The Parish covers a large area of land, extending from Coniston Water on the west to Windermere on the east, and lying between the Parishes of Hawkshead and Colton. Despite its size, its population is very small; there are 180 on the electoral roll.

The number of residents peaked in the middle years of the 19th century when Satterthwaite surprisingly had its own Industrial Revolution. Three large bobbin mills were built in the parish, and these, together with their associated coppicing, carting and coopering industries, swelled the population to over 500 people. In consequence, Satterthwaite became for a time a bustling place: shops opened, as did a public house called The Eagle's Head; the church had to be enlarged to accommodate the number of worshippers; a Parish Room (and later a Reading Room) was erected for their amusement; and, as there were over 150 children of school age, a large new school, with space for 100 pupils, was built.

How times have changed! Our school closed four years ago when it only had nine pupils and there was no prospect of improvement. All the shops have now gone. Our church and Parish Room are under threat because of lack of patrons and finance, as is our Recreation Ground. Our public house only opens three days a week in winter because there is insufficient demand. House prices are extremely high and well-paid jobs scarce, as only poorly paid, part-time jobs in the tourism industry are on offer. According to Government thinking, any community that has more than 20% of its housing stock as second homes and holiday cottages cannot survive. Our tally is now 50%.

However, all is not yet lost and hopefully this Community Plan will provide a series of actions that will ensure that our community grows and thrives in the coming decades.

Aims of the Plan

The development of the Community Plan has some broad aims. The Plan seeks to create:

- A community committed to protecting the landscape and the environment to maintain the distinctive character of the surrounding area whilst encouraging widespread responsible access
- A vibrant and supportive community in which people live, work and relax
- A community that promotes the use of renewable energy and has an infrastructure that enables people to conduct their lives easily
- A community that is the inspiration to others for sustainable parish development using the natural features of the environment

Developing the Parish Plan

In May 2008 elections were held for Satterthwaite Parish Council. One of the projects the new council was keen to pursue was a micro hydro-electric scheme at Farra Grain to the west of the village of Satterthwaite, to provide both local sustainable energy and a source of additional income for the community. As part of the application for grant funding, the Parish Council had to state what benefits the scheme would bring, including educational resources and the use to which any generated income would be put. Although the Council had its own ideas, it did not know whether they matched those of its wider community. In consequence, the Council decided to compile a Community Plan, so that all who had an interest in the community could have their say.

A Community Plan Working Party was formed comprising two Parish Councillors and the Clerk. The initial meeting also included Julia Wilson of ACT.

The first task was to obtain, from members of our community and organisations within the Parish, a good idea of what they saw as issues, to help the Working Party shape the questionnaire. This was achieved as far as possible through a Community Plan Workshop held on 13th July 2009 at Satterthwaite Parish Room, attended by 20 people. Notices about the workshop and its purpose were placed in the Rusland and Satterthwaite Newsletter and on parish notice boards; everyone who had an interest in our community was invited to attend. In addition, a personal e-mail or letter was sent to representatives of specific groups within the Parish, such as second-home owners, business operators and those running major tourism attractions. To facilitate discussion at the workshop, three scenarios were presented: a current situation, in which participants were asked whether they agreed that the scenario gave an accurate statement of the present state of our community; and then a 'good' and 'bad' scenario looking ten years into the future, asking what could be done to ensure the 'bad' one did not triumph.

[For a copy of the scenarios, please go to the council page on our website \[www.satterthwaite.org.uk\]\(http://www.satterthwaite.org.uk\), or request a copy from the Clerk.](http://www.satterthwaite.org.uk)

As about 85% of the land in our Parish is held by two estates – the Graythwaite Estate and the Grizedale Estate – separate meetings with representatives of both took place to ask about their future plans.

A stall was also taken at the local summer show at Rusland to explain about the Parish Plan. Visitors to the stall were asked the hypothetical question 'If the Parish Council had £1000, £10,000 and £50,000 to spend, what would they want the money spent upon within the parish'. They were asked to write their responses on Sticky Notes and place them on the display.

From these responses the Working Group produced a Community Plan Questionnaire to gain the views and ideas of all our residents, businesses, those who work here, and those who own second-homes and holiday

cottages. The questionnaire was designed to be completed by every person with an interest in the community, not just one per household or business. It consisted of 118 questions. People responded by either ticking or numbering boxes; all sections had a box for additional comments or ideas. This was printed in November 2009 and volunteers delivered it by hand to every property, business and workplace. Questionnaires were posted to second-home owners. A version that could be completed on-line was added to our community website. 68 questionnaires were returned.

[For a copy of the Questionnaire, please go to the council page on our website www.satterthwaite.org.uk](http://www.satterthwaite.org.uk), or request a copy from the Clerk.

An analysis of the data from the Questionnaire was presented to the Parish Council at its meeting held on 18th January 2010 at Graythwaite Hall. The respondents were 52% male and 48% female. All age groups from 18 to 75+ were covered, although the highest number of responses was from the 55-64 year-olds at 28%, and 45-54 year-olds at 26%, reflecting the age profile of the parish as a whole. Responses were obtained from all communities except Heald.

Most respondents were in full-time employment (48%), retired (20%), or in part-time employment (11%); less than 2% were unemployed. Of the 15 responses of those who lived here but travelled outside the parish to work, the average distance travelled was 18 miles and the maximum 60; of the 7 responses of people who worked here but lived elsewhere their daily commute was an average of 17 miles and a maximum of 37.

Most respondents lived permanently within the parish (75%), with 26% of respondents working here. 20% owned second-homes or holiday lets and 9% ran a business within the parish. Those who lived here permanently had done so for more than 20 years (33%), between 11 and 20 years (25%), or between 4 and 10 years (26%), showing the settled nature of our community.

Respondents were asked what they liked and disliked most about Satterthwaite. The majority liked the countryside and environment ((37), the peace and quiet (20), and the location (11). Also the friendliness (13), the people (10) and a good community (8) scored highly. The top five dislikes were all road related; poor roads (19), volume of traffic (10), roads in winter (7), flooded roads (5) and number of large vehicles using roads (5). The increase in visitor numbers (5), lack of local facilities (5), lack of a shop (5) and too much rain (5) were also high in the dislikes.

For the best use to put the sums of £1000, £10,000 and 50,000 if available, most respondents in each case favoured using the money for road maintenance and hedge cutting. Installing a hydro-electric turbine was also listed highly in all three sections. Other uses were mainly facility based; the provision of a shop, better equipment in the play area, provision of allotments, improvements to Satterthwaite Parish Room, and parking provision.

For a complete analysis of the results, please go to the council page on our website www.satterthwaite.org.uk, or request a copy from the Clerk.

The next stage was for the Working Party to prepare and issue a draft Community Plan using this data. The Plan was to be as succinct as possible and contain an action plan addressing the issues raised that the Parish Council and residents could enact. The aim was to make our community as sustainable as possible.

The draft Plan was presented for discussion at a series of workshops to ensure that our community was satisfied with our interpretation of the results and the ensuing Action Plan.

Responses and Action Plan

1) HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

The biggest problem identified by respondents was the poor state of the highways: flooding after heavy rain, potholes, poorly maintained verges, and lack of gritting in winter. 86% wanted a dedicated lengthsman for the parish.

- a) **Develop road improvement plan with Cumbria Highways**
- b) **Use the Local Area Partnership to ask for improvements**
- c) **Improve the use of the Highway Steward scheme so that it has more impact**
- d) **Raise finance to employ a dedicated part-time lengthsman**
- e) **Ask the Forestry Commission to clear roadside saplings**
- f) **Seek more grit boxes and produce a list of sites for grit heaps**
- g) **Ensure grit bins are filled at the start of each winter**
- h) **Maintain the priority 2 status of the Penny Bridge/Hawkshead road for gritting**

2) HOUSING

There is a lack of affordable housing for locals (84%), and too many second homes and holiday cottages (68%). These in turn lead to a lack of young families in our community. More than 60% of respondents wanted the Local Occupancy Clause (LOC) improved, and the creation of a house rental database and a building land database. 82% wanted to see more affordable homes for rent, and 66% for shared ownership, in both cases the majority as family homes.

- a) **Discuss improvements in the LOC with LDNPA Planners**
- b) **Lobby MP for a new use class for second homes so that planning permission is needed to change from permanent home.**
- c) **Create a database of houses for rent**
- d) **Create a database of suitable sites for Affordable Housing**
- e) **Identify housing need by bi-yearly housing surveys in conjunction with SLDC and Cumbria Rural Housing Trust**
- f) **Encourage property owners to rent to locals, not tourists**
- g) **Lobby the FC and government to prevent any further sales of houses owned by FC**
- h) **Ask for LOCs to be placed on all FC houses**
- i) **Investigate the possibility of constructing modern versions of Airey Houses (prefabs) at selected sites**

3) COMMUNICATIONS

There is poor coverage of mobile phone networks (74%) and broadband quality needs to be improved (54%). Many residents do not have a computer. Respondents used the Rusland and Satterthwaite Newsletter (75%), the notice board at Satterthwaite Parish Room (49%), the community website (26%) and the Esthwaite Link (20%) to find out what was going on in their community. Suggested improvements were a notice board at Grizedale (21%), a dedicated Parish Newsletter ((21%), and an e-mail alert scheme (18%).

- a) **Examine possibility of erecting small mobile repeater stations**
- b) **Lobby government and mobile providers for 3G coverage**
- c) **Discuss improvements to telephone exchange and fibreoptics**
- d) **Install a computer and internet connection in the Parish Room**
- e) **Arrange for basic how-to-use-a-computer evening classes**
- f) **Erect a parish notice board at Grizedale**
- g) **Produce a dedicated Parish Newsletter**
- h) **Set up an e-mail alert scheme for important news**
- i) **Relaunch the Neighbourhood Watch scheme**

4) RIGHTS OF WAY

Motorised vehicles are using bridleways and footpaths (72%). This is adding further damage to the rights of way network, the maintenance of which is already poor (55%).

- a) **Support the Colton initiative to improve dialogue with Cumbria Highways**
- b) **Use the Local Area Partnership to ask for improvements**
- c) **Specify standards of maintenance expected**
- d) **Create a Satterthwaite Volunteer Force to clear overgrown paths**
- e) **Work closely with the police and LDNPA in reporting violations**

5) TRANSPORT AND ROAD USE

General volumes of traffic are too high for the narrow roads in the parish (69%) and there has been a large increase in the use of them by coaches and lorries (61%). There is a problem with the availability (67%) and cost of public transport. Respondents (74%) would like better dialogue with the Forestry Commission in all aspects of forest use, tourism access to their Visitor Centre, and parking problems on the road at Grizedale, and 61% wanted restrictions on the size of vehicles allowed to use the roads. One respondent wanted the speed limit reduced to 20mph.

- a) **Ask FC to agree to a Community-Forestry Consultation Group**
- b) **Ensure FC has put in place its green travel plan**
- c) **Discuss problems of convoys of large coaches accessing Education Centre and Go Ape**
- d) **Discuss problems of on-road parking at Grizedale with FC**
- e) **Discuss creation of additional passing places along routes**
- f) **Lobby for an affordable Park and Ride scheme from Haverthwaite**
- g) **Changes and improvements to X30 bus service to make it usable by and useful to, locals, not just tourists**
- h) **Encourage visitors to park in car parks on parish boundary and walk or cycle to Visitor Centre. Enlarge parking if necessary.**
- i) **Aim to discourage car-bourne day trips in favour of longer stays**
- j) **Seek to prevent any additional car parks near Grizedale Visitor Centre**
- k) **Set up a car-sharing scheme for travel to Ulverston on market day, and to Hawkshead for groceries, newspapers and routine doctor's appointments**

- l) Seek size and/or weight restrictions for vehicles**
- m) Investigate setting up a car club**

6) ENVIRONMENT

Dry-stone walls along roads are not being repaired (63%), and there is an increase in litter and dog fouling (48%). Problems with domestic refuse collection were rated by 28% of respondents while 40% were concerned about the quality of water and sewage systems. One respondent complained about the increase in illegal camping and another wanted all electricity cables put underground. 28% of respondents wanted jackdaw numbers controlled. Directly employing a dry-stone waller for upkeep of walls found favour with 63% of those surveyed, and it was suggested that people should be encouraged to tidy up their own land.

- a) Raise funds to employ a dry-stone waller to maintain walls**
- b) Create a campaign to reiterate the dangers of dog fouling, especially near children's play areas**
- c) Establish a Community Volunteer Force to help clear litter**
- d) Lobby for making commercial holiday lets legally obliged to collect their refuse weekly**
- e) Ask the FC to provide and empty bins in all their car parks.**
- f) Set up report network to inform landowners about illegal camping**
- g) Work with FLD on undergrounding electric cables**
- h) Continue to press United Utilities and the Environment Agency for a solution to leakage from the Satterthwaite sewage system**
- i) Work with the FC to control jackdaw numbers**

7) EMPLOYMENT

Concerns were raised about the availability of full time, well-paid employment (56%) and the availability of suitable buildings for business use (34%). Additional buildings for business use were favoured by 59% who wanted small units created (52%) and larger units (7%) created; 15% did not want to see any additional business premises. 11% of respondents would like to run a business or work from home but were prevented by start-up costs and a lack of premises.

- a) Seek to prevent barns and workshops being converted to dwellings**
- b) Create a database of redundant barns for business conversion**
- c) Seek improvements in broadband speeds and access**
- d) Provide information and contact details for business start-up grants, or provide grants if funding available**

7) COMMUNITY

59% of respondents believed the lack of a shop to be a problem, while 57% had a problem with a lack of parking within housing clusters. In addition the lack of a school (41%) and the erosion of community activities (40%) were identified as problems. Two respondents had problems with late night noise from the Eagle's Head Inn. Installing a hydro-electric turbine to provide money for community use found favour with 65% of respondents, and 56% wanted

the parish to financially benefit from hosting large mountain biking and orienteering events. The establishment of a local shop (70%) and a facility for exchanging goods (fruit & vegetables, CDs, books etc) (64%) were suggested as improvements. Respondents believed that a grant should be given by the Parish Council to maintain the Recreation Area (93%), Satterthwaite Parish Room (86%), Satterthwaite Burial Ground (76%), Satterthwaite Church (64%) and community clubs and societies (66%). 74% believed that the community spirit in Satterthwaite was either good or okay.

- a) Set up a monthly trading/exchange scheme at the Parish Room**
- b) Investigate the feasibility of creating a car park in Satterthwaite**
- c) Ensure continued availability of hour-long residents' parking in Hawkshead**
- d) Discuss a community 'usage fee' for large events with the FC**
- e) Raise finance to set up a community shop in the Parish Room or other suitable building**
- f) Set up a Parish Council grant scheme**

8) SUSTAINABILITY

Respondents agreed with the installation of a micro-hydroelectric scheme to provide sustainable energy ((81%) and providing allotments for people to grow food for their own use and for sale (79%).

- a) Continue with hydro-electric scheme to provide sustainable energy**
- b) Investigate use of recreation area for allotments**
- c) Discuss with landowners possible rental of land for allotments**
- d) Look to set up joint purchasing by residents of oil/LPG to reduce unit cost and minimise delivery miles**
- e) Set up a car-sharing scheme for travel to Ulverston on market day, and to Hawkshead for groceries, newspapers and routine doctor's appointments**

9) SERVICES AND SKILLS

Respondents wanted local people with skills to use them for the benefit of the parish (77%), and asked for a database of these to be set up (69%). Traditional skills, such as walling, should be taught (72%). The service most used by respondents was the public house (71%), followed by Grizedale Café (53%), Grizedale Mountain Bike Shop (28%) and Bob Fletcher Art Gallery (24%), although most use was on an occasional basis. Only 7% of respondents had used the X30 seasonal bus service. When asked what services respondents would like to see, suggestions ranged from a local shop and post office, petrol station, doctor's surgery, window cleaning, chimney sweep, mobile library and transport for old people.

- a) Look to set up training courses for local skills**
- b) Create a database of skills held by members of the community**
- c) Changes and improvements to X30 bus service to make it usable by and useful to, locals, not just tourists**

- d) Set up a local cooperative shop and post office if funding available**
- e) See whether Satterthwaite Parish Room could have a doctor's room installed for pre-booked once-a-fortnight consultations, if doctors are willing to do so**
- f) Investigate use of new library scheme in which books can be ordered and delivered to homes by Royal Mail**

10) GOVERNANCE

The Parish Council was seen as good (43%) or okay (32%), while 18% didn't know. Respondents felt that the Council did not have enough influence over service providers (31%) or thought the lack of feedback about planning applications a problem (29%). When asked what percentage increase in precept they would be prepared to accept to enact the policies contained in the Parish Plan, most respondents decided against any increase.

- a) Create a Community Organisation to run hydro scheme and associated community development projects**
- b) Clarify the role and responsibilities of different community groups**
- c) Create a Community Emergency Plan to respond to unusual events to protect the community e.g. floods, forest fires**
- d) Create standards stating what people are prepared to accept and not accept**
- e) Establish contacts with service providers that specify minimum standards**
- f) Create a Vision for the Parish**
- g) Use the LAP to have a stronger voice on issues**
- h) Ensure that people know who their councillors are and how to contact them**
- i) Improve council page on website by adding photographs and some details about councillors**
- j) Encourage people to stand for election**
- k) Approach people from under-represented areas of the Parish to stand for election, or agree to be co-opted**
- l) Ask the LDNPA to provide better feedback on Planning Application decisions**
- m) Seek community volunteers to join Working Parties to share the community workload**
- n) Set up Community Plan Action Group**