

CALDBECK PARISH PLAN UPDATE JANUARY 2021

Caldbeck Parish Council produced a ten year plan for 2005 to 2015 ('the Plan') following extensive consultation. Progress against the Plan has been reported by the Chairman at the Annual Parish Meetings.

Much of the thinking behind the Plan remains relevant today. This short document provides an update capturing progress and highlights future actions. It is refreshed annually as part of the Parish Council's planning and budgeting arrangements. Shaded lines are where actions are complete.

MAJOR ACTIONS FROM 2005-15 PLAN	PROGRESS	FUTURE ACTION	TARGET DATE
<p>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.</p>	<p>Detailed plans have been drawn up of the proposed route of the footpath. Significant funds are available following a generous donation. Whilst agreements have been made with 8 of the 10 affected landowners, no agreements are in place with 2 landowners. The Parish Council secured the release of the February 2018 report of the County Council's independent reviewer following a ruling by the Information Commissioner.</p> <p>Mike Johnson, County Councillor, has attempted informal mediation with two landowners but without success.</p> <p>In Autumn 2019 the Parish Council met the County Council and the National Park to discuss options when all parties recognised the merit of the direct footpath alongside Hesket Lonning.</p> <p>In November 2019 the Parish Council consulted parishioners about next steps and putting in place arrangements to ask a question at County Council. Respondents supported the footpath (70%) and a small majority supported lobbying the County Council (52%). The Parish Council agreed to submit a question to Full County Council but the County Council refused the question.</p> <p>In 2020 the Parish Council has continued lobbying the County Council, Allerdale Borough Council, and the National Park, with varying success. It commissioned Counsel to provide an opinion on its legal case. This has proved influential and Allerdale has taken the lead in supporting the footpath and has indicated that it would be prepared to use its footpath creation powers. It first wishes to see if agreement might be reached with landowners and is holding discussions.</p>	<p>Discussions with Allerdale Acting Leader and solicitors to determine if agreement can be reached. In the event of no agreement, Allerdale has indicated that it would be prepared to use its footpath creation powers.</p>	<p>January 2020 Further meetings with landowners & Allerdale to follow</p>

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2. Progress the provision of affordable housing, as identified within the Housing Needs Survey.	Three Housing Association dwellings for rent at Brewery Barn Cottages.		
2019 new affordable housing project	Grant received from Allerdale Borough Council to support preparation of a proposal for pre planning advice. In 2020 the Parish Council, working with Stuart Woodall architect/consultant, submitted a request for pre planning advice. The National Park has responded and a Parish Council Working Group with Stuart Woodall and Mitre/Eden Homes believes that a detailed proposal can be developed which has good prospects of obtaining planning approval.	Establishment of a Community Group to develop the detailed project following confirmation that land purchase price is reasonable.	March 2021. Other milestones to follow.
3. Promote the preservation of important facilities and amenities identified within the Plan.	Following potential closure of Caldbeck shop late 2015, the Parish Council called a public meeting to save it. Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket Village shops successfully operating. Doctors' Surgery highly regarded. The Parish Council considered future options to save bus route without success. Some routes withdrawn following ending of County Council subsidies. Tysons now provide services on Tuesday & Wednesday to Wigton and Carlisle respectively. Caldbeck Post Office closed in late 2020 with a weekly Post Office van providing a service. Post Office facilities remain operating in Hesket Newmarket		
4a) Investigate provision of public WCs, including disabled, in Hesket Newmarket and Caldbeck.	Disabled toilet access at Caldbeck Methodist Chapel. An 'all ability' toilet facility is available in St Kentigern's church, Caldbeck, when the church is open - daily, around 9am to 5pm, but may vary in the Winter.	See 4c) Refurbishment of Caldbeck public toilets, or an alternative option, may provide other disabled facilities.	
4b) Hesket Newmarket	There are no public facilities in Hesket Newmarket. COVID has delayed consideration of how facilities may be supported.	Explore the scope for supporting facilities.	May 2021

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4c) Caldbeck public toilets	<p>Allerdale Borough Council is to end provision of public toilets in Caldbeck. The Parish Council is looking at options, including what refurbishment might be carried out prior to any transfer of assets and whether refurbishment might include provision of disabled facilities.</p> <p>Parishioners supported the retention of Caldbeck public toilets in the December 2019 Budget Consultation and the Parish Council has included a budget to operate/service the facilities.</p> <p>As a consequence of COVID Allerdale closed the Caldbeck facilities and is to take final decisions on their possible transfer early in 2021.</p>	Parish Council to take over Caldbeck facilities or make alternative arrangements.	March 2021
5. Promote a local chiropody service, preferably through the Surgery.	This action had been considered completed but there have been recent changes. Chiropody services provided via the Northern Fells Group, providers advertising in the Parish Magazine, and some Caldbeck Surgery services are no longer available.	Consider what options might be available to provide chiropody services.	June 2021
6. Press for winter gritting of main through routes.	<p>Winter gritting route extended from Caldbeck along unclassified road to Howbeck, Hesket Newmarket.</p> <p>Snow clearing budget for other routes established.</p> <p>In September 2019, as part of the County Council three yearly review of gritting routes, the Parish Council and Castle Sowerby Parish Council successfully lobbied for extending gritting from Howbeck to Millhouse and the B5305.</p> <p>Significant difficulties during winter 2019-20 with the County Council not gritting Howbeck to the B5305, then not gritting Howbeck to Millhouse, despite assurances from Assistant Director Highways.</p> <p>Winter 2020 saw further problems with Millhouse to Howbeck ungritted. The County Council has confirmed the arrangements which provide for gritting from Caldbeck to the B5305 via Millhouse.</p>	<p>Maintain provision for snow clearing of minor roads not on County Council gritting routes.</p> <p>Monitoring of gritting during 2021</p>	Ongoing in 2021
7. Pursue local provision of adult education.	Various services provided via Northern Fells Group.		

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8. Discuss with the Police Authority, contact with and support of the community.	<p>Police reporting arrangements have changed with PCSOs no longer reporting to Parish Council meetings and attending when duties permit. Quarterly meetings with PCSOs for all Parish Councils were proposed as an alternative but have not proved effective and have been abandoned.</p> <p>The Clerk receives information from community links which are circulated when directly relevant.</p> <p>The Police and Crime Commissioner's newsletters are circulated which provide an overview of activities.</p>	Continue using Cumbria Police Community Messages Service.	
9. Support the Northern Fells Group. 10. Contact mobile phone providers about the potential for a local mast.	<p>Parish Council represented on Northern Fells Group. Annual donation to Northern Fells Group (minibus) included in Parish Council budget.</p> <p>Actions taken to support digital inclusion. Vodafone femtocells provided at 4 locations in Caldbeck. New phone masts now at Newlands Hesket Newmarket and Berrier. Support for additional mobile masts. Support of new technologies such as home based 4G.</p>	<p>Continued funding included in budget.</p> <p>Support of new initiatives and technologies where appropriate. Continued promotion of digital inclusion for Caldbeck Parish Council residents.</p>	
11. Establish a Parish web-site.	<p>Parish website established.</p> <p>For 2019 full agendas were posted on the two notice boards in Caldbeck and the notice board in Hesket Newmarket. Meeting dates/venues and full contact details are posted on the notice board in Fellside. Agendas are published on the website.</p> <p>Website redesigned in November/December 2020 to ensure compliance with accessibility standards.</p>	<p>Extend use of Parish Website. Consider links with Caldbeck Being Sociable. Publish Monthly News on website as in Warnell Magazine.</p>	Ongoing in 2021

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12a) 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.	The Parish Council has sought to respond in accordance with these principles when considering planning applications and provide timely, appropriate comments to the planning authorities. Local residential criteria extended to include Northern Fells Group and neighbouring parishes. Restoration work completed on some Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket historic signposts.	The Parish Council will continue to follow this approach in responding to future planning applications. Further restoration work of historic signposts.	Ongoing
12b) Seek to safeguard the Parish's environment.	Ongoing discussions with the National Park regarding surplus land including Hesket Newmarket green and village carparks. The National Park has accepted the Parish Council's offer for the land subject to consultation. Progress delayed by COVID but the expectation is that the land purchase will proceed early in 2021. An anonymous £10,000 donation has been received to cover the land purchase.	Finalise land purchase. Once purchase completed: Erect donations boxes in car parks in addition to Caldbeck; Consider charging points for electric vehicles.	March 2021 May 2021 May 2021
13. Encourage the formation of a Red Squirrel Conservation Group	Group formed, Rosemary Bailey main contact. The Parish Council has supported with a small donation.		
14. Pursue the needs of young people identified in the Youth Survey, for transport, recreational facilities and other amenities.	Promoted use of Northern Fells Group minibus. Youth club at Cricket Club (later folded). Northern Fells Group organise a variety of activities during school holidays.		
New Actions 2018-19			
15a) Street lighting: Provide additional footway lighting where needed.	Solar powered footway bollard between Fellview School and the Village installed in December 2019.	Review impact and consider possible re-sighting and additional installations.	March 2021

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15b) Street lighting: Agree what street lighting is required and incorporate electricity charges following Allerdale Borough Council's decision to charge for electricity.	<p>A contingency was established in the budget in 2016-17 when changes in responsibilities were first mooted. That contingency has helped build an earmarked reserve which is to be used for funding new footway lighting.</p> <p>Allerdale has revised its approach. It will retain responsibility for maintenance of street lighting stock but will charge parish councils for electricity from April 2021.</p> <p>Budget consultations undertaken in November/December 2019. Respondents in favour of maintaining street lighting services but would like to see some reductions in numbers and fitting of timers. The lighting stock was reviewed in Spring 2020 and two lights in Hesket Newmarket are to be removed - Allerdale has been informed. Allerdale has advised that the costs of fitting timers are prohibitive.</p> <p>In Summer 2020 Allerdale decided that it would not after all charge for electricity from April 2021.</p>	<p>Given Allerdale's decision not to charge parish councils for electricity, this action has come to an end. The Parish Council will liaise with Allerdale to ensure the street lighting service is well maintained.</p> <p>The earmarked reserves provide for further new footway lighting.</p>	
15c) Reinstallation of street light near Parish Hall	<p>The Parish Council has continued to press for the reinstallation of a street light near the Parish Hall which has been requested by a number of residents and users of the Parish Hall. The street light was taken down to allow for the new build on the site of Upton Garage and the expectation was that the street light would be reinstalled. Discussion with interested parties continue to find an acceptable solution, including how the reinstallation will be funded. Allerdale has offered a modest contribution and is determining if alternative contractors and utilising the electricity supply to the Parish Hall might provide a cheaper option.</p>	<p>Agree reinstallation and funding arrangements with interested parties.</p>	<p>March 2021</p>
16. Parish Lengthsman	<p>In July 2020 the Parish Council contracted for a part time lengthsman to provide a local Highways service - maintaining gulleys, ditches, drains, verges; helping to keep the villages tidy; liaising with County Council Highways.</p> <p>The Parish Council has been impressed with the service and there has been welcome feedback from parishioners. The Parish Council has agreed to continue the service and is to extend the contract for the 3 years 2021 to 2023.</p>	<p>Agree contract extension</p>	<p>March 2021</p>

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New Actions 2020-21			
Caldbeck Green biodiversity pilot project	The Parish Council has agreed to establish a Working Group to consider scoping a pilot project for encouraging greater biodiversity for a defined area of Caldbeck Green. This follows consideration of proposals from parishioners in 2019 and December 2020 and support expressed in the December 2019 budget consultation: 78% of people were in favour of keeping Caldbeck Green as it is; 68% of people were in favour of some areas being used for encouraging greater biodiversity.	Establish Working Group Consideration of Working Group's proposals	January 2021 March 2021 (or any pilot project would slip to 2022)
Climate Emergency	Parish councils have been invited to pass motions in support of declaring a climate emergency and lobbying her tier authorities and others.	Parish Council to consider how to respond to climate emergency proposals	January 2021