

Colton

Parish Plan

The results of a community consultation 2003



- *Lakeside*
- *Finsthwaite*
- *Bouth*
- *Oxen Park*
- *Rusland*
- *Nibthwaite*

Contents

1. Foreword	2	5. Summary of Survey Results	28 - 30
by the Chairman of the Parish Council		Analysis of the AHA report on the Questionnaire	
2. Introduction and Policy	3	6. Residents comments from questionnaire	31 - 33
3. The Parish of Colton	4	7. The Open Meetings Brief	34
4. Response from Organisations and Individuals	5	report on the three open meetings held and comments and points raised at the meetings	
Information provided by various organisations		8. Action Plan	35 - 37
Rusland & District W.I.	5	9. Vision for the Future	38
Bouth W.I.	6	10. Colton Parish Councillors	39
Young Farmers	7-8	11. Appendix	40
Holy Trinity Parish Church Colton	9	Copy of the Parish Plan Questionnaire	
Saint Paul's Parish Church, Rusland	10		
Tottlebank Baptist Church	11		
Rookhow Friends Meeting house in the Rusland Valley	12		
Finsthwaite Church	13		
Response from Schools	14 - 15		
A Few of the Changes in Fifty Years of Farming	16 - 17		
National Park Authority owned properties in Colton Parish	18		
Response from the Lake District National Park Authority	19		
Response from Cumbria County Council	19		
South Lakeland District Council	20		
Rusland Valley Community Trust	21		
Forest Enterprise	22		
Hay Bridge Nature Reserve	23		
Lakeside & Finsthwaite Village Hall	24		
Rusland Reading Rooms	25		
Bouth Reading Rooms	25		
Oxen Park Reading Room	25		
Rusland Valley Horticultural Society	26 - 27		

1. Foreword

Colton Parish is one of the larger rural parishes within the Lake District National Park. It covers some 20 square miles, bounded on the west by the shore of Lake Windermere, and on the east by the shore of Coniston water. The topography of the Parish divides it into three valleys running roughly north/south, one being Windermere, one Coniston, and the third the Rusland valley in between the other two.

Each valley has its own particular character, and interests, and as a result is a challenging Parish to administer as a whole. In recent years the Parish has changed from a predominately farming community to one where farming is now a less dominant activity, and there is much more reliance on tourism and other activities for income (in particular Lakeside, which is now very orientated to tourism). The population has changed too, with more retired and elderly people coming into the area, which has the effect of inflating house prices to the point where it is almost impossible for young couples to get on the housing ladder. This is leading to a scarcity of young families with the consequent adverse effect on local schools, and the local community

generally. It has also had the effect of diluting what was a very close-knit society years ago.

Over recent years the rate of change has accelerated, speeded along recently by the tragedy of the foot & mouth epidemic, and the indications are this rate of change is likely to continue. The purpose of this Parish Plan is to enable the Parish Council to try meet this challenge, and to specifically address the problems which you, the people of the Parish, have highlighted.

The Council were delighted with the response to the survey, with some 66% replies. This has enabled us to obtain a clearer profile of the Parish which hopefully will help us to be more effective as a Council in both understanding concerns and decision making.

Please do take time out to read this, and we would welcome comments: the Parish Council is, and must always be, a two way affair, we need input from you to help us to work for you.

Bobbie Dobson
Chairman of the Parish Council



2. Introduction

THE POLICY OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Policy of the Parish Council is to promote the well being of the community as a whole, with particular regard to where there may a conflict of interests.

It is also the policy of the council to strongly represent the interests of the parish in areas where they have no direct control of the decision making.

Colton Parish is situated in the southern area of the Lake District National Park, and lies within South Lakeland District Council's area of responsibility. Its boundaries, shown on the map, are the A590 to the south, the shores of Lake Windermere to the east for a distance of three miles and a northern boundary stretching across to Coniston Water to the West. This western boundary runs in a southerly direction back to the A590.

The Parish embraces the settlements of LAKESIDE, FINSTHWAITE, BOUTH, OXEN PARK, RUSLAND, NIBTHWAITE and COLTON.

The population consists of a mixture of farmers, a large proportion of retired people families and residents who mainly work outside the Parish and a sizeable number of holiday homes.

The nature of the Parish is very diverse, split into three valleys, with the eastern side having a high proportion of tourist activities and the rest devoted more to farming.

Objectives

Acting on a government initiative, with financial help from the Country Side Agency and assistance from Voluntary

Action Cumbria, Colton Parish Council set up a steering group to examine the future of the Parish. The steering group consisting of eight people was set up with two Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, and five members of the public. One of the steering group became a Parish Councillor during the preparation of the plan.

The Objectives of the report were to

- Set out an achievable and long-term vision for the future.
- Identify local problems and opportunities.
- Prepare a plan of action to achieve this vision.

Background

The Steering Group set up a series of meetings to formulate the Plan. It was decided to produce a document listing the HISTORY - PRESENT - FUTURE of the Parish.

A map of the Parish of Colton would be produced highlighting the nature of the Parish. Local organisations would be contacted and asked to contribute to the plan, complimented with photographs if

appropriate. Presentations of the proposed plan would be made at the Rusland Show in the summer of 2002 and another in the spring show 2003.

The Steering Group would design and produce a SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE, which would be circulated and collected by the committee to all the homes in the Parish. The results of the Survey would be professionally analysed by a Marketing Company.

Three meetings would be organised to discuss the results of the Survey Questionnaire and other relevant matters.

These public meetings would be organised to discuss the results of the Survey Questionnaire. These would be held at The Boathouse Hotel, Lakeside, The Manor House, Oxen Park, and The Red Lion, Lowick Bridge adjacent to Nibthwaite. Refreshments would be provided.

Steering Group meetings would be held at regular interval throughout the formulation of the Plan to monitor the progress and decide the final structure of the Colton Parish Plan.

Detailed reports on all the actions mentioned in the Introduction will be found elsewhere in this document.

3. The Parish of Colton

History and characteristics of the Parish

There are four village schools serving the area, but they are located in adjacent parishes, six places of worship, three Church of England, one Baptist Church and one Quaker Meeting House, five public houses/hotels, four village halls and two church halls, two outdoor centres, one residential home, one garage (repairs only) two nature reserves, there are no shops, but the area is served by mobile traders, one village playground, run and maintained by a Sub-Committee of the parish council.

Colton is first mentioned in old Lancashire records in 1202 when King John was on the throne. Hawkshead and Colton were formerly a chapelry under Dalton, and was one parish, but did not become an independent parish until 1587; a century later in 1676 Colton became independent from Hawkshead. Coleton was the first spelling of the name in 1202 and Coulton was the usual spelling until about 1850.

There are seven customary divisions or hamlets, the parish consisted of Colton East, Colton West, Nibthwaite,

Haverthwaite, Finsthwaite and Rusland, Haverthwaite is now an independent parish. Colton parish has a parish council of nine members.

In 1613 James I granted to William and George Whitmore the manor or bailiwick of Nibthwaite with lands, the manor or bailiwick of Colton with mansion house and demesne land, lands in Sales, Crake, Bouth, Haybridge, Kirkthwaite, Oxenpark, Bandrake Head, Abbot Park and Ickenthwaite and all perquisites of the court and manor of Colton, except 56s 8d bloom smithy rent payable to the bailiff of Hawkshead, lands in Finsthwaite, Stott Park and Rusland. The Whitmores at once proceeded to sell in parcels and so Colton has come into the hands of a number of land owners.

What is the origin of the name Colton? Is it from the Saxon personal name of Cola or from Kolt or Koir which is old Norse, or does it relate to Colton Beck in flood Kola - the coal black one - being a reasonably common Norwegian (and Viking) name for such streams, or can it be from the same word but meaning coals or

charcoal which was made in the woods the length and breadth of the parish.

Colton parish was a very busy and quite industrial parish in the 1700s the woods were used for charcoal burning, bark was collected for tanning, Basket making, hoop making, bobbin turning, iron smelting, and potash making which was for the woollen industry. All over the woods today can be found evidence of charcoal burner's huts, potash pits and of course coppiced woodland.



The Manor House, Oxen Park



Lakeside

4. Response from - Local W.I.'s

Rusland & District W.I.

Rusland and District W.I. was founded on August 15th 1944, and there were 35 members at the first meeting. There was a lot of interest and the membership had risen to 44 by 1947. It peaked in 1972 at 50, and has steadily declined since, and currently stands in the low 20s.

In the early days members came mainly from Rusland, Satterthwaite and Grizedale and the local taxi would transport some members as access to a car was limited and many women did not drive. Nowadays we have members from Oxen Park and Haverthwaite as well.

Meetings are held once a month and alternate between Satterthwaite and Rusland. We have a mixture speakers, demonstrations and slide shows on a wide variety of topics. Several of our members have passed on their expertise or recounted their stories and these meetings are especially popular.

We have a strong group who prepare entries for shows and W.I. competitions, and they have been very successful.

Our W.I. Choir was formed in 1979, when we also held our first Carol Evening. This is now an annual event and part of the pre-Christmas celebrations. The choir have entered competitions and sung at

weddings. The formation of the choir helped to increase membership.

We attend many county functions and enter competitions. Several members are involved with the W.I. Market at Ulverston. Several members started playing tennis at W.I. County tennis evenings and 3 are still playing 20 years later!

Locally, most of our social activities seem to involve food- we hold a Safari Supper annually as well as the Carol Evening, and a Pudding Evening.

One of the main benefits of W.I. membership is the fun, friendship and teamwork, which comes from meeting people regularly and working together in the community.

We hope to continue, but our main worry is that we do not attract the younger members, which seems to be a national trend. In the early years, women did not have access to so many leisure activities. However, all of us hope the W.I. continues to progress and that future members gain as much from the organisation as we have.



Rusland & District W.I.

4. Response from - Local W.I.'s

Bouth W.I.



The first meeting of the newly formed Bouth Women's Institute was held in the Reading Room, Bouth on Thursday 18th November, 1943 at 7 pm. From the seventeen ladies present Mrs Fawcett of Lindeth was unanimously elected as President, Mrs Croasdell of Yew Tree Cottage undertook the secretarial duties and Mrs Chorlton the Treasurership.

In the first year the monthly meetings had lectures, which ranged from demonstrations on how to re-model and trim a hat to camping on the Great Game Park of the North Transvaal. A Marionette Theatre shown by Miss Rhodes is recorded as been greatly enjoyed. One meeting was run in conjunction with the "Salute the Solider Campaign". Special efforts were arranged to support the raising of £1000 for the YMCA's mobile Canteen and £10 was forwarded to the St. Dunstons Fund.

In 1956 it is recorded in the National Press that "Bouth WI is proud to report they have at last achieved a water supply and telephone kiosk - and are wondering what next to agitate for". Their agitation for a better bus service still continues - in 1956 a visit to Barrow could take five

hours for the return journey - there has been little progress!

Talent has always abounded. In the 1950's Drama Festivals in the Reading Room were popular, these being replaced by Craft and Hobbies Exhibitions in the 1990's. Bouth's beauty and atmosphere has served us well when competing in the Best Kept Village Competitions - many certificates and trophies being awarded, the WI being instrumental in promoting the entry.

Fun and Friendship abounds. Members take every opportunity to partake of new interests whether it is gold panning in Scotland to learning of a new skill or topic at our monthly meetings.

Sixty years of WI in Bouth beckons in 2003. Whatever the celebrations we hope that Mrs Croasdell our remaining founder member will do us the honour of cutting the cake.

4. Response from - Young Farmers

Rusland Young Farmers' Club

The Rusland Young Farmers Club began in 1949 when the Wilkinson Brothers, former members of Furness Y.F.C., moved in to the valley and decided to get a club together. With a strong amount of enthusiasm and support from others, Rusland Y.F.C. was born. Before too long the club was involved in inter-club competitions and also competing at national level. This brought on a new and exciting social life as these young people were integrating with an experiencing a much more widespread community as they travelled between counties for different events.

As with all Y.F.C.s, Rusland was affiliated to the National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs (N.F.Y.F.C.) and its structure was that of all the other clubs. Officers needed to be elected by members at an AGM and those duly elected would take up their positions as Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Press Secretary, Speaker Secretary etc. Straight away these young farmers would begin to gain skills in the arts of taking a meeting, administration, organisation and a range of traditional crafts and skills. Then there was always an elected President and an Advisory Committee of either ex-Young Farmers or people who were interested in supporting the club. The members did not

need to be from a farming background. The only prerequisites were to be between the ages of 10 and 26 years old, to have an interest in rural life and a keenness to be part of a group that were learning new skills. Regular club meetings would be held with guest speakers ranging from, Mr Rawlinson 'The Rat Man' to Mrs. Dickinson talking on her 40 years of being a Nurse; Stephen Johnson, with a slide show of his YFC trip to New Zealand to a Games Night either on the show field in the Reading Room. There were also plenty of trips too - a mystery tour that ended up at the BBC studios, farm visits, exchange visits with other clubs from around the country.

Towards the end of the 1970s the membership for the NFYFC was one million; over three thousand of which were in Cumbria. It was an amazing time for all those involved from Club to National Level and, in particular, if you were a member of Rusland YFC! Prior to this the numbers attending the meetings at the Reading Rooms had dwindled but there was still a core of members who were doing their best to keep the club going. Then, Ambleside YFC came to an end and from that Rusland gained a few extra members from the Hawkshead and Coniston areas. Fortunately these new members were of an age where they were quite independent

and more importantly had driving licenses! This was a real bonus for the club, as getting to an event had always been quite difficult for some. There was also a certain 'cease the day' attitude where the events and competitions were attended for the pure hell of it! (even if there was no hope of winning the members would just give it a go). This newly formed group just seemed to enjoy doing 'stuff' together. They would travel all over the county and wherever they needed to be - just for fun. There were the traditional rural skills competitions through to drama, public-speaking and sports days. Also, many gained a great deal from being involved on the County and Northern Area Committees and for those really committed they were rarely at home in an evening.

Then came a year when Rusland Y.F.C. seemed to acquire the midas touch for a wee while (and deservedly so!)...

One of the big events of the year was always the Southern District of Cumbria Field Day. There were over 30 clubs competing against each other in such events as stock-judging, arts, crafts, fun competitions, sports etc. As a club, Rusland decided to enter every competition on offer. Result? Rusland YFC won the day. The feeling was quite euphoric and certainly

gave the club a good morale boost which kept the members' enthusiasm and commitment going for a good few more years.

Some of the competition winners from the District Field Day would go forward to the Northern Area and National Finals. Likewise other events from the YFC calendar such as Drama and Entertainments, Poultry trussing and jointing, Stock-judging, Floral Art, Craft and Commentary, Debating, Braintrust, Quizzes and even a Boys Fashion Show. There was an eagerness to do their best and the more effort put in, the more rewards they reaped. If they didn't know how to do something they wouldn't hesitate to ask for advice and would seek out the best; Traditional carpentry from the National Trust, a professional Magician for circus acts, (oh yes they did those too!), flower arranging at night class, basketry, public-speaking tuition etc. However, one competition that did seem to defeat them for a few years was the Tug o' War. Undeterred they set about to get a chap from Hawkshead, notorious for his strength, who gave them instruction as they hauled a tractor through a field to hone their technique. This was true determination that paid off! With drama and entertainments there was so much

4. Response from - Young Farmers

effort put in for the actual competition that they would extend the acts and put on a show for the senior citizens. This increased in popularity and so a whole show was eventually put on at the Theatre in the Forest each year. The proceeds went to a chosen charity as did quite a large percentage of money raised by the club.

Another branch of the NFYFC is the International Exchange Programme that offered scholarships all over the world for up to 2 years at a time. Over a few years, three members from Rusland were privileged to be selected for this fabulous scheme. As 'Young Farmers' Ambassadors' for England & Wales' they travelled as far away as Hong Kong.

The Young Farmers' Federation is known as 'The Youth Movement for the Countryside' and this was certainly the case in Cumbria. All the while, the Young Farmers were learning and developing new skills on physical, social, traditional and academic levels. There were also many subtle achievements that occurred as a result of the NFYFC. All members learnt how to support, encourage, respect and

care for one another. There were also the rites of passage experienced together and lifelong friendships that were formed. Wherever the Rusland YFC went, they seemed to be together. They shared everything and enjoyed each other's company. They knew how to celebrate their successes too! For a dance they would think nothing about organising a coach and going off to Silloth, Preston, Blackpool or Carlisle. The truth is they didn't need an excuse because for most of the members it was a continual celebration of rural life. Smiles and laughter will always appear on the faces of those recounting past events. Oh boy! could they tell a tale or two?

The National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs has a motto - 'Good Farmers, Good Citizens, Good Countryman'.

Rusland YFC has proved to be a fine example of this.



4. Response from - Places of Worship

Holy Trinity Parish Church Colton



A “mean unconsecrated chapel” existed on the site of the present church long before the 16th century. Following its consecration in 1578, the church was virtually rebuilt by 1603 “on the green belonging to the Rawlinsons of Greenhead”

The only major additions since then have been the vestry in 1762, and the north transept (which was completed in 1721 having been resisted by parishioners who attempted to demolish it more than once) they were sent to gaol before it was finished!

A restoration in 1890 involved the removal of the west gallery, and replacement of the old pews.

Mediaeval features include the 14th century monastic bell from Conishead Priory, and a red sand stone font which probably replaced the need to use the

ancient Holy Well of St. Cuthbert, restored in 2002.

The East window and one in the transept are of Victorian glass, and the remaining stained glass windows are all 20th Century and of good quality.

The current project is to install a further window to commemorate the Queen’s Jubilee.

Colton became a church parish in 1676, and included Rusland, Haverthwaite and Finsthwaite which have since become separate parishes.

Since 1968 it has been linked with Satterthwaite and Rusland sharing a parish priest. In 2002 on retirement of the present priest in charge, the plan is to link Colton Church with Lowick and Egton cum Newland in one benefice, which will

become part of a larger unit with Leven Valley, Hawkshead, Rusland, Sawrey and Satterthwaite to form a “group ministry” to be known as the “High Furness group”.

Parish Issues

Additional sign posting TO COLTON CHURCH at the Tottlebank crossroads and on the triangle on the road to Bouth, would greatly assist visitors new to the area.

The regular collection of rubbish from the church gate.

Creating a speed limit of 50 on the country roads with a limited number of signs not like Finsthwaite.

4. Response from ~ Places of Worship

Saint Paul's Parish Church, Rusland



Rusland was part of the parish of Colton. In 1745, a chapel of ease was built for the local people; it was consecrated on June 29th by the Bishop (of Chester, in whose Diocese this area then belonged)

In 1868, the parish priest had the main part of the building demolished, leaving only the tower and foundations. The tower was raised to the present height, and the new church was extended to the East to form the present chancel. (This extension was over part of the old churchyard; and the arch over a grave slab covering a family tomb can be seen on the south wall). Whilst the rebuilding was in progress services were held in the Friends' Meeting House. The churchyard was extended in 1868 and again in 1999.

The building is plain; a tower at the western end, the nave, and the chancel, with a vestry to the north.

The tower contains one bell dated 1752.

The best glass is said to be the East window; showing the Crucifixion, healing the blind, and freeing captives, it is said to be by Holiday, and is dated 1873. There are three other stained glass windows, commemorating local families. There are several wall tablets, and the war memorial (World War I) is an illuminated parchment under glass

In the churchyard there are graves of George Romney's wife and other members of the family, and the ashes of Arthur and Eugenia Ransome.

In 1954 the parish was linked with Satterthwaite, and in 1969 with Colton as well, apart from a break between 1994 and 1996 this link has continued to the present. It is now proposed that following the retirement of the present priest, the parish will become part of a group ministry of High Furness and in the new benefice of Hawkshead, Sawrey, Satterthwaite and Rusland.

Parish Issues

Transport

Housing

Local Services

4. Response from ~ Places of Worship

Tottlebank Baptist Church



Tottlebank Church enjoys the distinction of being the oldest Baptist Church in the historic county of Lancashire. It was founded by a group of seven men who were of the Independent Persuasion, rather than specifically Baptist. Within 30 years, taking advantage of a more liberal religious climate, it was strong enough numerically and financially, to build its own meeting house. This building, not greatly altered, is still in regular use today.

During the course of the 18th century the Church gradually adopted a Baptist stance; adult baptism was first carried out in the River Crake, and later in a pond dug out for the purpose in a field adjoining the building. At the same time the adjacent graveyard was coming into more regular use.

Outstanding among a number of very able ministers was the Rev. Thomas Taylor who

served the church for 50 odd years (1840 -1896), his energies were not restricted to his own immediate flock, for he served the whole area in a variety of ways, a service that was fully recognised in celebrations to mark his jubilee. Furness, North Lancashire and parts of present day Cumbria were involved, as well as Colton and its neighbourhood.

The 20th century followed a pattern common to many churches. Periods of growth followed by alternated with periods of decline. Two brass tablets commemorate a number of men who lost their lives or served in the Great War, but there is no record of any who may have served between 1939 and 1945. Despite difficulties, suggestions that the church should capitalise on its real estate assets were invariably resisted, so that the farm bought over 200 years ago to ensure proper provision for its ministers is still in church ownership today.

Ultimately, however, other problems caused the closure of the building in 1980, and it remained unused for some nine years, until repair and restoration allowed a re-opening in 1989. Now supported by an increasing membership and congregation, its future seems once more secure.

The chapel at Tottlebank is a plain barn-like structure, with rubble rendered exterior walls and a slate roof. The seven segmented arched windows of the front facade are enlargements of an original square shape. The original symmetry of the building has been lost with the addition of an extra bay at its western end. This western end now houses the entrance lobby with an up- to- date cloakroom and a meeting room large enough to provide space for a well equipped kitchen and serving area. A minister's vestry is provided at the opposite, eastern, end of the building.

The chapel itself, the central and main portion of the structure, will seat some 160 people in its box pews which replaced the original ones in the mid 1860s. The early 18th century communion table, with its stop-chamfered legs stands in front of a raised Victorian pulpit, and is flanked by two late 17th century ladder- backed chairs. This central pulpit area is fronted by a communion rail with particularly arched ends. The church still has its base metal communion goblet and plate, though they are little used.

The organ, built by Albert Keates of Sheffield, was installed in the building in 1910, replacing an earlier reed organ, it

suffered from damp during the period of the church closure in the 1980s but has been well maintained since. Redecoration is presently taking place, but no major changes are currently being planned for the building.

For three years, from 1999 until the end of August the church enjoyed the luxury of a regular minister. David Hughes was doing his probationary three years after leaving Spurgeons College. Particularly during the foot and mouth outbreak, but on other occasions as well, he proved himself to be a most caring and conscientious worker in the area, often with people with no actual contact with the church but who had a need for his help and support. It is the devout hope of the church fellowship that in time it might be possible to replace him. In the meantime without fail the church is open every Sunday morning at 10.30 for worship.

The church would seem to have nothing in particular to ask of Colton Parish Council except, maybe, to remember that we exist as a church and have a very reasonable meeting room and car parking. Perhaps we as a church might have something to offer the parish?

4. Response from - Places of Worship

Rookhow Friends Meeting House in the Rusland Valley



Rookhow is a fine old Quaker Meeting house, a listed building of Architectural and Historic Interest, of the Religious Society of Friends known as Quakers. It is a special building and to understand its purpose it helps to know the background to the Society.

South Cumbria and North Lancashire is of profound importance in the history of Quakers. In 1652 the preacher George Fox from the English midlands found a great welcome in an existing network of religious meetings called the Westmorland Seekers on the fringes of Lakeland. He then came to Ulverston and to Swarthmoor Hall where the Fell family were to give the embryo Quaker movement succour during years of persecution which followed. Margaret Fell became a staunch Friend while her husband Judge Thomas Fell crucially was able to provide a degree of protection. 'Quakers' was a derogatory term soon accepted

without stigma by Friends. Despite trials, imprisonment and forced emigration, the movement thrived, holding meetings in houses, barns and in the open. An early meeting at Causey End near Haverthwaite, is thought to be the property now called Cobblestones.

Purpose built Meeting Houses appeared from the 1680s onwards, locally at Ulverston, Swarthmoor, Hawkshead (Colthouse) and Cartmel Fell (Height). Meetings were held at least weekly but each month neighbouring meetings gathered to further the aims of the Society. But travelling was onerous and in 1723 it was decided a Meeting House equidistant from them all should be built for the purpose. In 1724 came the minute: "a Monthly Meeting house ... be builded at Abbott Oak Green in a close of ground purchased...for £65.0s.0d." The Meeting House and cottage were built in under 11 months for £150. There was a 'gig' house and stables for horses. Refreshments were to be provided by caretakers on an open range in a room off the porch still known as Friends Kitchen. The first Meeting was held on June 3rd 1725.

Rookhow, variously spelled Rookhowe and Rook Howe, has over 12 acres of mixed woodland known as Quakers Wood. A 19th

Century Census states those dwelling here are woodcutters. It is likely the woodland was intended to be the living for the caretakers from the outset in what is charcoal burning and bobbin turning country. Of course the Rusland Valley was once quite intensively industrial. Coppice timber went to make charcoal which fuelled iron smelting furnaces - bloomeries. Margaret Fell's family owned the bloomery at Force Forge from 1659 to 1681 and had shares in it for some years after. For a while it was managed by her daughter Sarah. An iron forge in the 17th Century managed by a woman - it would make headlines now!

The economic tide in the valley has ebbed and flowed but Rookhow has continued its work. In the 1800s Friends welcomed the Anglican community to share Rookhow when Rusland church was being refurbished and for over 12 months the Meeting House acted as the Parish church. Later there was even a shop in what had been the stables. There have been great changes but today Rookhow is still the Monthly Meeting House of Swarthmoor Quaker Meeting, important committees meet here and once a year it is used by the Westmorland General Meeting consisting of the Quakers of South Cumbria and North Lancashire. A public meeting for worship open to all is held on the first Wednesday of each month

at 7.30pm. The Meeting House is frequently used by other denominations for study days and retreats. And in 1991 local Friends decided the stables at Rookhow, which had fallen into disrepair, should be restored to beneficial use and be available to Quakers and non Quakers alike.

So the Rookhow Centre was created to provide budget accommodation for people of all denominations and of none. It is used by inner city groups, the scout and guide movement, religious groups on retreat, special needs schools and hospitals, schools and colleges generally, conservation and humanitarian groups, orienteers, climbers and artists. Quakers have also welcomed inspiring speakers and lecturers to make presentations to public meetings here. Recovering after Foot and Mouth Disease, Quakers are now raising funds in order to make the Centre, the woods and the Meeting House, accessible to people with disabilities.

Rookhow Meeting House is acknowledged by people of various denominations, and of none, as an inspiring place in which to meet. Rookhow's woods, which were once cropped to charge iron furnaces, are now perhaps even more important to those seeking a personal charge from this beautiful and historic place.

4. Response from ~ Places of Worship

Finsthwaite Church



The present building was erected on the site of an earlier one which was demolished in 1873. Mr Thomas Newby Wilson of The Landing, Lakeside, gave two pieces of land to extend the churchyard and paid for the rebuilding of the new church which was consecrated in 1874 by Henry Whitehead, Bishop of Carlisle. The architects were the Lancaster partnership of Paley and Austin. Their design had won first place in a competition organised by

the Diocesan Church Extension Society as being especially suitable for a 'mountain chapel'.

The church consists of a nave, central tower and chancel, with a vestry, organ chamber and store-room built to the north of the chancel which has an open timber work roof and is painted above the sanctuary. The east window, lectern and altar table were the gift of Newby Wilson. Richard Pedder of Finsthwaite House gave the reredos, by Salviati of Venice, the plate, a silver flagon, chalice and paten and a brass gilt alms dish. The pulpit was given by the Bigland family. The organ and font were presented by the Lewthwaites of Stott Park.

In a case on the north side of the chancel is a set of altar vessels made by men serving in Italy in 1918. The church clock, by William Potts of Leeds, was installed in 1919 as part of a peace memorial and subscribed for by the parish in memory of its dead.

The church, together with St Anne's, Haverthwaite and St Mary's, Staveley in

Cartmel forms part of the Leven Valley Benefice with The Reverend Derek Goddard as Priest in Charge. St Peter's currently has a regular weekly attendance of around fourteen parishioners although there are thirty two on the electoral roll. The pattern of services is: two Services of Holy Communion per month, one being Common Worship, one using the Book of Common Prayer; one service of Evensong and one United Service (Holy Communion) which rotates between Haverthwaite, Staveley in Cartmel and Finsthwaite. Mattins is celebrated on the fifth Sunday whenever this occurs. The building is used regularly by the community for weddings, baptisms and funerals. The church is kept open during daylight hours for locals and visitors to enjoy periods of quiet reflection. The churchyard is maintained by two or three volunteers and there is a rota for the cleaning of the church itself. The major problem facing the congregation is finance! Our payment to the Diocese in Carlisle currently runs at over £7000 per annum. On top of this we need to heat and maintain the fabric of the church. Quite a challenge for a small number of worshippers.

The village school closed many years ago as did the shop and we have no pub. The church, therefore, is an important focus of village life. We know that the residents of Finsthwaite and Lakeside regard the church as an important element in the makeup of their community and we would like to have that recognised in the Parish Plan from two points of view. Firstly, that the church is enabled to play a leading part in the life of the community and secondly, that where possible, the church can have the support of the Parish Council in securing the resources and finance necessary to maintain the fabric and life of the church within the parish.

4. Response from - Schools

What children dislike about our Parish

- Some children said “ Nothing!!”
- Friends - living too far apart to visit.
- Not enough “get-togethers”.
- Not enough sports facilities and clubs.
- Rubbish on the road side.
- Over-grown hedges making walking on the road dangerous.
- No public transport.
- Lack of shops and post offices.
- Farm smells
- Playgrounds provided near houses for children to play together.
- Shops within walking distance to cut down on the pollution of using cars and buses to go shopping.
- Provision of places for young people to “get-together” to share interests and activities.

What children like about our Parish

- Can't imagine living anywhere else.
- The country-side . . .views, scenery, hills, trees, rivers.
- Natural places to play . . . woods, forest, fields and trees to climb. Rivers, water, to play in.
- Green grass to run on and flowers around.
- Peaceful and quiet . . . very few cars and little other traffic.
- Animals . . . surrounded by animals in the fields, wild animals and birds in the woods.
- Friends . . . going to play with friends at their homes.
- Houses and homes and churches country buildings with space outdoors to to play on climbing frames, swings etc.
- Absence of litter, clean air and environment.
- House doors open on to streams, gardens, hills and flowers.



Changes children would like to see in our Parish

- People to take their rubbish home.
- Public transport - especially for young people.
- The hedges at the road - side cut back a bit.
- Playgrounds provided near houses for children to play together.
- Shops within walking distance to cut down on the pollution of using cars and buses to go shopping.
- Provision of places for young people to “get – together” to share interests and activities.

Rosie wrote :

In the summer I can lay on the grass with the dog licking my face.
I can look at the shapes the clouds are making

In the spring I go to Grandma's house and watch the lambs over the wall.

In the winter I build a snowman with with warm and fluffy gloves on.
Then I come inside and sit by the fire with hot chocolate waiting for my rosy cheeks to fade away.

In the autumn I run about with the leaves flying up beside me

Jo wrote :

The countryside is special.
In the woods I can be a squirrel.
In the long grass, a lion and in the short grass, a watchful deer.

4. Response from - Schools

Sarah Boyren wrote ...

Because there is no school in Colton, from the ages of 4-10 I went to Lowick School. I really enjoyed it and everyone was very kind to me.

Because I have no sight, people thought it would be difficult for me to manage but I did. The people at school made me a special sound garden with lots of wooden poles that I could bang together and they would make music.

There were lots of places to walk around school and we sometimes went out to collect things for our lessons. For example flowers or leaves. Also I had a special herb garden bought for me. When we were in the infants, the rest of the class and I all planted something in it. Me and a friend were responsible for looking after the garden and making sure it was watered every day. Later my parents bought me one for home, unfortunately that wasn't as

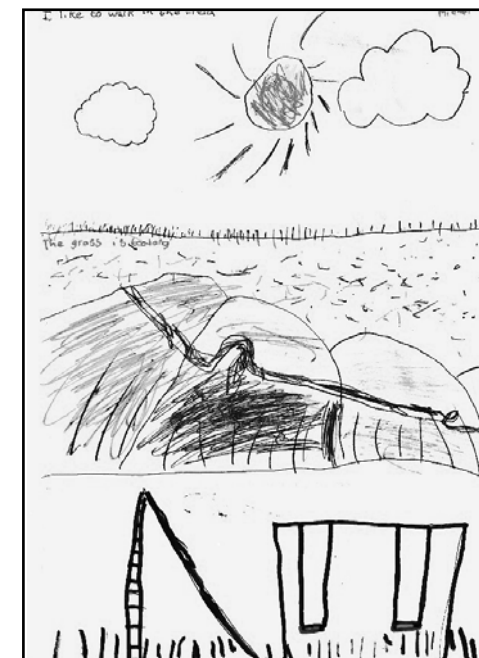
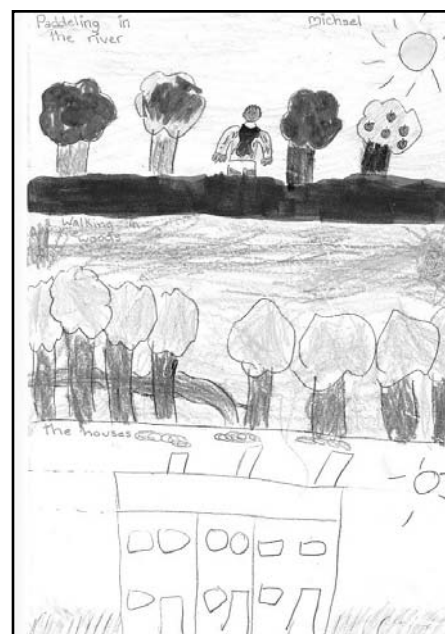
much of a success. We had a special trail made outside, we had all sorts of stones and bridges to cross. It was good fun to cross and I used to walk it every day.

Things were good inside school as well. I had 2 teachers to help me learn braille and learn to do things that sighted people can do. Two days a week I would go in to the special room that was built when I was at the school. There I learned to play the piano, read and tie my shoelaces. The school bought me a braille machine attached to a printer so that other people could read my work. When this wasn't as successful as planned, they bought me an electronic brailier, which if attached to a printer would print my work automatically. I also had speech put on to some of the computers, which was useful for everyone. When we worked in groups and did graphs I could do some of the typing and it would talk back to me.

I learned to find my way around, my support assistant became a mobility

teacher and taught me lots of different routes, in town and around school. I found these very difficult at first but eventually remembered them. When I was there, I also learned to swim. I received lots of swimming awards and won several ribbons on our annual sports days.

I loved going to Lowick. Every one was very helpful and I learned a lot. There were lots of nice people and they all understood me and were willing to help in any way they could.



4. Response from - Farming

A Few of the Changes in Fifty Years of Farming



A farm
near Oxen
Park

The first big upheaval in farming in the past 50 years was the introduction of tuberculin testing of all cattle. Prior to this milking had been done by hand with no particular hygiene restrictions with regard to buildings and environment. This was left to the individual farmer. Any cattle failing the test had to be removed from the herd. The buildings had to be fumigated, sealed and not entered for 3 weeks, all fodder destroyed and, in some cases, complete herds had to be replaced.

The next enormous change was from horses to tractors, in fact the introduction of much mechanisation, including milking machines. Most country people, fifty years ago, were virtually self sufficient in producing their own vegetables - having a green crop field. There were no supermarkets, or freezers to store vegetables or meat so pig killing took place in what is known as the "back-end", autumn, of the year and the meat, black pudding, sausages, brawn and bacon were kept in the cellars during the winter.

Spring Work: ploughing, harrowing, "tatie" planting and rolling hay-fields, all which had been done by horse-drawn implements, were completed in half the time by tractor work. The first tractors in the parish were Ferguson tractors and cost approximately £470. They ran on Tractor Vapourising oil, not diesel, and had no cabs, no safety frame, and were about 30-horse power. The driver needed to be well wrapped-up to withstand the elements being exposed to biting winds and freezing rain and often snow, but the difference these tractors made to the amount of work, previously done by horses, was amazing. Today's tractors are mostly between 90 to 120 horse power and are 4 wheel drive. They have cabs with all the amenities you would find in a modern car - heaters, radios, windscreen wipers, computers etc, even floatation seats, not like the solid metal ones the "Fergies" had where the bottom of your spine felt every bump and the only concession to comfort was a folded potato sack. The modern tractors can cost anything between £25,000 to £35,000 and can turn 40 acres of rough ground into a seed-bed ready for planting in one day.

Summer Work: Stock, dairy and beef cattle were "turned out" onto pasture in

May, making life much easier for the farmer, who could then turn his attention to his green crop - "thinning" plants, "moulding up" potatoes and crawling through lines of carrots, kale, turnips, etc removing weeds. Next came washing the sheep in preparation for "clipping" - sheep shearing. The beck was dammed with sods and stones. The farmer stood inside a barrel in the dam and the sheep were caught, passed to the farmer, who washed the grease from the fleece and then allowed the sheep to swim out. A week later, weather permitting, clipping started. All neighbours came and helped and the children would come and roll-up the fleeces. A big roast dinner for at least twenty would be produced at mid-day, followed by roly poly pudding.

Very rarely did this area get any June hay, July was the hay-time month. Mowing with horses could begin between 3 and 4 on the morning, as soon as there was enough daylight to see. A fresh set of horses would be taken to the mower in the field, along with his breakfast - interrupting the work as little as possible. Getting the hay ready for carting was done by hand, turning, shaking out, raking and then loading loose into the cart and forking loose onto the hay stack or hay-mow in

the barn. With the advent of the tractor all this changed. There was a cutter bar on the tractor meaning the grass could be mown at anytime of the day not having to consider the amount of work being too much for the horses. You could mow 4 times as fast and there were lights on the tractors so you could continue to work after dark. Machinery was produced to get the hay ready; there were scalers, turners and balers to attach to the tractors and elevators in the barn to make life so much easier.

Autumn Work: The area was not really suitable for cereal growing although all farmers did grow a few oats to crush for cattle feed. Then barley became more popular and some wheat, all of which were sown broadcast with a fiddle - drill, the sower walking up and down the field in lines about 6 yards apart. Due to weather conditions harvest was a "hitty missy" occasion. The field was "opened out" by a swathe being cut around the outside edge, the oats were gathered up by hand, tied with twisted stalks into sheaves, which were stood up into the hedge side. The binder then cut the field and the sheaves, which were stood up in "stooks" with the grain at the top and left to dry of, "3 church bells". The first combines in the

4. Response from - Farming

area came in the early '60s and were pulled by tractors. The harvesting was done in one continuous process, the baler following the combine and completing the operation in one day. This brought an end to the "harvest home" and the threshing day which previously had been highlights in the farming fraternity's year, providing social events culminating, like the sheep clipping, in huge communal meals and get-togethers.

Winter Work: after the harvest had been gathered it was time for potato-picking, lifting "mangolds" - beet and turnips and turning attention to farm maintenance. Hedges, ditches and walls all needed attention. Laying a hedge is a skilled job, using a billhook, axes, saw and heavy leather mittens. Nowadays hedges are cut with a flail cutter reducing working time by at least a third. There has been little change in walling which, for the farmers, is mostly repairing gaps caused by stock. Ditches were all cleaned out by hand using a spade and fork, whereas now a mechanical digger is used with the operator not needing to leave his seat.

Young stock would be brought into housing in September before the weather turned cold, followed by cows, which were

tied up by the neck all winter in the shippon. Now cattle are "loose housed", able to walk around freely and feed as they wish on a self-feed system. Dairy cows are milked in a milking parlour, where they walk through in turn and a herd of ninety cows can be milked by one man in one hour. In hand milking it took a very competent man to milk ten cows in the hour. Cattle feed, "cake", was brought in one hundred weight bags, now it comes in bulk and is blown from the delivery wagon into bulk bins in eight to ten tonnes in one delivery. Machines in the milking parlour measure out each cow's appropriate ration for their individual milk production. Milk was collected in twelve-gallon kits (milk churns) by a flat wagon from a milk-stand at the farm entrance. Bulk tanks were installed, in about 1965, in the farm dairy where the milk went via glass pipes straight from the cow into the refrigerated tank. A bulk tanker comes to the farm and collects the milk.

Because all stock was housed indoors for the winter much more work was involved in cattle management. They had to be fed twice a day, mucked out twice a day and the dairy cows milked twice a day. The muck was carted out by barrow-load into a midden and the cattle bedded with

sawdust and various ailments and conditions treated, such as foot trimming.

On good dry, frosty mornings muck would be carted out onto the fields, put out in heaps in lines 7 yards apart and 7 yards between the heaps, and then "scaled", spread with a fork, the man working at a rate of 60 heaps to the hour. Today's cattle are mucked-out automatically by a scraper into a slurry pit, all the liquid as well as the solids going into this pit, whereas in the past the liquid was allowed down the drains. The slurry is sucked out of the pit and spread on the land by tanker. In some cases the slurry is pumped directly from the pit in the farmyard onto the fields through a 4 inch diameter pipe known as an umbilical pipe, which reduces the damage to the land which can be caused by heavy tankers travelling over it.

To return to the feeding of dairy cows, their winter diet used to consist of hay and roots, turnips, mangolds and kale with "bought in" concentrates. Most of the oats produced on the farm would be fed, with hay, to the horses. The change in modern diets for cows is silage which has taken over from hay. This is grass ensiled as early as May and which can be gathered in 3 cuts during the summer, removing all the



uncertainty of haytime, and all done by machinery. On smaller farms the harvesting is done slightly differently. The grass is baled in big bales and wrapped tightly in plastic wrap, making it airtight and is called haylage. This procedure is so efficient that the same acreage of farmland now has a hundred percent improved stocking rate, this means, for example, a farm carrying 100 dairy cows can now maintain 200, and a labour force of three men can be reduced to one man. Here we see an indication of why so many country folk have left the land, so much efficiency has removed their jobs. The employment of contractors and the availability of advanced machinery means that the old skills, once passed from farmer to his sons, are no longer needed and with them are lost so many other interacting aspects of our country culture.

This is progress, but at what cost?

4. Response from - Local Authorities

National Park Authority Rangers Report on owned properties in Colton Parish

1. The Management of Authority owned properties

1.1 The Authority owns a number of important properties in the parish;

Rusland Woods. 153.66 ha.

Woodland site in the Rusland Valley. A Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and candidate Special Area for Conservation (cSAC). Public access site.

Rusland Moss. 22 ha.

Raised mire in the Rusland Valley. National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Public access site

Thwaite Head Woods. 48.7 ha.

Woodland site to the north of Rusland Valley. Public access site

Stony Hazel Woods and Stony Hazel Forge. 37.6 ha.

Woodland site and Scheduled Ancient Monument to the north of Rusland Valley. Public access site.

Glass Knott. 8 ha.

Woodland site in Rusland Valley. Public access site

Summer House Knott and Waterside Knott. 24.6 ha.

Woodland site at Lakeside. Public access site

High Dam. 34.8 ha.

Woodland site and reservoir at Finsthwaite. Public car park and public access area

1.2 Purpose of the Plans

1.2.1 Each individual site has a 5 year management plan. The purposes of these plans is to:

- Provide a framework of management
- Enable any interested person to understand how and why decisions are taken, in respect of the reasoning behind policies and proposals for action
- Draw together in one document all the factors that affect the management of this property

1.3 Audience

1.3.1 The plans are aimed at anyone who is involved in the management of the properties. Furthermore it will inform other statutory bodies, our stakeholders and neighbouring landowners.

1.4 Background Policies

1.4.1 The management of these sites is guided by the following policies:

- The Purposes of the National Park, which are;
 - To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park; and
 - To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park by the public.
- And also the duty of the National Park, which is:
- To seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities by working closely with the agencies and local authorities responsible for these matters, but without incurring significant expenditure.

1.4.2 The management proposals are guided by objectives in the Lake District National Park Management Plan 1998.

2. Location of Management Plans

2.1 These are located at the National Park Offices in Kendal. The Authority's Area Ranger for Colton

High Dam, Finsthwaite



Parish has responsibility for the management and maintenance of these sites. The Ranger works closely with other Authority staff, local authorities and agencies who have an interest and responsibilities for these properties. Copies of all these management plans are forwarded to Colton Parish Council during the draft consultation process.

3. Local Liaison and Communication

3.1 It is the responsibility of the area ranger to regularly report to the parish council on aspects of the property management. Regular site visits and meetings are organised to ensure that the local community is well briefed and involved in a partnership approach.

3.2 The area ranger can be contacted in the following ways:

4. Response from - Local Authorities

Planning Response from the National Park Authority



The Parish of Colton lies within open countryside where Policy NE1 of the Local Plan applies. You will note that it is a restrictive policy which does not allow for large scale or intrusive forms of development.

There is no statement of future policy for the Parish of Colton as such. Future developments are governed by policies in the Structure and Local Plan relating to such issues as hotel extensions, caravan sites, new houses and conversion of traditional buildings etc.

It would be useful however to have a list of issues which you as a Parish Council consider need to be addressed; for example sites for local housing, problems of access or car parking etc.

You will no doubt be aware that it is the government's intention to replace Structure Plans and Local Plans with Community Action Plans in conjunction with the Local Councils and it will be at this stage that your ideas can be discussed more fully.

Cumbria County Council



COUNTY COUNCIL

The County Council has supported the development of parish plans in a number of parts of South Lakeland and would be happy to provide particular support as appropriate.

The County Council provides a large number of services within this area including highways, education, social services, libraries, trading standards, fire services to name only a few. If there were specific issues which you felt caused particular concern I would be happy to respond (or if a technical specialist issue arrange for a response).

From experience many parish plans have included comments about local transport arrangements and youth services, early years and support for community groups. Each of these services is managed locally. With respect to these it may be helpful to provide some further information about initiatives planned or in hand:

Highways

- development of highways infrastructure - improvements to the A590, being lobbied for by Cumbria CC
- maintenance of highways infrastructure - winter maintenance; verge maintenance
- support for express Kendal/Barrow service
- support for community transport - provision of a new community minibus in Ulverston & area; Rural Wheels project; promotion of a number of additional trial public transport services

Youth services

- employment (through Young Cumbria (formerly Cumbria Association of Youth Clubs) of a youth development worker to support development of local youth clubs/activities.)
- financial support (grants for setting up or for rent) through the Council's Local Committee for youth groups

Early years - childcare

- employment of a development officer to support new parent and toddler groups, after school groups, etc or to help existing groups prosper
- financial support (grants for setting up or sustainability) through the Council's Local Committee for youth groups

Grants to support local community groups

- Low Furness and Ulverston Neighbourhood Forum

Help to develop local initiatives

- Through the local Neighbourhood Development Officer

4. Response from - Local Authorities

South Lakeland District Council



General

The District Council does not produce Parish specific policies, rather its work is directed by a series of District Wide plans.

Policy for Parish of Colton

The South Lakeland Strategic Plan (2003 - 2006) identifies six visions which the District Council and its partners are working towards:

1. Homes which meet need
2. Opportunities for enjoyment
3. Quality jobs in a diverse economy
4. Good transport facilities
5. A high quality environment
6. Healthy and safe communities

These reflect our priorities, some of which I expect will have been identified through your questionnaire work.

The Council complements the Strategic Plan with more detailed strategies, especially in service areas which the Council has a statutory duty. An example is the Housing Strategy (2002 - 2006). This strategy declares five priorities: Access to and provision of affordable housing, Access to and provision of Housing related support, (Housing) Stock condition and improving energy efficiency and combating fuel poverty.

The Council also delivers services for which it has discretionary powers rather than statutory duties. An example is the Economic Development Strategy. This focuses the Council's work and that of its partners to encourage the growth of new and existing businesses, to invest in workforce training and improve employment prospects, to provide access to suitable sites for business premises and to improve communication between businesses and the local authorities.

I can supply copies of these strategies if it would be helpful.

The District Council is not the planning authority for the Parish and reference

must be made to the Lake District Local Plan, via the National Park Authority.

Future Policy

Perhaps the most significant development is the South Lakeland Local Strategic Partnership and its remit for developing the 'South Lakeland Community Strategy'. This work is very much in its early stages and will form a single, most important strategy for promoting the economic, social and environmental well being of the communities of the District. It will be closely connected to the land use planning and development control system.

Parish Plans may play an important part in informing the development of the Strategy.

Otherwise, the Strategic Plan referred to above, contains the thrust of policy development over the coming years. Individual strategies will be reviewed and we will be embarking on the review of the economic development strategy during this year.

Parish issues for inclusion in an action plan

I do not have specific proposals but would encourage consideration of local actions that could assist in the resolution of issues for the District's rural areas:

- Provision of Affordable housing
Maintaining housing needs surveys and identifying opportunities (land) where new affordable housing schemes could take place if needs are proven.
- Action to stimulate and diversify the local economy, Ensuring local businesses are aware of the opportunities that rural regeneration funding through the North West Development Agency, DEFRA and Europe could bring to help develop new products and markets, applicable to agricultural, manufacturing and tourism businesses.
- Maintaining and improving local services, post offices, food shops, public and community transport. Financial support may be available to help the provision of services.
- Meeting the needs of young people, helping to ensure young people have a future in our rural areas.

4. Response from - Rusland Valley Community Trust

History

The Rusland Valley Community Trust (sometimes referred to as RVCT) is a charity (Registered Charity No. 1085846). The administration address of the charity is The Dower House, Whitestock, Rusland, Uverston, Cumbria LA 12 8L13.

RVCT is governed by a Deed of Settlement dated 10th May 2000 as amended by a Deed of Variation dated 18th March 2001 ("The Deeds"). It was registered as a charity in March 2001.

The objects of the charity are to promote community activities and projects in the Rusland Valley and in the neighbouring Parishes of Satterthwaite and Colton. RVCT has its own endowed capital which it holds in the form of shares and cash at the bank. The purpose of the charity is to provide financial support for charitable activities from the income generated by the capital although at their discretion the Trustees may also use the capital for that purpose.

Current and planned activities

In the past year RVCT have provided grants to the Satterthwaite Recreation and Play Area (new equipment for playground) and Rusland Reading Room (safer kitchen equipment for community activities).

It has paid for professional computer lessons for members of the community which have been held at Satterthwaite and Rusland School (thus giving an income to the School). RVCT has supported orienteering activities by a group of 12/14 under 16 year olds which have been expertly run by Carol McNeill. The idea behind this is to provide an alternative focus to the Rusland Young Farmers given the small number of youngsters now taking part in farming.

First Aid classes have been organised to start in November with training provided by St John's Ambulance. The cost will be born by RVCT. These will take place at Rusland Reading Room (thus giving additional income to that facility).

RVCT is originating a project designed to restore as many of the orchards in the area as possible. This will start with a Fruit Day (at Rusland Reading Room) on 27 th October 2002 and with the help of outside funding, it is planned to continue with a professional survey of orchards in the area.

It is intended to set up a Rusland Valley website which will be run by youngsters in the area who are interested in media studies etc.

It is intended to continue the above activities although the computer classes and first aid classes will probably depend upon demand when the present classes finish.

Parish Issues

RVCT sees its role as filling in gaps which other bodies within the area cannot fill. In particular by increasing the skills of the mature members of the community (computers) and making the area more self reliant (first aid).

RVCT sees an important role as finding pastimes for youngsters which make use of the facilities of the area (orienteering).

The area covered by RVCT is not coterminous with the Parish of Colton as it includes the (ecclesiastical) Parish of Satterthwaite and only the ecclesiastical Parish of Colton which is smaller than the civil parish.

4. Response from - Forest Enterprise

FOREST ENTERPRISE



In Colton Parish there are management plans for Bessy Bank (around Bandrake Head and Nibthwaite), Old Hall Wood (at Bouth) and Linsty Green (near Backbarrow and Haverthwaite). The majority of the latter comes within the Haverthwaite Parish.

Activities are managed from the district office at Grizedale, where there is a forest park. Activities within the Parish can broadly be described as woodland management which includes conservation, recreation, timber production and providing an attractive landscape. All of

these roles provide employment for local people, both full time and contract.

The three woods within Colton Parish have a similar long term objective, to promote and encourage locally native broadleaves, so that in 20 to 30 years they blend in more sympathetically with adjacent broadleaf woodland in the valleys. This will be achieved by a combination of felling areas and replanting, using self seeding, and by selectively removing a proportion of the conifers every five years in thinning operations. This should make a more attractive landscape and improve biodiversity.

Recreation usage will remain low key and informal because of the close proximity to the extensive range of facilities at Grizedale.

Forest Enterprise do not have any issues to raise with the Parish Council and thank them for their interest and support over forest design plans. They reiterate that their plans are long term and progress will be made at intervals and would ask people to be patient if there does not seem to be much happening. One very important request is that when working in the woods it very often involves machinery and we would ask that warning signs are respected to ensure that forests remain safe places to enjoy.

4. Response from - Hay Bridge Nature Reserve

Hay Bridge Nature Reserve

Hay Bridge Nature Reserve Society was registered as a charity with the Charities Commission in 1972. Its remit is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside and its native wildlife for the benefit of its members, the public generally and to provide educational facilities.

The reserve, near Bouth, encompasses some 90 ha. but within that relatively small area many separate ecological habitats can be found, including tidal river, fen, raised bog, pasture and hedgerow, mixed woodland, fell, flush areas and open water. Evidence of the historical use of the land for coppicing, charcoal-burning and other woodland industries can also be seen.

A converted barn within the reserve serves as an office and information point, and houses a museum with a display of animal skins, antlers and 'trophy' heads, and

collections of birds' eggs and butterflies, mostly originating from the naturalist Herbert Fooks, in whose memory the reserve was created by his late wife.

In the summer the reserve is used as a resource by school groups who are taken out by qualified tutors for pond-dipping and generally learning what the countryside has to offer.

The present Committee and the landowners, the John Strutt Conservation Foundation, are currently managing the reserve by fencing off certain areas to encourage tree regeneration, returning part of the woodland to a coppice regime, and fencing off field margins to provide more ungrazed areas. It is hoped to complete a Nature Trail and accompanying leaflet to enable visitors to see the sites of particular interest.



4. Response from - Village Halls

Lakeside & Finsthwaite Village Hall



Since the school closed in 1969 the building has had two main functions :-

- as a village hall for a variety of community and church events.
- as a residential study centre (summer months only) for groups of young people and families

These were managed by the School Management Committee which took responsibility for the use, upkeep and maintenance of the building using the

revenue obtained from Summer and other lettings.

As the building was not defined as a Village Hall many potential sources of grant aid were not available. The format of the current Trust to re-define the building as a Village Hall for Lakeside and Finsthwaite was undertaken in 1999.

After working with the Charities Commission and the current Trustees, Village Hall status was granted and we were able to proceed.

The object of the Charity is the provision and maintenance of a Village Hall for use by the inhabitants. They were asked the following :-

- What would you like to see going on in the community?
- Do you have any new suggestions for activities or use?
- What kind of facilities would there be?

- Who should we be encouraging to use the building?

Many suggestions were made and the following well supported activities have since taken place in the Hall :-

- The Art Group
- Tia Chi
- Line Dancing
- Afternoon Tea Parties
- Parish Council Meetings
- Community Parties (in aid of fund raising)
- Coffee Mornings
- Book Swap
- Church fund raising events
- Gardening Club
- plus the 28 days lettings to family groups.

The building is now in need of re-furbishment and upgrading. As it is the only Community building in the local area, the Committee is keen to ensure it's future, particularly meeting the needs of the community of Lakeside and Finsthwaite. However, it is clear that we need to seek new sources of funding for the desired development which will include improved heating, lighting, furnishings, kitchen facilities, toilets and disabled access.

The Management Committee are very committed to this project and working towards this goal.

4. Response from - Village Halls

Rusland Reading Rooms



In the beginning of 1990 there was no water supply and the interior of the building was very shoddy. To continue the use of the hall for the inhabitants of Rusland the Committee decided to refurbish the building. It was found that there were no deeds or prove of ownership - Lease and Trust Deeds were drawn up on the 1st April 1993.

This was a large project to undertake and included :-

- Mains Water
- Septic Tank
- Toilets
- New Kitchen (crocery, cutlery etc.)
- Repairing areas inside and outside the building
- Decorating
- New curtains

This work had to be undertaken to qualify for grants towards the cost of the work. Applications for grants and other sources of funding were made.

Fund raising events were organised and volunteers worked very hard on DIY jobs to alleviate costs. Fund raising is still a priority to maintain the Hall.

The project was completed and is fully supported by user groups and for Church activities :-

- Shows
- Flower Festival
- W.I.
- Young Farmers
- Christian Aid Committee
- PCC
- Parish Council Meetings
- British Legion
- Parties and Anniversaries
- Funeral Teas
- Meetings

Bouth Reading Room



Bouth Village Hall or Reading Room was provided by the gunpowder works around 1910 for the pleasure and education of their employees and families. It was in those days equipped with a library of books, billiard table and a dart board. Dances were often held in the hall.

Today the Hall is still an important asset for the village and is used regularly by the WI and for village events.

Fund raising is always required to keep the hall in good condition. This aspect would be helped if the local/national government authorities were more generous with their assistance.

The Hall is a registered charity and is run by a Committee which holds its AGM in November.

Oxen Park Reading Room



Oxen Park Reading Room was built 100 years ago by public subscription. It was built on common land thus no one actually owns the building. This is a problem now that we would like to apply for grants to renovate the room.

Over the years the room has been used for reading and as a meeting place for various groups in the community; the Women's Institute, Watch, Young farmers etc.

Recently the room has declined in use as it has become a little dilapidated and it is currently used only for a whist drive once a month, an annual Halloween party and as a polling station.

If we could renovate the room it would have a somewhat more secure future and provide a more useful meeting place for community activity.

4. Response from - Horticultural Society

The Rusland Valley Horticultural Society RVHS

In the year of 1871, a group of no more than 6 farmers and gardeners came up with the idea of holding a small flower show and plant sale. This was to be the beginnings of The Rusland Valley Horticultural Society. However, those founding chaps could not have predicted what would grow from the seeds they planted at their first ever show. The event, held in the Old School at Rusland, was an immediate success and soon attracted the whole community by introducing childrens' competitions and races.

As with most plants, the show needed to be moved outdoors and was situated in a field near to Rusland Vicarage until it found its final flowering position in the meadow at Whitestock where, it has matured and flourished. Good gardeners know that any prize-winning plants need nurturing, nourishment and attention to detail which is how the Rusland Show became a winner.

Each year on the 3rd Saturday in August you will see the familiar sight of marquees in the meadow. These are the result of the entrepreneurial nature of the original tent committee who bought tents with their own money and sub-let them to the

society until it could afford to buy-out the tent committee. The tents were much smaller in those days and were followed by Bell Tents until now when there are no fewer than 8 marquees lining the show field like giant cloches protecting the delicate exhibits below. As the shift was made from small to large tents, gaps would appear and so the gardener from Rusland Hall would bring large displays of flowers and plants to create a more abundant atmosphere. As the show grew and trends changed, the number of classes increased. These days there are sections for the children's competitions, crafts, home-produce, handicrafts and of course horticulture. We must not forget the beer tent where there is always a good crack and the catering tent which in the early days was run by the local ladies.

At the opposite end of the show field are the hound trails. These began after the first world war and have remained popular. It is one of those events where work behind the scenes will never be seen. Few people have laid these trails with the rags covered in aniseed. Very often the same person has made the 10 mile walk around the valley on show day for at least 10 consecutive years until eventually the job would be passed on to someone else. In one case one of these chaps would lay the trail,

come back to the show and run the fell race!

The real delight of the show is the taking part and although a cliché it is true. There is, of course, the possibility that you could win one of the 30 trophies that are presented each year and there is a certain amount of kudos attached to this, particularly if there has been a high standard in the tents or out on the field.

The fell-running events have always been popular and in the 1950s and 60s competitors would arrive by the bus load from far and wide. Ask any of those who do compete and they will tell you that Rusland Show is a very special event on the running calendar. Fifty years before the London Marathon was even thought of there was a legendary character who would run 22 miles on show day just for the spectacle and sheer joy of it.

There also used to be a special bus service from Ulverston for the general public to

Home-produce at Rusland Show



come to the show as it was considered one of the "must do" things each year. Compare that now to, instead of buses, at least 500 cars visiting and we can see an obvious change in lifestyles.

This can create a slight logistical problem if the show has been blessed with rain but even pushing cars out of the mud and back on to the road has always been carried out in a jovial manner.

It is this ethos and esprit de corps that keeps the show going and there are many involved who accomplish tasks with no fuss but just a quiet commitment. Here I will mention someone who, during the week before the show, would stop on his way home from working on the Forestry

4. Response from - Horticultural Society

Commission and mark out some of the athletics tracks. He would repeat this each night to make sure the job was finished by Saturday. However, enthusiasm has been known to wane slightly when volunteers were required to take down the latrines after the show! A silent pleasure is now felt since the arrival of "Portaloos" and the responsibility of their removal is certainly not missed.

There is in fact a great deal of work that goes on behind the scenes from arranging the judges to handing out the prize money; sorting out the chaos of the pet show to marking out the marquees for the exhibits; erecting marquees and organising the craft demonstrators, stewards, publishing and the list goes on.

Some things change (there is no longer a laundry class), but others stand the test of time, like the 70 year old square posts that mark out the ringside. There is no longer a long jump, pillow fight or tug of war but there is a full programme of races on the track, five fell races, 5 hound trails and displays in the show ring ranging from falconry to clog dancing. In total there are 170 classes providing an opportunity for anyone with a competitive streak or just a

keen interest. The original dance floor was only replaced because a bigger one was required and the fiddle player made way for a piano followed some years later by an electric powered band.

The committee meets several times a year to review what has gone before and what can be done to improve and enhance what already exists. It is quite a task for those farmers and gardeners who, for five generations have tended to this event. They have planted, re-potted, fed, pruned and reaped what they have cultivated - a magnificent Lakeland specimen of a show that blossoms faithfully every year.

The stories and people that surround this wonderful annual meet are as rich in texture and colour as any of the interiors of the show marquees. They are an eclectic mix of sportsmanship, rivalry, camaraderie, humour and graft that are as old as the show itself. For over the years the show has become symbolic of a thriving community that works together through thick and thin (wet and dry!), using the local people, skills and resources available to make it a great day out. Only the external forces of two World Wars and the Foot and Mouth Disease would prevent

this team of stalwarts from getting on with the job!

As a great grandchild of one of the founding members, I will be eternally grateful for having learnt the pleasures of horticulture and baking, the importance of community and the value of Lakeland customs.

The Rusland Valley Horticultural Society always offers a warm welcome with a good-hearted crowd; a fine display of talent; plenty of entertainment and competitions galore but the show is much, much bigger than that. In this ever-changing world, the RVHS has kept a foot in tradition while adapting with the times and more importantly held on to the true essence of the show. It is immeasurable. Through dedication and passion, friendship and hard work, the continuity of skills and experience has kept on flowing from generation to generation for over 130 years and all from a few flower seeds.



Rusland Show

5. Colton Parish Survey 2003 - Main Results

ABOUT THE SURVEY

This survey was conducted between February and March 2003 as part of the process of producing a Plan for Colton Parish. The survey questionnaire was devised by Parish Councillors with the support of a research professional, distributed and collected to all households in the Parish by volunteers, and the work was supported by the Countryside Agency and by Voluntary Action Cumbria. The results were analysed professionally by the AHA marketing consultancy based in Ambleside. This short summary of the main findings is for general information and access to the detailed tables is available to those who seek further information.

Some 450 households were contacted and we achieved a response rate of around 66%, which is a remarkable achievement for a survey of this type. Bearing in mind that around a quarter of all households in the Parish are now used as second homes or rented as holiday lets - and that this survey took place in Winter when usage of such properties is low - the response rate is even more impressive. Some of the questions were for one person in the household to complete; the others were for completion by individuals in each household aged 11+.

PROFILE OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THE PARISH AND USE OF FACILITIES

1. Age and Retirement.

The survey reveals that Colton Parish residents are primarily middle aged and older. Nearly six out of ten (59%) residents are over 51 with less than a quarter (23%) aged 31-50. 12% are under 16 and just 6% are 17-30. The over 50s divide roughly half and half between those 51 to 64 and those 65+.

Consistent with the age profile, the survey indicates that around 40% of residents are retired - many clearly having retired in their 50s or even earlier. The changing profile of the over 60s in the 21st century (60 is the new 40) is undoubtedly relevant to this Parish.

2. Length of time in Parish.

Almost one in three respondents were born in the Parish (28%) and 34% have lived here more than 25 years. At the other end of the scale there are clearly many newcomers with 14% having lived here less than 4 years and four out of ten (40%) less than 10 years. We do not have the profile of those who own second

homes or holiday lets but it is likely that if they were included, at least half the Parish community has come here to live (or invest) in less than a decade.

3. A very rural community.

Colton Parish is a deeply rural community with some 35% of residents living in a village (with shop and/or pub and/or church) while over half (53%) live in a hamlet or other small settlement with no village facilities and 10% live on a working farm. In other words, two thirds are rural dwellers living outside villages. On the other hand nearly six in ten live within a mile of a pub (95% within 3 miles) with similar figures for proximity to a village hall and/or church. Four out of ten did not live within 3 miles of a shop/post office, however, with indications that the over 75s were worst off in this respect.

4. Use of local facilities and mobile traders.

Pubs and village halls are used regularly by a sizeable minority of residents with nearly 50% visiting a local pub at least monthly (around half that proportion weekly). Village halls were being visited by one in four residents at least once a month while a remarkable number of residents (63% of

women and just over half of men) continue to use mobile traders on a weekly basis. No doubt much of this is for milk and papers rather than other supplies although meat and fish are available to some residents from mobile traders.

5. Internet access.

Colton Parish is now a 'switched on' community with just over two thirds of all households having access to the Internet (67%). The figure is close to 90% for those under 50 but, surprisingly it is still more than one in three for the over 65s. It is, of course lower in the over 75 group. When asked if respondents would like to be sent occasional news reports and e-mails when Colton has its own website over seven out of ten of those with access said 'yes'.



5. Colton Parish Survey 2003 - Main Results

6. Residents in work.

By summarising responses from different questions we can conclude that one in three Parish residents are in employment (full or part time), one in five is self employed (full or part time) and that very small numbers (under 2%) are variously unemployed/job seeking or unable to work for health reasons. Some 5% are at home caring for children or the elderly. 4% are registered disabled, although these are mainly over 65. The balance of residents is retired (around 40%).

Overall, up to one in four Parish households (25%) has someone in it undertaking paid work from home. We do not have trend data for this but would expect that it has increased significantly over the last decade. Paid work from home may well be a key pillar of rural living in this part of Cumbria.



Kite flying in Finsthwaite

LIKES AND DISLIKES OF LIVING IN THE PARISH

The Parish likes and dislikes obviously reflect the profile, for example the age, of residents. The summary below reflects also the feedback gained from three public meetings held in the Parish to debate the survey findings. Basically the great majority of residents like what they have in what they clearly identify as a peaceful and attractive corner of the Lake District and do not want it spoiled by the noisy intrusions of so much of modern leisure.

7. Satisfaction with local recreation facilities.

Most residents (between six and seven out of ten) were satisfied with the facilities for leisure and recreation in the Parish. Predictably the under 16s, although few in number, were much less enthusiastic with well over half being dissatisfied about local facilities. In terms of facilities within about an hour's drive the satisfaction figure rises to 95% and satisfies most of the under-16s too. Although more is always possible and local village halls provide valuable venues for future activity, these must be considered to be very high levels of overall satisfaction with what the area offers.

8. Likes of living in the Parish.

The likes identified in the survey focus almost exclusively on the quality of the local environment and rural way of life. The words 'friendly,' 'countryside,' 'scenery,' 'peace and quiet,' 'seclusion' and 'quiet roads' were variously identified by more than half of residents. Local community spirit and knowing one's neighbours are also well-recognised benefits of local life.

9. Ideas for new facilities and improvements.

Answers are wide-ranging but focus on underpinning and maintaining the same qualities of life noted in 8 above. There is a general wish to see the local shop/post office supported, roadside hedges and walls better maintained, introduction of broadband access in our area (for internet users) and so on. Anything that protects the well-appreciated quality of life appears to have support. There is also very strong support for recycling facilities in the Parish with over two out of three residents (67%) noting that they consider it "very important." Less than one in ten residents thought it "not important."



Finsthwaite & Lakeside Party

10. Dislikes of living in the Parish.

Not surprisingly dislikes focus on the things that are considered to threaten the qualities already identified as 'likes.' Chief among the specific dislikes and the things many would wish "to be stopped or curtailed" are the visual and noise intrusion and path erosion caused by 4 wheel drive vehicles on the fells and by off-road motorbikes and mountain bikes on footpaths and bridleways. Speeding traffic, heavy lorries and coaches in narrow lanes generally (especially Hawkshead traffic) are all criticised and the litter that is thrown out by passing cars is clearly an issue. Linked to interests in sustaining housing for local people there is concern about the number of houses being bought up for use as holiday homes in the Parish.

5. Colton Parish Survey 2003 - Main Results

11. Use of local services and rating of service quality.

Respondents were asked to indicate which of a range of local services they had used 'in the last 2 years' and the users were asked to rate them. Usage ranges from 97% for refuse collection, 89% local GPs, 73% local hospital but falls to 24% for police services, 22% for other emergency services and 17% for adult education. Use of other services (less than 7% each) was too low to produce a usable response.

With ratings of over 75% for the top two categories (very good and excellent) residents are clearly satisfied with local hospitals, GPs, other emergency services and refuse collection. None of these scored more than 10% for the bottom two categories (very poor and dissatisfied). On the other hand police response to emergencies was rated at only 37% for the top two categories and 43% for the two worst rated categories. Adult education (used by only 17% of respondents) was rated at 54% for the top two categories and 22% for the bottom two categories.

**Full results of the findings are available to view from Colton Parish Council.
(Please see contacts at the back of this report.)**

12. Involvement in the planning decision process and rating of service.

Respondents were also asked if they or a close neighbour had been involved/had any dealings with the planning decision process in the area. Those that had were asked to indicate how satisfied they were with the process. Just over half of respondents had had some involvement in the process and the users were fairly divided on this issue with 36% rating the process very good or excellent. A similar proportion (37%) rated the process as very poor or dissatisfied with the remainder in between.



Rusland Golden Jubilee Celebrations



SLDC Refuse Collections

6. Residents comments from questionnaire - Dislikes

- Erosion of paths by 4 wheel drive vehicles
- Gritting needed in winter
- Improvement in services
- Lack of public transport
- Large coaches using the road from Newby Bridge to Hawkshead (too wide for road)
- Litter problem, verge and hedge maintenance required
- No facilities/shops
- Poor state of road maintenance
- Smell from Lakeside
- Speed of traffic on roads
- Speeding traffic through Newby Bridge (cut to 30mph)
- Too many holiday cottages
- Too many second homes
- Too much council tax for what we receive
- Too much traffic
- Tourist traffic and lack of signs concerning road details ie when the

dual carriageways are coming

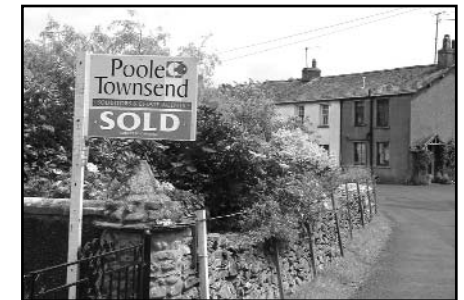
- Lack of warm, comfortable, multipurpose village hall.
- Would like to get more involved with local activities
- Any plans for further development that some organisations think we need
- Bad road surfaces. Verges and hedges need attention



- Don't like all the new mph signs that have appeared
- Behaviour of Windermere ferries
- Being under the jurisdiction of the NPA - an unelected, undemocratic, unaccountable group of power crazed bureaucrats
- Cannot walk down many of the roads
- Control over the crossroads at Tottlebank (dangerous)

- Council tax should be in relation to the services provided
- Cow muck on roads and fields
- Difficulty in protecting environment from new projects ie buildings, sewage projects etc
- Distance from shops
- Distance to get to work, shops and friends
- Dog fouling
- Don't like the isolation
- Minimisation of fireworks after 10pm
- Heavy lorries/coaches on Hawkshead Road
- High cost of housing for local people
- High council tax
- Isolation, long journeys to work and facilities
- Junction at Swan dangerous. Coaches on Hawkshead road, could make it one way around the lake.
- Traffic blowing horns

- YMCA should control their students at 2.00am
- Just the noise from the scramble bikes on the fells
- Lack of a village shop
- Lack of affordable homes for local people. Too many holiday homes
- Lack of local hall functions
- House prices!



- Better public transport
- Lack of mains gas and sewerage.
- Frequent loss of electricity
- Large vehicles travelling too fast on roads
- More encouragement and support for young people

6. Residents comments from questionnaire - Dislikes

- Need speed limits in the village
- New speeding signs are being ignored
- Safer cycling routes.



- No more building or changes at Lakeside
- No newspaper deliveries
- No public transport

- No work, no village shop, no young people
- Offcomers moving in and not joining in with the community
- Poor TV reception
- Problems with water supply
- Sad more local schools and shop are having to close



Rusland Beeches

- Services too far away, prices too high in area
- Silage bales near houses
- Trees/hedges need cutting back
- Some roads are in bad condition. Ageing population due to house prices not good for balanced community
- Speeding cars and motorbikes through the village at weekends
- The abuse of speed limits and lack of policing on this matter
- The dirty, messy farm
- The interference of people and authorities who have no knowledge of true rural life
- The ongoing deterioration in rural life ie church and school closing
- The speed of traffic past houses
- Too many coaches
- Too many low flying aircraft
- Too many tourists driving too fast
- Tourists

6. Residents comments from questionnaire - Likes

- Community spirit
- Friendly - Countryside - Scenery - Peace and Quiet - Lake District
- Quiet roads and peaceful environment
- Access to road system, wildlife
- Born here
- Caring community
- Easy to get to work
- Everything
- Feel safe
- Friendly inhabitants, easy access to Windermere Lake
- Geographical
- In the country with few tourists
- It's away from shopping centres and over crowded cities. You know everyone.
- Knowing most people.
- Quiet
- Lack of development, scenery, air quality, lack of traffic
- My home
- Newsletter, supportive community, wonderful landscape, no traffic noise, access to pubs, access to fells
- Nice postman
- Not much traffic.
- No pollution.
- Bluebells
- Old fashioned qualities of countryside life, concern for neighbours etc
- Privacy, seclusion
- The friendly residents
- The people
- The pleasure of living in a small community. The absence of intrusive activities
- The rural environment
- The views, the people
- Unspoilt area of the Lake District
- Way of life



High Dam, Finsthwaite



Lakeside & Finsthwaite Village Party



Brandrake

7. Parish Plan Public Meetings

The Parish Plan steering group held three Public Meetings on 1st, 2nd and 3rd April at the Boathouse Hotel at Lakeside, the Manor House Hotel in Oxen Park, and the Red Lion at Lowick Bridge and refreshments were provided.

The requirement for a Parish Plan was explained and questions were answered. People were concerned that the document produced would be ignored and would not have sufficient authority to influence change. It was explained that the Parish Plan initiative is government sponsored, run through the Countryside Agency, and is part of a process that will enable local people in rural communities to have greater influence on the decision making that effects their lives.

A number of issues and concerns were raised at the meeting which are summarised as follows :-

- Village halls are used to a greater or lesser extent in different parts of the parish. It was suggested that joint activities could be organised to bring the whole parish community closer together.
- The principle of 100% Council Tax for all was welcomed and funds made available for affordable homes.
- 4x4s and trail bikes were considered a big problem. Some people thought that the provision of special tracks at Grizedale were encouraging people into the area, who then went off the permitted tracks in other parts of the parish, especially in the Colton area.
- The 'rat-run' from A590 at Bouth Tollbar to Spark Bridge was considered a problem, as was speeding traffic at Lakeside.
- Concern was expressed regarding the sewage smells at Lakeside.
- People felt that certain issues could be addressed with a likely measure of success and raised the following: litter clearing, hedge and verge management, providing pavements where traffic is dangerous, and providing more recycling sites.
- One member of the public felt that a vision for the future was necessary and posed the question "what would the parish be like in 10 years time?"
- As one parishioner said "... although the list of dislikes is longer than the likes, they are not 'life threatening'. In our parish we are not afraid for our personal safety, or that of our children, and in reality, the likes, peace, lovely countryside, supportive community and safety outweigh the dislikes, which are mainly ones of slight personal inconvenience or we wouldn't be living in this beautiful part of the country."



Public meeting at The Red Lion, Lowick

8. Action Plan

Lobbying issues identified	Proposed Action	To be taken by
1. Changing and ageing population of the Parish	Represent rural related issues of an ageing/retired population. Respond to the rapidly changing with the influx of new residents and an increasing proportion of second/holiday homes.	Colton Parish Council liaise with :- LDNPA Cumbria County Council, SLDC Morecambe Bay Health Authority
2. Cost of Council Tax related to the services received	Better information on the cost of services provided. Equality of access for the Parish to services paid for out of Council Tax. Identify needs as and when they arise, to inform SLDC and Cumbria County Council, of issues with regard to the services provided that are considered important by local residents.	Colton Parish Council liaise with :- Cumbria County Council SLDC, Police, LDNPA
3. Diminishing facilities located within the Parish	Support the key role in the community of local pubs, village and church halls and mobile traders and remaining retail and post office facilities. Encourage new service and retail providers and assist through links to SLDC, the NPA, Cumbria County Council and funding assistance bodies to help provide any necessary support	Colton Parish Council liaise with :- LDNPA Cumbria County Council SLDC
4. Protection of the peace and quiet qualities enjoyed in the Parish especially the use of footpaths, bridleways and green lanes	Lobby strongly for planning policies that protect the attractions of the quality of life, recognising how quickly the composition of the Parish is changing and how intrusive aspects of modern leisure can be on valued peace and quiet of Parish. Lobby where appropriate for restrictions on the use of local footpaths, bridleways and green lanes by off road vehicles and motorbikes.	Colton Parish Council liaise with :- LDNPA Cumbria County Council SLDC
5. Requirement for more flexible planning policies to assist the local economy	Lobby for more responsive application of planning policies that currently inhibit mixed use of residential buildings in order to support local residents' livelihoods and encouraging small businesses by allowing for efficient working from a home base. Identify possible opportunities for shared workspace and discuss with the NPA the feasibility of providing such a facility	Colton Parish Council liaise with :- Cumbria County Council SLDC LDNPA
6. Protection on the visual amenity of the Parish	Opposing major visual intrusions proposed for the area that might arise through planning applications in order to preserve the unique visual amenity of the Parish	Colton Parish Council liaise with :- LDNPA

8. Action Plan

Lobbying issues identified	Proposed Action	To be taken by
7. Resistance of applications for further holiday lets within the Parish	Lobby for greater resistance of applications for further holiday lets unless they support other rural objectives	Colton Parish Council liaise with :- LDNPA
8. Increased and speeding traffic within the Parish and a limited further application of signposting.	Maintain objections to speed and especially the use of lanes by coaches and other heavy traffic not conducting business in the Parish Provision of better signposting	Colton Parish Council liaise with :- Cumbria County Council
9. Provision of Recycling facilities	Develop the provision of local recycling facilities in collaboration with SLDC	Colton Parish Council liasing with SLDC
10. Increased amount of litter particularly adjacent to roads passing through the Parish.	Discuss with SLDC and Cumbria County Council the feasibility of introducing measures that will assist in curbing indiscriminate litter dumping.	Colton Parish Council liaise with :- Cumbria County Council SLDC, LDNPA
11. Overhanging hedgerows on local roads and poorly maintained verges.	Press for better maintenance of hedgerows, verges and walls (for example by securing an earlier cut and a selective second cut)	Colton Parish Council liaise with :- LDNPA, SLDC & local land owners
12. Better communication through electronic communication	Act to develop a Web site for better communication, working with others as the option emerges (e.g. Rusland Valley Community Trust) and providing links to other websites in the Parish. Support broadband access. Encourage the greater use of computer skills courses within the Parish, in particular the use of the mobile learning facility.	Colton Parish Council in collaboration with Rusland Valley Community Trust
13. Encouragement for newcomers and assistance in helping them to integrate into the local community	Develop proposals that will help to involve newcomers to the parish and offer them ways to integrate with the established community. Collaboration with the Village Halls and Churches, Women's Institutes, the Rusland Valley Community Trust, the Horticultural Society, the newly formed Oxen Park Cinema Club and various other organisations that provide a facility for the community	Colton Parish Council liaise with :- Various local organisations

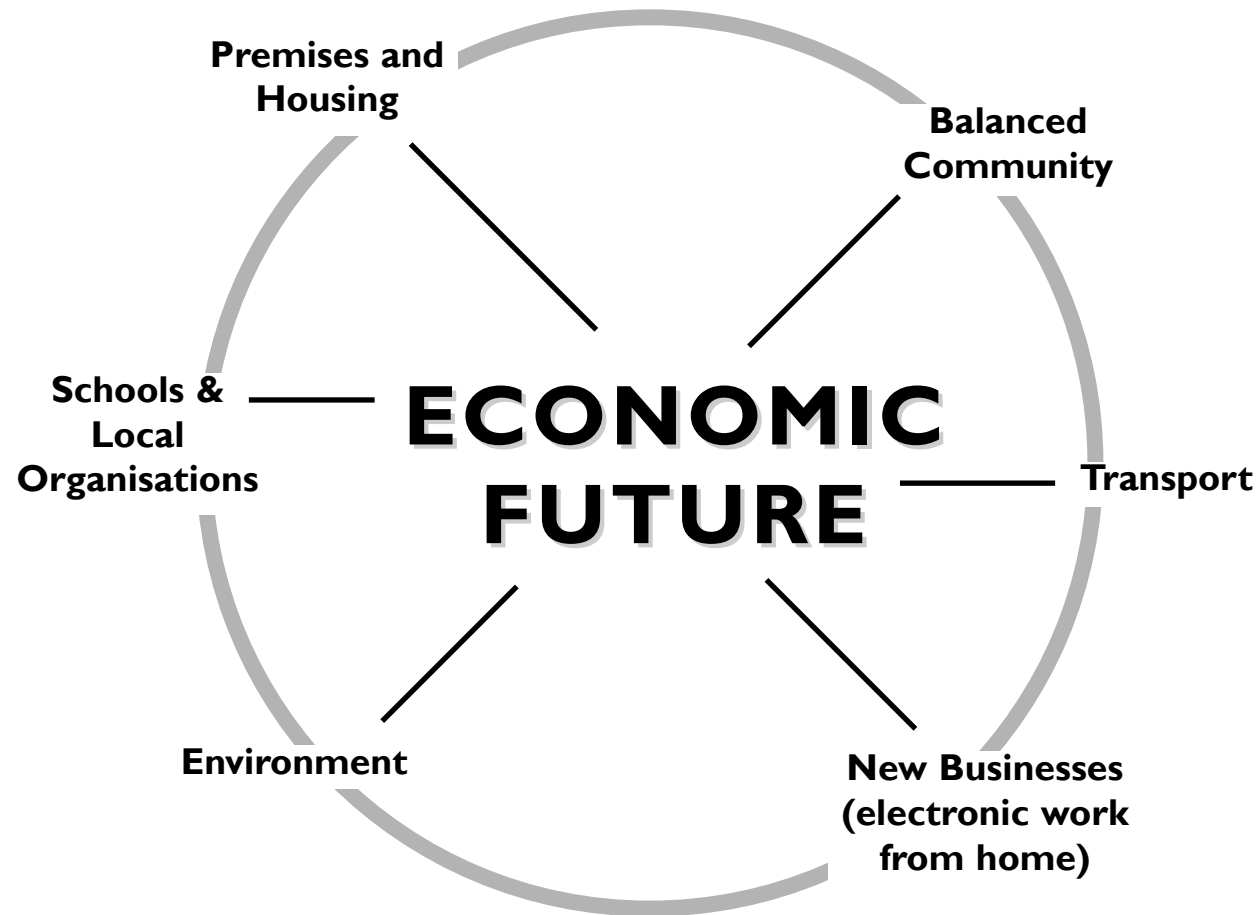
8. Action Plan

Lobbying issues identified	Proposed Action	To be taken by
14. Better Public Transport	<p>Support any initiatives for providing and improving public transport within the Parish Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Wheels Transport for Young Persons Post Bus Other initiatives put forward by the High Furness Transport Group 	Colton Parish Council liaise with and raise through the High Furness Transport Group and liaise with Cumbria County Council Community Transport South Lakeland
15. Better facilities for young persons living within the Parish	<p>Consider collaborative action with centres where people congregate with a view to providing better notice boards and places where important documents can be read such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Church display boards Village Hall display boards Hay Bridge Local Newsletters Village display points Local Public Houses Internet <p>To provide focal points for communicating awareness of Parish actions.</p>	Colton Parish Council
16. Better community understanding of the work of the Parish Council	Address the whole issue with regard to provision of facilities for young persons living with the Parish from provision of playgrounds to sporting and leisure activities.	Colton Parish Council liaise with :- Various local organisations and Public Houses

MONITORING OF THE PLAN

AN IMPORTANT INGREDIENT OF ANY PLAN IS TO MONITOR ITS PROGRESS AND ASSESS ITS SUCCESS. THIS IS MORE DIFFICULT WHERE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO SET FIRM COMPLETION DATES, AND THEREFORE IN ORDER TO ENSURE AN ADEQUATE SYSTEM FOR THE PARISH THE SUB-COMMITTEE WILL REVIEW PROGRESS EVERY SIX MONTHS AND WILL RECOMMEND TO THE COUNCIL ANY NECESSARY ACTION OR REVISION OF THE PLAN. A FULL REPORT OF THE PARISH PLAN WILL BE MADE AT THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING.

9. Vision for the future



10. Colton Parish Councillors

CHAIRMAN

Mr B Dobson
Whitestock Hall
Rusland
NR ULVERSTON
Cumbria LA12 8LB
Telephone: 01229 860223

VICE CHAIRMAN

Mr J Johnson
Bandrake Head House
Colton
Nr ULVERSTON
Cumbria LA12 8HN
Telephone: 01229 861357

COUNCILLORS

Mrs M Dryden
Boretrees Cottage
Oxen Park
NR ULVERSTON
Cumbria LA12 8HG
Telephone: 01229 861432

Mr G Mather
The Copse
Finsthwaite
Nr ULVERSTON
Cumbria LA12
Telephone: 015395 31271

Mr D Dunford
Charley Crag Farm
Finsthwaite
Nr ULVERSTON
Cumbria LA12 8BN
Telephone: 015395 31553

Mr I Cunliffe
Springfield Cottage
Colton
Nr ULVERSTON
Cumbria LA12 8HE
Telephone: 01229 861440

Mr W J Jackson
Oxen Park Farm
Oxen Park
Nr ULVERSTON LA12 8HE
Telephone: 01229 861323

Mr J Watson
New Close Farm
Oxen Park
NR ULVERSTON
Cumbria
Telephone 01229 861450

Mrs Sylvia Nichols
Robin Ghyll
8 Landing Close
Lakeside
Nr ULVERSTON
Cumbria LA12 8AP
Telephone 015395 31573



Top row (left to right) :

Mr G Mather
Mr J Watson
Mr W Jackson
Mr I Cunliffe
Mr D Dunford

Bottom row (left to right):

Mrs M Dryden
Mr J Johnson (Vice Chairman)
Mr B Dobson (Chairman)
Mrs S Nichols
Mrs J Shuttleworth (Clerk to the Council)

11. APPENDIX 1

Copy of Colton Parish Plan Questionnaire

Colton Parish Plan



Dear Resident of Colton Parish

Parish Plan to meet the Needs of Local People

As you may have read in the local papers, we, Colton Parish Council, are preparing a Parish Plan with the aim of influencing future policies affecting our area. We will be producing a written report which will include an action plan.

The plan will contain information about the parish including its size, location of settlements and population, as well as the history of the parish, changes which have taken place in recent times and current activities that are organised in the parish as well as identifying the action needed to tackle any problem areas, and ways in improving the quality of life for people living in the parish.

The enclosed survey asks for information that will enable the Parish Council to identify opportunities and problem areas and in particular help us understand the views and wishes of local residents. It will enable us to produce a fuller picture of the state of the parish and identify action priorities based on the views of local people.

We would be grateful if you and other members of your household will please spare a few minutes to complete the questionnaire which will be collected in the next seven days or so. Please note that the white paper questionnaire (Section A 1-10) is for completion by one person per household, the green questions (Section B 1-10) are to be completed by each person age 11 and over.

Yours sincerely,

M. E. Dryden
Margaret Dryden

D. Dunford
David Dunford

S. Nichols
Sylvia Nichols

Colton Parish Councillors

Questionnaire

SECTION A: To be filled in by one person for the household

1 Household composition and age (Write number in relevant boxes)

males	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 22-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 31-50
	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-64	<input type="checkbox"/> 65-74	<input type="checkbox"/> 75+
females	<input type="checkbox"/> 0-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 12-16
	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 22-30	<input type="checkbox"/> 31-50
	<input type="checkbox"/> 51-64	<input type="checkbox"/> 65-74	<input type="checkbox"/> 75+

2 Type of location lived in:

☐ village (with shop and or pub and or church)

☐ hamlet/settlement
(group of houses but no village facilities)

☐ on a working farm

.....Other (please write in)

3 From where you live, about how far is it to the nearest

	under 1 mile;	1-3 miles;	over 3 miles
Pub	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General shop and /or post office	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Village Hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4 About how often in the last couple of years have you or others in your household visited/made use of:

	weekly	more than once a month	less often	not in last 2 years
A local pub	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local village hall	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mobile traders (eg milk/papers/meat)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5 Length of time lived in Colton Parish

50+ years	<input type="checkbox"/>	11-24 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
25-49 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	5-10 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
		less than 4 years	<input type="checkbox"/>

6 Were you born in this area?

Yes ☐

No ☐

7 Do you have access to the internet and/or email at home?

Yes ☐

No ☐

8 When, in the future, Colton Parish has its own Website, would you like to be sent occasional news reports and e-mails?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Does not apply to me ☐

9 (IF EMPLOYED OR SELF EMPLOYED) Does any member of the household regularly undertake paid employment work from your home ?

Yes ☐

No ☐

10 Have you or a close neighbour been involved in/had any dealings with the planning decision process in this area?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes, please note how satisfied you are with this process (No. 1 means involved but not satisfied with the quality of the process; No.5 means involved and found the quality of the process was excellent)

1 2 3 4 5

Please would you now fill in Section B on the reverse of this page.

SECTION B - One side (questions 1 - 10) for each person aged 11 & over

1 Are you currently: (please tick one only)

At School ☐

College ☐

Employed:-

full time ☐ part time ☐ seasonal ☐

Self-employed:-

full time ☐ part time ☐ seasonal ☐

2 Do any of the following apply to you?

☐ Retired

☐ At home, caring for children

☐ At home, caring for the elderly

☐ At home, caring for a disabled person

☐ Unemployed/job seeking

☐ Unable to work on health grounds

☐ None of these apply to me

3 Are you registered disabled?

YES ☐ NO ☐

4 In your view are facilities for leisure and recreation in our area adequate?

(a) within the Parish ☐ YES ☐ NO

(b) within about an hour's drive ☐ YES ☐ NO

IF NO, PLEASE STATE WHAT YOU THINK IS LACKING

.....

.....

.....

.....

5 Are there any leisure activities you would wish to see controlled or stopped in the Parish?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

6 Thinking of access to and quality of facilities available to local residents, please circle on a scale of 1-5 each service you have actually used in the last two years.

(No.1 means used and not satisfied with the quality; No.5 means used and found the quality excellent, N/A means not used)

The quality of hospital services	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
The quality of local GP services	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
The quality of Home Care services	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
The quality of post 16 sixth form colleges	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
The quality of further education	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
The quality of adult education	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Police response to emergencies	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Other emergency services (fire/ambulance)	1	2	3	4	5	N/A
Refuse collection services	1	2	3	4	5	N/A

7 How important is it to you that recycling facilities should be located within the Parish?

☐ Very ☐ Not very

☐ Not important ☐ No view on this

8 What do you personally value most about living in Colton Parish?

.....

.....

.....

9 And what do you like least about living in this Parish - or would seek to change (apart from the weather!)?

.....

.....

.....

10 Finally, are there any new facilities/changes or improvements to our Parish area which you would like to see over the next five years or so?

.....

.....

.....

The Parish Plan has been funded by

The Countryside Agency and **Low Furness & Ulverston Neighbourhood Forum**



People who have helped with the plan - thank you

INDIVIDUALS

Doreen Johnson	Elspeth Cooper
Jimmy Johnson	David Baxter
Walter Phillipson	Sue Potts
Ann Lewis	David Dunford
Nigel Williams	Sylvia Nichols
Kate Rowland Smith	Sue Warner
Victor Middleton	Gorden Wilkinson
Christine Jackson	Jean Wilkinson
Sarah Jackson	John Dryden
Robert Straughton	Margaret Dryden
Doreen Harrison	Bonzo Johnson
Tony Hill	Ron Mein
Judith Shuttleworth	Bobbie Dobson

RESPONSES FROM SCHOOLS, PLACES OF WORSHIP AND ORGANISATIONS

Voluntary Action Cumbria	Bouth Village Hall
Lowick School	Rusland and District WI
Satterthwaite and Rusland School	Bouth WI
Penny Bridge School	Rusland Valley Community Trust
Leven Valley School	Rusland Valley Horticultural Society
Holy Trinity Parish Church Colton	Forest Enterprise
St. Pauls Parish Church Rusland	Cumbria County Council
St. Peters Parish Church Finsthwaite	LDNPA Area Rangers Report
Tottlebank Baptist Church	LDNPA Senior Planning Officers Comments
Rookhow Friends Meeting House	A.H.A. Marketing
Lakeside and Finsthwaite Village Hall	South Lakeland District Council
Rusland Reading Rooms	Hay Bridge Nature Reserve
Oxen Park Reading Room	Rusland Young Farmers