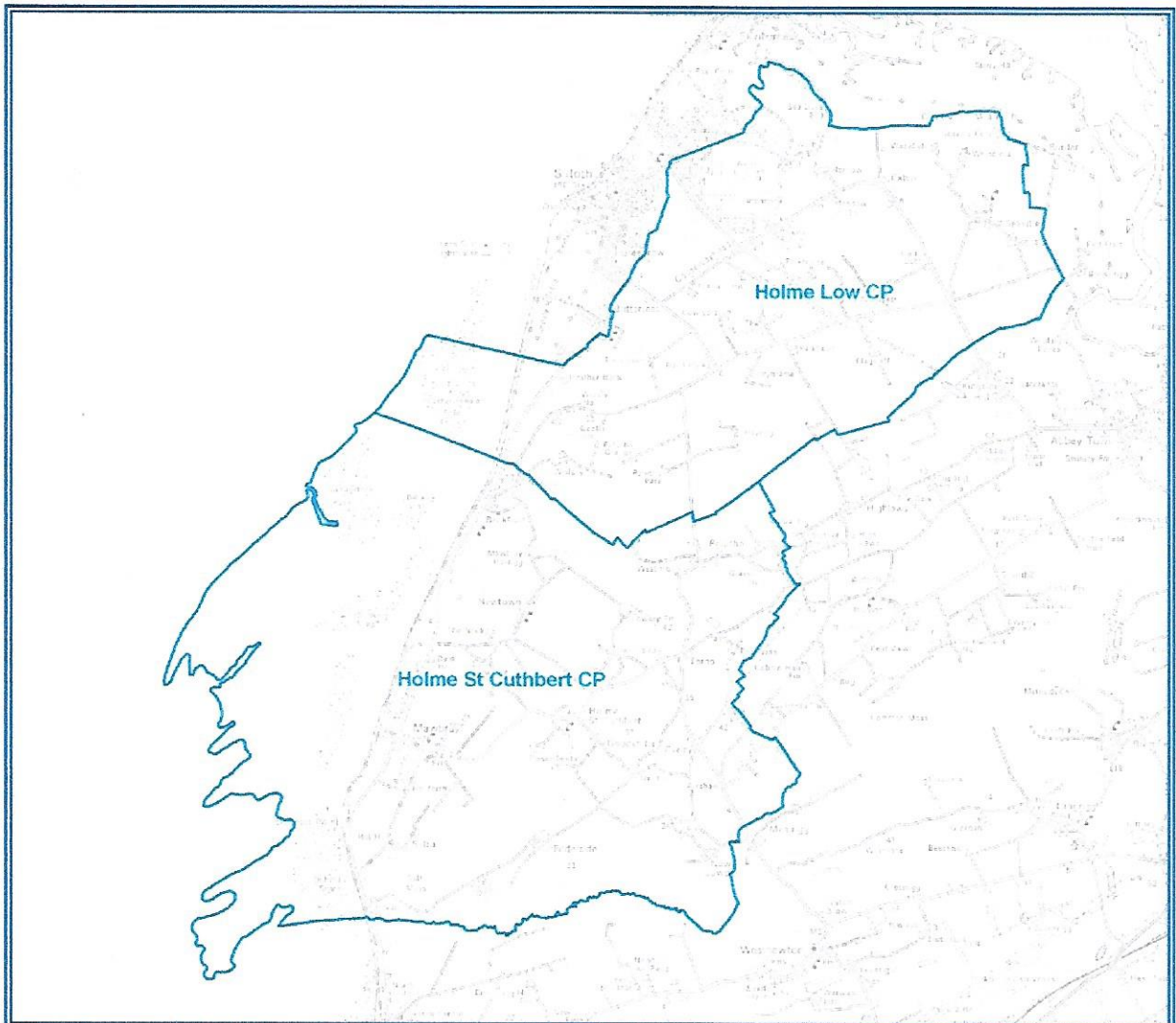


# Holme Low with Holme St. Cuthbert's Community Plan 2012



## HOLME LOW and HOLME ST. CUTHBERT'S COMMUNITY PLAN

### FOREWORD

The first group meeting to discuss devising a community plan was held in Silloth Community Centre in June 2010.

Jeff Downham of 'Action with Communities in Cumbria' met with members of Holme Low and Holme St. Cuthbert's Parish Councils to discuss the practicality of producing a joint plan.

The Parish Councils came together in the belief that a joint approach of providing a community plan would increase their influence on how services could be delivered to both communities.

We are sure that the aims and ideas mentioned in the plan will help to benefit our local environment and improve the community spirit within these two somewhat spread-out, rural communities.

The community plan reflects the needs of both parishes and we hope the joint communities will help to support the plans objectives

Moira Knoery

Chair, Holme St. Cuthbert

John Graham

Chair, Holme Low

### *Introduction*

As both parishes are scattered over a wide area it was decided that a questionnaire to each household would be the best way of gathering the views of as many people in the parishes as possible.

Questionnaires were sent out to both parishes in February and March 2011. The information collated from both questionnaires will be used to formulate the joint plan.

A website for each parish will be created in the near future, where updates of the plan can be seen as they are reviewed at parish meetings. Useful contact details of services in the area will also be put on the website.

Recently the Hellrigg Wind farm was completed and a fund for local communities within the surrounding parishes was set up by the wind farm's operating company. This fund amounts to £15,000.00 per annum and is managed by Cumbria Community Trust. Groups within the parishes can apply for funding from this for projects they wish to undertake. It is to be hoped that some of the ideas within this plan may find the necessary funding from the Hellrigg fund

Holme St. Cuthbert's parish, which came into being as a parish in 1857, is situated in North-west Cumbria on the Solway coast just south of Silloth and north of the village of Allonby. The stretch of coast is part of the AONB and is a triple SI. Over the years quite a lot of the parish has been lost to the encroachment of the sea and there are even the remains of a petrified forest to be seen at low tide. The parish has several hamlets and small villages, the largest being the coastal village of Mawbray. Mawbray boasts a traditional country pub 'The Lowther Arms' and Holm Culterham Hall which has a very active committee which organise numerous clubs, events and other activities.

Also in the parish there is a craft shop with an award winning tea-room, a garden centre with a nature trail and small restaurant, and several caravan parks, one of which has a restaurant open to the public.

Situated approximately in the centre of the parish area is a primary school opened in 1848 and church, which is also Victorian, beside the hamlet of Goodyhills. The church also has a hall which is used for local activities and parish council meetings. The local name of the church and hall is 'Rauks' - a corruption of the Roches which was the name of a medieval chapel a short distance away from the current church, and part of buildings belonging to the Abbey

The parish has an active history group which has published 2 books about the people of the area and is half way through producing a 3<sup>rd</sup> book.



## Holme St. Cuthbert's Questionnaire

The parish council sent out 160 questionnaires and 51 were returned.

### 1) Environment

The first question concerned the local environment. 42 people felt our environment was good or reasonable and many mentioned friendly people and enjoyment of living in a quiet rural setting.

Some suggestions and ideas for improvement:

Community recycling schemes

Skills 'swop shop' (trade skills/it training/counselling/building skills).

Village shop/post office or mobile shop

Local book exchanges

Speed limits in various places, e.g. around the school and especially on the B5300

More planting of flowers etc. in suitable areas around the parish.

Democratic elections to the parish council.

A transport facility to pick up people to take them to activities on offer.

### 2) General Information

Age range in the parish according to the answered forms was

	0-11	12-18	19-30	31-50	51-65	over 65
Male	7	3	6	14	25	3
Female	8	9	4	18	26	2

Opinion on homes needed in the community. The numbers indicate what sort of homes were required

Starter homes	43
Family homes	39
Holiday homes	39
Other	5

### 3) Information and Communication

When asked about how well informed residents were about what is happening in our parish the majority of replies were positive with 37 feeling adequately informed about activities within the parish and only 5 feeling uninformed. There were 2 volunteers to help produce a parish web site and 36 were in favour of a website as opposed to 6 against. 39 stated that they had internet access and 6 had no access. On other questions in this part, 39 knew how to contact the parish council against 5 who didn't. 41 people knew where the notice boards were and 4 did not. Finally 35 stated they received the Solway Buzz and 5 did not.

### 4) Roads and Transport

Many people commented on poor road surfaces and highlighted severe potholes, some with standing water, in areas throughout the parish.

Poor drainage was also a concern with some areas having problems with run-off from the road entering private entrances or lanes and even into a septic tank.

4 comments were returned concerning farmers not cleaning mud from their fields and gateways off the road, and there were several people concerned about the lack of road sweeping and drains being cleared throughout the parish.

There were 18 comments requesting speed limits – 12 for Mawbray, 3 for the B5300 and 3 wishing for speed limits throughout the whole parish.

7 replies wished for improved parking, especially in Mawbray (inc, the Lowther Arms) and around the school, and 2 commented on the lack of passing places on the narrow roads as well as the absence of any signs stating that a passing place did exist.

A broken footpath signpost was reported and some people felt that the bridle paths and footpaths were poorly signposted.

Several residents expressed a wish for improvements in public transport, with suggestions of coordinating bus and train services, improving the bus timetables, perhaps with a late bus and a new service between Aspatria and Silloth.

Several people felt that a cycleway along the coast would be a good idea as long as it was not on the B5300, although one resident did feel strongly that the cycle route should be *in* the Solway instead of alongside it!

One resident was interested in compiling a local walks booklet and is working on this already.

#### **5) Tourism and Local Interests**

Only 9 of the replies came from people involved with local tourism as opposed to 36 who were not involved and about 95% of the replies came from people who did know about the local history group.

#### **6) Emergency Services**

Survey results show that residents' knowledge of how to contact the local police, or have access to police newsletters is about 70% yes to 30% no. However about 60% did state that they felt safe in this area although about 45% had been affected by crime at some time. Most felt that the emergency services would not have a problem accessing their property but 14 households did feel that there could be a problem.

The Parish clerk has given the fire service the details of those residents wishing to have a fire safety check.

The majority of households had smoke alarms and about 60% were aware of neighbourhood/farm watch schemes but only 12 were interested in setting up such a scheme.

#### **7) Social and Community**

As is the case with previous questions, most residents were aware of what social activities took place in Culterham Hall and the church hall and there were plenty of suggestions for different clubs and societies.

This list has been passed on to the hall committee to help give them ideas for future events, clubs etc.

#### **Other comments and suggestions**

Most related to specific problems or concerns and the parish council is looking at all things mentioned in the questionnaire and will take action where it can or pass on the details to Allerdale or the County Council.

Concerns regarding the state of the roads have been taken to the local roads and transport group meeting.

The parish council is already using the information collected to inform and plan their actions for the future.

Issue	Aims	Responsible Body	Action/First Steps	Priority	Time-scale	Review
<p><b><u>Environment</u></b></p> <p><u>1. Physical Environment</u> Maintenance &amp; development of local environment</p>	<p>Planting schemes</p> <p>Grass cutting and hedgerow maintenance</p> <p>Recycling sites</p>	<p>PC/community</p> <p>PC(ABC)</p> <p>PC/ABC/CCC</p>	<p>Form local environment group</p> <p>Run garden frontage competitions</p> <p>Continue planned maintenance</p> <p>Wildflower planting in approved areas</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Annual</p>	<p>5 years</p>
<p><u>2. Quality of Life</u> Maintenance &amp; development of broad range of community events/activities</p>	<p>Provision of social events at local venues</p> <p>Library/book exchange</p> <p>Mobile shop/Post office</p>	<p>Hall committee/Community/PC/PCC</p> <p>PC to give hall committee library info.</p> <p>Enquiries to be made with local businesses and the Post Office.</p>	<p>Investigate potential for recycling sites/ lobby ABC</p> <p>PC to continue support</p>	<p>High/ Medium</p> <p>Medium</p> <p>Medium</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Annual</p>
<p><u>2. Housing &amp; Other Development</u> Availability of family homes esp. starter homes and other accommodation (eg. for the elderly)</p>	<p>Appropriate development encouraged</p>	<p>ABC/Cumbria Rural Housing Trust</p>	<p>PC/ABC to consider local occupancy rule.</p> <p>Work with ABC &amp; RHT to look at local needs and feasibility of</p>	<p>Low</p>		<p>5 years</p>



Issue	Aims	Responsible Body	Action/First Steps	Priority	Time-scale	Review
Major Planning eg. Wind Turbines	Resist inappropriate development through planning system	PC,ABC, local community	development Expand and publish current PC policies and Standing orders against which planning and other issues can be measured and tested	High	On-going	Annual
<u>3. Economic Development</u> Tourism Farming	Encourage appropriate developments	PC,ABC, local community	PC to develop policies on various planning issues	Medium	2 years	
<u>Roads and Transport</u> 1. <u>Road surfaces and Maintenance.</u> Accessible well maintained footpaths and bridleways	Pothole repairs Verge maintenance Resurfacing Drainage Road cleaning  Speed limits enforced Road markings and signage improved and maintained.	CCC. ABC (PC to develop policies to provide consistent and clear reporting to necessary authorities)	Prompt reporting of damage etc. by PC and whole community PC to ensure that community is aware of reporting procedures. PC to lobby responsible bodies for prompt action  Pc to continue to report issues to CCC and lobby for regular monitoring of speeds and implementation of remedial actions.	As required  As required	Urgent	Annual
2. <u>Road Safety</u>						Annual

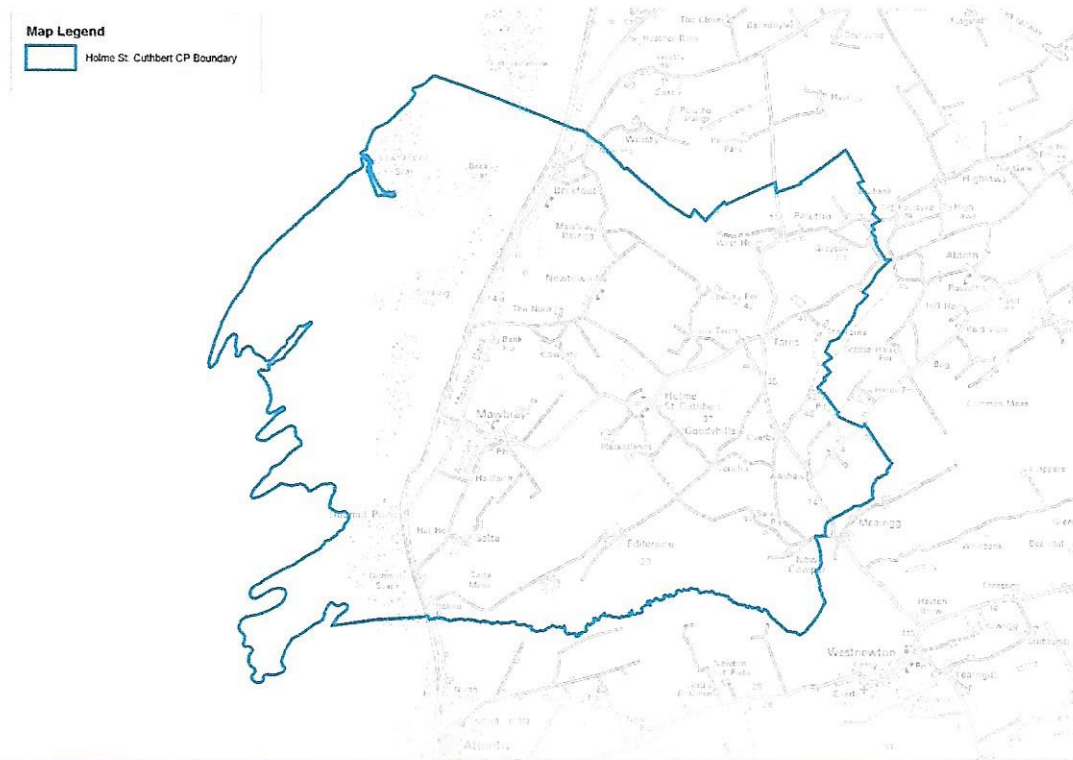
Issue	Aims	Responsible Body	Action/First Steps	Priority	Time-scale	Review
<p><u>Road Safety cont.</u></p> <p>Cycle ways, foot and bridle paths developed</p> <p>Better parking provision</p> <p>a) At Culterham Hall</p> <p>b) At school</p> <p>c) At Lowther Arms</p> <p><u>3Public Transport &amp; Accessibility</u></p> <p>Better availability of Bus Services – eg. Aspatria Link</p> <p>Coordination of Bus &amp; train services.</p>	<p>Seek means of improving parking practices especially at Lowther Arms and School</p> <p>Lobby CCC</p> <p>Lobby CCC &amp; MP</p> <p>Development of better cycle ways. Development of local ‘volunteer’ transport</p>	<p>CCC in conjunction with PC and community PC in conjunction with hall, school and pub</p> <p>CCC</p> <p>CCC</p> <p>Local voluntary groups –eg. Rural Wheels</p>	<p>Liaise with school regarding road safety</p> <p>Liaise with interested organisations</p> <p>Invite CCC Highways &amp; Transport manager to discuss volunteer transport service &amp; other transport issues e.g. co-ordinating timetables</p> <p>Lobby CCC.</p> <p>PC to contact local voluntary groups and ensure theirs services are well advertised locally</p> <p>PC to contact CCC for help in</p>	<p>Medium</p> <p>During 2012</p> <p>High</p> <p>High/ Medium</p> <p>High</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>	<p>Quarter</p> <p>Annual</p>



Issue	Aims	Responsible Body	Action/First Steps	Priority	Time-scale	Review
<p><b><u>Information and Communication</u></b></p> <p>1. <u>Maintenance of current communication media</u></p>	<p>Parish Notice Boards. Parish Magazine. Culterham Hall Quarterly. Solway Buzz.</p>	<p>PC PC &amp; Community</p>	<p>setting up volunteer transport scheme</p> <p>Ensure community know how to contact PC Maintain &amp; replace notice boards when necessary Use local media outlets (eg Solway Buzz)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>		<p>4 years</p>
<p><b><u>Community Safety</u></b></p> <p>Provision and maintenance of physical infrastructure</p>	<p>Maintain and improve: Street lighting Road and footpath surfaces</p>	<p>PC informing and lobbying ABC &amp; CCC community</p>	<p>PC to invite volunteers to set up website PC to look into funding for website</p> <p>Ensure community are well informed about who to inform and complain to when problems occur</p> <p>Setting up of environmental group who can help clearing blocked ways</p>	<p>High Medium</p>		<p>Annual</p>

Issue	Aims	Responsible Body	Action/First Steps	Priority	Time-scale	Review
<p>2. Information and Education</p> <p><u>Social and Community</u></p> <p>Provision of sufficient number and variety of social and community activities</p>	<p>Publish contact details for emergency and non-emergency services.</p> <p>Encourage and promote Home fire safety checks and home security advice</p> <p>Promote what ready exists with contact details</p> <p>Encourage community engagement to develop further opportunities</p>	<p>PC</p> <p>PC, ABC Hall Committee Local business</p>	<p>Use existing means to ensure dissemination of information.</p> <p>PC to consider hosting occasional talks from experts on such subjects eg. at PC AGM</p>	<p>High</p> <p>High/ Medium</p> <p>Medium</p>		<p>5 years</p> <p>5 years</p> <p>5 years</p>

## *Map of Holme St. Cuthbert*



## *Conclusion*

The Parish Councils intend this community plan to be a 'working document' and have already (summer 2012) taken steps to try to initiate some of the objectives made in the plan. Regular reviews of the plan will be made at council meetings to ensure that the detail of the plan is fulfilled.

The Parish Councils would like to thank Jeff Downham of ACT for his considerable help in producing the plan and Wilson Lui of Allerdale Borough Council for e-mailing us the parish maps, also Andy Ridgeway for already implementing part of the plan by producing guides to 2 parish walks, Holme St. Cuthbert's parish clerk, Mrs Linda Housby for her work in collating the questionnaire, Holme Low parish clerk for creating the Holme Low website, all of the parish councillors who contributed to making the plans and, finally, thanks to the people of both parishes who have taken the time and trouble to respond to the questionnaire.

July 2012