

Claife Community Plan

Summary & Action Plan

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PARISH COUNCILLORS

Upper Claife:

Chris Lane
Alistair Irvine
Rachael Milling

Lower Claife:

Jimmy Mallet
Anne Brodie
Roland Shuttleworth

Clerk:

Mark Phillips

PLAN STEERING GROUP:

Anne Brodie, Ann Crabtree, Christine Hilton, Steve Hoyle,
Pat Lennon, Mandy Marshall, Rachael Milling, Paul Wrobel.

Further information about the Community Plan can be found
via the Parish Council website: www.claifeparishcouncil.org.uk
or contact:

Claife Parish Council Clerk,
Mark Phillips,
Waterside,
Near Sawrey,
Ambleside, LA22 0JX.
Tel.015394 36287

Steering Group Chair: Anne Brodie Tel. 015394 44720

Summary of the Plan

Introduction

The civil parish of Claife lies nestled between Windermere & Esthwaite Water, in the South Lakeland District of Cumbria close to the heart of the Lake District National Park. Its natural deciduous woodland, some commercial plantations, small tarns, open fields and traditional dry stone walls form a beautiful backdrop to all the hamlets. In 2011 the total population was 298 (down from 392 in 2001) in 146 resident households.

Many of the houses and all of the farms in the parish are rented from major landowners such as the National Trust who have an important role in retaining a working population locally. There are a significant number of private residences which are owner-occupied but an increasing number are being used as holiday lets or are only in use occasionally.

The nearest service centre is at Hawkshead. These services are under threat as the resident population decreases, and economic cuts and government policies threaten rural services. Traffic can be heavy in summer due to the large number of visitors to the tourist attractions of Wray Castle, and Beatrix Potter's Hill Top in Near Sawrey. Large tourist coaches cause obstruction on narrow sections of the road. Most residents rely on personal transport by car reflecting the lack of public transport. Road maintenance and accessibility to service centres and work places during wet and wintry conditions is a high priority for residents.

Forestry, hill farming and tourism are the main sources of income. There are areas of benefit and conflict between these latter two key industries. Tourist related businesses thrive not only because of the interest in Beatrix Potter but also because of the natural beauty of the area.

Background

Community Led Plans are based on the views of local people and organisations in parishes. The whole community is given the opportunity to agree and plan how to achieve their goals and inform the Parish Council and local authorities. The objectives are to provide a long term collective vision for all the community's partners; ensure local engagement and a sense of ownership; make connections between community groups and parishes leading to joined up planning; provide measurable, attainable and relevant actions; to unlock additional funding opportunities. The Parish Council is thus given a basis on which to make its decisions and set its priorities for its work for the next four or five years.

Findings

An initial survey was conducted asking all residents to identify what they valued about the area and what they would like to see improved. Based on the feedback a detailed questionnaire was generated. The key findings were:

Form of Transport:

- The great majority of respondents use a car every day and almost all at least once per week.
- Buses are not used because of a lack of regular local services and lack of connectivity e.g. with the Windermere Ferry
- There is negligible use of either the Hawkshead and Sawrey Community Transport Scheme or the Cumbria County Council Voluntary Car Scheme

Care of the Locality

- Road maintenance is a major problem - in particular pot holes and lack of effective road drainage
- Specific local issues - Lack of snow ploughing and gritting of roads in Cunsey and Wray; Tidiness of verges/hedges in Near Sawrey; Control of dog fouling Near Sawrey, Far Sawrey and Wray

Parking

- The lack and cost of parking for Claife residents in Hawkshead is a problem noting that Hawkshead is their nearest service centre.
- Specific problem locations within Claife Parish are at the Tower Bank Arms, Near Sawrey, the lay-by opposite Hill Top, St Peters Church, Far Sawrey, and non playground users parking next to the Near Sawrey playground

Traffic and Road Safety

- Traffic is a problem and people feel unsafe on the roads – either as a pedestrian, cyclist or motorist.
- Specific locations are between Near Sawrey and Hawkshead, and the vicinity of Hill Top, Tower Bank Arms and National Trust Car Park

Housing

- There is majority support for new housing in each of the categories - Affordable, Local occupancy and Sheltered
- Concern that new housing should have suitable parking provided, be in keeping with the local architecture and protect open spaces

Energy

- A significant minority have difficulty paying home energy bills

- The great majority have either not used or are not aware of a fuel bulk-buying scheme
- There is significant support for more alternative energy sources e.g. hydro and solar but also a wide range of concerns

Broadband

- Broadband is important to the majority of responders but speeds are an order of magnitude lower than national benchmarks

People's Needs

- There is significant demand for help in the event of an emergency and an even greater willingness to provide it e.g. accommodation, snow clearing, transport, medical first responder, collection of provisions & medication, fetching wood, and I.T. assistance.

Next Steps

The Parish Council will lead the overall management of the action plans. It will use the plan as a basis on which to make its decisions and set its priorities and budget for the next four or five years. The Parish Council may also need to set up working groups. A number of members of the public have already offered their services and further support will be sought and encouraged. The Parish Council will keep residents informed about the progress made on the plan's implementation and produce a summary statement of progress at its Annual General Meeting.

Issue	Suggested Actions	Timeframe	Partners
Travel & Local Area			
Minimal use is made of public transport	Explore a range of initiatives: a. Regular mini bus service all year round b. Season tickets for mini bus service c. Cheaper mini bus fares d. Extended passenger ferry running times e. Better connected services	1 to 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council Mountain Goat Windermere Lake Cruises Stagecoach CCC
Minimal use of cycling as a means of transport	Investigate the possibility of cycle racks in both Sawreys and Wray.	Less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GoLakes Travel National Trust Local pubs Community Committees
There is negligible use of either the Hawkshead and Sawrey Community Transport Scheme or the Cumbria County Council Voluntary Car Scheme	a. Publicise how schemes are accessed/work e.g. in Esthwaite Link b. Add to information for community information pack, link from Parish Council website. c. Include information on facilities for disabled d. Recruit additional volunteer drivers	Less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church Parish Council
Road maintenance is a major problem – in particular pot holes and lack of effective road drainage	Community road watch scheme to include the following: a. Improve and formalise reporting system to CCC b. Publicise CCC website reporting page c. Recruit community volunteers d. Map water drainage & flooding blackspots e. Work with CCC and landowners to draw up a plan to resolve & maintain good drainage f. Employ lengthsman 2 days a month to maintain verges & clear drains	Less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council CCC Landowners Community volunteers
Roads are unsuitable for large coaches	Develop a Traffic Management Plan that: a. Has recommended routes to tourist attractions b. Coach restrictions on selected roads through Claife Parish e.g. Dub How Lane, around foot of Esthwaite, Wray road, Colthouse, Far Sawrey, Cunsey c. Lobby the National Trust and Hotels to switch from coach parties to mini-buses d. Support remote coach hubs at Bowness, Ferry Nab, Ambleside, and Hawkshead e. Addresses restricted vision at significant tourist egress points e.g. Wray Castle entrance	1 to 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council CCC National Trust LDNPA
Lack of snow ploughing and gritting of roads in Cunsey and Wray	a. Support community snow & gritting scheme to include roads that are not the responsibility of CCC. b. Identify vulnerable residents who cannot leave their homes in wintry conditions	Less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council Community volunteers
Control of dog fouling Near Sawrey, Far Sawrey and Wray	a. Work with Hotels, Holiday Letting companies, B&B's & National Trust to: -Provide information leaflet for all accommodation providers that accept dogs -Provide facilities e.g. receptacles for litter & poo bags. b. Consider the use of Dog Control Orders	Less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council supported by Community volunteers National Trust Cumbria Tourism Hotels and B&Bs SLDC
Parking, Traffic and Road Safety			
Problems parking in Hawkshead which is the nearest service centre to Claife Parish	a. Claife Parish Council to subsidise the price of resident parking permits so that Claife Parish residents pay the same as Hawkshead residents b. Publicise permit information and LDNPA free parking times on Parish Council website and community information pack. c. Liaise with Hawkshead Parish Council to agree joint approach to CCC & LDNPA to : i. Consider increase in length of time for street spaces to 90 minutes ii. Support solutions to lack of enforcement d. Lobby Lake District National Park Authority for 30 minute free parking in the main car park (Note that new pay on exit scheme could allow this)	Less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council Hawkshead Parish Council CCC LDNPA
Parking problems at Near Sawrey	Provision of: a. Additional visitor car park at Near Sawrey b. Increased off-road residents' car parking c. Remote coach hubs (at Hawkshead & Ferry Nab) for Hill Top serviced by mini bus	More than 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council Hawkshead & Windermere Parish Councils Landowners LDNPA
Non playground users parking next to the Near Sawrey playground	Parish Council consulting relevant partners to determine an effective policy	Less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council Tarn Hill playground Local B&B's National Trust

Issue	Suggested Actions	Timeframe	Partners
Parking, Traffic and Road Safety continued			
Problem of feeling unsafe on the road between Near Sawrey and Hawkshead	a. Off road pedestrian route <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Partial ii. Complete b. Consider advisory route for cyclists as part of traffic plan	i. 1 to 2 years ii. More than 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Hawkshead Parish Council • LDNPA • CCC
Problem of feeling unsafe on the road in the vicinity of Hill Top, Tower Bank Arms and National Trust Car Park	Provide off road access to Hill Top from car park and mini bus drop off	Less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • National Trust • LDNPA • CCC
Housing			
Lack of housing in each of the categories: o Affordable o Local occupancy o Sheltered	a. Update the housing needs survey b. Seek sites for development within the locality that Claife Parish residents would be eligible for (both for purchase and to rent) c. Work with LDNPA to monitor compliance with local occupancy restrictions	More than 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • Bryerswood Estate • Graythwaite Estate • National Trust • LDNPA • Cumbria Rural Housing Trust
Concern that new housing should: o Have suitable parking provided o Be in keeping with local architecture o Protect open spaces	a. Promote LDNPA guidelines b. When responding to requests for planning permission take note of requirements such as style, open space, access to car parking spaces, use of local materials.	Less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Churches • Parish Council • Sawrey Institute • Braithwaite Hall • High Wray Village Hall • Tarn Hill playground • Sawrey & Cunsey Children's Festivities
Environment, Sustainability and Community			
Some residents have difficulty paying their home energy bills	a. Research and provide information on how to reduce their bills. b. Incentives to invest in energy reduction measures for tenanted properties c. Promote fuel bulk buying schemes	Less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Energy Champion • ACT • CCC • SLDC • Age UK • Landowners • Local wood providers
Demand for more alternative energy sources e.g. Hydro and Solar but also a wide range of concerns	a. The Parish Council should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Actively promote schemes by providing examples of good practice - Support planning applications for hydro-electric and solar schemes - Seek possible sites for hydro-electric power b. Conduct an audit of renewable energy sources in Claife Parish c. Provide access to the knowledge & experience of others	Less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Energy Champion • Parish Council • National Trust • Bryerwood Estate • Graythwaite Estate • LDNPA • Cumbria Action for Sustainability
Broadband speeds are an order of magnitude lower than national benchmarks	a. Parish Council to nominate broadband champion b. Broadband champion to share information on options and advise c. Work with local Businesses to help make the case for investment	1 to 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadband Champion • Businesses & Homeworkers • CCC • Local Area Partnership
Emergency help is needed	Parish Council to set up a community emergency plan with the support of partners for the provision of services	Less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council • SLDC • ACT • Churches • Community Volunteers
Improve Parish Council communication	a. E-mail sign up for newsletter, agendas, minutes, etc b. Advertise meeting dates in Esthwaite Link plus a regular briefing item c. More information on Parish Council website including progress on the delivery of the Parish Plan	Less than 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish Council
Lack of play equipment at Sawrey Playground	Provision of equipment for older children	1 to 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarn Hill Playground