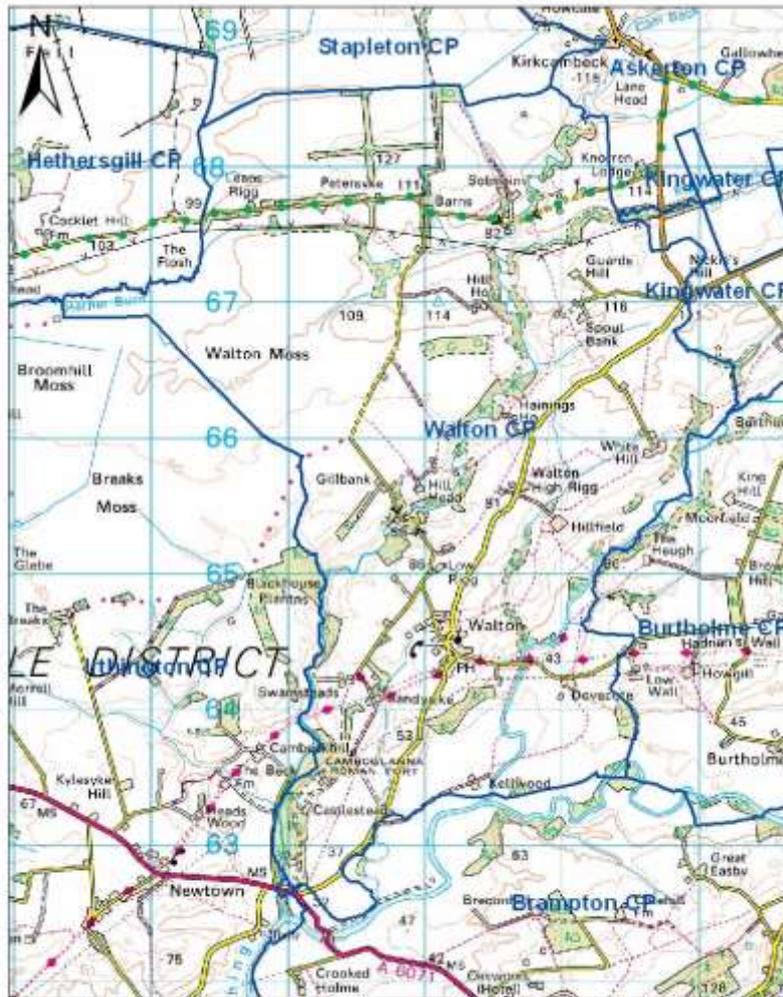


# Community Led Plan – Update 2013



Scale: 1:25000  
Date: 29.03.06

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Walton Parish

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Civic Centre  
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## Overview

The Parish Council have supported a review and update of the Parish Plan which was first undertaken in 2007. The Parish Plan is based on information from the parishioners and forms the basis for improvements and changes within the Parish. The most notable example from the last Parish Plan was the updating of the play area. Parish Plans are now known as Community Led Plan's (CLPs). A full review of the 2007 Plan is provided in appendix A.



## Methodology

In order to update the CLP, a questionnaire was distributed throughout the Parish in 2012. There were 41 questionnaires returned and analysed which is a 34% return rate, and is in line with national averages for these types of survey. Of these three-quarters were from within Walton village with the remainder from the outlying areas of the community. The results obtained from this questionnaire were collated to form the basis for an up to date Action Plan.

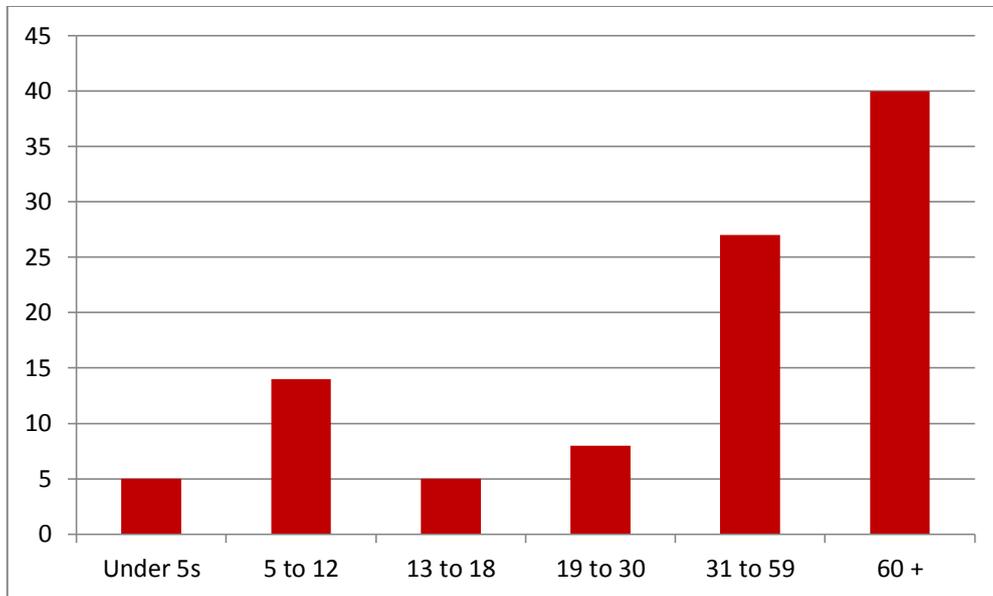
The main action points, as identified in the questionnaire, were then re-distributed to all households in 2013 as a one page tick sheet, including a proposed priority ranking for each action point (based upon the strength of results from the original survey). Unfortunately only 9% of these surveys were returned and therefore the results have not influenced this CLP. The points are however listed in Appendix B for information and future reference.

This document is structured around topics with proposed actions detailed at the end of each topic. These actions are summarised at the end of the document.

## General Information

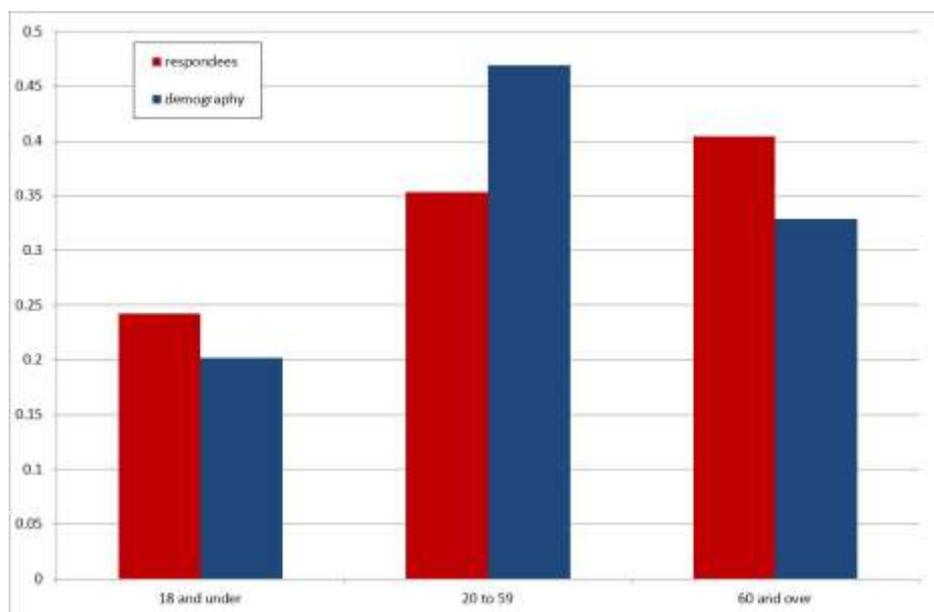
According to the 2011 Census Data (Office of National Statistics 2013) there are 277 people living in the parish in 119 occupied households.

Of the responses obtained in our survey there was a cross-section of ages within the households, as shown below, with the majority in the over 60 bracket.



**Figure 1: Distribution of Respondents by Age**

Comparing this with the demography of the Parish and normalising the distribution shows that the responses represent a larger proportion of people who are over 60 year old rather than the 18 to 60 bracket.



**Figure 2: Distribution of Respondents by Age Compared to Demography**

Walton Parish can be considered to be an affluent Parish with a higher percentage of employment and occupier owned properties and a lower percentage of long term illness and benefit claimants than the rest of Cumbria [1].

The main things people like about living in the Parish are:

- Quiet, rural, yet close to shops and facilities
- The people - friendly and a good community spirit
- Green space, including Walton Moss and the Village Green
- The use of the Village Hall by a tea room

The main improvements people would like to see are:

- Open a pub
- Open a shop
- Reduce speeding through the village

### **Social & Community**

The general feeling is that activities and social events have improved since the commencement of the “Walton Village Hall Social Committee” (a fundraising sub-committee of Walton Village Hall) and if further activities or events took place in the Village Hall then the Parish would support them. The regular social gathering on the village green is a positive, and people are keen for this to continue. The general consensus for social events is to find the right balance between often enough, but not too often that they become too repetitive or boring. It is also essential to reach out to the full range of ages and interests.



For organised events the “bring your own drinks” method is not fully supported and an alcohol licence was thought to be worth considering. The events were considered expensive although people were prepared to pay a little bit over the odds to support the community.

Evening classes were suggested as a possible form of social activity, from brownies/cubs/scouts for children to fitness or educational or textile classes for adults or cycling groups.

Potential options for activities/initiatives included:

- Things for the over 65s – Christmas dinner / outings
- Things to do rather than just sitting and chatting
- Fitness classes, blood donation, educational or computer classes (Heartstart was good and well attended), health type classes, outreach health check up

In addition the provision of a mobile defibrillator was considered to be a good idea.

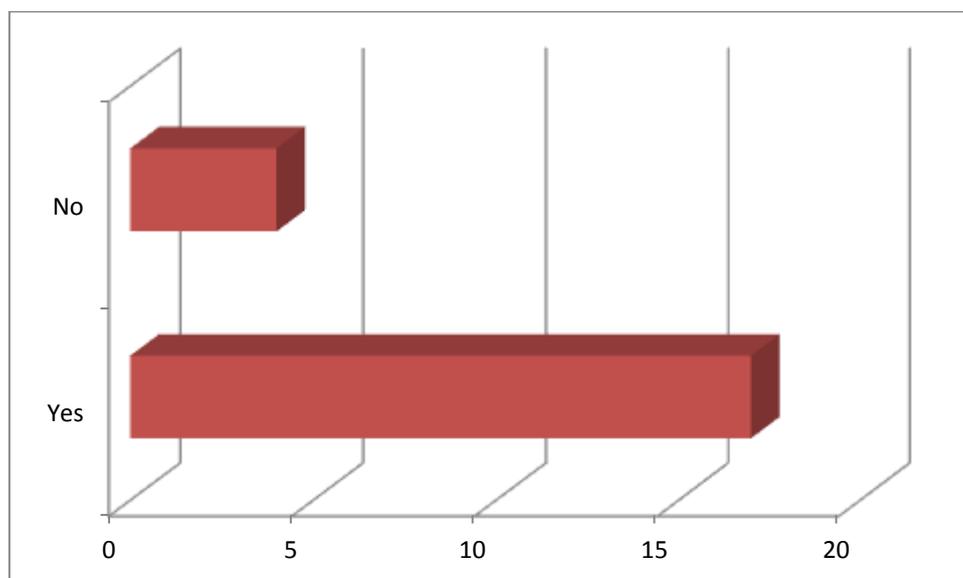
Actions

- Continue with social events but reach out to the wider community for different ages and activities.
- Consider licensed events

### Children and Young People

The vast majority of respondents are very happy with the new play area. The only slight concerns some had were a need for additional litter bins and toilet facilities. Most did not feel that any changes or additions to this area were necessary and that the younger age range in the parish was well accommodated for. There was no support for re-opening a Parent and Toddler group.

However 81% of respondents believed that some facilities for older children were necessary.



**Figure 3: Number of Respondents Thinking Additional Facilities were required for Older Children**

Many suggested a youth club, however support for attending or volunteering appeared low from the sample of people who answered this question. Other suggestions included basketball hoops, a cricket pitch or a bike track in the Moor. Young people from only one household in the entire parish attended the Carlisle Youth Zone.

Concerns were raised over anti-social behaviour that may be encouraged by any potential youth shelter and 79% of parishioners would not want investment to be made in this type of facility.

#### Actions

- Determine needs with respect to the play area for older children in the parish.
- Consider additional litter collection facilities

### **Village Hall**

Two thirds of the people who replied use the Village Hall, but the feeling was that it would be good to promote the availability and potential use of the Village Hall in newsletter/posters on notice board/website/Brampton & Beyond/schools etc. (*Brampton and Beyond are a trust who work with Brampton and the surrounding 21 parishes. One of their main priorities is the liaison and networking of village halls in the area.*)

Although a small number of people mentioned modernising the hall and/or combining it with the reading room, the significant proportion of respondents felt that the hall was adequate in size for our needs.

The general feeling was that it would be good to make use of the Reading Room rather than just for storage and people would help develop this.

#### Actions

- Promote the potential use of the Village Hall
- Develop the Reading Room for use rather than storage.

(Since the beginning of the process to update the CLP the Village Hall Management Committee began a programme of refurbishment of the Reading Room and the facility re-opened as a community facility before this document was published).

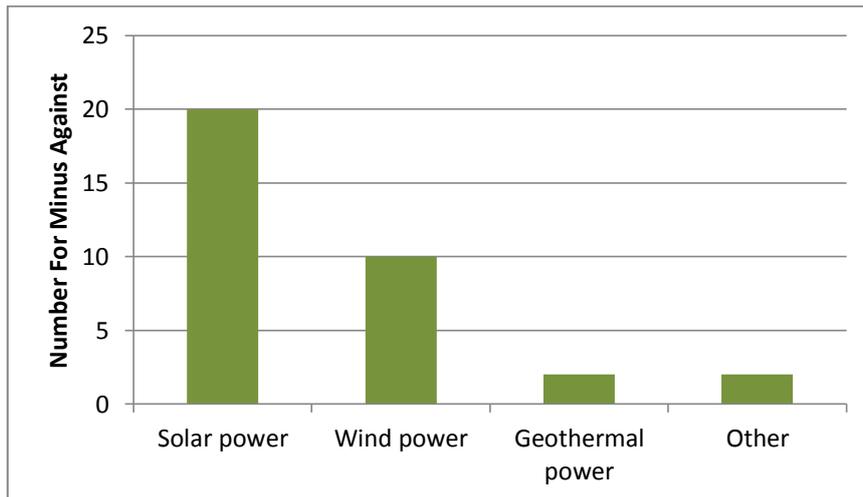
### **Environment**

Even though people generally liked the open green spaces of the parish including the village green, there were a variety of views in relation to the upkeep of the village green; some wanting the grass to be cut more often, with some wanting a more natural look.



There were issues raised in relation to the controlling of dogs in the play park, along with clearing up dog fouling, and litter generally. This was not a major concern but these things do get noticed when not always dealt with.

Green Energy – the idea of solar panels on the Village Hall seems positive, but this would all depend on cost and the benefits it would bring. Wind power could also be a possibility, although there was less support for this than solar power. The graph below shows the support for alternative energy minus the number against.



**Figure 4: Distribution of Support for Different Alternative Energy Supplies**

Parishioners generally did not want more flowers around the Parish, and the possibility of entering Cumbria in Bloom was not generally supported. While some people were prepared to get involved, or help look after a certain large plant pot/area/hanging baskets the majority were not prepared to make the effort to support this.

Initiatives to encourage wildlife were seen as a good idea. Species like owls, birds, hedgehogs, butterflies, red squirrels were seen as good to be encouraged. This is linked to

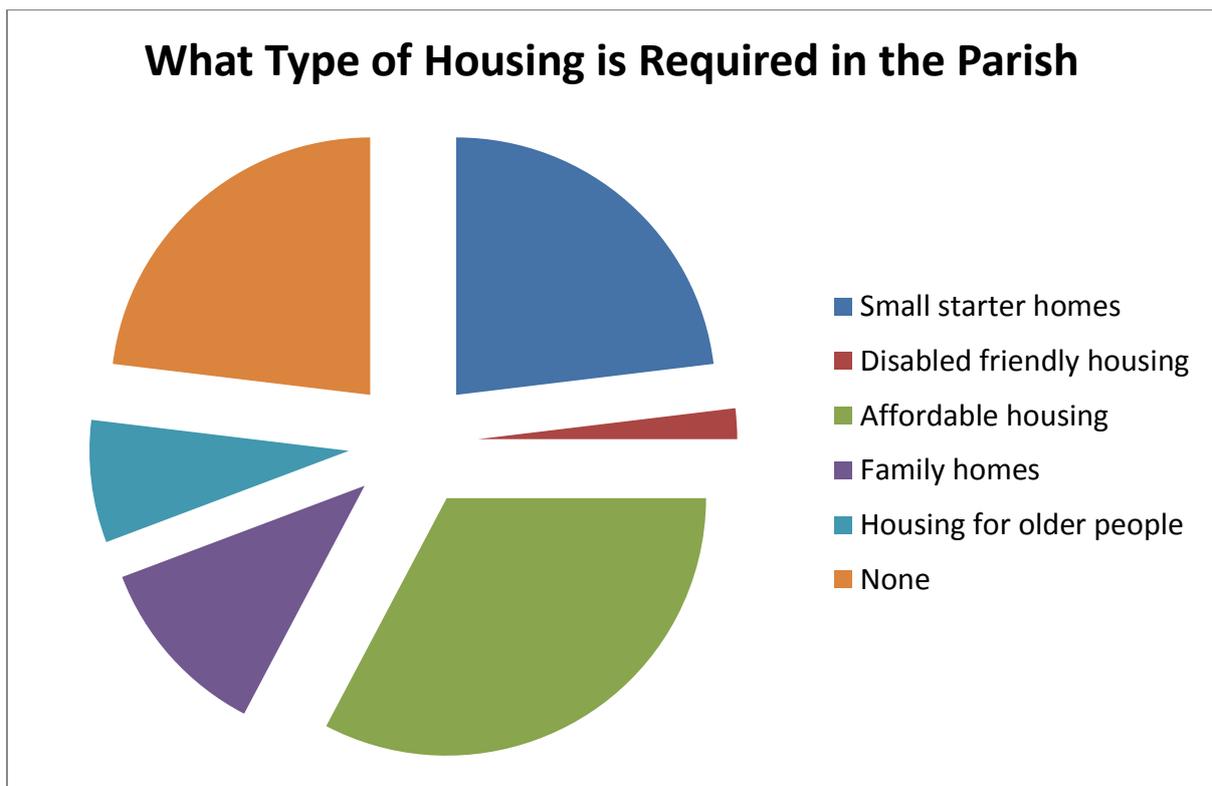
the fact that the woodland area (Walton Moor) to the west of the football pitch was popular although it was considered to be a bit wet and boggy at times.

Actions:

- Look at various wildlife initiatives and try to attract even more to the area.
- Investigate solar powered energy for the Village Hall.

## Housing

When asked what type of housing people saw a need for within the Parish the main answers were affordable housing, small starter homes or no extra housing required.



**Figure 5: Requirement for Different Types of Housing**

The majority of people did not have anyone living with them because they could not find their own accommodation and those that did stated the reason was one of price and the solution was affordable housing.

The main reason people had left the Parish was to find work and not because of housing issues. This is borne out by the fact that the percentage of people claiming benefits pertaining to being unemployed in Walton was lower than the average across Cumbria [1].

The Community Right to Build is one of the powers in the Localism Act and gives local people the power to influence the type of development they want through a Neighbourhood Plan. As well as for housing this can be extended to include shops, businesses and other facilities.

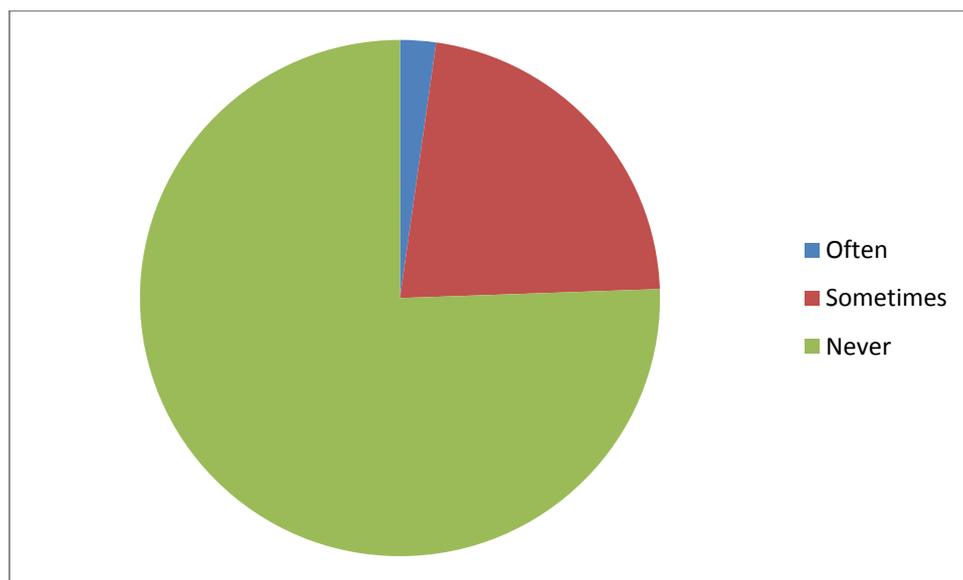
Action:

- The Parish Council to investigate housing needs as part of a neighbourhood planning framework.

## Transport, Highways and Parking

### ***Bus Service***

Parishioners were questioned about the bus service so that we can help feedback information to travel companies to try and better improve transport links with neighbouring towns. The bus service to Walton is not well supported and 76% of respondents said they **never** use the bus service.



**Figure 6: Number of People who Use the Bus Service**

In fact only one person who responded said they often use it. The reasons for not using the bus centred mainly on the lack of operating times and the fact that the parish is so spread out that one central stop would not serve a large proportion of residents.

When asked if the services were extended then 58% of parishioners would be willing to use them – if services were more frequent and routes were more suitable. This is potentially a tricky situation for the bus companies as if a large proportion of parishioners were still happy to use their car regardless of what times and routes were available then services may not be financially viable.

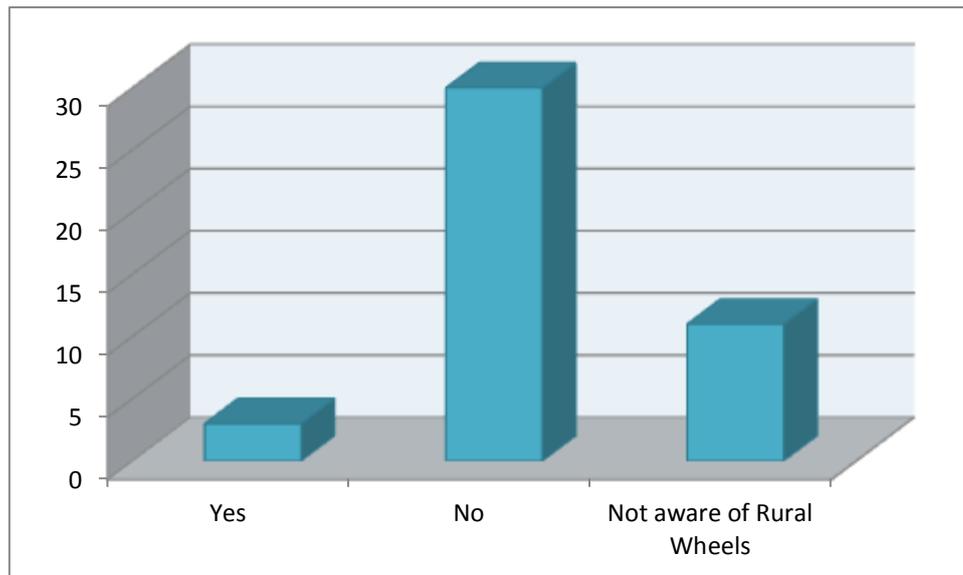
Action:

- The Parish Council to feedback survey results to the bus companies.

### ***Rural Wheels***

Rural Wheels is a community based transport scheme where door-to-door transport is provided at a cost of 35pence/mile (correct as of 2012). Users pay for their journeys by a topped-up smartcard and need to book their trips by noon on the day before travel.

Unfortunately, as with the bus service, the facility is not well used with 68% of respondents not using the service. It would however appear that many people do not know about the service and publicity may need to increase.



**Figure 7: Number of People Using Rural Wheels**

Action:

- The Parish Council to provide further information on Rural Wheels and keep publicising regularly.

### ***Speeding***

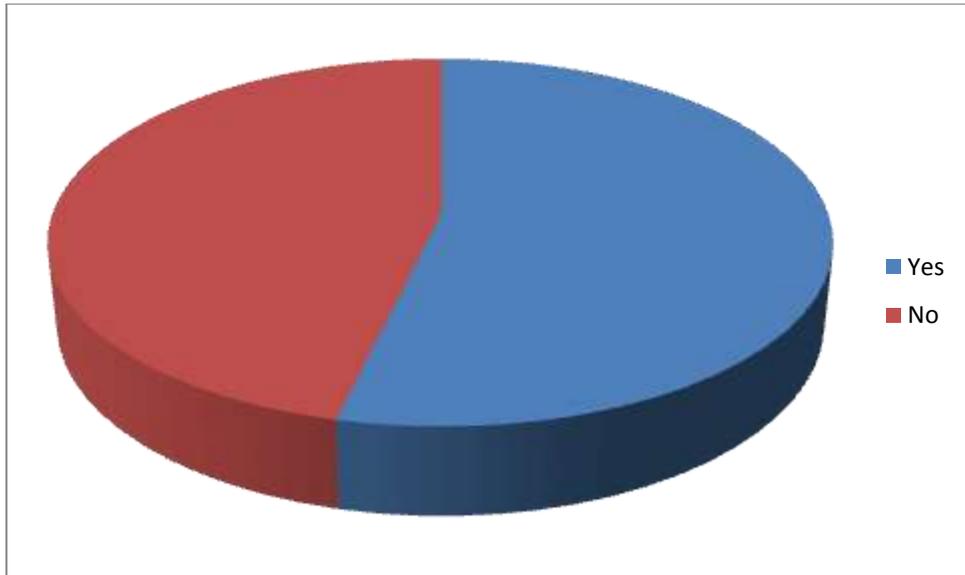
Concerns over speeding are spread throughout the parish with worries about the road from Nickies Hill and Walton Moss featuring in comments, as well as numerous concerns about the 30mph speed limit in the village being regularly broken, particularly by locals. There were mixed views as to how to solve the speeding issue, with a common theme being that speed bumps could be introduced at the three entrances to the Village to alert people to the 30mph change. Others would welcome occasional use of speed boards or a handheld speed indication device (although only two respondents were willing to consider being trained to bring the “Speedwatch” scheme to Walton).

Action:

- The Parish Council to work with the Police and the Highways Agency to investigate the perceived speeding issue and solutions to any such problem.

### ***Car Park***

A village car park appeared from our respondents to be a very divided and emotive subject. 54% of respondents said they would favour a village car park.



**Figure 8: Distribution of Respondents Wanting a Car Park in Walton Village**

For those that did support a car park the most favoured locations were:

- In front of the Church
- Opposite the Hall (adjacent to Rose House)
- On the periphery of the Village
- Beside the Reading Room

Many other locations were suggested however feelings ran very strongly in the survey that any car park should not compromise the Village Green – with some suggesting parking lay-by's or an area only one car deep rather than a large parking area. Many felt very strongly that tarmac should not be used. Most felt that it would be walkers and Hall/Church users using the car park rather than locals.

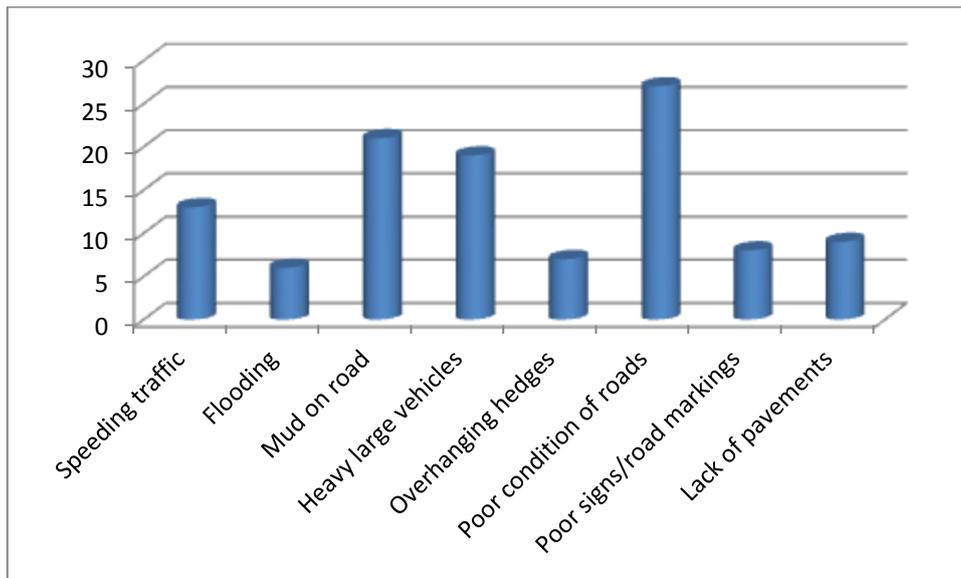
The difficulty moving forward with any car park, besides from the fact almost half of respondents would not support it, is that two-thirds of parishioners would not be willing to financially contribute towards a car park either through fund-raising or through an increased precept. Views to alternatives, such as double yellow lines in designated areas were equally indecisive.

Action:

- The Parish Council to work with the Village Hall Management Committee and Church Committee to undertake a parking study to find out user needs before any further progress is determined.

Other priorities in highways issues to be taken forward are:

- Mud on roads
- Heavy vehicles
- Poor signage/road markings



**Figure 9: Other Highways Issues**

## Recycling

The recycling collections by Carlisle City Council are thought overwhelmingly to be a good thing for people who get their recycling collected. For households in the outer lying areas who do not have house to house collections this is a matter for irritation and annoyance that they are being penalised by living away from the village.

The Parish is in support of keeping the recycling centre in Brampton open. This facility is run by the City Council and has been under threat so it would be wise to keep an eye on developments and correspond where and when necessary.

In addition the recycling facility located at the Village Hall is supported by over six times more people than are against it. There were several comments about the size of the paper and cardboard recycling bins with the bins being full on a regular basis.

Actions:

- The outlying properties do not receive recycling collections and the City Council can be lobbied for the desire for collections.
- The recycling bins in the village could be emptied more often, or larger bins provided, but the area would need to be kept tidy.

## Tourism

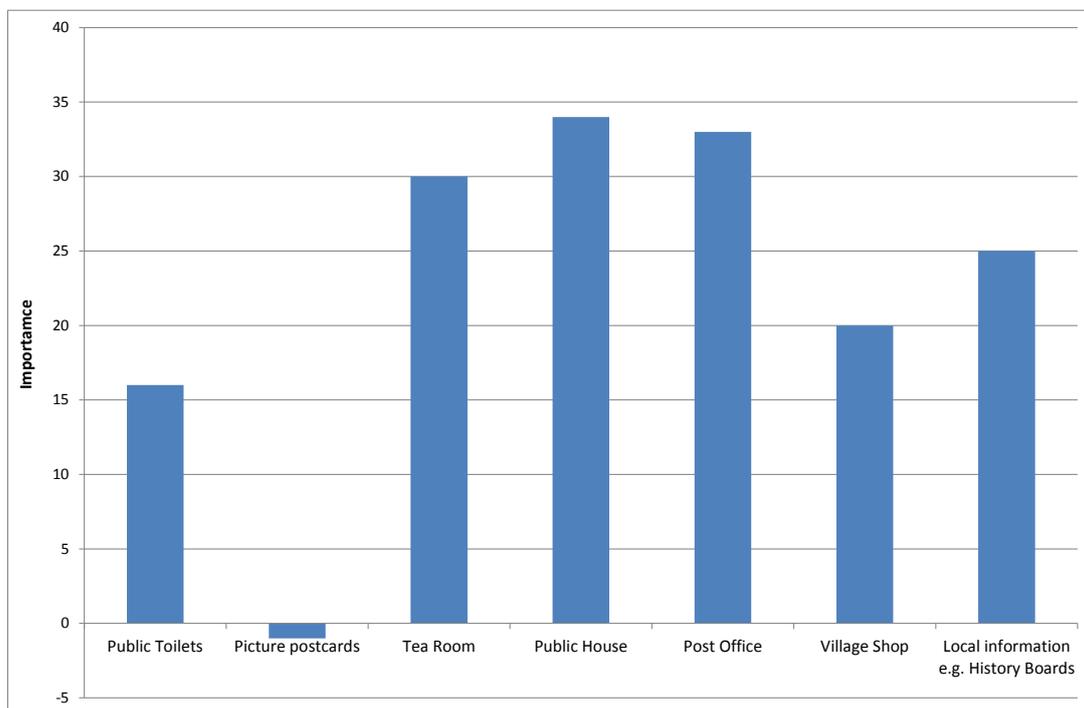
The majority of respondents (75%) who expressed an opinion thought that tourism was important to the Parish although the active promotion of tourism was less favoured with only half the responses thinking that promoting tourism should be improved. This provides

conflicting information with tourism overwhelmingly thought to be important but promoting not considered important. It is not clear how tourism should be encouraged if it is not actively promoted.

Ideas were provided for promoting tourism. The following ideas had support from the majority of respondents who favoured promoting tourism:

- Public Toilets
- Tea Room
- Public House
- Post Office
- Village Shop
- Local information such as History Boards

The idea of the development of picture postcards received a mixed response with an approximate 50:50 split for and against.



**Figure 10: Services/Facilities/Items Wanted by the Community**

Other suggestions for promoting tourism included advertising through tourist offices, websites and existing tourist literature such as Hadrian's Wall Tourist Guide.

The main deficiencies with respect to tourism identified were a public house and a bus service to Brampton.

#### Action

- Investigate the provision of local information (through boards and postcards)
- Parish Council to provide support to parish facilities (e.g. tea room, post office and any potential public house and village shop)

## **Crime**

The majority of people who responded feel safe in the Parish. This is because the parish is remote and people have lived in the area for a long time and know their neighbours. While over half of people are not involved in Cumbria Community Messaging the fact that people know their neighbours and look out for each other works in a similar way to the Community Messaging scheme. *(Cumbria Community Messaging Scheme managed by the Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA), offers People and Communities across Cumbria the means to receive information from Agencies in the County tailored to their particular preferences for content, priority and means of communication. It is a web based system and registration is quick, simple and completely free. There are no contracts, costs or obligations of any kind. Alerts are received by phone, text or email).*

The main concerns are from unsolicited callers with few cases of theft and vandalism noted.

The majority of people did not know the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO). It was thought that the improving the profile of the Police Community Support Officer would be beneficial. The same was true for promoting Community Watch schemes including the online service.

### Action

- Provide information in the newsletter; contact details of the PCSO and Community Watch Schemes

## **Technology**

The vast majority of the Parish have at least one computer in their premises (83.7%) which show how much of an essential they have become. The same percentage have internet connection (presumably those who don't have a computer therefore don't have internet) and they find the connection reasonable, but when compared to the more urban areas, it is poor. Residents would consider paying for a better service once they know the price and how the improvements compare.

### Action

- Keep an eye on Connecting Cumbria and support the Broadband Champion. Possibly look at other options for the area and be proactive.

## **Our Parish**

In the main the majority of people are very happy with our parish. You loved the Greens, the trees, the quiet and peaceful location and the friendliness of our community. Support for the tea room was high and the lack of crime in the parish was a positive factor for the majority.

There is, however, some improvements that parishioners would like to see. The main one being a Public House. By far this was the most mentioned topic when you were asked what you would change in the parish.

There were notable other projects that could be taken forward by the Parish Council or other groups. Many of those have already been mentioned in other topic areas and they include:

- Cattle grids on Walton Moss
- Greater use of the Village Hall and Reading Room
- Increased social cohesiveness
- Better broadband
- Better parking at the village hall and church
- Keeping areas of the village tidier

*Action:*

- The Parish Council to continue to work with the Save our Pub group.
- The Parish Council to support projects of benefit to the Parish as required.

## **Parish Council**

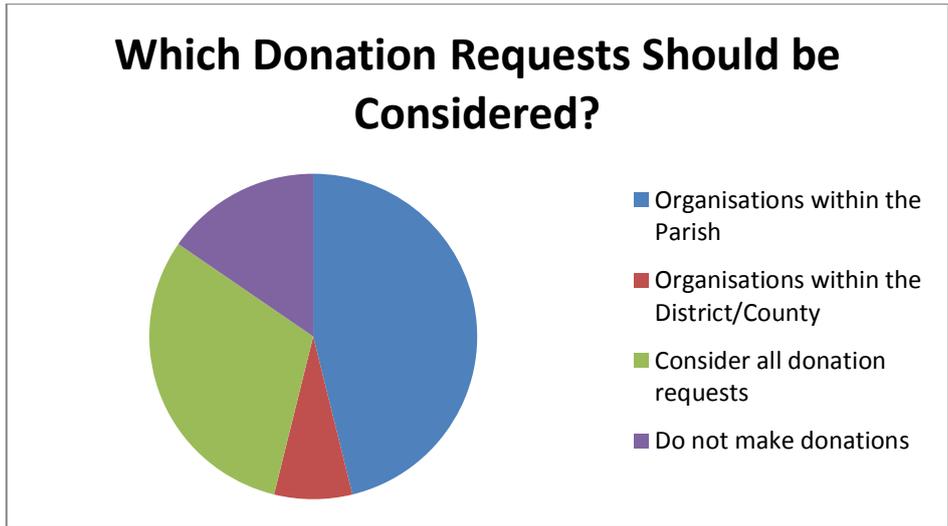
The Parish Council are generally thought to be doing a good job and providing a good service to the Parish. Areas where improvements were suggested included:

- Provide a more personal involvement/communication including a drop in surgery.
- Provide more information on events through the newsletter, web site or noticeboards

The newsletter and web site were seen as positive and providing information for the community although it was noted that more local information could be provided. In particular the newsletter was seen as providing good information and a third of respondents said they would be prepared to provide an article for the newsletter.

Although three times more people use the Parish Council web site than do not, there was an overwhelming response that the precept should not be increased to fund an improved Parish Council web site.

The Parish Council are asked to make donations to different external organisations on a regular basis. When asked if whether donations should be restricted on a geographical basis, there was a split response between making donations to organisations located in the Parish or consider all donation requests. Less people did not want donations made at all.



**Figure 11: Distribution Showing Where Respondents Think Parish Donation Should Be Spent**

Action:

- Parish Council to continue with regular newsletters
- Parish Council to maintain website
- Councillor and Clerk Surgeries to be made available for one-to-one consultations with parishioners
- Parish Council to adopt set donation criteria

**Summary and Actions**

Overall the majority of the people responding were happy with the Parish. In particular the rural nature of the Parish with the greens and undeveloped areas and the friendliness of people and the community spirit. The main issue was the lack of a Public House in the Parish.

The main actions from the consultation are summarised in the table below together with each action ranked with a level of importance; High, Medium or Low.

The actions will be passed on to the Parish Council for review, adoption and implementation.

In the table the following abbreviations are used:

PC = Parish Council

VHMC – Village Hall Management Committee

PAG – Play Area Group

| Action   | Priority | Lead group                           |
|--|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Continue with social events but reach out further to the wider community to include different ages and activities  | H        | Walton Village Hall Social Committee |
| Determine needs with respect to play area for older children in the parish.  | M        | PAG/PC                               |
| Promote the potential use of the Village Hall (using newsletter/website)   | M        | VHMC/PC                              |
| Develop the Reading Room for use rather than storage.  | H        | VHMC                                 |
| Feedback information on bus service to the bus companies.  | L        | PC                                   |
| Provide further information on Rural Wheels and keep publicising regularly.  | L        | PC                                   |
| Work with the Police and the Highways Agency to investigate the perceived speeding issue and solutions to any such problem.  | H        | PC                                   |
| Review parking arrangements and undertake a parking study to find out user needs before any further progress is determined.  | M        | PC/VHMC/Church                       |
| Feedback to Highways the following on-going issues in the Parish: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mud on roads</li> <li>• Heavy vehicles</li> <li>• Poor signage/road markings</li> </ul> | L        | PC                                   |
| Lobby City Council on behalf of outlying properties who do not receive recycling collections and have a desire for the service to be extended to them.   | H        | PC                                   |
| Review the requirement for and if necessary make arrangements for larger recycling bins in village; more frequent emptying of existing bins or tidying the area                                    | M        | PC                                   |
| Consider wildlife initiatives and try to attract even more wildlife to the area (e.g. install animal boxes to attract owls, butterflies, red squirrels).   | L        | PC                                   |
| Look at ways to promote tourism to the Parish.   | L        | PC                                   |
| Work to provide better broadband to the Parish.  | M        | PC                                   |
| PC to provide a more personal involvement/communication including a drop in surgery.   | M        | PC                                   |
| Provide more information on events and meetings through the newsletter, web site or noticeboards.  | H        | PC                                   |
| The Parish Council to continue to work with the Save our Pub group and to provide support to other parish facilities such as the Post Office and Tea Room.   | H        | PC                                   |
| Consider additional litter collection facilities.  | L        | PC                                   |
| Reduce dog fouling by working with the Dog Enforcement Officer; consider appointing Parish Representatives and introduce PC led-schemes to encourage waste collection                              | H        | PC                                   |
| Provide contact details for Police Community Support Officers regularly in newsletter and on noticeboards/website.   | L        | PC                                   |

## References

- [1] Information provided from the National Archives under Open Government Licence for public sector information, [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence)
- [2] Parish profile for Walton (Parish), Final Report v1.1, prepared by Action for Communities in Rural Communities (ACRE), March 2011.

## Appendix A: Review of Parish Plan 2007

| Original Task  | Original Action Group | Original Priority | Progress to May 2013 and Action if Appropriate |
|--|-----------------------|-------------------|--|
| More social activities                               | Focus Group           | High              | Superseded by new CLP                          |
| Improve play area                                    | Focus Group           | High              | Achieved                                       |
| More social events of all types for all ages         | Focus Group           | High              | Superseded by new CLP                          |
| Village shop   | Focus Group           | High              | Superseded by new CLP                          |
| Promote the village to increase visitor numbers      | Focus Group           | High              | Superseded by new CLP                          |
| Increase size of notice board                        | Parish Council        | High              | Achieved.                                      |
| Maintain & preserve village Green and nature reserve | Focus Group           | High              | On-going                                       |
| Extend Village Hall                                  | Focus Group           | High              | To be considered.                              |
| Improve Reading Room to allow use                    | Focus Group           | High              | Achieved.                                      |
| Improve public transport                             | Parish Council        | High/<br>Med      | Superseded by new CLP                          |
| Youth Club / set up youth group                      | Focus Group           | High              | Unsuccessful Attempt at Formation              |
| Neighbourhood Watch                                  | Parish Council        | High              | Already Established at time.                   |
| Parish newsletter                                    | Focus Group           | Med/<br>High      | Achieved.                                      |
| Reduce the speed through the Village and on other    | Parish Council        | Med/              | Superseded by new CLP                          |

|  |                            |         |                                  |
|--|----------------------------|---------|----------------------------------|
| roads/improve road safety  |                            | High    |                                  |
| Storyboards/history of the Parish  | Focus Group                | Med     | Superseded by new CLP            |
| Mark the footpaths clearly & provide maps & guides                       | Focus Group                | Med     | To be considered.                |
| Set up Children's Club   | Focus Group                | Medium  | No action. Toddler group ceased. |
| Provide more information about the Parish, such as postcards or leaflets | Focus Group                | Medium  | Superseded by new CLP            |
| Increase number of notice boards   | Parish Council             | Medium  | Achieved.                        |
| Village car park   | Focus Group/Parish Council | Low/Med | Superseded by new CLP            |
| Education classes, especially local history                              | Focus Group                | Low/Med | To be considered.                |
| Recycling facilities for cardboard, plastic & clothes                    | Parish Council             | Low     | Superseded by new CLP            |
| Wheelie bins   | Parish Council             | Low     | Achieved.                        |
| Parish skip  | Parish Council             | Low     | No action.                       |
| Public toilet  | Parish Council             | Low     | To be considered.                |
| Develop community website  | Focus Group                | Low     | Achieved.                        |
| Restore old signposts  | Parish Council             | Low     | Achieved.                        |

**Key to Colour Coding**

Green = Achieved

Grey = Superseded by this new CLP

Yellow = To be considered in the future for inclusion in the Action Plan

## **Appendix B: Other Ideas Suggested for Information only (not forming part of the Action Plan)**

- Promote nature on the website and in the newsletter
- “No Parking” Signage on the tarmac area by the Village Hall
- Establish plant pots around the village
- Custom made Village entrance sign designed by residents
- Encourage the PCSO to attend more community events
- Increase educational/leisure classes in Village Hall (e.g. zumba scouts, brownies, painting, textiles, keep fit, dominoes, regional cuisine nights)
- Encourage a community approach – e.g. – if x number of people order oil to be delivered on the same day then the delivery is split; takeaway night in the Village Hall and it would then be cheaper; get group discount on things etc.
- Lobby for Cattle Grids on Walton Moss
- Establish a community shop or support a privately ran shop
- Provide fundraising activities throughout the year (e.g. car boot sales/coffee mornings) to help lower cost of attendance at Social events.
- Investigate the feasibility of expanding the Village Hall and/or joining up with the Reading Room
- Parish competitions (e.g. Christmas lights/ hanging baskets/scarecrow trails etc.)

Also suggestions were made for story boards depicting the history of the church including illustrations and a community orchard on the village green.