

## **Colton Parish Open Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at Rusland Reading Rooms**

**Present:** Cllr A Bennett, Cllr M Brown, Cllr K Dean, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr J Brookes, Archie Workman and parishioners of Colton Parish

Presentations given by Cllr Brookes and Archie Workman followed by a Q&A discussion with Colton Parish Councillors

### **Key points made during discussions to be incorporated into the Community Plan**

1. Sustainability
2. Cost of Living/Fuel Poverty.
3. Climate Crisis – need and desire for greener homes. Ways and forums to share ideas.
4. Houses unaffordable for local and especially their children – forced to leave area.
5. Housing needs small, scattered developments NOT large-scale building. Currently not financially viable for developers? Need pipeline of affordable housing for ALL ages.
6. Reliable and fast broadband would attract families to the area and prevent loss of community.
7. Think about what else reliable and fast broadband can do as a lever – e.g. resilience support, hub working for professionals, reduce social isolation.
8. Not enough young people in the area – ageing population as they can't afford to stay or come here.
9. No decent transport links a barrier to younger families .
10. No safe cycle route to Ulverston where people may work or children may go to school.
11. Only one x bus service once a week in the parish.
12. Resilience – in terms of practical (e.g. after Storm Arwen) social (ability to gather the community together for mutual support), emotional (helping older people in terms of social isolation), practical help (somewhere to get connected, boil a kettle).
13. Dual use of land – for solar AND for farming?
14. Lack of approved installers a barrier to solar and retrofit.
15. Our schools are at risk due to ageing population.
16. Remote working capability is key.
17. Planning strategy unsuitable for area – need affordable social housing for both rent and purchase.
18. Charge at least double council tax for second homes – should go directly to the local community not the centre.
19. Need to deal with Airbnb – hollowing out communities. Should be treated like a business rental.
20. Register of landlords
21. But need to recognise tourism sustains job in the area.

- 22.** Hotline for our lengthsman.
- 23.** State of roads totally unacceptable.
- 24.** Can our village hall be multi-purpose – e.g. remote working hubs, local business hubs.
- 25.** Local occupancy rules need to be effectively enforced – not true at present.
- 26.** Charging points for EVs.
- 27.** Resilient network to deal with power outages – e.g. generator hubs or similar.
- 28.** Limit on number of holiday lets in the area – need homes for local people.
- 29.** Concern re sale of ‘community assets’ – i.e. YHA site being sold – implications for traffic on lakeside road.
- 30.** Speeding and heavy traffic on minor roads – dangerous for cyclists and walkers – need more connected footpaths between communities.
- 31.** The lake district national park authority is more like the lake district tourist authority.
- 32.** Why not have properties ‘tied’ to local employment.
- 33.** Concern re viability of local services as permanent community reduces.