

Caldbeck Parish Plan



2005-2015

Map Pic

Caldbeck Parish Plan 2005-2015



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Introduction



The Government Rural White Paper 'Our countryside, the future', published in 2000 states "...*Parish Plans are an important step in helping local rural communities to take charge of their own destinies and also an opportunity to strengthen the first, and most local form of government we have in this country*"



Farming

Parish Plans have no statutory powers – their strength lies in the fact that they represent the majority opinion in a community. They provide a positive mandate for policy and decision making by Parish Councils and other local bodies. Increasingly grant-funding agencies look for evidence of local demand provided in Parish Plans before releasing funds for projects. They can be used to make a case that demonstrably reflects local opinion at public enquiries, to planning authorities, and to other tiers of government.

Caldbeck embarked on its own Parish Plan following a vote in favour from those present at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th May 2004. A group of Parish residents met to agree an approach and produce a questionnaire. The average return for such questionnaires is around forty percent. In Caldbeck Parish the return was quite exceptional at over sixty percent! The results were then analysed and this Parish Plan written.



Market

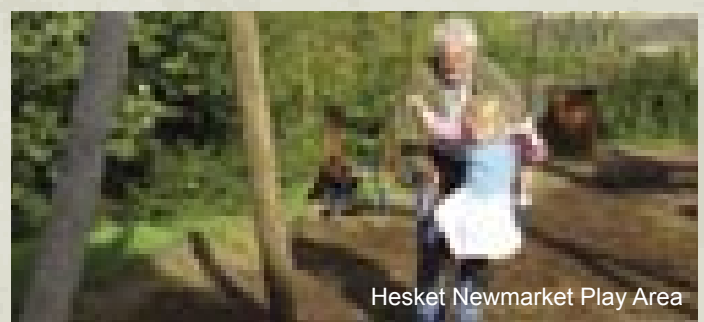
Funding for the production of the plan and carrying out the housing needs survey has been provided by the Countryside Agency, the Lake District National Park Sustainable Development Fund and Cumbria Community Foundation Allerdale Neighbourhood Renewable Community Learning Chest, with a small percentage from Caldbeck Parish Council. The major part of our contribution has been the hard work of the team of residents who have toiled to bring the plan to fruition, to whom thanks and praise are due.



Caldbeck Methodist Church

The Plan should be viewed as a living document, not a once-and-for-all statement of needs. The actions, which reflect perceived needs for ten years ahead, will be reviewed annually by the Parish Council. It should also be understood that good ideas will not be put aside just because they are not included in the Plan. Change is inevitable; the Parish is very different from what it was ten and twenty years ago, and it will continue to change in the future – to pretend otherwise, or to try to stop change happening, is to deny reality. The Parish Plan gives us the potential to direct future change in a way that best meets the wishes of those who live and work here.

The Plan is intended solely to benefit our community, so your feedback is important. When you have read it please let us know what you think. You can leave your comments in the boxes provided in the local post offices, or they can be given or sent to any Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk.



Hesket Newmarket Play Area

Background



Caldbeck Parish lies at the foot of the Northern Fells. Carrock Fell, High Pike and Longlands overlook it with the peak of Skiddaw sometimes visible beyond. It stretches from High Intack in the west to Haltcliff Bridge in the east and from the north at Blue Gate to the south at Linewath. Caldbeck Parish is within the jurisdiction of Allerdale Borough Council and most of it, only excluding a small section north of the village of Caldbeck, lies within the Lake District National Park.

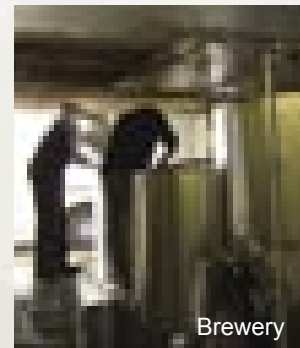
The early history of the Parish is largely unknown or is still the subject of debate. It is undisputed that the area was covered by Inglewood Forest, the King's Forest, described as "... a wild forest and desolate waste.....the resort of dangerous outlaws who frequently assailed travellers." This was the reason that Ranulf, chief forester of Inglewood, granted to the Prior of Carlisle licence to build a 'hospital' for the relief and protection of benighted travellers. The Prior enclosed enough land to build the hospital and later a church and the village grew round this centre.

Hesket Newmarket were mining as well as farming villages. All the mines are now closed, Sandbeds being the last in production until 1966.

Watermills, taking advantage of the fast flowing beck and rivers of Caldbeck, were another source of employment. The earliest mills were corn mills dating from the seventeenth century but during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the number increased to eight or more. Some were part of the woollen trade and there was also a large paper mill and an even bigger bobbin mill.



Priests Mill



Brewery

Brewing was another Caldbeck industry and during the nineteenth century there were at least ten public houses or ale houses in the Parish. Now there are only two, one in each village, and a co-operatively owned brewery thrives in Hesket Newmarket.

The most enduring industry is of course agriculture. Farms were carved out of the forest, or sited on drier ground on the slopes of the fells. Families, who have been in the Parish for generations working on the land and caring for their stock, give the area stability and continuity that is one of the fundamental attractions to those who love this place. It is more than the beauty of the landscape; it is the sense of community, which can only be felt when people stay and work with their neighbours and the environment. The farming families have always done this and they are still the backbone of the community today.



Caldbeck Parish Church

Caldbeck Parish is now a beautiful and quiet rural area. It is popular with tourists, walkers and cyclists and is a very desirable place to live and bring up children, or to retire to from more crowded urban districts. It is difficult to believe that it once was one of the most industrialised parts of England.

The wealth of minerals found in the northern fells – lead ore, sometimes containing silver, copper, zinc, manganese, iron pyrites and others – meant that the Caldbeck fells were perforated with mines. This brought prosperity, especially in the seventeenth century when Caldbeck and the Caldbeck fells were described as "worth all England else". The villages of Caldbeck and



Farming

Each of the two villages has a shop with Post Office. These support a number of other local businesses by retailing their goods. Parish clubs and societies distribute tickets and information through the shops, including the Parish Magazine, and people frequently use them to place sponsorship lists for charitable endeavours. The shops are the principal centres of daily casual social contact that keeps the community together. In short they, along with the local pubs, are the hub of the community.

The population of the Parish was 714 at the time of the 2001 census, just over half being between the ages of 25 and 64 and the rest being almost equally divided between the older and younger age groups.

All ages benefit from the valued medical service provided at the surgery in Caldbeck. There is a volunteer car service that takes people to hospital or dental appointments and the minibus belonging to the Northern Fells Group can also be used. A First Responders Group is in operation and Meals on Wheels are provided for those who need it. The Northern Fells Lend-a-Hand Group, in partnership with the British Red Cross, provides help for people who are ill or disabled and their carers.

There are three churches in the Parish: the Parish Church of St. Kentigern, Caldbeck Methodist Church and Heskett Newmarket Free Church. The three congregations support each other in various ways. Children have their own clubs as well as Sunday School, Club X for juniors meets weekly after school, and Discovery Club for all primary aged children meets once a month.

Children in Caldbeck Parish are also fortunate in having a village school: Fellview School, with 98 pupils aged between 3 and 11, gives regular reports of the achievements, activities and outings enjoyed by the pupils. An Out-of-School Club organises games and other activities for any who want to join in from after school till six o'clock. The school field is well used after school and at weekends. For younger children there is a play area in Heskett Newmarket.

In addition to farming there is a wide range of employment represented in the Parish. There are forty-

eight businesses listed in the Parish Magazine, several of them in the tourist industry. Others are self-employed working from home, and about three hundred are in jobs – mostly outside the Parish – fewer than twenty within the Parish boundary. With over a hundred retired from various careers the Parish has a wealth of expertise and experience to draw on for all the activities that take place.



Caldbeck School

For those who are willing to join in there are clubs and societies to suit most tastes, from cricket to the W.I. and from local history to gardening. These events provide opportunities for everyone to meet and share their skills and knowledge. This variety of backgrounds and experience makes an interesting and vibrant community. A good deal of fund raising is organised for needs in the Parish and for further afield and these occasions are generously supported.



Village Pub

General Information



Heskett Newmarket Village

Q1 In which part of Caldbeck Parish do you live?

As expected, a majority of respondents live in the two main villages, Caldbeck and Heskett Newmarket. Distribution is represented below:



Q2 Is this your main place of residence?

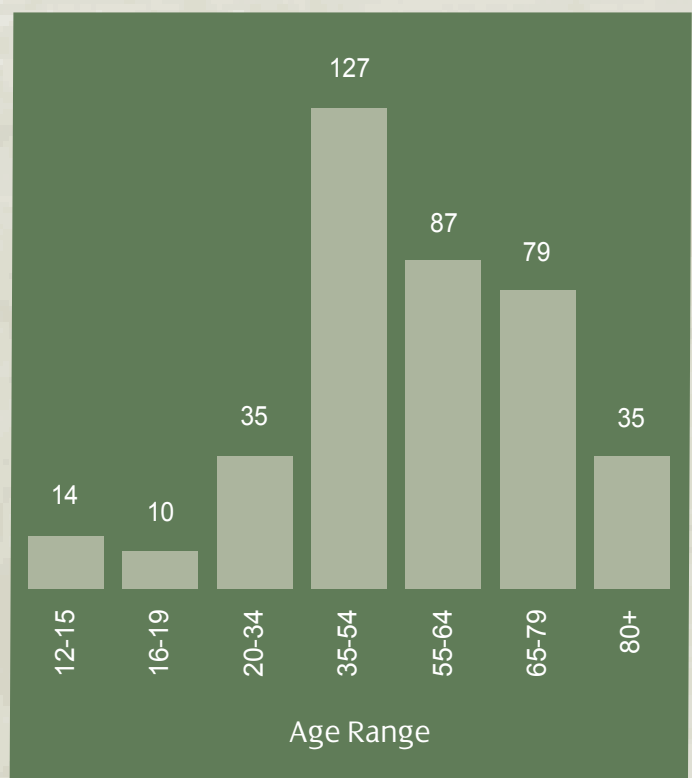
380 (99%) of respondents answered 'yes' to this question, with 5 saying 'no' and two not responding. This means the survey truly represents the views of local people, whilst the perspective of second-home owners is not totally absent.

Q3 Gender

206 (54%) respondents are female and 178 (46%) male. Three are not saying. The 2001 census showed that 52% of the population is female and 48% male.

Q4 Which age group are you in?

Age groups are represented below:



Village Services & Environment

Q5a How important do you think it is that we preserve the following facilities and amenities?

	Very Important	Fairly Important	Not Important
Free Car Parking	74%	23%	3%
Village Shop	98.5%	1%	0.5%
Village Post Office	96%	3%	1%
Local Pubs	82%	16%	2%
Public Telephones	71%	24%	5%
Buses to main towns	74%	22%	4%
Community Bus and volunteer car service	80%	18%	2%
Doctors' surgery	98%	2%	0%
Mobile Library	47%	44%	9%
Public Toilet (Caldbeck)	67%	28%	5%
Allotments (Hesket)	40%	40%	20%
Areas without street lighting	33%	34%	33%



Village Shop

Straight away it is clear that some things have overwhelming support. These are:

- Village shops
- Doctors' surgery
- Village Post Offices
- Public telephones
- Local pubs
- Community bus & volunteer car service

In a remote rural location, and one with a strong sense of community, none of this is surprising. Other responses bear closer inspection.



Caldbeck Surgery

Free car parking is an amenity used less by residents than by visitors so, although 97% believe it should be maintained, 23% do not feel strongly about it. Opinion about the Public Toilet in Caldbeck, another facility used more by visitors than residents, attracts a similar level of support.

The Mobile Library visits the area during the working day, so the majority of people of working age might not be expected to feel strongly one way or another. Younger people probably have ready access to library facilities whilst at school or college. Closer analysis of the result confirms this. The Mobile Library is seen as Very Important by 21% of people between 12 and 19, 38% of those between 20 and 54, 53% of those between 55 and 64, and 61% of people over 65.

Buses to main towns are seen as Very Important by those who use them, but few do; only 32 people (8%) say they use the bus once or more per month. However, 96% regard the continuation of a bus service to be either Very Important or Fairly Important, recognising some people's dependence on it in a rural area.

It would be expected that the allotments at Hesket Newmarket would be more important to people who live there than to those living elsewhere. The figures bear this out. 66% of Hesket Newmarket residents regard them



as Very Important, and a further 29% as Fairly Important. Elsewhere only 27% regard them as Very Important.

A similar pattern might be anticipated with street lighting. Many people who live in the darker areas value the absence of 'light pollution', and the consequent clear views of the night sky. The figures support this supposition but not strongly. Generally speaking those in dark areas are a little more supportive of maintaining that position than those in light areas. In Haltcliff, Nether Row, Potts Gill, Park End, Whelpo, and Outlying Areas 83% feel it is Very Important or Fairly Important to maintain these dark areas.



Wedding Tradition

Q5c Did you know that banking services are available at the village Post Office?

Banking services were gradually withdrawn from rural locations over a number of years; both Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket had part-time banking 'offices' in the not-too-distant past. More recently some of the major banks have acknowledged that basic services, such as cheque deposits and cash withdrawals, can be offered through agencies other than bank branches. Accordingly the village Post Offices now offer these services for customers of those banks.

Advertising appears to have been effective as 86% of people said they were aware of this.

Q5b Is there anything else you think it is important to preserve?



Parish Hall

People's pride in their Parish came to the fore in their answers to this question. There were more than 40 suggestions for what was thought worth preserving, from the Howk to the school bus service, and from the character of buildings to the traditions associated with local weddings. The following are the most frequently mentioned:

- Local school
- Parish Hall
- Sports facilities – bowling, cricket, tennis, football
- Duck pond and surrounding area, and in Hesket Newmarket, a duck-free pond
- Village greens, open spaces, grass verges
- Play areas
- The rural character of the villages, and the conservation areas
- Maintaining a core of 'local' people through such things as affordable housing and limiting holiday properties
- Well-maintained church-yard
- Litter bins and recycling bins

Q5d How often do you use public buses to local towns

In a remote area a car is seen as essential and car use will always be high. Where bus services are infrequent and inconvenient, and most people have use of a car, and volunteer minibus and car services are provided, use of public buses, whilst vital to some, is unlikely to be high. At present only 4% use the bus once or more per week, and a further 5% once or more per month. All of those who do also feel that continuation of the service is Very Important (See Q5a).



Bus

It is difficult to know whether there is a latent demand which could be tapped by improved scheduling. However, the 2001 census reveals that 5 people in the Parish travel to work by public transport whilst 192 do so by car, van or motor cycle. The average distance travelled by all these workers is 18 miles, showing that conveniently timetabled buses should have a potential customer base in the Parish.

Q6 Do you see a need for any of the following amenities?

- **Out-of-hours surgery opening**

Caldbeck surgery is currently open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 6:00pm, with consulting hours from 08:30am to 11:00am and 4:00pm to 6:00pm. It is closed Saturdays and Sundays and one day each month for training purposes.

30% felt a strong need for out-of-hours opening, and a further 48% a moderate need. The demand is age-related. Up to age 35 about 20% see a strong need. From 35 to 65 this is around 28%, from 65 to 80 33% and over 80s 46%.

- **Additional car parking**

There is a useful-sized car park in Caldbeck, plus a small parking area near to the school and Parish Hall, and a small one in Hesket Newmarket. The Oddfellows Inn, Priests Mill, and The Smithy have their own customer car parks. Otherwise parking is generally at the kerbside.



Kerbside Parking in Hesket Newmarket

Overall only 17% felt a strong need for additional parking, and 39% a moderate need. However, in Hesket Newmarket, and in Outlying Areas, 27% expressed a strong need.

- **Double Yellow Lines**

These are rarely welcomed in rural villages, even where people complain about street parking, and can result in a reduction in trade for local shops and businesses. This is confirmed by the survey, in which only 10% see a strong need, 10% a moderate need, and 80% no need for them.

- **Public toilet in Hesket Newmarket**

Overall 35% see a strong need for this, and 44% a moderate need. For reasons that are not clear the strongest need for this is expressed by residents of Nether Row, Potts Gill and Outlying Areas. The demand in Hesket Newmarket, 39% strong need and 29% moderate need, is roughly in line with the average for the whole Parish. Indeed, the number in Hesket Newmarket who see no need, at 32%, is rather higher than the Parish average of 21%.



signposting Village Amenities

- **Better signposting for village amenities**

Only 16% see a strong need for this, and 42% a moderate need. Closer analysis does not reveal any particular 'hot spots'. It therefore appears that existing signage is seen to be largely adequate. Several people regretted what they see as an over-abundance of signs in the Parish.

• Secure Cycle Parking

The Parish is on the Reivers Route and close to the C2C. These two coast-to-coast cycle routes are heavily used, especially in the summer months. Many cyclists thus pass through the villages, and a substantial number use the tea room, pubs, shops, and B&Bs. There are currently no cycle-specific parking facilities in the Parish.

17% see a strong need for secure cycle parking, and 47% a moderate need. This is equally true whether people live within or outside village locations. The exception is those in Outlying Areas, of whom 28% see a strong need, and 45% a moderate need.

Q7 Are there any other improvements or additions you consider important?

There were a similar number of responses to this question as there were to Q5b. The three most frequent suggestions are all related to transport and parking:

- Improved bus services, including Saturday mornings
- Traffic calming through Upton
- Prevention of pavement parking

Several other suggestions were moderately well-supported:

- More-convenient recycling centre, to include plastic
- A play area for Caldbeck
- Better sited and signposted public toilets
- Road behind Heskett Green to be one-way and access only
- Better street lighting
- Cut grass verges (also don't cut grass verges)
- Maintenance of road signs, and signs for Cumbrian Way



Q8 Are there any other health-related services that you think are needed?

The most frequent response by far is for a chiroprapist. Twice as many people mentioned this as the next most popular need, which was for a dentist. Others felt a need for some forms of alternative medicine, physiotherapy, and blood-donor sessions. Ideas suggested by only one or two people, but none the worse for that, include weight-watchers, no smoking in pubs, well-man clinic, and confidential access to medical advice for children.

What Next?

Parish Council Aims

- Promote the preservation of important facilities and amenities such as village shops and post offices and the community bus.
- Consult locally and work with County Council and transport providers to provide bus services at convenient times
- Investigate the provision of public WCs, including disabled, in Heskett Newmarket and Caldbeck, and improve signposting to the existing WC in Caldbeck
- Consider traffic-calming options through Upton and behind Heskett Newmarket Green
- Discuss with the Surgery the potential for the provision of chiropody services

What can you do?

- Use the mobile library
- Use the banking and other facilities offered by the local post offices
- Use the buses
- Be considerate when parking your car, and especially avoid mounting the pavement

Public Footpaths & Access Land

Q9 Would you like to see safe footways alongside some roads in the Parish, and if yes, where would you like to see them?

Pedestrians in rural areas generally accept as a fact of life that they share the roads with vehicles. However, no less than 65% of respondents highlighted a demand for a safe footway in the Parish. This clearly indicates a strongly-felt need, which is confirmed by the response to the second part of the question. Of 200 suggestions a massive 173 were for a safe footway along Heskett Lonning between Caldbeck and Heskett Newmarket. This winding road, barely wide enough for two cars to pass, and with a complete absence of verges along most stretches, is notoriously tricky both for pedestrians and cyclists. There are many reports of near misses, and the low numbers of accidents can be attributed to a general reluctance to make the journey on foot. In this sense it can be regarded not so much as a road connecting the two parts of the Parish, as a road separating them.



Other suggestions were Caldbeck centre to Ratten Row, Caldbeck to Whelpo, and Heskett Newmarket to Howbeck.

Q10 Should more information about the Country Code be made available to visitors, and if so, how?

57% of people thought it might be helpful to make information of this kind available for visitors.

The most popular suggestion (76 people) for how to make this available was on notice boards in villages or at the start of footpaths. Pubs, shops and cafes were also

suggested by 47 people. Many thought leaflets in holiday cottages, B&Bs and pubs were a good idea. Finally car parks were suggested as good places to post notices.

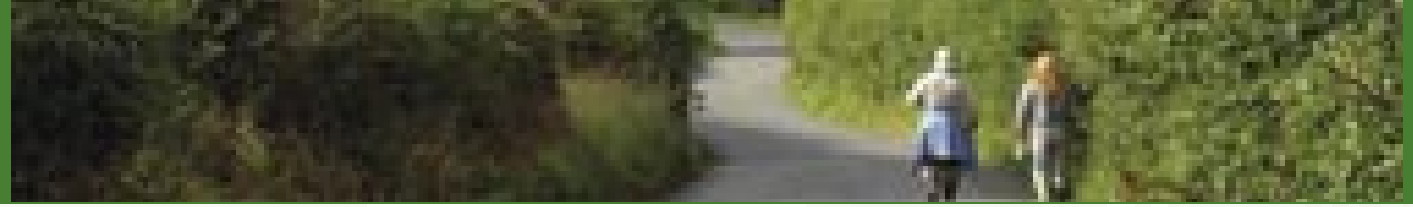
In addition to these there were a several ideas mentioned by individuals only, including making notices permanent (not on paper), warning of the dangers of dogs in fields with cows, and making people aware of horses.

Q11a Are you satisfied with the present care and maintenance of the village greens?

Overall the level of satisfaction is high, with 83% being satisfied with the greens in Caldbeck, and 92% satisfied with those at Heskett Newmarket. Closer examination reveals that 76% of Caldbeck village residents are satisfied with Caldbeck greens, whilst 91% of people living elsewhere are satisfied with them. By comparison 87% of Heskett Newmarket residents are satisfied with Heskett Newmarket greens, as are 94% of those living elsewhere.

Heskett Newmarket front green is in the centre of the village, and is cut regularly throughout the growing season. The back green is cut twice a year. The green between Heskett Newmarket and Howbeck has traditionally been grazed by cows, and not cut, and is rich in orchids and other wild flowers. In recent years the grazing has largely fallen away, and soft rush (locally called seeves) is becoming the dominant species. With a view to checking its spread this green has been cut once in each of the past two years, in September, after any wild flowers have seeded.





Caldbeck Green is essentially the area surrounding and to the north of the village pond. This is also available to graziers as it is part of Caldbeck Commons, but has had little grazing in recent years, and that only by sheep. It is cut once each year in late July or August after the early summer flowers have seeded. This mode of management, whilst favouring the wildlife value of the green, is not everyone's preferred option. Some would prefer a more 'managed' approach, especially around the pond.

Q11b If you answered no to Q11a what in your view could be done to improve them?

The most popular suggestion, supported by 31 people, was for more-frequent cutting. Others, however, wanted the greens left to naturalise, and to allow wild flowers to seed. Seven people suggested Caldbeck pond should be landscaped and better maintained with footpaths – there may be the germ of a compromise here with the pond and adjacent area being managed and other parts of the green being more natural.



Caldbeck Green

Eleven wanted better drainage, both of Heskett Newmarket Back Green and Caldbeck Green.

Some wanted more car parking, others wanted no cars parked.

Some wanted more grazing, others wanted stock kept off. (As it is part of the Common, over which graziers have rights, residents have no influence over this in any case.)

Other ideas include:

- Improvements for ball games and picnics (Caldbeck)
- Play area (Caldbeck)
- Provide more litter bins
- Provide more seats (Caldbeck)
- Remove the road between Heskett Newmarket Free Church and Denton House

Q12a Would you support the following initiatives to improve appearance, convenience or safety?



Overhead Cables - Heskett Lonning

Putting the telephone cables between Caldbeck and Heskett Newmarket underground

Friends of The Lake District have given a strong lead in recent years to putting electricity cables underground in villages. The telephone cables alongside Heskett Lonning are thick, black and ugly. 82% of respondents would support putting them underground, 34% strongly.

Making a safe cycle-way between Caldbeck and Heskett Newmarket

The need for this is also highlighted in Q9. Overall 84% of people would support this suggestion, 57% of them strongly.

Improving highway maintenance

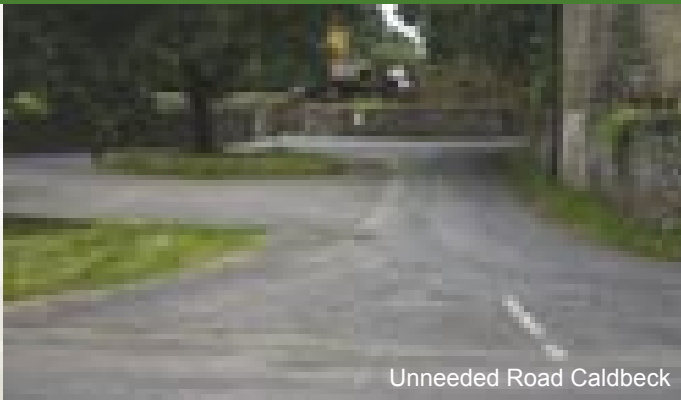
Budgets for road repairs are always stretched. There is a perception that major roads are favoured over rural roads. Consequently rough, corrugated surfaces and potholes are the norm rather than the exception on our local roads. 78% of people strongly support the suggestion that highway maintenance should be improved, and a further 18% support it, but not strongly.

Gritting all main routes

By 'main routes' are meant the road from the B5305 to Uldale, passing through Hesket Newmarket and Caldbeck, the B5299 from Caldbeck to Welton, and the road from Blue Gate at the top of Ratten Row to Red Dial.

Support for this suggestion is particularly strong, emphasising once again people's reliance on their motor cars in rural areas. 97% of people supported this, 84% of them strongly.

Q12b Is there anything you think could be done to improve the appearance, convenience or safety of the area?



Almost 100 people responded to this invitation to suggest improvements. There were no fewer than 55 different ideas put forward. No one idea was suggested by more than five people, with a majority being mentioned only once or twice. So there clearly is no one big beef that is of general concern, although there is one main theme. The largest number of suggestions relate to roads and verges, footways, traffic and parking. The following is a summary of these concerns:

- The safety of the road between Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket, especially for pedestrians and cyclists;
- Mud (and worse!) on roads;
- Road flooding/drainage;
- Resurfacing of footways and roads, and filling potholes;
- Attention to gritting and snow clearance;
- Roadside parking, especially pavement parking and double parking (outside shops and the Parish Hall in Caldbeck, outside the Old Crown and Free Church in

Hesket Newmarket);

- Speeding;
- Visual impact of road signs;
- Restricting traffic or closing 'unneeded' roads such as north side of the Oddfellows, north side of Hesket Newmarket, triangle by the Map Shop.



Additionally there were twenty suggestions with no unifying theme, including:

- water for the allotments (Hesket Newmarket);
- bus shelter (Caldbeck);
- improved reliability of electricity supply;
- prune trees beneath overhead cables;
- improve surface of the footpath between Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket via Parsons Park and Waters Meeting;
- a curb on 'modern' housing;
- more post boxes;
- field signs to warn of dangerous animals;
- a village hall for Hesket Newmarket.

Q13a Are any of the following a problem in your part of the Parish?

What might appear to be a problem in one part of the Parish may not be evident in another. Where this is the case the locations where problems are apparent are given alongside the response. In each case the first figure given is the total number giving that response.

Dog Fouling

Serious problem	77 (Caldbeck 55 Hesket Newmarket 16)
Bit of a problem	129 (Caldbeck 74 Hesket Newmarket 33)
Not a problem	158

The problem here is clearly seen to be in the two main centres of population. Recent attempts to control this have been made by arranging visits by the dog warden, and providing free 'doggy poo' bags in the local shops.

Fly Tipping

Serious problem	20 (Caldbeck 9, Outlying areas 9)
Bit of a problem	57 (Caldbeck 31, Outlying areas 6)
Not a problem	260

Whilst the numbers are the same, this represents fewer than 6% of Caldbeck respondents who see this as a serious problem, but 31% of those in outlying areas. This is not altogether a surprise, as fly tipping tends to be more of a problem in out-of-the-way places.

Agricultural Waste

Serious problem	18
Bit of a problem	67
Not a problem	255

In an area whose principal, and most visible, activity is farming it is almost inevitable that there will be some agricultural waste some of the time. Fewer than 5% of the population consider it a serious problem, but 22% see it as either a serious problem or a bit of a problem. Responses were more or less evenly distributed, so no hot-spots were highlighted. A sizeable minority see scope for farmers to be tidier.

Litter

Serious problem	44 (Outlying 7)
Bit of a problem	154 (Outlying 15, Haltcliff 12)
Not a problem	161

Overall between 7% and 15% see litter as a serious problem. Between 35% and 60% see it as either a serious problem or a bit of a problem. However, it is seen as a serious problem by 24% of people in outlying areas, and either a serious problem or a bit of a problem by no fewer than 76% of people in these areas, and 67% in Haltcliff.

There is room for improvement throughout the Parish, but the problem appears to be greatest where visitors camp, use campervans, and stop to have picnics.

Q13b What other problems do you think there are in the Parish?

Few problems were mentioned, and none more than once. All but seven repeat that there is a problem with dog fouling, litter or fly tipping, whilst others are dealt with in other parts of the questionnaire. Problems such as window boxes being nibbled by sheep are part and parcel of living here.

Q14 Do you think there are enough litterbins in the Parish?

A straightforward question. 240 say yes, 120 say no, 27 aren't saying.

About thirty locations were suggested for new bins, with three being particularly well supported, namely Heskett Newmarket car park, near the school, and Caldbeck car park.

What Next?

Parish Council Aims

It is pleasing to note that, other than the road between Caldbeck and Heskett Newmarket, there are no major areas of dissatisfaction in the Parish. Nonetheless, there are improvements that can usefully be made:

- Work with the appropriate agencies to provide a safe footpath & cycleway between Caldbeck and Heskett Newmarket and use the opportunity to put the adjacent telephone cables underground
- Promote the provision of information to visitors about the Country Code, via leaflets in shops and B&Bs and discrete signage on main footpaths.

- Consider options for the management and maintenance of Caldbeck pond and green
- Press for winter gritting of main through routes
- Encourage vigilance of road conditions and use of Highways Hotline by residents
- Take action on the suggestions put forward in Question 12b where practicable and as opportunity arises
- Continue to work with the dog warden and Allerdale Borough Council to minimise dog fouling, fly tipping and other forms of waste and litter

What can you do?

- Be a responsible dog-owner and clean up after your dog
- Farmers: try to minimise the amount of mud left on the roads, and be responsible in disposing of agricultural waste
- Pick up litter, and if you let people camp on your land encourage them to be tidy
- If you see highway problems, such as potholes, damaged signposts, defective street lighting, report them to the Highways Hotline.



Clubs, Organisations & Community Support

Q15 What new sports facilities would you like to see?

86 people responded with around thirty ideas, not all of which were entirely serious! (Men's club in the Howk?) Of those that were, the best supported was for some sort of gymnasium or gym equipment. There is also a demand for a full-sized football pitch, preferably with changing facilities, in a convenient location. A fair number would like a swimming pool.



Sport

There is a need for better advertising of some existing facilities, as three people suggested table-tennis, which is available now in the Parish Hall. Others may prove possible for those wanting them, or in some cases parents, to organise for themselves. Ideas that fall into this category include a running club, mountain biking club, archery, chess, boules, basket-ball hoops, Brownies and Guides, football for 8-9 year-olds, and activities for 5-11 year-olds.

Other ideas do not lack ambition, such as a ski slope, leisure centre, and golf course.

Q16 What improvements would you suggest to childcare facilities?

Of twelve people who responded to this question a majority were concerned with childminding, suggesting courses for at-home mothers to care for children of working mothers, nursery or crèche facilities, and more registered child-minders. Several supported a play area in Caldbeck.

Q17 What adult education classes would you attend or support?

The response reveals a healthy appetite for adult education. The 186 people who said they would attend classes made 274 suggestions for courses between them! These were some of the most-requested:

- 60 were for IT-related skills;
- 51 for foreign languages, French, Spanish, Italian and German being best supported;
- 24 wanted yoga or fitness classes;
- 19 were interested in history, local or otherwise;
- 14 aspire to be cooks;
- 11 wanted craft classes.

Others with a fair demand include literature, art, music and photography.

Classes organised in Hesket Newmarket in recent years have always been well supported, in subjects ranging from Indian cuisine to vernacular architecture, and from Cumbria in the Dark Ages to philosophy. There seems to be a good chance of success for anyone willing to organise classes in virtually anything.

Q18 Would you use Meals-on-Wheels?

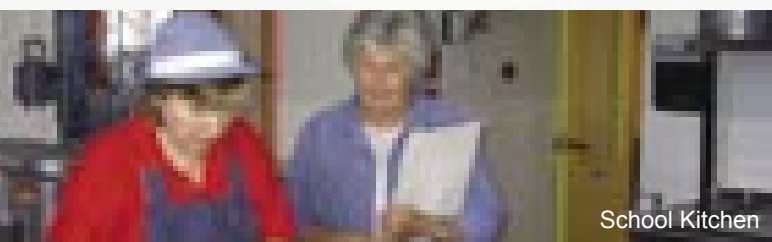
A Meals-on-Wheels service has been operating in the Parish for many years. It is available to anyone experiencing temporary or long-term difficulty due to such things as disability, recuperation from illness or injury, or old age; where receiving a lunch three times a week might make it easier for them to stay in their own homes. People are usually referred through the surgery or nurse. In remote areas Meals-on-Wheels has a social dimension which can be valued at least as much as the food itself. There are occasions when this might be the only human contact a person has that day. Also see Q19 below. Of 338 who responded to this question 158 said they would use Meals-on-Wheels.



Meals On Wheels

Q19 If the County Council no longer supported the school kitchen should it still be kept open?

There is overwhelming support for keeping the kitchen open, with 94% of people saying yes. The simple choice is between fresh food, freshly prepared on the one hand and pre-packaged meals or packed lunches on the other. It should also be noted that Meals-on-Wheels lunches are also freshly prepared in the school kitchen, so its loss would have a knock-on effect beyond the school.



Q20 What information about, and contact with, the police would you like to see?

- Three quarters of all respondents would like to have some form of contact with our local officer.
 - 67% agreed that it would be useful to have telephone numbers for local contact.
 - 64% said they would like to see an officer patrolling the village areas
 - 60% would support a Neighbourhood Watch scheme ...
 - ... and 58% would support a Farm Watch scheme
- These percentages generally hold true for all parts of the Parish, except for Farm Watch, which unsurprisingly was supported by 74% of people living outside the two main villages.
- The suggestions offered by the questionnaire received

Q21 Do you think we should be doing more as a community?



Support expressed, for a range of ideas for community-based activities, by location, gender and age group

	Caldbeck	Fellside/ Branthwaite	Haltcliff	Hesket Newmarket	Howbeck	Nether Row /Potts Gill	Park End/ Whelpo	Outlying	Overall
Number Voting	130	20	12	54	4	5	10	17	252
Best Kept Village	58%	65%	58%	50%	25%	60%	60%	59%	58%
Yearly Get Together	47%	45%	58%	67%	50%	0%	90%	59%	53%
Festival	39%	50%	42%	56%	50%	40%	50%	53%	46%
Sports Day	67%	55%	58%	43%	25%	40%	70%	88%	61%

	Village locations	Non-Village locations	Male	Female	Aged 12-19	Aged 12-34	Aged 20-34	Aged 20-64	Aged 65+
Number Voting	184	68	120	131	19	44	25	172	63
Best Kept Village	56%	59%	58%	57%	58%	57%	56%	56%	59%
Yearly Get Together	53%	54%	54%	47%	47%	50%	52%	54%	52%
Festival	44%	49%	40%	47%	47%	59%	68%	49%	35%
Sports Day	60%	63%	62%	60%	74%	66%	60%	65%	46%

Some simple conclusions can be drawn from this analysis: differing levels of support from different parts of the Parish, and from within different age groups. The information is perhaps best presented in the tables above, from which readers can make their own interpretations.

- Support for entering Best Kept Village competitions is generally strong, but lower in Hesket Newmarket and Howbeck than elsewhere. Those in non-village locations, who can't enter, are more in favour than those within the villages, who can.

- People in Park End and Whelpo, Hesket Newmarket, Haltcliff and Outlying Areas like to party! Support is greatest here for a yearly get-together. Residents of Nether Row and Potts Gill prefer staying in.
- In a similar vein the hedonists of Hesket Newmarket and Outlying Areas are more in favour of festivals than those elsewhere.
- In contrast two thirds of people in Caldbeck would support a sports day, along with most of the populations of Park End, Whelpo and Outlying Areas (who seem to be up for almost anything!)
- Enthusiasm for a sports day is keenest at the younger end of the age ranges, with 12-19 year-olds being particularly enthusiastic. But then they can run faster than the rest of us. There appear to be few athletes in Howbeck!
- Opinions were fairly evenly balanced between the sexes. Hmm!

There were almost twenty original ideas put forward for other types of community event, including:

- Street market/garage sale
- Open gardens
- New-Years Eve party
- Christmas decorations with lights in windows and trees
- Guided historic walks
- A community garden
- Whist drives & coffee mornings
- A volley-ball and rounders day
- Regular disco & dance
- Young people's coffee bar
- Skill-swap scheme, such as stone walling for computing

Q22 Would you be prepared to get involved in organising/running an activity for young people in the Parish?



Youth Activity

There are some youth activities in the Parish, notably Young Farmers, Beavers, Northern Fells Group, and a football team. Sadly the youth club closed recently through want of someone to take it on. It is most encouraging, therefore, that 75 people answered "yes" to this question. Of these, eight were under 20, indicating a willingness in young people to help themselves. Forty one were between 35 and 54 representing people whose own families are perhaps growing up, who recognise the importance of community-centred activities for the young, and who have the organisational skills to do something about it.

Q23a Are you aware of the activities of the Northern Fells Group?

334 people answered yes, whilst 46 said no, and 7 gave no response. On the one hand it is gratifying to note that 86% of the population are aware of these activities. On the other hand, given the very high profile of the Group, its many marketing and publicity efforts over the past five years, the scope and reach of its activities, and the high level of acceptance and support it enjoys, it seems astonishing that there can be anyone left in the Parish who would claim not to know about it.

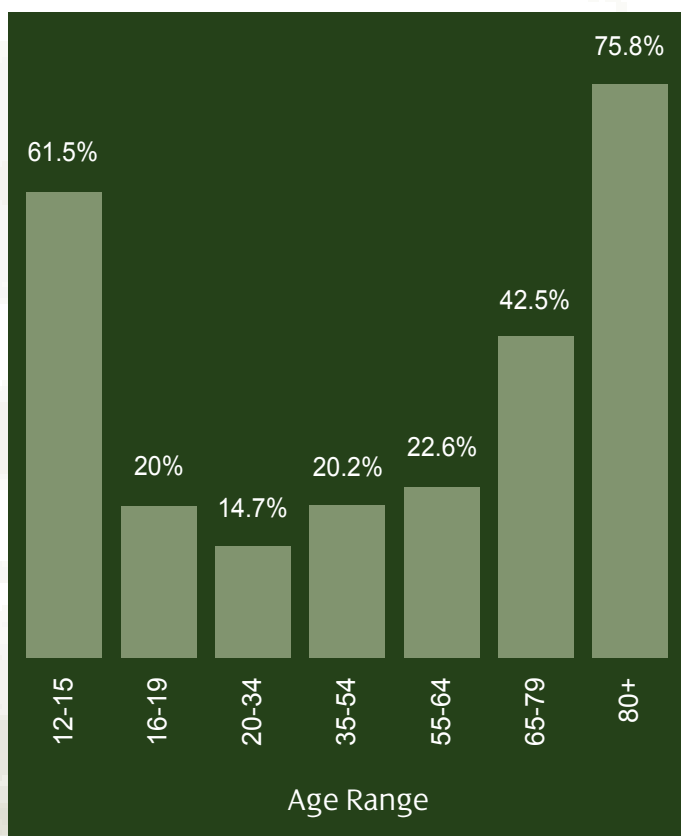


Northern Fells Group

Q23b Do you use the services provided?

115 people in the Parish, representing 31% of those responding, said they use the services of the Northern Fells Group (NFG). This is a ringing endorsement of its success in identifying unmet needs, and putting services in place to meet them. Even so, as revealed in a recent survey of young people in the Northern Fells, conducted

for NFG by the University of Newcastle, there are people who could potentially make use of some services, but do not do so because of their perception that it is not intended for them. Use of Northern Fells Group by age is shown below:



Further analysis of these figures according to which particular services are used by the various age groups would be interesting, but is not available from this questionnaire. It is perhaps reasonable to assume that, at the extremes, the 12-15 year-olds mostly get involved with the youth activities, whilst those over 65 make use of Red Cross, Lend-a-Hand and minibus services.

Q23c Would you wish to see the services of the Northern Fells Group continue?

368 people answered yes, six said no, thirteen gave no response. Whilst it might be a surprise to see that anyone at all would wish the service to discontinue, it is also true that with 98½% in favour this ties with the village shops as the most resounding support given to anything in the whole survey. A tremendous achievement for a local volunteer organisation.

What Next?

Parish Council Aims

- Encourage the Parish Hall Committee to suggest they investigate the implications of providing gymnasium facilities
- Discuss demand for adult education with Education Authorities and course-providers such as Lancaster University
- Be prepared to support continuation of school kitchen if the need to do so arises
- Meet with representative of the Police Authority to discuss contact with and support of the community
- Encourage, directly and through the Northern Fells Group, those who expressed willingness to come forward and help organise and run activities for the young
- Continue support and sponsorship of the Northern Fells Group

What can you do?

- If you or your children want to do a sport, and all that is lacking is getting it organised, don't wait for someone else – do it!
- Take the initiative in identifying sites and developing facilities for your chosen sport.
- If you would like to do a course, and you think there will be a demand, consider organising one.
- If you or someone you know would be helped by having a hot meal delivered three times a week, ask about Meals on Wheels.
- Get involved with Neighbourhood Watch or Farm Watch
- Events get organised when people organise them. If that's what you want, you know what to do.
- Respond to the demand for running activities for young people, either independently, by getting together with like-minded people, or through the Northern Fells Group.
- Give your support to local organisations by becoming a member or attending events
- Consider being a volunteer; there are plenty of opportunities in the Parish



Q24 Would you support the idea of bringing a mobile phone mast into the area to enable a signal in the village and surrounding area?

Overall opinion was about five to two in favour (251 to 108). The greatest concern, expressed mostly by those in favour, was that any mast should be sited unobtrusively and, as far as practicable, away from homes and the school.

A number of people said they find a mobile phone essential for their work, and the absence of a signal is irritating and frustrating at best, and in one case potentially hazardous.

A further obvious benefit is seen in mobile phones for emergency use in remoter areas, both by residents and visitors.

Greatest of the concerns expressed by those against were their unsightliness, and that some consider them to be a risk to health. A small number expressed very strong opposition.

Suggested sites include:

- Parish church tower
- Ratten Row
- On the TV mast at Waverhead/Brocklebank

Q25 If you have a mobile phone which network do you use?

299, or 77%, of respondents use a mobile phone, using the following networks:

Vodafone	44%	O2	19%
Orange	23%	Other	14%

Q26 Do you think there should be a Parish website?

68% are in favour of a Parish website, and 32% not in favour. Demand is particularly strong, at 83%, from people aged 20 to 35, and 72% of those aged 35 to 65.

Q27 What would you like to see on a Parish web-site?

All of the questionnaire suggestions for web-site content were well supported, ranging from 62% to 92% in favour. These were:

- Job vacancies
- Shop opening times
- Business advertising
- Information about MP's surgeries
- Police availability
- Village events
- Surgery hours

People were also asked to add their own ideas, and a great many did. There were no fewer than 37 additional ideas, including walks and cycle routes, church services and events, items for sale, Parish Council information, Parish Hall bookings, B&Bs, village maps, and the Parish magazine online. Should a project follow to provide a web-site, there is no reason why all of these suggestions could not be followed up – and more besides – although the person who requested “how to find Jim Fleming” may prove difficult to satisfy!

Concerns expressed were that it should not replace the Parish magazine, which is greatly valued, and that the site content must be kept up-to-date. Two people pointed out that there is already a village web-site. Whilst this is true, it is operated as a commercial enterprise from outside the area, defeating the important principle of local ownership.

Q28a Do you think an additional Parish newsletter would be useful?

Q28b If you answered yes, would you subscribe to a newsletter?

It is a tribute to the quality and value of the Parish magazine that 80% of the population see no need for an additional newsletter. 81% of those who do, amounting to 56 people, said they would subscribe if one were published.

Q29 Do you think you would use a computer with assisted Internet access if one were provided in the community?

Just 9% of people said they would use a PC if available. A further 32% said perhaps so. The only age group giving a significantly higher response were those aged 12 to 15, of whom 25% said they would use one. This may indicate that the great majority of people who would use a PC already have access at home, in college or at work.

What Next?

Parish Council Aims

- Contact mobile phone providers about the potential for a local mast
- Investigate what is involved and promote setting up a Parish web-site

What can you do?

- As and when a parish web-site appears, provide information about your organisation or interest.

Disabled & Disadvantaged



Q30/31 Do you think public WCs should be provided for the disabled, and if so, where?

Overall there was substantial support for this idea, with 67% agreeing there should be one in Caldbeck and 44% in favour of one in Hesket Newmarket.

Suggestions for sites were roughly equally divided between upgrading the existing facilities in Caldbeck (72 people), and siting them in or adjacent to the car parks (63). Seventeen further sites were suggested, but those above were overwhelmingly the most-favoured.

Q32 Do you think further disabled parking spaces should be provided over and above those in Caldbeck car park?

Two important principles of parking spaces reserved for the disabled are that they improve the chances of space being available in car parks that tend to be full and, perhaps more importantly, when placed adjacent to amenities they give access where it might otherwise be difficult. The main disadvantage is that a 'disabled' space may be rarely used whilst creating or exacerbating a parking problem for everyone else. 71 people thought this was needed, and 223 thought not. As for potential locations 22 suggested Hesket Newmarket car park. Others were near to shops, churches, pubs, the school and Parish Hall.



Q33 Would you like to see special designated and signed village/country walks/routes accessible to wheelchairs?

Whilst 149 people favoured this idea, 125 did not, with a further 113 expressing no opinion.

Of more interest, perhaps, are the suggestions for where such facilities could be provided:

Foremost amongst these was the path to The Howk (which has recently been done), followed by a route around Caldbeck pond. Several suggested the Straits to Priests Mill, a project which will have been completed before this report is published. Parsons Park, and Caldbeck to Hesket Newmarket also received support.



Some had concerns that such facilities would inevitably impact on the environment. It was further suggested that money could be better spent making the villages more accessible [to wheelchair users] by improving pavements, dropping kerbs, and providing footways where none exist at present, especially alongside dangerous stretches of road.

What Next?

Parish Council Aims

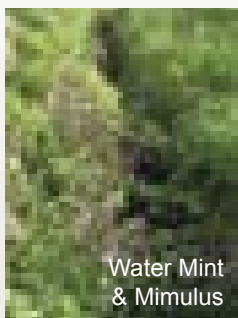
- Investigate the provision of public WCs for the disabled
- Investigate the practicality of providing a parking space for the disabled in Caldbeck village centre
- Consider further provision of paths having wheelchair access, in addition to The Howk and Priests Mill

Natural Environment & Wildlife



Q34 How important do you think it is to preserve the rural character of the Parish?

This is clearly an issue of major concern to people living here. Of 361 people expressing an opinion 351 thought it either Very Important (327) or Fairly Important (24). Only ten thinking it not important.



Water Mint & Mimulus



Character of Housing

There were many constructive ideas for how the rural character could be preserved, and many more for what should be restricted. The statement most often made was simply to leave it alone. This theme was expanded by suggestions to ban new buildings, masts & wind turbines, commercial development, yellow lines, or to restrict car parks, 'unnecessary' paths, notices, road signs, street lighting and urbanisation in general.

A number of constructive ideas were well supported, including:

- Keep new buildings and renovations in character
- Plant trees
- Support events such as the Heskett Newmarket Show and the Sheepdog Trials
- Maintain hedgerows, verges and greens in a wildlife-sensitive way
- Retain field hedges and stone walls
- Promote walking, cycling and public transport

Some felt it was important to be realistic in recognising that change will happen, and to seek to control it sensitively via planning and other policies.



Sheepdog Trials

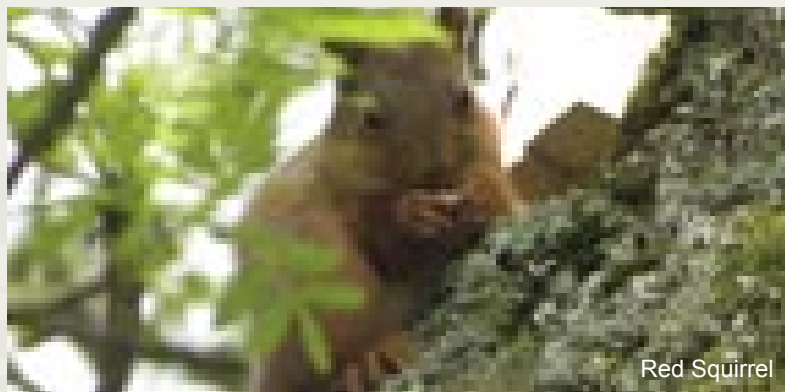


Heskett Newmarket Show

Q35 Do you think action should be taken at a Parish level to protect red squirrels?

A very large majority supported this with 334 saying yes, 28 saying no, and 22 not expressing an opinion.

How to do this brought a fair number of ideas. Chief amongst these was to trap, cull and report sightings of greys (58). Many suggested either feeding stations (50) or red squirrel boxes (18). Seeking advice on how to attract/protect reds, and for a local 'help the red squirrel' group were also strongly supported (27). Maintaining appropriate woodland habitat and planting trees were suggested 18 times. Other well-supported ideas were to monitor numbers of reds and to erect signs/notices.



Red Squirrel

What next?

Parish Council Aims

- Always bear in mind the preservation of the rural character of the Parish, and its conservation areas, when considering planning applications. Influence the planning authority to take this into account also.
- Encourage the formation of a Red Squirrel Conservation Group

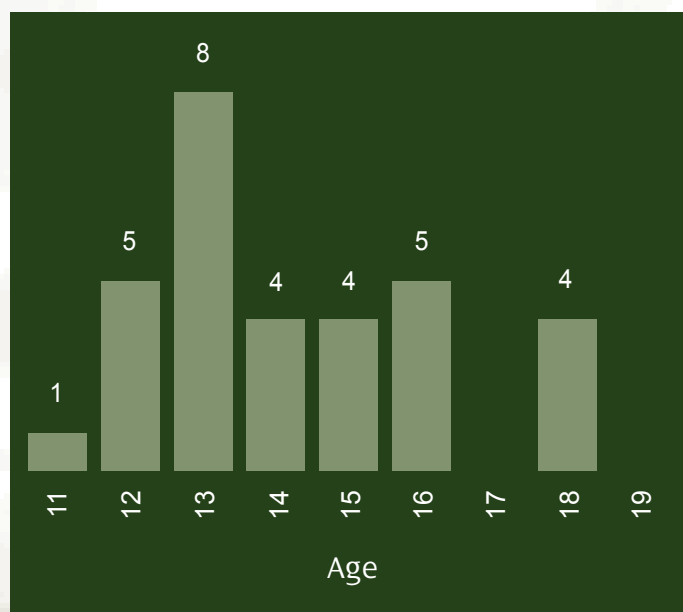
What can you do?

- Maintain your own property in a way that is sensitive to the character of the area and adjacent buildings.
- Get together with like-minded individuals to form a red-squirrel support group



All residents aged 12 and over were asked to complete the main questionnaire. A separate section followed specifically to obtain the views of young people between the ages of 12 and 20 on topics not covered elsewhere. Thirty two people responded to this, nineteen female and thirteen male.

Ages were represented as follows:



One did not give his/her age.

Three of these young people were in full-time work, and the remaining 29 in full-time education, of whom half (14) had part-time jobs. Fifteen were at Caldew School, nine at Nelson Tomlinson, and one at Queen Elizabeth Grammar. The remaining four did not say.

The Parish youth are generally active, both socially and in sports, games, music and dance. The most frequently reported leisure activity is the Young Farmers Club. Many sports and games were reported, including badminton, keep fit/gym, spinning, swimming, hockey, fell walking, horse riding, cricket and football. The only non-active leisure pursuit mentioned was music, with a variety of instruments being played.

Significantly for a number of these activities they have to travel to Carlisle, Wigton or Dalston. When young people were asked why they do not participate in activities they would wish to ten of them said transport was the main problem.

Sixteen said they would like to participate in other activities, but these were not available locally. Those who wished for other sporting activities included swimming, football, keep fit, mountain biking, bike track/skate park, ten-pin bowling, hockey, horse riding, basketball, and simply 'more sport'. Some of these are available in the Parish, but not for all age groups. Other wished-for activities were arts and crafts, laser quest, and guitar and drums lessons.

Most forms of transport were used except for taxis. Only one person had used the Northern Fells minibus. Most were driven by parents and friends if they could not walk or cycle.

When asked whether they would like a place for young people to meet eleven girls and five boys said yes, whilst seven girls and six boys said no. Those who said yes suggested Caldbeck locations, such as the Parish Hall or Cricket Club.

Of 29 who expressed an opinion about whether local health services are young-person friendly, 27 said yes and 2 said no. Eight thought it would be worth reviewing.

What Next?

Parish Council Aims

- Consult the County Council and transport providers with a view to providing a Saturday bus service to Carlisle at a time convenient for young people
- Promote the use of already-available community transport (Northern Fells minibus) by young people
- Support any groups working to organise activities and amenities for young people

What can you do?

- Support our young people in their enthusiasm to take part in a variety of activities
- If you are a parent, get together with others to share lifts

Housing Needs Survey Summary of Findings

Cumbria Rural Housing Trust carried out a local housing needs survey in Caldbeck Parish in November 2004. 350 survey forms were posted to Parish residents. 193 households returned their completed questionnaires about their own homes, employment and housing needs. This is a return rate of 55%, which is far above the typical average return rate of 31% in Cumbria since 2003. The national average is 35%.

Analysis shows that of the returned forms, 39 (20%) households expressed a need for housing either now or in the near future. The trust determined that 19 of those need affordable housing within Caldbeck Parish; the remaining 20 were considered able to buy on the open market. Four of the nineteen were thought to need housing within twelve months, five within three years and ten within five years.

Of the nineteen who were considered to need affordable housing, two stated that they would prefer to rent, one advised they would need shared ownership and ten would prefer to buy but would accept shared ownership or

to rent. (Note that at present Housing Associations build houses for rent or shared ownership, but not for owner-occupation. This is to assure indefinite 'local' availability whilst providing a 'leg up' into the open market) Thirteen of the nineteen were young couples or families wishing to set up their first independent home, wanting to stay in the area, but currently priced out of the market. The findings of the main survey also show that over 120 of the 193 responses thought homes were needed for young people.

From analysis and discussion of the report, Cumbria Rural Housing Trust have recommended that there is a need for a mixed development of six two-bed houses and four three-bed houses for rent or shared ownership.

The Housing Association, Parish Council and local planning authorities, are now surveying suitable sites with a view to building houses to meet the identified needs.



Summary of Major Actions

Each section includes a list of actions, but there is a 'First Division' of issues that concern people most, and these are the ones we must focus attention on first. But we must not forget that all the actions identified are important, and that some can be done quickly at low cost and with little effort. Please play your part; you do not have to wait for others to act first. The major actions are these (not necessarily in order of priority);

1. Work with relevant agencies to provide a safe footpath & cycleway between Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket and use the opportunity to put the adjacent telephone cables underground. This is the number one action identified by very many people. It is also probably the largest and most expensive – which just means we will have to try harder to make it happen;
2. progress the provision of affordable housing, as identified within the Housing Needs Survey;
3. Promote the preservation of important facilities and amenities identified within the Plan;
4. Investigate provision of public WCs, including disabled, in Hesket Newmarket and Caldbeck;
5. Promote a local chiropody service, preferably through the Surgery;
6. Press for winter gritting of main through routes;
7. Pursue local provision of adult education;
8. Discuss with the Police Authority, contact with and support of the community;
9. Support the Northern Fells Group;
10. Contact mobile phone providers about the potential for a local mast;
11. Establish a Parish web-site;
12. Parish Council always to bear in mind the preservation of the rural character of the Parish, and its conservation areas, when considering planning applications. Influence the planning authority to take this into account also;
13. Encourage the formation of a Red Squirrel Conservation Group;
14. Pursue the needs of young people identified in the Youth Survey, for transport, recreational facilities and other amenities.

Acknowledgements

**The Parish Council and the production team
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The Countryside Agency

The Lake District National Park

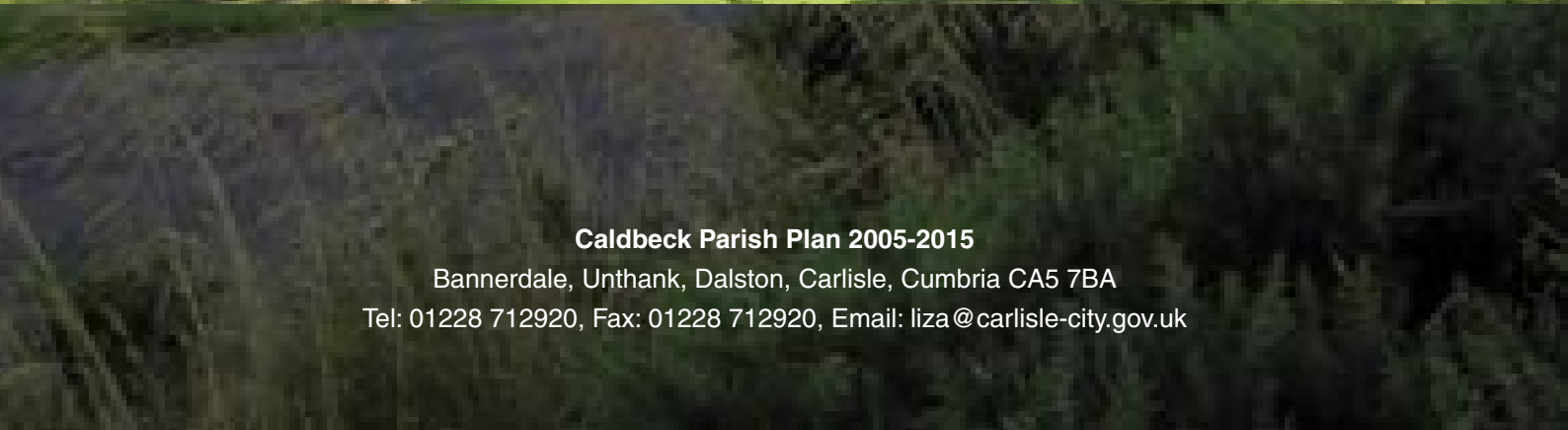
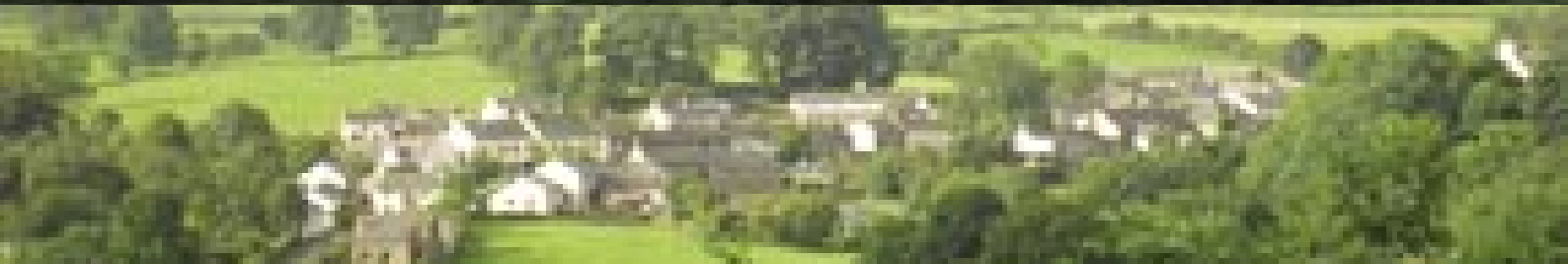
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Voluntary Action Cumbria

Allerdale Borough Council

Duncan Fairbairn, Borough & County Councillor

... and everyone who has helped in any way to produce this Plan



Caldbeck Parish Plan 2005-2015

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